

Advisors Needed for Hearing Loss Cause

The Hearing Loss Association of Sarasota (HLAS) is seeking professionals to volunteer to help guide and support us on our key initiatives in the community. There are two Boards you can serve.



Advisory Board

Suzanne Atwell
Joe Barbetta
Dr. Loren J. Bartels
Susie Bowie
Paul Caragiulo
Donna Carlton
Dr. Theresa Chisolm
JoAnne DeVries
Joan Haber
Virginia Haley
Eileen Hampshire
Flo Innes
Mark Johnson
Norm Olshansky
Dr. Autumn Riley
William Riley
Wes Roberts
Scott Rushing
Dr. Jack Wazen

The first group is our **Advisory Board**, which is a virtual group that receives a 1 to 2-page e-report quarterly. All advisors are invited to respond by e-mail if they have any comments, leads or advise us on the issues or needs regarding our mission (*see Mission Statement below*) which are highlighted in the report. Our current board members are listed to the left. We especially need young professionals to help guide our Young Hearing Group, which caters to young, working adults.

The second group is our **Performance Board**, which encompasses individuals who are willing to contribute their talents and services. We are seeking professionals with accounting, financial, marketing, public relations, social media, graphic design, legal, video, web, computer administration and other skills, who are interested in helping us to develop and execute selected programs or events.

To learn more about any position, contact Ed Ogiba, HLAS President at 941-706-4312 or ed@groupefo.com.

Hearing Loss Association of Sarasota's Mission

HLAS's mission is to help the 110,000 people with hearing loss in the two counties to lead more active lives through:

- 1) Education** focused at improving their listening and communication skills
- 2) Advocacy** for greater hearing access in the community. In the past year, we have convinced over 50 community locations to add a hearing loop system, including 16 theatres, making our counties the first in the nation to have more than 4 theatres looped.
- 3) Individual support and mentoring** for the hearing loss and their families.

The our overall need for our services is particularly acute in Sarasota and Manatee Counties, as 16.1% of the population has hearing loss, the highest incidence in the nation. In addition, studies show 85% of those with hearing loss do not get the treatment and support they need resulting in withdrawal from community activities because they miss 20% or more of what is said at theatre, services and meetings. We offer the guidance and programs to help people hear better and get access at many venues help people to empower them to be more active community members and citizens.

Our efforts to help the hearing loss gain access and return to many cultural and civic activities has provided a positive economic stimulus to other key facets of our community. For example, our recent hearing loop system advocacy efforts have helped to attract incremental growth in ticket sales at local performing arts centers by encouraging many with hearing loss to return to the theatre again.



Best Cause