



BULLETIN APRIL, 2012

APRIL MEETING

April 18 at 1:30 P.M.

How vocational rehabilitation helps persons with disabilities to obtain or maintain employment

Speaker: Michele Guilford M.S. CRC

The meeting will be held at the North Sarasota Library Meeting Room, 2801 Newtown Blvd. Refreshments will be served following the program.

Young Hearing Group (YHG)

NEXT MEETING--May 15th, 2012 Dr. Autumn Riley, FAAA, CCC-A & Dr. Victoria L. Moore, FAAA, CCC-A, BC- HIS, Doctor of Audiology, The Hearing Spa '*The Latest Advancements in Hearing Aid Technology*'

Meeting will take place at the Sarasota Herald Tribune, 1741 Main St., Sarasota in the Conference Room at 6 – 7:30 p.m. (Meet in the lobby next to front reception).

For more information contact Alexander Magnus Boakes by phone: 786-457-6205 or by e-mail: alexboakes@msn.com

Spice of Life

Spouses ("Spice") of those with hearing loss are tested every day, publicly and privately. David Myers (the "guru" of looping) says in his book, *A Quiet World Living with Hearing Loss* that "some 28 million Americans are hard of hearing, and their 15 million spouses and 50 million children struggle to support them, communicate with them, and help them live with their loss".

His books and others should be read together if hearing loss makes your relationship with your spouse difficult. Support groups such as HLAS can direct you to counseling and education to assist couples to remain engaged and productive and avoid social dropout. "Spice" have a role in keeping hard of hearing persons in focus and we need to thank them daily.

Welcome New Members

Jerry Balash, Jaye Deforest, Pat Pillot
Shirley Knott, Peter Knott

Please invite friends with hearing loss to our next meeting as we grow our support group and loop our SRQ corner of Florida.

Meet HLAS Member

This month, we profile our Treasurer, LaVonne Stocco. LaVonne was diagnosed as having a hearing loss at age five when she was enrolled in the neighborhood kindergarten class. She attended special education classes through the eighth grade that included speech therapy and lip reading lessons.

.LaVonne started wearing a hearing aid that was five inches long and worn on the body with a cord dangling from the ear. Over the years she acquired smaller hearing aids which enabled her to cope with getting through college, raising four children, finding jobs, enjoying music and traveling.

LaVonne lived in Chicago, IL most of her life, but also lived in Kitchener, Ontario. After her children were all in school, LaVonne was employed at the Rotary International Headquarters in Evanston, IL in the Finance Department.

Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (later changed to Hearing Loss Association of Sarasota) was discovered in 1997 when LaVonne and her husband, Frank, moved to Sarasota from Chicago after their retirement. Volunteering soon became a way of life, as she took on roles at different times as HLAS Newsletter/Bulletin Editor, Board Trustee, Secretary, Treasurer, and President. LaVonne says, "helping people cope with hearing loss and seeing what can be accomplished through providing education and volunteering has given me much satisfaction. The friends that I have made within the chapter have added to that satisfaction."

LaVonne enjoys among other things, spending time with her husband and family; playing cards; reading novels and non-fiction books; going to the theater and movies; gourmet cooking; and traveling.

Hearing Loop Updates at Sarasota/Manatee Venues

The HLAS website lists all looped locations at <http://hlas.org/wp/>

We were able to get the Lakewood Ranch Town Hall looped in time for the statewide HLA meeting last month. We now have 40 looped sites in the two county area we know as SRQ

Humor of the Month

A man realized he needed to purchase a hearing aid, but he felt unwilling to spend much money. "How much do they run?" he asked the clerk. That depends," said the salesman, "They run from \$100 to \$10,000. "Let's see the cheapest model," he said. The clerk put the device around the man's neck. "You just stick this button in your ear and run this little string down to your pocket," he instructed. "How does it work?" the customer asked. "For \$100 it doesn't work," the salesman replied. "But when people see it on you, they'll talk louder!"