



HLAS Membership Reaches 200!

HLAS has reached an all-time high in membership, 200 members!

In addition, HLAS has an e-mail list of 357 interested persons who receive Listen Up and other educational information from HLAS.

HLAS's goal of education, advocacy and self help is not limited to members but membership provides funding to carry out the HLAS mission.

The 2013-2014 Chapter meetings are set to provide regional and national speakers on hearing and hearing health issues. Special events are being planned. The nominal membership fee of \$25 (\$10 under 40 and free for veterans) supports HLAS activities and provides the opportunity for you to be a philanthropist with your time. The Top Ten reasons to join HLAS are listed at p.3.

According to the National Center for Health Statistics and Johns Hopkins studies, 17 percent of Americans have some degree of hearing loss making it a public health issue third in line after heart disease and

arthritis. That means some 135,000 people with hearing loss in the Sarasota-Manatee area can benefit from the work of HLAS.

Their studies also indicate 86% of this group, or an estimated 115,000 people in our two counties are not getting any treatment or hearing aids for their loss. This is one reason that HLAS is trying to reach out more often. HLAS now averages 8
continued on next page



Top: New HLAA Executive Director, Anna Gillmore Hall (center) with HLAS Board Members JoAnne DeVries (left) and Joan Haber (right)

Above: Rap Sessions offer a great chance to ask, listen and learn.

In This Issue:

- 2** **HLAA's Hearing Assistive Training Coming to Sarasota**
And all new July & August events
- 4** **Meeting Update**
July Chapter Meeting Preview
HLAS "After Hours"
- 5** **Outstanding Turnout for June Chapter Meeting**
HLA-FL June Meet in Miami
- 6** **Convention 2013**
Highlights from Portland
- 7** **Can Allergies Cause Hearing Loss**
Featured Medical News
- 8** **Plugged-In**
Legislative Update, Peer Mentors,
New Hearing Loss column

Listen Up HLAS monthly newsletter offers Education, Advocacy and Support for the 135,000 people with hearing loss in Sarasota and Manatee Counties. For more information visit www.HLAS.org or call 941-706-4312. For comments or suggestions, contact editor, Richard N. Williams at RNW1976@aol.com. Opinions expressed in "Listen Up" are those of the Editor or Author. Mention of goods and services in articles or advertisements does not mean the Hearing Loss Association of America or the Hearing Loss Association of America-Sarasota Chapter endorses same nor should exclusion suggest disapproval.

Editor: Richard Williams

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Columnist: Ed Ogiba

Advertising: Ed Ogiba



"Best Cause"

Hearing Assistive Training (HAT)

The Hearing Loss Association of America's HAT program is coming to Sarasota on September 6th to 8th, 2013.

For whom?

The training is for adults interested in learning more about HAT and willing to teach others about HAT. While no experience with hearing assistive technology is required, successful trainees typically have a basic knowledge of electronic devices and moderate computer skills. If you have the desire to be the go-to person in your HLAA Chapter or community and want to learn more on the topic, this training could be for you.

How much?

There is minimal cost to participants. The training is funded by a grant to the Rehabilitation Engineering Resource Center from the U.S. Department of Education (NIDRR grant number H133E030006). There is no charge for the training and most meals are provided at no cost.

Trainees must cover the cost of traveling to and from the training site. Typically, the training is held yearly at various locations across the country. We also cover hotel accommodations for out-of-town participants.

This year, with the program in Sarasota, it is an exceptional opportunity to attend without any cost. The training course which is given annually in a different location by HLAA is always covered by a grant and accepted applicants just need to pay for their travel expenses. If you are interested in attending and taking your hearing health skills up to the next level, you should act without delay.

The course is nearly full but you should have a shot at being considered if you apply soon. All HLAS Members are eligible to apply for the course and if you are interested, we encourage you to contact HLAA program chair, Lise Hamlin ASAP at LHamlin@hearingloss.org to request an application.

continued from page 1

HLAS has reached an all-time high in membership, 200 members!

events a month including regular meetings, free screenings at the Farmer's Market, educational booths at fairs such as the Chamber of Commerce and presentations to groups like the Rotarians or Kiwanis.

The annual budget is only \$14,000 half of which comes from Hearing Expo fees and the balance from memberships and donations. Expenses include CART (Communication Access Realtime Translation) services, sound systems, the Expo and special events, community outreach and promotion. There is no paid staff or even reimbursements. All officers, trustees and our core of volunteers give back their time and expenses. HLAS did add a small "virtual" contract for administrative and e-services this year to manage the many events and activities HLAS now engages in.

HLAS encourages the "interested parties" to step up and attend our HLAS Chapter meetings to help stay in touch and pass on the valuable technical and medical information we learn about. HLAS Chapter meetings are hearing-friendly places where peer support happens. People share ideas about how to use their hearing aids and assistive technology to their fullest. Hearing health care providers serve as professional advisors. Everyone benefits when professionals and consumers come together.

The membership form is available on the website or go to: http://hlas.org/?page_id=857.



New HLAA Leaders

The HLAA's new Executive Director Anna Gillmore Hall (4th from left) poses with new HLAA Board Member, Valerie Stafford-Mallis and three fellow HLAS Board Members, JoAnne DeVries, Ed Ogiba and Joan Haber.

Welcome New Members!

Please invite friends with hearing loss to our next meeting. Contact JoAnne DeVries: jdv.devries@gmail.com for member forms.

Eva Burnell,
Sarasota, FL

Emily Gaines,
Myakka City, FL

Phil Silverstein,
Sarasota, FL

Volunteer Opportunities

As an all-volunteer organization, HLAS carries out its goals of advocacy, education and support more effectively this year as more members donate their time to our efforts.

Gratefully, members have stepped up in key areas however assistance is always needed for ongoing activities and Chapter meetings.

We are pleased to announce that Eileen Schuler has been named the new HLAS Treasurer. David Munro

has taken over as the HLAS Webmaster. Doug Schuler has the Finance Committee and Carole Munro has volunteered for the Fundraising Committee. The Player's Theatre Club is now headed by Doug and Eileen Schuler.

Signup to volunteer for HLAS. Your time and skills can be matched to HLAS needs. Contact JoAnne DeVries at: jdv.devries8@gmail.com.



MEMBERSHIP CONSIDERATION

Top Ten Reasons to Become a Member of HLAS

1. Our expert speakers teach how to significantly improve your listening and communication skills by 20% or more.
2. Learn how to prevent brain deafness and minimize the resulting risk of tinnitus, dementia and serious falls.
3. Retrain your brain to restore hearing and lost brain functions.
4. Learn which hearing aid features you need and how to control costs.
5. Discover improved hearing with the guidance of your own peer mentor.
6. Learn about new hearing loop systems to help you hear better at theatres, movies, religious services and throughout the Sarasota community.
7. Experience the most advanced form of captions at movie houses with

our Movie Club.

8. Get discounted tickets for you and your partner to live looped performances at Player's Theatre and the Van Wezel Performance Arts Center.
9. Become eligible for a \$1000 Scholarship to the HLAA National Convention deemed to be the ultimate learning experience.
10. Master how to advocate for yourself to have more meaningful relationships with family, friends, and co-workers.

At HLAS, you will learn that you are not alone, but in a community with the highest incidence of hearing loss and all of the most advanced resources at your disposal.

EVENT CALENDAR

JULY EVENTS

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

1:30pm – Chapter Meeting
3:00pm – Refreshments/Social
N. Sarasota Library Meeting Room
2801 Newtown Blvd. Sarasota

Saturday, July 27, 2013

7am – 1pm, Sarasota Farmers Market
Lemon Avenue, Sarasota

AUGUST EVENTS

Tuesday, August 6, 2013

3:00pm
HLAS Board of Trustees Meeting
N. Sarasota Library Meeting Room
2801 Newtown Blvd. Sarasota

Wednesday, August 14, 2013

1:30pm – Chapter Meeting
3:00pm – Refreshments/Social
N. Sarasota Library Meeting Room
2801 Newtown Blvd. Sarasota

Tuesday, August 20, 2013

6:00pm – HLAS After Hours
(Evening Hearing Group)
7:30pm – Education, Social, Support
ABH Hearing Center
4221 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota

Saturday, August 24, 2013

7am – 1pm, Sarasota Farmers Market
Lemon Avenue, Sarasota

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, November 9, 2013

9:00am
Walk 4 Hearing Sponsored by the
Hearing Loss Association of America
Jacksonville, FL

NOTE:

July 20, 2013, 8:00am, Orlando
Better Hearing For Health,
For Life Expo to be rescheduled



Meeting Update

UPCOMING MEETING PREVIEW, PRIOR MEETING RECAP

UPCOMING MEETING

July Chapter Meeting

Wednesday, July 10, 2013 at 1:30pm

The second summer "Rap Session" is anticipated to be a rewarding meeting. Questions that members want to discuss will be fully covered by our peer mentor, Joan Haber, our board member audiologists and experienced advocates.

This is YOUR meeting.

We encourage those who showed an interest in HLAS by attending prior meetings or who attended the April Hearing Health Expo to put this on your calendar as hearing aids and cochlear implants, free phones, cost effective hearing solutions, latest technologies, hearing training and strategies will all be discussed.

As a bonus, Ed Ogiba, Joan Haber, Flo Innis, Valarie Stafford-Mallis, JoAnne DeVries, Richard Williams, Alex Boakes and Brad Ingrao will be back from the HLAA Convention in Oregon and may preview new information from that event.

Refreshments will be served following the program.

The location is between Tuttle and 301 and is a fine library facility worth browsing before or after the meeting.

North Sarasota Library Meeting Rm, 2801 Newtown Blvd.



Meeting supported by hearing loop and CART

Ads in Listen Up! Reach Early Adopters of Hearing Care Products



Monthly editions of Listen Up! go to over 500 people in Sarasota and Manatee County with hearing loss. Our readers are described by one national company as "the most informed group of serious customers" they have ever met.

Each editorial-rich issue of Listen Up! attracts readership by featuring a wealth of hearing loss news on upcoming educational meetings, community events and major national developments. You can add your product or service message in a single quarter page ad for only \$75, with progressively discounted rates for ad packages of 3 months or longer. To learn more about your advertising options, contact info@hlas.org.

Next Evening Hearing Group "HLAS After Hours" Meeting

The Evening Hearing Group's next meeting will be Tuesday, August 20 at 6pm. with "Education-Social-Support" following at 7:30pm.

The meeting will be held at the ABH Hearing Center, 4221 S. Tamiami Trail.

The May get together had a fine turnout! Mark the date and bring along a friend or acquaintance who may work or attend school and unable to attend the daytime Chapter meetings.

The meeting always has hearing related topics of current interest. Please contact **Bob Leonard** at bob@acsellerant.com. if you would like to suggest topics for discussion. Sessions are free and open to anyone in the community.

Trouble hearing over the phone?



Florida Relay can help!

If you're one of the millions of Florida residents with hearing loss, you may benefit from Captioned Telephone, or CapTel:

- Works like any other telephone
- Displays every word the caller says
- Hear what's being said and read a captioned (text) version of your conversation
- Free to use and available anytime

Free CapTel phones are available through Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. (FTRI) for qualified Florida residents.

To learn more:

Visit www.ftri.org

**Call 1-800-222-3448 (voice)
or 1-888-447-5620 (TTY)**



Florida CapTel service is made possible by AT&T.



JUNE MEETING RECAP

Outstanding turnout at the June Chapter Meeting

The June Chapter meeting was held on June 12 at the North Sarasota Library.

Thirty five members attended and the “rap session” led by HLAS President, Ed Ogiba, Peer Mentor Joan Haber, Audiologists Brad Ingrao and Emily Gaines.



The turnout was outstanding for a summer meeting as many Florida Chapters take a hiatus for the summer. The lead topic was “Purchasing a Hearing Aid” and the “Consumer Guide to Hearing Aids” was discussed. The guide can be purchased

for \$6 by linking to our website at <http://hlas.org/?p=1140>. The difference between an audiologist and a hearing aid dispenser was explained. Features (“bells and whistles”) were discussed from t-coil to Bluetooth; one microphone or two; feedback programs; building options; and bundling vs. unbundling. ADA issues were reviewed including Hearing Assistive Devices, Infra-red, FM, loops.

Ed Ogiba commented on an NBC nightly news feature on hearing loss and it had been linked to the HLAS website at: http://hlas.org/?page_id=605.

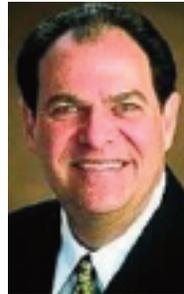
Our leaders updated the attendees on loop advocacy and urged each member to thank the theatres and venues that provide looping to reinforce the benefit.

The open forum allowed for discussion of Medicare limitations on audiology related treatment and products, pending legislation, theatre captioning, and local organizations that can assist with hearing aids. In short, the gamut.

The post meeting refreshment time provided further opportunity for discussion of concerns, frustrations and sharing of information.

HLA-FL UPCOMING MEETING

HLA-FL June Meeting in Miami



The Hearing Loss Association of Florida, Inc. (HLA-FL) serves the needs of all people with hearing loss throughout the State of Florida, by providing information and educational support, public awareness and both legislative and public policy advocacy of issues related to assuring equal access, opportunity and protection for the quality of life of individuals with hearing loss.

At the June meeting in Miami, Jack Levine, conducted a workshop to develop the bridge to advocacy through political, media, philanthropy, business and civic strategies.

Jack is President of Advocacy Resources, a consultancy based in Tallahassee, that specializes in communications strategies, public policy initiatives, and creative resource development. Jack donated his time to help our group to advocate.

Also, the Publix initiative was discussed. Publix will be placing loops at three test market stores, The Villages, Lakeland and Sun City. The loops will be in the pharmacy area, pickup and drop-off, as well as customer service and designated checkout lanes. HLA-FL is supporting the effort but education of hearing aid users as well as feedback from users will be necessary to achieve success of this effort by Publix. If you have any friends or acquaintances in those areas, please advise them of this and ask them to switch over to the telecoil and thank the pharmacist for the loop assistance!

HLA-FL has some vacant Trustee positions and applications are being accepted. Contact State Coordinator (and HLAS President) Ed Ogiba at ed@groupefo.com.



Above: HLA-FL members, l-r, back row: Brandi Kent, CART provider; Joe Nadeau; Tess Crowder; Richard Williams; Jim Diaz; Brad Ingrao; JoAnne DeVries; Don Shaffer. Front row: Judy Martin; Lynn Rousseau; Flo Innes; Ed Ogiba.

HLAA NEWS

Convention 2013

This year's HLAA convention will be June 28 to June 30 in Portland, Oregon.

Seven members are attending but the entire HLAS can

Right: As Listen Up! went to press, the 2013 HLAA National Convention finished the first day of sessions, that focused on special sessions for state and chapter



leaders. One of the traditions is an opening night party for all Florida delegates hosted by Flo Innes. Flo is attending her 15th consecutive convention as is Joan Haber. Above are five members of the Sarasota contingent: Joan, Julie Eisele, Ed Ogiba, JoAnne DeVries and Flo.

Chances are you or someone you know is affected by hearing loss. It's time to STEP UP!

WALK4 HEARING®

Jacksonville Saturday, November 9, 2013
Walk4Hearing

LOCATION:
Metropolitan Park
1410 Gator Bowl Blvd
Jacksonville, FL

Distance: 5K (3.1 miles) **REGISTRATION:** 9:00 am
WALK STARTS: 10:00 am

For more information and to register today, visit www.walk4hearing.org.

Walk Chairs:
Ronnie Adler | radler@hearingloss.org
Patty Heard | patriciamheard@gmail.com

Walk4Hearing is produced by

Hearing Loss Association of America
The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) is the nation's largest consumer advocacy organization for people with hearing loss and is dedicated to providing information, education, support and advocacy to enable those with hearing loss to live full and productive lives.

attend "virtually".

The HLAA website will be posting Power Points and pictures from the convention as they become available. They can be found at the HLAA website under "Convention" www.hearingloss.org/content/convention-archives.

The HLAS attendees will summarize and recap the Convention offerings at the September Chapter meeting.

The exhibit hall at the Portland Convention Center will have 68 exhibitors with all the latest technology and information. In addition, a demonstration room in the hall is reserved for specific product presentations throughout the run of the convention. Attending members will update us all on the newest advances to improve our quality of life.

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People with an impaired hearing can also take part at events in public buildings when using the mobile Synexis listening system.

For further information please contact:
www.beyerdynamic.com/synexis
Phone 800-293-4463 . salesusa@beyerdynamic-usa.com

Medical News:

Can Allergies Cause Hearing Loss?

With warmer winter patterns across the country and heavy spring rains, plants have more potential to produce pollen into the air to trigger allergy symptoms. Some allergy sufferers will experience runny noses and itchy eyes, but others may feel pressure in the ear, a ringing sensation in the ears or vertigo during this season.

Allergies and Hearing Loss

When the immune system reacts to an allergen, it produces antibodies that release histamine. This is what is responsible for your sneezing, itchy nose and congestion. The histamine causes an increased amount of mucus production as well, which can create problems in your ears. In particular, the Eustachian tube, which is a drainage passage for the middle ear, can become clogged.

"Typically, allergic patients have complained of a symmetrical hearing loss and a sense of fullness or pressure," Dr. Michael Jones, of the Hearing Health Center told Medical News Today. "In most cases the hearing test shows a slight hearing loss and a tympanogram shows reduced mobility of the tympanic membrane. That means the middle ear has become inflamed."

Types of hearing issues

Fullness: During allergy season, there can be excess fluid in the ear that creates a pressured or clogged feeling, which can impact your ability to hear correctly. This is because the fluid presses against the eardrum to cause discomfort.

Conductive hearing loss: Conductive hearing loss is curable, but it makes it temporarily difficult to hear faint noises and



often creates a reduced sound level. This type of hearing loss occurs when sound waves cannot properly flow through the ear and into the tiny bones of the middle ear. Having excess fluid or ear wax plays a major role in this type of hearing loss because sound cannot properly travel to the cochlea.

Allergies can also cause a fluctuating level of fluid in the ear which can make hearing difficult at times. Other common causes of conductive hearing loss include swimmer's ear, the presence of a foreign body or benign tumors.

Ear infections: It should come as no surprise that with allergies comes the risk of infections. As there is increased moisture in the ear from fluid, bacteria are able to thrive more easily and

cause a middle ear infection. If you experience regular middle ear infections, there is a possibility it could lead to tinnitus or hearing loss.

Increased allergens can also clog the microphone ports in hearing aids. Replacing the covers of microphone ports is an easy fix, and you should also make sure to maintain cleanliness of your device.

For people experiencing hearing loss or tinnitus during this season, it is likely that the symptoms will subside as allergy triggers dissipate. However, it is usually best to visit your audiologist to make sure that your issue is does not need long-term treatment.

Republished with permission from: Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons (NVRC), 3951 Pender Drive, Suite 130, Fairfax, VA 22030; www.nvrc.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our Certified Peer Mentors Offer Individual Support

There are only a handful of Certified Peer Mentors across the country and HLAS is blessed to perhaps be the only chapter in the country to have two of them. Both Joan Haber and Anne Taylor are highly talented individuals, who have been expertly trained to address the many diverse needs of the hearing loss. They represent one of the most wonderful perks of our organization because they are at your disposal to offer a wealth of information, guidance and support on the many issues most people with hearing loss face. You should consider them your best source on a wide range of issues, such as how to choose the right hearing aid, prepare for implant surgery, or get the best assistive technology to meet your needs.



Above: Joan Haber (left) and Anne Taylor (right) are Certified Peer Mentors who offer members information, guidance and support for most hearing issues.

Counseling sessions with the HLAS Certified Peer Mentors are offered free to individual HLAS members, as well as their families. Both Joan and Anne are available for your questions at most monthly meetings. You can also request a private session with them, or to learn more about the program, by contacting vp@hlas.org. I encourage anyone who needs support to take advantage of this remarkable resource as no one should have to face the sometimes complicated issues of hearing loss alone.

Happy Hearing,


Ed Ogiba



THE PLAYERS
Your Community Your Theatre

HLAS Goes to the Theatre

Another great reason to join and support HLAS: Free tickets to the theatre! HLAS receives tickets from the Player's Theatre and on occasion, the Van Wezel.

Players provides an allocation of tickets to us and we need an HLAS volunteer liaison to The Players to continue this program. Please contact Eileen and Doug Schuler at: emkbentley@gmail.com.

HLAS Library & DVDs

Want to learn more about your hearing loss?

The HLAS Library, which sets up at every meeting, has a great assortment of books and DVDs for members to checkout for free. Contact: dmunro42@gmail.com

Free Mentoring & Support

Never face a hearing loss issue alone. HLAS mentors and members can help with most issues that you and your family might have. Call **(941)-706-4312**.

RECYCLING INFO



Don't throw your batteries in the trash! Batteries for Hearing Aids, Cochlear Implants and Assistive

Listening Devices contain zinc, lead, mercury and other toxic metals that can harm our environment.

Safely dispose of used batteries at:

- HLAS meetings
- Evening Hearing Group meetings
- HLAS booth at Sarasota Farmer's Market every 4th Saturday
- Battery Plus+ stores in Sarasota (4401 Bee Ridge), Venice (511 US 41 By Pass N) or Bradenton (6240 14th Street W)



Left: Movie Club members model the Sony Caption Glasses.



Sony Caption Glasses™ Continues to Get Rave Reviews

The HLAS Private Eyes Movie Club keeps on attracting new members who consistently find the Sony Caption Glasses a major improvement. It is especially heartwarming when we learn that the support from the glasses is so good, that people, who had given up on movies long ago because they could not hear, now plan to return because of this wonderful device as two first-time triers reported at the June outing.

The June movie was the highly acclaimed *Before Midnight*, which gave the glasses their sternest test to date, as the flick focuses on the intimate conversations of a passionate couple who talk very rapidly as they explore their relationship.

The Movie Club meets every fourth Wednesday of the month for a late afternoon movie around 4 pm. Most attendees gather at Appleby's for supper afterwards. Members attending for the first time get a free movie ticket and we highly recommend you try the glasses first with the club. Members who sign up for the club get an e-mail notice of the movie and time selected a couple of days before the date. To sign up for the club, contact vp@hlas.org.

Don't forget to check CaptionFish at <http://www.captionfish.com/>.

New Hearing Loss Column Coming to Venice Newspaper

HLAS member Anne Taylor has accepted an offer from the Venice Gondolier to write a column on hearing loss. The monthly feature will be called **Hear This?** and will be bannered by a logo created by Steve Boris, HLAS Board Member and partner in the branding & design firm, Boost Studio.

Anne moved to Venice last year and has been active in our chapter since she arrived. She previously lived in Georgia where she was the HLAA State Leader. She is also a Certified Peer Mentor, having graduated from the inaugural two-year program at Gallaudet University in 2012. Anne and her husband, Chris, originally hail from "Jolly Old England".



HLAS on Facebook

Just click "like" and you will be informed of all the things going on at HLAA and HLAS.

Here is a link:

www.facebook.com/pages/Hearing-Loss-Association-of-Sarasota/204770239533667?ref=ts&fref=ts

At the Farmers Market

Saturday
July 22
7am to 1pm



Our monthly information and support booth offers an opportunity for people to learn how to address their hearing loss.

HLAS has a permanently assigned site, 1920 State Street between Lemon and Pineapple.

There will be free hearing screenings each month. If you have a friend who needs help and cannot make one of our meetings, please suggest they visit us here.

Members are always encouraged to volunteer a two hour shift. Let Alex Boakes know if you can help HLAS out, alexboakes@msn.com.

Loop Advocacy

Our May HLAS Chapter meeting guest and speaker Dr. Juliette Sterkens mentioned a study she had collaborated on from Northern Illinois University (NIU) in DeKalb, Illinois that was referenced in the June "Listen Up!". The study is titled "The Effects of Hearing Loop Systems on Speech Understanding and Sound Quality in Real World Listening Environments". The authors are: Rachel Magann Faivre, B.S., Fauzia Ismail, B.S.; and advisors were: Juliette Sterkens, Au.D., Tom Thunder, Au.D., and King Chung, Ph.D.

It is interesting that Hearing Loop systems ("HLS") were tested on both hearing aid users AND non-users. The summaries are as follows:

"The study recruited 26 hearing aid users and 47 non-users. Speech understanding scores and perceived sound quality with and without an HLS were tested in an auditorium. Stimuli included the Hearing in Noise Test (HINT), Music Clips, and TV Clips. Results revealed improved speech understanding in noise and reported increased benefit among all participants when using the HLS. HLS are effective systems to help individuals overcome listening in background noise, at a distance, or in reverberation. Hearing in noise is difficult for individuals with hearing loss."

Abstract

"Both hearing aid users and non-users had greater speech understanding in noise when listening through the hearing loop system. When presented with sentences in noise, television clips, and music clips in the HLS, each test group's listening effort was reduced. They both reported more speech and music were heard when listening through the HLS, and that the sound was both more pleasant and natural. Overall sound quality for the two test groups was improved with the HLS. The majority of all participants preferred using the HLS. More than 9 of 10 hearing aid users and nearly half of non-users reported they were very likely or likely to use an HLS when one was in place."

The advantages of a Hearing Loop System were stated as:

- Require no pick up/return of portable receiving units and headsets
- Require less portable receiving units and batteries to be purchased
- Operates on a universal frequency (1 magnetic signal for every loop)

- Are inconspicuous and HA/CI ["hearing aids"/"cochlear implants"] compatible (no need for user to purchase extra equipment)
 - Work in transient situations (ie. ticket counters, airports, drive-thrus)
 - No hygienic concerns
 - Deliver personalized sound in the ear customized by HA/CI
 - Double the functionality of HA/CI
 - Increase patient satisfaction with HA/CI
 - Improve ease of listening
 - 99% of all participants prefer hearing through an HLS
- "For all these reasons, hearing loop systems are the most likely to be used assistive listening system."

If you know of a church or synagogue that would benefit by looping or a physician-patient facility or retail store or anywhere there is public conversation, contact Ed Ogiba who leads our advocacy for looping at: ed@grupefo.com.

All Ears Hearing Services



Try Hearing Aids before you decide to buy them

We offer you a no obligation program that will allow you to try out hearing aids so you can experience how well they work for you before you buy. Depending on your lifestyle, hearing needs, and budget, All Ears will help you choose the optimum technology and model style best suited for you including t-coil and loop compatibility.



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Please call for a Free Hearing Consultation/Evaluation
In our Office or at your Home

2620 S Tamiami Trail Suite 101
Sarasota, Florida 34239

(941) 320-2122

www.AllEarsHearingServices.com
AllEarsHearingServices@gmail.com

Legislative Update



In June, we wrote about Senate Bill S555 that would provide for captioning of movies as an ADA requirement and adds no cost to the U.S. Budget and minimal cost to theatre operators. It would benefit over three million hard of hearing residents of Florida alone. Your letters of support to Senators Nelson and Rubio are still needed. This month, we urge your support and letters for Medicare coverage of audiology services.

Comprehensive Medicare Coverage of Audiology Services Legislation Introduced in the House of Representatives

Congressman Gus Bilirakis (R-FL-Wesley Chapel) has introduced the Medicare Audiology Services Enhancement Act of 2013, H.R. 2330, bipartisan legislation that would provide senior citizens with a Medicare audiology benefit which would allow access to both diagnostic and rehabilitative services.

Please let Congressman Bilirakis know of your support (<http://bilirakis.house.gov/>) and please contact your congressman (Vern Buchanan for the Sarasota and Manatee County area (<http://buchanan.house.gov/>) and ask for his support of this Bill. Please reference HB 2330 when you write or e-mail.

Medicare beneficiaries should have access to audiologists for both diagnostic and treatment services—similar to those already available to Medicare beneficiaries from other practitioners. H.R. 2330 would provide Medicare coverage of comprehensive audiology services in coordination with current billing and reimbursement standards, consistent with other non-physician services covered by Medicare. H.R. 2330 would allow audiologists to bill for hearing and balance assessment services, auditory treatment services (including auditory processing and auditory rehabilitation treatment), vestibular treatment, and intraoperative neurophysiologic monitoring. This legislation would enable beneficiaries to enjoy greater access to services that address their needs.

Featured Links/Blog

A hearing loss related link or blog addressing hearing loss issues will be featured here each month.

This month's feature is:

<http://www.healthyhearing.com/>

This month's feature, **Healthy Hearing**, is a source of information on hearing aids and hearing loss issues. It appears to be funded by the hearing aid industry but is an informative source with numerous links to other related areas.

Some of the pamphlets they feature are:

- [Hearing and Your Loved Ones](#)
- [Types of Hearing Aids & Advanced Hearing Aid Technology](#)
- [Hearing Loss and Treatment – Symptoms of Hearing Loss & Treatment Options](#)
- [How Do We Hear – Anatomy of the Ear and How We Hear](#)
- [Understanding Your Audiogram and the Types of Hearing Loss](#)

Breaking Links News:

Our own HLAS website has been updated and includes links from June's Rap Session where reference to the NBC News feature on hearing loss was made and the Consumer Hearing Aid Guide was discussed. Links to past issues of Listen Up are on the site as well. It is: <http://hlas.org/wp/>.

Hearing Loss Association of Florida has a new and updated website with plenty of information and links. It is: <http://hla-fl.org/>.

The Hearing Loss of America website is always up to date with information on events, legislation, education and the convention. Check it out at: www.hearingloss.org/

Find Guidance & Support at our Summer Rap Sessions

June 12 • July 10 • August 14

Second Wednesday of the Month @ 1:30pm

Our monthly summer rap sessions feature informal chats about common issues with hearing loss. There is no guest speaker, just an open session to focus on your individual needs. This is a great opportunity to ask questions, discuss issues about hearing loss, and gain valuable insight from our mentors and members.

Open to the Community!



Mentoring & Support for YOUR Hearing Issues

North Sarasota Library 2801 Newtown Blvd., Sarasota

(Off Martin Luther King, Jr. Way,
1/4 mile East of Rte 301)

For more information contact
Ed Ogiba at 941-706-4312
or visit us at www.hlas.org

Our meeting is supported by a **Hearing Loop System** that sends every spoken word directly into your hearing aid. Learn how to use this new system to get clear, clean, understandable sound available at most theatres in town including Van Wezel, Player's and 17 other playhouses.



"Best Cause"

"Discover how much more you can hear & understand"