

June 2017

Do you know what to do and how to advocate for yourself in a medical setting? Fortunately for those of you that attended our monthly meeting in May, you received some helpful tips from our wonderful guest speaker, Valerie Stafford-Mallis. Valerie shared some great information with us and we have added this important information to our chapter's website at <http://hlas.org/advocacy/hospital-kits/>.

HCAA (Hearing Loss Association of America) has prepared The Guide for Effective Communication in Health Care for patients, families, caregivers, all members of the health care team, administrators, and support staff. It provides information, resources, and tools to help improve communication.

The complete patient guide has a wealth of information and can be downloaded here: http://www.hearingloss.org/sites/default/files/docs/HC_Patient_Complete_Guide.pdf

If you are like many hard of hearing people, going to the hospital is scary. Not only are you anxious about your health problems, but you are worried that you won't hear critically important information as doctors and nurses bustle in and out of your room mumbling instructions as they fill in your chart and hurry away. The secret is to be prepared ahead of time for your stay in the hospital. You can make things much easier for yourself if everyone you meet knows that you are hard of hearing and how best to communicate with you.

A hospital kit can help.

It contains signs and information to help you make your needs known. It provides information, resources, and tools to help improve communication. Several chapters around the country have created some resources for you to download.

The Lane County, Oregon Chapter of Hearing Loss Association of America has developed several tip sheets and signs that you can print off yourself to make your own hospital kit. If you print them on colored paper, you'll have an eye-catching set of hearing loss information for use in the hospital. You can now print out the parts of the hospital kit that will alert the hospital personnel to your needs at the following link: <http://hearinglosslane.org/how-to-make-your-own-hospital-kit/>.

HCAA-WA (Seattle Chapter) has made available on-line several accessibility aids. They can be accessed at: <http://www.swedish.org/patient-visitor-info/accessibility/printable-communication-aids>.

We hope this information will give you some tools and resources to advocate for yourself in a medical setting.

May 2017

The Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce has chosen the Hearing Loss Association of America-Sarasota/Manatee Chapter as one of the finalists for its 2017 Frank G. Berlin Sr. Small Business Awards. We are extremely honored to be receiving such an important nomination along with all the nominees.

This prestigious honor recognizes local member businesses and individuals in six categories. Finalists are chosen based on innovation of product or service, business growth and contributions to the community, among other criteria. The mission of HLAA-S/M is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support and advocacy. Our chapter is a vital advocate in making sure that the issue of hearing loss remains visible in our area. HLAA-S/M is extremely grateful for the recognition for their outreach efforts in the community.

On Friday, June 2, The Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce will honor six businesses at the 2017 Frank G. Berlin, Sr. Small Business Awards at the Hyatt Regency Sarasota from 11:30 AM to 1:15 PM.

We would love to have an HLAA-S/M presence at this event! If you are interested in supporting our organization and sitting at our table at the luncheon, please contact me ASAP (seating is limited) at president@hlas.org to reserve your seat! Tickets are \$50.00 per person.

An enormous thank you to the Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce for their recognition of our organization. Although hearing loss is called the “invisible condition”, HLAA-Sarasota/Manatee will continue to rise to the challenge and refuses to be invisible in its determination to raise awareness regarding our mission of education, information, advocacy and support for people with hearing loss in our community.

April 2017

Dear Members and Friends,

This Chapter is amazing!

I am so thankful so many people stepped up to make the “HEARING TECH CLINIC” a resounding success last month. I have been on two trips. The opportunity to tour Asia for six weeks was a “must trip”, but it came with a “guilt trip” as I was unable to participate in the Clinic and other Chapter activities.

I cannot thank Ed Ogiba enough for bringing the Clinic together with the vendors, the panels and the publicity. Dr. Lyndsey Nalu developed the concept and Mark Selis did outstanding work with the hearing screenings. Also, thank you to the Community Foundation and John Annis for donating the facility.

Jill Simons recruited and organized our volunteers. Without our caring member volunteers, this event would not have been so successful. Allow me to use my monthly space to thank each volunteer (and some of their friends) for giving up a Saturday and providing help and support to the hearing loss community. They are:

Dave Donnelly
Bob Ripley
John Wagner
Shelly Zelitzer
Irene Herman
Diana Bender
Don McFadden
Adrienne Wagner
Maria Anderson
Eileen Schuler
Larry Kavanaugh
Barbara Chertok
Roseanne Boyle
Regina DeWitt
Dr. Vicki Moore

Anne Taylor
Robert Schuler
Vinell Lacy
Sherill Carr
Ken Herman
Peg Nadel
Don McFadden
Herbert Green
Richard Williams
Jim Diaz
Pat Lakey
Richard Pocker
Elaine Goddard
Dr. Susan Fulton
Dr. Laura Wazen

March 2017

Dear Members and Friends,

On Saturday, March 11, the Chapter will present an unprecedented opportunity to try as well as compare ALL the latest hearing technologies without purchase or obligation.

This year's "EXPO" event is entitled "HEARING TECH CLINIC".

We have gathered vendors with the understanding that they are demonstrating and not selling. We want our members and friends to feel at ease in sampling the latest in hearing technology.

We, the not-for-profit Sarasota/Manatee Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America, are carrying out our mission to educate, advocate and support the hearing loss community. We hope you will support us by attending this free event. We will be demonstrating and/or discussing the following:

- Hearing aids
- Cochlear implants
- Assistive listening devices
- Community access
- Hearing loops
- Captioned phones
- CART/captions
- **Free** hearing screenings

- **Free** product demonstrations
- **Free** product trials
- **Free** individual counseling
- **Free** panel discussions
- **Free** exhibitors

Join us between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM at the Community Foundation located between Tuttle Avenue and Shade Avenue. It is one mile east of 301 and four miles west of I-75.

January- 2017

Happy New Year!

I hope each of you has been able to have a better hearing holiday by utilizing the communication skills for the hard of hearing that HLAA promotes. This and the advocacy for captions on TV and movies, as well as looping of public venues, are HLAA National and local initiatives to improve the quality of life for those of us with hearing issues.

Currently, I'm planning on continuing my term as President of the Chapter in 2017 - but will need our Board and members' help and support. You may have read I was recently elected as Chairwoman of a major community organization. I have been active over the years dedicating my time to both the political process and HLAA-S/M. I will continue to do this. Board members are stepping up to take on some of the outreach and organizing responsibilities that I love to do. As always, if you have an interest in getting more involved in our organization do not hesitate to contact me.

The Chapter has 12 Board members, each of whom takes on responsibilities that require their time and this is appreciated. Our meetings and outreach do not just happen; they require a lot of dedication by those who wish to help others. They dedicate their time to make them aware of the assistive devices and communication strategies that are so important to continuing active lifestyles despite the hearing limitations that three million of us in Florida live with every day.

Happy New Year from the entire HLAA-S/M Board. To all - have a great 2017!