

## December - 2015

It is our mission to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support and advocacy. In order to meet our mission and provide services in our community, we rely on the generosity of individuals and businesses for support. Without the assistance of community-minded individuals just like you, we wouldn't be able to serve those in our community each year.

We continue to strive to expand our programs and offerings to the community. We hope that you will be able to take part in one or more of the many exciting events/meetings that we are offering in the upcoming year and experience firsthand the pride we take in supporting our cause.

Did you know that this past year we have touched the lives of many through our participation in 100+ outreach events, leading chapter meetings in Sarasota and Venice, and hosting an annual Hearing Loss Expo. The Chapter offers free hearing & health screenings and the latest products & services by reaching out to the more than 145,000 people with hearing loss in Sarasota/Manatee counties. Your generosity will make a difference in our community by allowing us to continue in our work.

Your support of HLAA-Sarasota/Manatee ensures we can continue our efforts to find, educate and motivate these individuals to seek treatment, while providing chapter members with emotional support and the most current information available. Although hearing loss is called the “invisible condition”, HLAA Sarasota/Manatee 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.

Your donation is helping to make our community healthier. Right here. Right now. We are so grateful to you for helping to create and support our mission. Please click on the link to make a donation. Remember that every donation makes a difference, regardless of size. <http://hlaa.org/donations/>

Happy Holidays

## November - 2015

Walk with your friends and family, meet others who live with hearing loss, and support the efforts of the Hearing Loss Association of America and the Sarasota/Manatee Chapter to raise awareness about hearing loss. Join the Sarasota/Manatee Dream Team on **Saturday, November 7th, in Jacksonville!**

Why Join the Sarasota/Manatee Dream Team? To meet others who live successfully with hearing loss and to support HLAA's advocacy efforts that makes life better for you. Raising awareness, sharing information, and connecting with others - this is what HLAA is all about and what the Walk4Hearing supports. Be a part of the HLAA community by joining me - and many others - at the Florida/Jacksonville Walk4Hearing.

Why is your support so important? Hearing loss is the third major health issue in the country, affecting 48 million Americans (145,000 in Sarasota/Manatee). Your donation to the Walk helps fund HLAA's mission to provide information, education, advocacy and support to people with hearing loss at the Sarasota/Manatee Chapter and at the national level.

Joining the Sarasota Dream Team is easy! Register here

[http://hlaa.convio.net/site/TR/Teamraiser/JacksonvilleWalk?team\\_id=42209&pg=team&fr\\_id=2300](http://hlaa.convio.net/site/TR/Teamraiser/JacksonvilleWalk?team_id=42209&pg=team&fr_id=2300) and click on "Join Team."

If you're not available to walk but would like to donate to the Sarasota/Manatee Chapter Dream Team please consider making a donation

[http://hlaa.convio.net/site/TR/Teamraiser/JacksonvilleWalk?team\\_id=42209&pg=team&fr\\_id=2300](http://hlaa.convio.net/site/TR/Teamraiser/JacksonvilleWalk?team_id=42209&pg=team&fr_id=2300)

This is your opportunity to connect with people who live successfully with hearing loss. All donations are gratefully appreciated. Thank you for your support!

## August/September - 2015

The 2015 HLAA St Louis Convention was a fabulous event!

Everything regarding hearing loss was under one roof to leave you inspired and filled with new ideas. The Convention offered a wide variety of workshops divided into four tracks: Advocacy; Assistive and Other Technology; Hearing Aids and Cochlear Implants; and Relationships and Communication. And, it wasn't just about what you could learn or discover, it was about being surrounded by people who understand your hearing loss in a place where it's okay not to hear well.

Our HLAA-Sarasota/Manatee Chapter Board Members represented our chapter at many of the seminars. Joan Haber moderated the Newcomers Orientation, Communications Strategies, and How to Run a Rap Session. Dr. Lyndsey Nalu presented Untreated Hearing Loss: Effects on Physical, Cognitive, and Social Well Being. Anne Taylor sat on a panel regarding the Gallaudet Peer Mentoring program. I participated in Social Media, Fundamentals of Loops and planning Community Event workshops. The first-of-its-kind Symposium, moderated by HLAA National and HLAA-Sarasota/Manatee Board of Trustee member Valerie Stafford-Mallis, was presented from the perspectives of the employer and the employee with hearing loss. And, former President Ed Ogiba organized all of the workshops for the State Chapter Development room. I was so proud to be a member of the Sarasota/Manatee chapter and have our team be such an active participant in the convention.

We are already making plans for HLAA Convention 2016, June 23 - 26, at the Washington Hilton, Washington, DC. Save The Date!!

## July 2014 – 2015 Spirit of HLAA Award



The Hearing Loss Association of America honors people who are not only actively involved in HLAA but who also set an example for others as positive role models of the self- help philosophy and who also embody the attitude that “it’s not the difference we have, it’s the difference we make.” It is such an honor to be one of three recipients across the country to receive the 2015 Spirit of HLAA Award at the recent HLAA National convention in St Louis.

The statistics are alarming. According to Johns Hopkins Medicine, 20% of our population has some level of hearing loss. Locally, that translates into approximately 145,000 residents in Sarasota-Manatee counties. We have put tremendous efforts in the past years to reach, educate and motivate these individuals to seek treatment. What makes us unique and our goals challenging is that the majority of the population we are trying to reach is in denial regarding their hearing loss.

Every year we focus on finding new and different ways to reach out to people with hearing loss, so we can arm them with the information they need that will lead to better hearing and quality of life.

Attendance at monthly chapter meetings is strong due to the variety of topics presented by guest speakers, the exchange of knowledge, encouragement, and the sharing of experiences. Our Movie, Book and Theatre Clubs continue to grow as members learn about and take advantage of the latest technology that enables them to again participate in activities they put aside due to their hearing loss.

Although hearing loss is called the “invisible condition”, HLAA-Sarasota/Manatee will continue to rise up 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.