

December- 2016

When you or a family member has questions about hearing loss, where do you turn? If you're like many of the people with hearing loss in our

community, you reach out to the Hearing Loss Association of America-Sarasota/Manatee chapter. Why? Because you know you will receive the

information you need to answer any hearing loss questions you may have.

Please consider sending a donation today. Your gift is extremely important because it offers resources that are directed to our mission to open the

world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support and advocacy.

Or consider giving a gift of membership. **This is the holiday bargain of the year!** Membership applications can be found at the chapter website,

<http://hlas.org/> and a gift of HLAA membership at <https://17291.thankyou4caring.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=410>.

HLAA-S/M gives back all year —

- Provides timely and reliable information about hearing loss through HLAA's website, Hearing Loss Magazine, HLAA e-News, the Hearing Loss

Support Specialist Training, message boards/chat forums and the HLAA Convention

- Advocacy at the national level to affect legislation that impacts people with hearing loss, whether it's funding for hearing aids, cochlear implants,

communication access in public places or other important issues

- A nationwide network of chapters and state organizations providing peer support
- Support for parents of children with hearing loss at www.kidsandhearingloss.org
- Outreach to veterans returning with hearing loss
- Our chapter and its volunteers give back every month
- Captioning and hearing assistive technology at HLAA chapter meetings to make them accessible
- Scholarships to the National HLAA Convention
- Free membership and programs for Veterans
- Installation of loops in public places, such as theatres, community rooms, Publix and public libraries
- Seminars on coping with hearing loss for yourself and families

Every Sarasota/Manatee board member joins me in thanking you for your generous support. Your donation is helping to make hearing loss visible in our community.

Happy Holidays!

November- 2016

Our HLAA-Sarasota/Manatee local chapter "Dream Team" is so proud to be a part of The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) Walk4Hearing. The HLAA-Sarasota/Manatee Dream Team will be in Jacksonville on Saturday, Nov 12th, representing our chapter and supporting our national organization.

The funds that are raised assist us in our mission of education/information, advocacy and support for the over 145,000 people with hearing loss in Sarasota/Manatee counties. Your donation helps to pay for items such as: captioning and hearing assistive technology at HLAA chapter meetings, our yearly Hearing Loss Expo, information packets we distribute at over 100 outreach events throughout the community, and so much more!

Please consider becoming a HLAA-Sarasota/Manatee Dream Team member and join us for the Walk OR, if you can't walk, please consider making a donation. Click on the link below and help us raise awareness of hearing loss in the community.

We are determined to make hearing loss visible in Sarasota/Manatee counties! Thank you for your ongoing support!

Make a Dream Team Donation!!

http://hlaa.convio.net/site/TR/Teamraiser/JacksonvilleWalk?team_id=44057&pg=team&fr_id=2384

October - 2016

Thank you so much for all your gifts! The generosity from 80 HLAA-S/M supporters during the Giving Challenge contributed \$4,668 which earned matching funds of \$7,261 (from the Patterson Foundation) for the grand total of \$11,729. An enormous Thank You to the Community Foundation for your ongoing support.

Every year during the Giving Challenge, we get hooked to our screens, phones, and the Community Foundation of Sarasota County Facebook page, reaching out to our supporters, our friends, and our family. A combination of emails and social media outreach got the word out some, but word-of-mouth effort from everyone that believes in our mission, from the board on down and a "very active, very engaged" support community made the real difference.

This year we collaborated with the Ear Research Foundation and HearCare Connection, two hearing loss non-profits in our community. A very special thank you to our hosts for our Hearing Loss Reception, John & Eileen Hampshire for opening the doors of the

beautiful Art To Walk On (16 S Palm) to support healthy hearing! We have made some new friends in the hearing loss community!

Have you wondered how your donations are used? Your donations have contributed to the foundation of our 2017 programs. We will continue to keep you updated on how your donations are put to work. Your continued support is critical to helping us achieve our goals. We will not waver from or forget that our ultimate goal is to make a difference in the lives of people with hearing loss. in Sarasota/Manatee!
Thank You for your ongoing support!

September - 2016



It's that time of the year where we have an amazing opportunity to bring awareness to the over 145,000 people with hearing loss in Sarasota/Manatee counties. The annual Giving Challenge event has become our chapter's largest fundraiser and from noon to noon on September 20 to 21; all donations will be matched from \$25 to \$100 by the Community Foundation. The Chapter is hoping to gain the funds to make many major improvements to better serve you. One project is to build our Assistive Listening Device demo table to appear at every chapter meeting to keep you up to speed on all the advancements and to offer members the opportunity to try selected devices for a month.

We will be holding a ***Hearing Loss Happy Hour Kick-Off*** on **Friday, September 16th from 5-7PM** at Clasico Restaurant, 1341 Main Street, Sarasota.

There is also a ***Happy Hearing Party*** on **Monday, September 19th from 5:30-7:00PM** at Art To Walk On, 16 South Palm Ave, downtown Sarasota. This free, fun soiree promises to be most entertaining with an open wine and appetizer bar. At this gorgeous downtown store we will display some of the latest devices for people with hearing loss and there will be a gathering of HLAA board members in attendance to answer your questions. The beautiful hanging rugs will not only add a splendor to the occasion, but will dampen some of the crowd's sounds so you will be able to hear and chat with others. This is a great event to bring any family member or friend who needs to do more about their hearing.

We are collaborating with the Ear Research Foundation and HearCare Connection, two local nonprofit organizations dedicated to advocating for hearing loss in our community.

The Giving Challenge will bring an enormous amount of community awareness to our organizations as well as increased visibility regarding hearing loss. Although hearing loss is called the “invisible condition”, we refuse to be invisible in our determination to raise awareness regarding our mission of education, information, advocacy and support for people with hearing loss in our community. Working together, our organizations can **Be The One** to Promote Happier Hearing and YOU can make a significant community impact through YOUR involvement with The Giving Challenge.

July/August- 2016

It is always such an amazing experience to attend the national HLAA convention. People travel from across the country wanting to learn about hearing loss and what they can do about it. HLAA remains the one organization that is the voice of consumers with hearing loss who want to stay in the hearing world. HLAA is based on self help—finding out all you can about your hearing loss, making choices that keep you optimistic and, in turn, helping others do the same.

For me, the national convention experience is always a new one—meeting new attendees, hearing a new story or idea, trying new technology, seeing a new city, and so much more! The Convention was outstanding this year and included educational Chapter Building Workshops, a research symposium (Novel Approaches toward Addressing Hearing Loss—Ideas on the Cutting Edge), and a variety of hearing loss related seminars/presentations. The Convention is a unique educational experience that provides opportunities for peer interactions and mutual sharing with others facing similar issues.

At our September 14th, 2016 monthly meeting all of the Sarasota/Manatee convention attendees will share some of the highlights of their experience. What a great experience we had—we can’t wait to share it with you!

June- 2016

Washington D.C. is one of my favorite cities in the world to visit. Where else do you have the possibility of running into the President of the United States, see the Declaration of Independence, and eat any cuisine in the world. You will be proud to be an American. Washington, D.C. is a city where history happens!

Perfect timing in this presidential election year to visit The United States Capitol, often called the Capitol Building or Capitol Hill, is the seat of the United States Congress, the legislative branch of the U.S. federal government.

Our incredible Flo Innes Welcome Party -- the tradition continues for this special welcome to the HLAA National Convention in DC ia don’t miss get re-acquainted/re-connected gathering!

Head over to the National Mall to tour the monuments and Smithsonian museums. The best thing about them? Admission is FREE! To be honest, you really don't even need to be big into history to appreciate everything that's going on inside.

All New for Convention 2016: The Experience Room. Stocked with products offered by exhibitors, the Experience Room is the place to come to try out the latest technology for people with hearing loss in an environment much like your family room – comfy furniture, TV, card/game table, and more.

Special Events planned! Scavenger Hunt in DuPont Circle on Friday evening or see the Monuments by Night. Get your picture taken at the Jefferson Memorial. It faces the Washington Monument and the White House.

Sat, June 25th. Research Symposium: Novel Approaches toward Addressing Hearing Loss – Ideas on the Cutting Edge. The symposium will be a mix of research in the basic science/hair cell area as well as novel ideas in the area of service delivery.

Georgetown in itself is a reason to visit D.C.! The small university town is like a breath of fresh air outside of the hustle and bustle of the city, with views of the Potomac River and more shops to stroll in and out of than you can shake a stick at.

Attend the incredible Educational Chapter Workshops divided into four tracks - Advocacy; Assistive Technology & Large Area Systems; Hearing Aids & Cochlear Implants; and Living Your Life

State/Chapter Development Workshop Schedule - EVERYTHING you need to know on how to build a successful HLAA chapter!

And last but not least! Connecting with old HLAA friends and making new ones from across the country!

The City of Magnificent Intentions (first coined by Charles Dickens) because the city reflected the desires of its creators with symbols of liberty, and innovation etched and represented by the monuments of fallen heroes.

Enjoy the HLAA Washington D.C. Convention! See you there!

May 2016

Each May, Better Hearing & Speech Month (BHSM) provides an opportunity to raise public awareness about hearing loss. The HLAA-Sarasota/Manatee chapter mission is to continue to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support and advocacy.

Better Hearing and Speech Month is a time to raise awareness and our local chapter can help you to continue to improve your hearing with the information and support you need. We encourage you to continue your journey to better hearing by attending our

monthly chapter meetings and becoming a member of HLAA. We share communication options that can improve the quality of life for those who experience hearing loss.



Hearing loss is sometimes referred to as an "invisible disability," because it's not always obvious when people have hearing loss, and it's not often talked about. Studies show that only 1 in 5 people who would benefit from a hearing aid actually uses one, and on average, people with hearing loss wait almost 10 years before they do something about it. Helen Keller once noted that of all her impairments, she was perhaps troubled most by her lack of speech and hearing. She elaborated that while blindness separated her from things, her lack of speech and hearing separated her from people -- the human connection of communication.

Join us in raising public awareness, knowledge, and understanding of hearing loss.

April - 2016

The HLAA-Sarasota/Manatee chapter is committed to help consumers advocate and educate for their hearing loss. Our recent Hearing Loss Expo was our opportunity to share with the community the many advances in technology regarding hearing loss. The Expo was a great, free opportunity to test-drive some devices that could bring relief to family, friends and coworkers.

Through events such as the Expo, the Hearing Loss Association of America's Sarasota/Manatee Chapter strengthens its commitment to its mission of empowering people with hearing loss to lead more active lives in the community by promoting education/information, hearing loss advocacy and support.

We hope you will permit HLAA-Sarasota/Manatee Chapter to continue to be a part of your hearing journey. Our monthly chapter meetings offer tips and techniques for living with hearing loss, emotional support and technical information about hearing assistance devices. Don't miss our April 13th meeting on Loops/T-Coils "*How and Why They Work and Why They Sometimes Don't.*" a review of the basics of Looping, proper Loop installations and a discussion about the challenges various venues present to using the Loop effectively.

An enormous *THANK YOU* to our exhibitors, attendees, Board of Trustee's and wonderful volunteers who made the Expo so successful!

March - 16

The theme for this year's expo is "What's New." The theme reflects the huge strides being made in technologies to help the hard of hearing. The 5th annual Hearing Loss

Expo, featuring over 35 exhibitors and educational seminars, takes place Saturday, March 5 from 9am to 3pm at the Manatee Technical College, 6305 State Road 70 East in Bradenton, one mile west of I-75 exit 217B

The HLAA Sarasota/Manatee Chapter announces the creation of the Technology Solution Center, a series of user-friendly, experiential product stations where consumers can try and compare a range of new products for specific needs. Each of the six stations is designed to address one of consumers' most problematic situations, such as struggling to have a conversation in a noisy restaurant, by trying and comparing the latest relevant wireless device options.

The Technology Solution Center will debut at the 2016 Hearing Loss Expo, Florida's largest hearing care fair for consumers, on March 5.

We have lined up exhibitors and a roster of expert speakers for the 2016 Sarasota/Manatee Hearing Loss Expo. This event is free to the public and our way of reaching out to our community in need. 145,000 locals have hearing loss and 116,000 are not getting the treatment and support they need to lead less isolated lives. In addition, to take advantage of the robust number of educational outlets that will be available at the Expo, we are rolling our Veterans Hearing Awareness Forum into the Expo in 2016. There are 85,000 veterans living in Sarasota/Manatee and 17,600 of them suffer with hearing loss.

We greatly appreciate your generous and consistent past support of our efforts. And we are grateful for your continued support of this very worthy event. Invite your family, friends and neighbors! See you on March 5th at the Hearing Loss Expo!

February - 2016

Save The Date- March 5th! The theme for this year's expo is "**What's New.**" The theme reflects the huge strides being made in technologies to help the hard of hearing. We have already lined up exhibitors and a roster of expert speakers for the 2016 Sarasota/Manatee Hearing Loss Tech Expo which will be held on March 5, 2016.

Seminars will feature an insiders' look at many of these new innovative technologies, such as captioned phones, new hearing aid and implant technologies. This EXPO is free to the public and our way of reaching out to our community in need. Over 145,000 locals have hearing loss and 116,000 are not getting the treatment and support they need to lead less isolated lives.

To take advantage of the robust number of educational outlets that will be available at the Expo, we are rolling our Veterans Hearing Awareness Forum into the Expo in 2016. There are 85,000 veterans living in Sarasota/Manatee and 17,600 of them suffer with hearing loss.

The Hearing Tech Expo is open to the community and sponsored by the Hearing Loss Association of America-Sarasota/Manatee Chapter. The event takes place on Saturday,

March 5 from 9 am to 4 pm at Manatee Technical College (MTC) 6305 State Road 70 in Bradenton, just 1 mile west of I-75 and exit 217B.

For more details, click: www.hlas.org/2015/12/23/5th-annual-hearing-loss-expo/

We look forward to meeting you at Expo 2016!

January - 2016

Greetings Friends!

The holidays are always a busy and special time for many of us. As I look back over the past year I can't help but think what a wonderful year it has been for HLAA-Sarasota/Manatee. This past year has been an exceptional one for us. We have managed to accomplish a lot.

We couldn't accomplish the mission of HLAA-S/M -- information, education, support and advocacy -- without all of your support.

It's also that time of year when we reflect and say thank you to those who have work diligently throughout the year on behalf of people with hearing loss and HLAA-S/M. Thank you for your financial support and for your ongoing support of our local HLAA chapter over the past year

We have an exciting upcoming year planned. We invite you to join us on Tuesday, Jan 26th at 10:30AM at North County Library for a Volunteer Appreciation gathering. We will share with you some of our activities and special meetings that we have planned!

Best wishes for the happiest of holidays.