

# Hear Ye, Hear Ye

## **HLA-FL to host 2006 National Convention in Orlando**

*Lou Ferrigno and Michael Chorost  
to be featured speakers*



The HLAA Annual Convention will be held at the Disney Coronado Spring Resort, in Orlando, Florida from June 29 – July 2. This highly interactive convention program provides current and emerging innovation for the people with hearing loss. You will have the opportunity to learn and share with other adults with hearing loss, parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their family members. This year's convention promises to be a most memorable event.

Disney's Coronado Springs Resort is one of the largest convention hotels at the Walt Disney World Resort with rich textures and vibrant colors bringing Northern Mexico and the American Southwest to life. Nestled around a 15-acre lake, this beautifully landscaped, cultural resort captures the

warm and gracious spirit of its heritage.

The featured speakers are Lou Ferrigno and Michael Chorost.

Ferrigno is widely known for his portrayal of the Incredible Hulk, a television series that ran from 1978-1982. His other acting credentials have been TV's 1983 Trauma Center, along with several movies including Hercules, Sinbad and Cage. Ferrigno also continues his recurring guest star role on King of Queens, airing Monday evenings at 8 o'clock on CBS. In February of this year, Ferrigno completed an extensive physical and academic training program and was commissioned as a Reserve Deputy for the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department.

Fans of TV in the 1970s, comic book fans, and deaf and hard of hearing people will remember Lou Ferrigno's performances. This hard of hearing former sheet metal worker and body builder became an instant role

*—continued on page 4*

### **THE HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA IS "HEAR" TO SERVE YOU**

With this premiere issue, we invite you to join us in making it a tool of communication among the state organization, its chapters and all people with a hearing loss in Florida.

In the months ahead, we plan to publish timely and educational items of interest to the community. We welcome your ideas, articles and photos.

*Hear Ye, Hear Ye* will be accepting advertising from interested parties as a way to defray publishing and mailing costs. Please ask your local audiologists, hearing centers and ENTs to consider an ad to support us. Advertising rates are listed on the back page.

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**CONVENTION PROGRAM**  
**HIGHLIGHTS**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 29**

**8:30 a.m. Open Board/Business Meeting**

Come meet the HLAA Board members and HLAA Florida Committee members

**11:00 a.m. Registration Opens**

Exhibit Hall Opens

**1:00 p.m. First Time Attendees Meeting**

HLAA would like to invite all first-time Attendees to a special get-together. If you're new to the HLAA Convention we want you to have the best experience possible. To help you get off the ground, you're invited to attend the First-Time Attendee Program which will offer plenty of information to help you navigate the conference.

**5:00 p.m. Opening Session**

Begin your HLAA Convention experience with Lou Ferrigno, motivational speaker, two-time Mr. Universe and TVs "The Hulk" followed by a reception sponsored by Cochlear Americas.

**8:00 p.m. Get Acquainted Party**

Come celebrate with the HLAA Headquarter staff and the HLAA Florida Committee with Tama Leao's Polynesian Show. This Polynesian Show will be the Talk-of-the-town! Experience the exotic setting of the South Pacific Islands without leaving your seats.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 30**

**8:30 a.m. Awards Ceremony and Breakfast**

Join us as we recognize our extraordinary and dedicated people and organization that helped us to advance to our mission, goals and values.

**10:30 a.m. Workshops, State meetings and Roundtable discussions**

**4:00 - 6:00 p.m. "Celebrate Technology"**

Special Exposition Mexican buffet in the exhibit hall.

**SATURDAY, JULY 1**

**All Day Workshops and Presentations**

**6:00 p.m. Banquet Reception**

**7:00 p.m. Association Banquet**

Featuring Michael Chorost, author of "Rebuilt: How Becoming Part Computer Made Me More Human" Sponsored by Advance Bionics Corporation

**SUNDAY, JULY 2**

**8:00 a.m. Worship Service**

**9:00 a.m. Research Symposium**

Hearing Aid Manufacturer's Forum

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY JIM DIAZ

Though numbers fail to weigh the tremendous motivation of our Hearing Loss Association of Florida population, I can't help wonder why we



have a 3 to 1 ratio of hearing aid specialists and audiologists to our Florida membership count. This wonder especially rings true when I look back at the benefits I have personally received from being a member of the

Hearing Loss Association of Florida. In the past ten years I have attended nine of the ten Self-Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH) conventions. Each time, my life has improved tenfold.

I have directional microphones sold in the exhibit hall that make my hearing sharp and clear. As a result, I speak louder and have more control of my voice. This is all due to a product that many people do not have a clue even exists. Armed with product information, I'm able to wisely purchase a cell phone that does not cause my hearing aids to buzz or produce "snake rattles" from cell phone interference. To boot, the

volume is loud and clear. I know my hearing aids aren't outdated because I can test some of the newer models at the convention exhibit hall.

When the Florida rain catches me in the parking lot on the way to my car, I know my hearing aids won't be affected because they are enclosed by water resistant hearing aid socks I purchased at the convention exhibit hall.

Each year, our Hearing Loss Association of America convention brings us news of cutting edge technology, news of new products, and news of successful self advocacy. But, I must say, of most importance, I value the experience I have meeting others who understand the invisible struggles we all go through with hearing loss.

For Floridians, it is a special year. *The convention is at our doorstep.* This year Orlando is host to the Hearing Loss Association of America Convention. I ask you to do yourself a favor. Come to the convention. Please share the news with your favorite audiologist or hearing aid specialist or doctor. Spread the news of the convention like wildfire; it's simply too much of a treasure to hoard. Maybe soon we can say we have thirty members per audiologist.

I look forward to seeing all of you this summer at the Coronado Resort in Orlando.

## Boca Raton Chapter

The Boca Raton Chapter has been in existence for over 11 years. Our meetings are held the fourth Monday of every month from September through May from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Meetings take place at the James Rutherford Building in Patch Reef Park, Boca Raton. Guests attend meetings for a maximum of three times without charge. Annual dues are just \$15.00.

Refreshments are served prior

to the program. In a communicatively accessible setting, members of all ages and degrees of hearing loss, along with their families, learn about hearing loss and self help practices.

Interesting speakers are invited each month and cover such topics as: the latest in hearing aids and assistive listening devices; where to find help for the hard of hearing; coping with hearing loss;

speech reading techniques; cochlear implants; the Americans with Disabilities Act; and other educational topics. Assistive listening devices are available during the meetings.

To join our chapter, please send in membership application. For more information, please contact the Boca Raton Chapter President, Geri Young at Gerindave1@yahoo.com or by phone (561) 451-8494.

**Hearing Loss Association of America National  
Convention in Orlando June 29 - July 2, 2006**

## Ferrigno and Chorost to speak

(continued from page 1)

model for deaf and hard of hearing youth. A winner of major bodybuilding titles when only in his early 20s, Ferrigno was motivated to become a bodybuilder as a teenager by experiences all too common to the hard of hearing youth of the 70s; he was teased by his hearing peers. He has talked about having been called "Deaf Louie."



His bodybuilding consequently led to his memorable role as the Hulk.

Today, Lou Ferrigno focuses on bodybuilding education instead of acting. Both he and his wife, Carla, offer personal fitness training services to residents of his California region.

You won't want to miss this dynamic speaker and role model for all of us.

Michael Chorost, the author of *Rebuilt: How Becoming Part Computer Made Me More Human* (Houghton Mifflin, June 2005) is his story of becoming cyborg.



Chorost was born in 1964 in Westfield, NJ with a severe hearing loss in both ears because of an edemic of rubella (German measles), Chorost did not learn to talk until he was fitted with hearing aids at the age of three and a half. He received a BA in English from Brown University in 1987 and completed a PhD in educational technology at the University of Texas at Austin in 2000. Between 1999 and 2004, he

worked at dot-coms and research institutes as a technical writer. He taught academic writing at the University of San Francisco in 2005. Chorost now earns his living as a freelance writer, speaker, and consultant in San Francisco touring the USA and Europe on a regular basis. Among other things, Chorost discusses the role computers have played in our lives and bodies, how society misuses computers, and how we might reorient ourselves so that technology makes us more human. He has plans to get the other ear implanted.

He is another person whose behavior we would wish to imitate.



## Spotlight on Flo Innes, Advocate

For the last two years, Flo has served as treasurer of Hearing Loss Association of Florida. Born with a profound hearing loss, Flo has been involved for many years with Self Help for the Hard of Hearing (SHHH) where she also served as president.

In Sarasota, she eventually opened a non-profit organization, Advocates For Better Hearing, Inc., an assistive listening device resource center. In the showroom are over 100 items to help the deaf and hard of hearing. Much of the merchandise can be used by hearing people as well.

The ABH website will be available soon, so please watch for it. To the best of Flo's knowledge, this is the only ALD showroom of its size in Florida. Their goal is to have workshops, meetings, and support groups, etc.

For more information, you may reach Flo at [advocatesforbetterhearing@msn.com](mailto:advocatesforbetterhearing@msn.com).

## News from the Board of Trustees

-Kathy Borzell

The Board of Trustees of the Hearing Loss Association of America met in Bethesda, MD on the weekend of March 3-5, 2006. It was a productive weekend with the board approving the new HLA logo and chapter naming guidelines.

HLAA staff gave reports on developments with respect to advocacy and public policy, the upcoming Orlando convention, chapter developments, website updates, magazine and e-news and the Academy of Hearing Loss Support Specialists.

The Board is excited about its upcoming convention in Orlando. For more information or to register for the convention call 301-657-2248 or go to the web site at [www.hearingloss.org/html/2006conv.html](http://www.hearingloss.org/html/2006conv.html).

In May, HLAA will be sponsoring **Walk4Hearing** walk-a-thons to be held in New York (Downstate & Rochester), Texas (Ft. Worth & Houston), California (San Francisco) and Pennsylvania (Newtown Square).

**Walk4Hearing** is a nationally-coordinated effort sponsored by Hearing Loss Association of America to increase awareness about the causes and consequences of hearing loss and to raise funds to provide information and support for people with hearing loss.

For more information or to sponsor one of the walks call 301-657-2248 or go to the website at: [www.hearingloss.org/Walk4Hearing/index.htm](http://www.hearingloss.org/Walk4Hearing/index.htm).

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on June 29 in Orlando.

**Please support this newsletter. Ask your audiologist or hearing aid center to advertise.**

## **HLA-FL seeks applicants for Board**

The Hearing Loss Association of Florida (HLA-FL) is seeking qualified individuals to serve on the HLA-FL Board of Trustees for a three-year term beginning October 7, 2006.

**Who is eligible?** All members of Hearing Loss Association of America HLAA who are Florida residents are eligible.

HLA-FL is committed to assembling a board composed of individuals with a diversity of skills, backgrounds, hearing loss and ages. Hearing applicants with sensitivity to the needs of people with hearing loss will be considered. Ability to work with others is essential. Positive thinkers with the desire to improve the quality of life for hard of hearing Florida residents are urged to apply. HLA-FL members can nominate themselves for board membership or nominate another Florida HLAA member (with permission).

**What is required?** The board meets at least three times a year in locations that vary to provide equitable geographical access. Members are encouraged to attend all meetings. Costs of travel are the members' responsibility. Members are asked to take active roles on standing and ad hoc committees. Meetings are presently held on Saturdays to accommodate employed members. Major committee work occurs between board meetings and is most often transacted by e-mail or chatroom and thus, Board members are required to have e-mail access. Reimbursements of previously approved expenses on behalf of LA-FL are available to trustees upon request.

**How to apply for the HLA-FL Board.** Application forms are

available by contacting Joan Haber, Chair, Nominating Committee, 1768 Pine Harrier Circle, Sarasota, FL 34231 or by e-mail: joan1@comcast.net

Applications must be returned no later than **August 15, 2006.**

## **FCCDHH offering Convention Scholarships**

Joan Haber, a resident of Sarasota and a long time member of HLAA, is the vice-chair of the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Appointed to the Council by Governor Bush, she is also serves as the chair of



The Citizens with Disabilities Advisory Board for the City of Sarasota; as secretary of the Hearing Loss Association of Sarasota; and as a board member of the Hearing Loss Association of Florida.

The FCCDHH's mission is to serve as an advisory and coordinating body which recommends policies that address the needs of deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened and deaf-blind persons, as well as methods that improve the coordination of services among public and private entities and to provide technical assistance, advocacy and education.

The Council is providing scholarship funds in the amount of \$2,500 to be used for families with children to attend the Hearing Loss Association's annual convention in June in Orlando. The FCCDHH Council believes in encouraging children to become involved in the HLAA's convention and to become advocates for themselves at an early age. A maximum of \$500 can be used per family with minor children to offset costs of registration and convention expenses. To find out

how to apply for this scholarship, Contact Haber at joan1@comcast.net or 941-921-9197.

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The next Council meeting is in Miami on May 4 and 5 at Radisson Kendall Hotel & Suites, 9100 S. Kendall Drive, Miami, Florida 33176. Call (305) 779-9172 (direct) or visit: [www.radisson.com/miamifl\\_kendall](http://www.radisson.com/miamifl_kendall). The public comment period will be on May 4 from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

The Council will next meet in Gainesville on August 17 and 18 at a place to be determined. Check the Council website for further details. The public comment portion of that meeting will be on August 17 from 3:30 to 5:30 pm. For more information on both meetings contact Mary Grace Tavel at [MaryGrace\\_Tavel@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:MaryGrace_Tavel@doh.state.fl.us)

## **Hearing Loss Association of Broward County**

Broward County, FL chapter Upcoming meetings - both at the Northwest Regional Library in Coral Springs, FL - April 19 - "Anything You Want to Discuss or Ask Questions About" - Speakers: Those at the meeting. May 10 - "What's New in Hearing Aid Design?" - Speaker: Kim Schur, audiologist and director of League for the Hard of Hearing.

We also give out information sheets at our meetings such as "Preparing for the Upcoming Hurricane Season." If you would like additional information about our chapter, please call Karen Frauman at 954-984-9541 or send an e-mail to [kfrauman37@aol.com](mailto:kfrauman37@aol.com).

## **HLA of Naples**

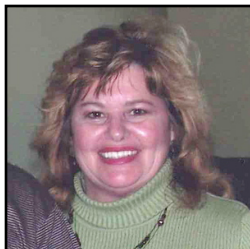
Jim and Lois Smith are co-leaders and ask that you check their website. [www.naples.net/presents/naplesears](http://www.naples.net/presents/naplesears)

## A Message from the State Chapter Coordinator

--Lynn Rousseau

As a native Floridian, I welcome the chance to be your State Chapter Coordinator for Hearing Loss Association of Florida.

I have been a member of the Hearing Loss Association Board of Directors for over eight years and have seen it grow into a wonderful organization. We have had some great leaders and involved members who volunteer beyond the call of duty. Jim Diaz, President, has led us all for six years now! Kathy Borzell and Joan Haber represent us at state and national level. Carol Christopherson and Joan Haber also represent us on the Governor's Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Flo Innes has always been there to boost morale at meetings and feed us



all with her homecooked meals! Flo's *Advocates for Better Hearing* store is a place everyone should visit. She has assistive listening devices and helpful ideas to suit all hearing losses. Angie also works there and can solve just about any problem one has with any device. Together, they work hard to serve the needs of the community and really came to the rescue of many during the hurricane season. So many people, past and present, have made the Florida Association of Self Help for Hard of Hearing (FLASHHH, as it was known) a vital part of our lives. Thank you to all for the hard work and long hours put into this effort.

As for me, when I am not advocating for the rights of the hard of hearing through this organization, I am chair of the Alachua County Citizens Disability Advisory Board, part of the ADA Human Rights Council, and member of the board of directors and performing member with the

Danscompany of Gainesville. I am Mom to three and grandmother of three (with one more due in July!) and finally, wife and friend to Joel for over 35 loving years!

I have had a hearing loss, nerve deafness, since age three. Visits to Johns Hopkins as a child led me to wear hearing aids starting with a body pack and then gradually to behind the ear. I am excited to be getting new ones this month! I've been blessed with an uncanny ability to read lips and so get along well in the mainstream of society. But it isn't easy. Knowing what I know now--and wishing someone had helped me along the way to make life a little easier--is what leads me to make sure I share all I can with others so they, too, can enjoy life to the best of their ability.

To keep silent is to accept the situation.

• • •



At the convention banquet in Washington, DC in 2005, Florida members added a special spark with their surprise "Disney Welcome to Orlando" live performance and fashion show.

The award-winning cast included Francis Beecher, tourist; Kathy Borzell, Snow White; Betty Brewster, bathing beauty; Jim Diaz, Aladdin; Flo Innes, Cruella; Angie Nibert, Pocohontas; Dr. Patricia Krico, tourist; Larry Kavanaugh, movie director; Lynn Rousseau, Esmerelda; and Alan Brown, Sleepy.

Lynn and Alan led them in an enthusiastic rendition of "off to work we go." These two had worked tirelessly to form the Local Host Committee for Convention 2006 in Orlando.

## FLASHH History Highlighted, Part 1

--submitted by Frank Corica

SHHH-Brevard met in February 1991 for the purpose of starting a state organization. In May SHHH Florida, Inc. was formally incorporated. The first president was Bob Dempsey.



At that time, a permanent seat was granted to this group on the TASA (Telecommunication Access System Act) Advisory Board.

In October 1993 Alan Brown was elected president. In November Orlando was selected to host the 11th International SHHH Convention. In April of the following year, an application was submitted for recognition as a State Association and the By-Laws were amended to conform with National's requirements.

The Mildred Savell Scholarship was established in December 1994 to send deserving members to the annual Convention. During the same month, the first Board of Trustees was elected.

SHHH Florida, Inc. received approval as a state association and consequently was to be referred to by

### Guidelines for speakers on ways to communicate with an audiences who have hearing loss

--submitted by Karen Frauman, Broward County

This guide was compiled by the Hearing Loss Association of America's Rochester (NY) Chapter to brief guest speakers on the ways to communicate with audiences who have hearing loss. Use it as a guide and tailor it to your specific situation.

Members of Hearing Loss Association of America have varying degrees of hearing loss and a variety of ways of receiving information. Although a small number may prefer some form of sign language, the majority access information using technology.

As a result, guest speakers for the general meetings need to be made aware of how they can best communicate their message in order to maximize receptivity.

Guest speakers should be informed that the room . . . is fitted with an induction loop. They should be told that the loop only benefits people who have t-coils in their hearing aids and that it is not amplifying sound for others in the audience. (The term

the acronym FLASHHH.

Most of the time from June 1995 through June 1996 was devoted to planning for the 11th SHHH Convention in Orlando.

In December 1997, Joan Andrews was elected president. That same month the By-Laws were amended to establish rolling terms for the Board of Trustees to limit changeover to one third of Trustees.

The next year, in July, the IRS granted the state organization status as a non-profit corporation.

In 1999 FLASHHH launched the *JEB Project*, a survey of other states to determine the type and extent of services provided to their deaf and hard of hearing citizens and co-sponsored Beyond Amplification workshop at the University of South Florida for the Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened and their families.

Jim Diaz was elected fourth president in February 2000.

(continued in the next issue)

t-coil is often referred to as telephone switch, telecoil, and T-switch.)

The chapter leader should do a check at the beginning of the meeting to ensure that the loop is on and that those who have t-coils can hear. The leader will suggest that those in the group who wear a hearing aid with a t-coil should turn it on. This enables a t-coil in the hearing aid to pick up a signal from either a room loop or a neck loop.

Occasionally, seating may need to be rearranged so a hard of hearing person can see speakers more clearly and also so that those who do not have t-coils can hear.

The speaker will be provided with a special mic that will enable those members with t-coils in their hearing aids to hear whatever the speaker says clearly with no interference from extraneous noise. The mic is not amplifying sound for those in the audience who are not using the loop.

Speakers should always use the microphone. It is a part of the system that helps the audience.

Speakers will be offered a lapel mic; however, some speakers may prefer to use a wireless hand-held microphone. The microphone should not be directly in front of the mouth, and preferably no higher than chin level. People who are hard of hearing usually supplement what they hear with

speechreading to help them understand and, therefore, need to see the speaker's mouth.

Although visual aids are often helpful, speakers should avoid speaking while facing a chalk board, screen, or easel, or when looking away from the audience. Speakers should avoid turning too far away from the microphone as can happen during a slide presentation for example, and waving a hand-held microphone to point.

Speakers should speak slowly and distinctly and project their voice to the person farthest away.

Speakers should avoid covering their mouth with their hands or other objects.

Sufficient ambient lighting should be provided when showing slides or movies to allow for speechreading.

During the question and answer period, speakers should repeat the questions from the audience since those using the t-coil will not hear the questions when they are called out without a microphone.



**Hearing Loss  
Association  
of America**

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 Oviedo, FL 32765

#### Send news items and photos to

Judy40@bellsouth.net or  
 Judy G. Martin  
 8019 Leafcrest Drive  
 Jacksonville, FL 32244

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Member photos in this issue  
 by Lynn Rousseau

### Hearing Loss Association of Sarasota

The Sarasota Chapter meets at Selby Public Library, 1331 First Street, Sarasota from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. On April 19, Dr. Andrew Marlowe, Sarasota Ear, Nose and Throat specialist, will give a presentation on Sudden Deafness. On May 17, Michelle Martin, member of the Sarasota Human Relations Board will present "How to Make a Discrimination Complaint" and will provide complaint forms, ordinances and rules of procedures.

*LaVonne Stocco, President*

### Hearing Loss Association of Jacksonville

The Jax Chapter meets the third Tuesday of the month at Jax Public Library, West Regional. For more details go to: <http://www.freewebs.com/hearinglossassociationofjacksonville> or [Judy40@bellsouth.net](mailto:Judy40@bellsouth.net)

## Calendar

#### **April 22, 2006**

HLA-FL Board of Trustees - Boca Raton

#### **May 4-5, 2006**

FCCDHH - Miami

#### **June 29 - July 2, 2006**

Hearing Loss Association of America  
 Annual Convention - Orlando

#### **June 29, 2006**

HLAA Board of Trustees - Orlando

#### **August 15, 2006**

HLA-FL Board of Trustee Applications  
 Due

#### **August 17 - 18, 2006**

FCCDHH - Gainesville

#### **October 7, 2006**

HLA-FL Board of Trustees - Jacksonville

### Hearing Loss Association of Florida

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