

Hear Ye, Hear Ye

High Steppers gear up for Florida's Walk4Hearing on April 12



Many of you from around the state have called or written to say you want to be a part of the high-stepping Florida Walk4Hearing participants in Safety Harbor near Tampa on **Saturday, April 12**. What enthusiasm! We hear you! Please see the detailed instructions on the back cover of this issue to see how you can register as an individual or form a team on the Hearing Loss Association of America website. (www.Walk4Hearing.org) Team leaders will have pledge envelopes for those who wish to gather in their donations/pledges personally. You may also check our website from time to time for details as they evolve.

Our goal is to raise \$40,000 and we've already reached more than **\$14,000** as *Hear Ye, Hear Ye* goes to press. Isn't that amazing? With all of us working together, we have very high hopes of reaching this goal. Please be a part of this ambitious undertaking. Ask your family members and your friends to work with you in making the Florida Walk4Hearing a huge success.

You can see from the sponsorship opportunities in the column at the right, that our walk sponsors will receive extensive recognition for their support at all of our walk-related events; in our communications, on our website, printed materials, event T-shirts, and of course, at the walk

itself. The deadline for having your name and/or logo on the printed materials is Friday, January 25.

On **Saturday, February 16**, our Kick-Off Luncheon will be held at Safety Harbor Resort and Spa. Sponsors, team leaders, and other invited guests will be treated to an elegant meal in lovely bayside surroundings.

As I wrote in the September issue, it would be wonderful if each of the 14 chapters in Florida could send 20 or 25 walkers to the Florida Walk4Hearing event. Now, four months later, we have 17 chapters! The news gets better and better all the time.

If you have questions, please contact Kathy Borzell or Judy Martin who are co-chairs for the 2008 Florida Walk4Hearing. They are listed on page two of this newsletter.

—Judy G. Martin



Walk4Hearing sponsorship opportunities still available!

There are a variety of sponsorship levels available. You could sponsor a Kilometer Marker for \$100 and have your name on a professionally printed marker along the walk route. The marker could possibly bear the name of a loved one who has passed on whom you would like to honor.

Some other levels of sponsorship still available are Supporting Sponsor - \$250, Bronze Sponsor - \$500, Kick-off Luncheon Sponsor - \$2,000, and Presenting Sponsor - \$5,000. Any contribution of \$250 or more entitles you to have your company logo or your name on the back of the official Walk4Hearing T-shirt. If you have any questions about sponsorship or know a company who might be interested in sponsoring the Walk, please contact Joan Haber, Sponsorship Coordinator, by email at joan1@comcast.net or phone at **941-921-9197**. The deadline for receipt of a logo for the shirts is January 25, 2008, but you can still sponsor right up until the day of the Walk.

—Joan Haber

After a day's walk everything has twice its usual value. ~George Macauley Trevelyan

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MEETINGS

FEBRUARY 2, 2008 - GAINESVILLE
 JUNE 7, 2008 - SARASOTA
 OCTOBER 4, 2008 - TBA

Report from the President
(Lynn Rousseau is on an extended trip through India that will end in Paris. She sent this by e-mail.)

As I travel through India, I'd like to share that we all should be grateful for the many assistive devices we have available to us in the states. Captions, ADA kits for hotel rooms and all that we take for granted, is missing.

The people of India are, however, very patient, courteous and polite. There is no hurry and they try very hard to please you. That said, I can offer that this country is both colorful and different. Poor in many ways, shapes and forms and rich, in many others. I have no idea how they test for hearing loss or if there are newborn baby screenings. People do wear hearing aids, but so far, from what I've seen, it's just the well off folks. Many young people have iPods and *everyone*, whether living in a grass hut or mansion, has a cell phone to their ears 24 hours a day! To me, it is loud and noisy, but somehow, one becomes accustomed to the noise.

I will be happy to return home to USA.

--Lynn Rousseau

Attention South Florida HLA members:

Here is a request to South Florida HLA members, preferably in the Broward County area, who are looking for a wonderful volunteer opportunity. This is a fulfilling way to help others cope with hearing loss by serving in a leadership role for the local chapter. It meets monthly except for summer months at a large regional library. Assistive listening

devices are available for meeting use. Please contact the State Chapter Coordinator, Larry Kavanaugh. Thank you!

Petition for Online Captioning

There is a new online petition about "Captions on Online/Downloadable Videos" at <http://www.petitiononline.com/CC4web/petition.html>.

The petition is directed at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), but it could also be used to advocate directly with online video program providers, manufacturers, etc.

Please consider signing and supporting this online petition. You are also welcome to leave additional comments and feedback in support of captions in this context.

If you feel that you can, please pass this petition along to your family and friends with or without hearing loss.

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Make checks payable to: Hearing Loss Association of Florida	
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Please help keep this newsletter in print.	
We gratefully receive your tax-deductible donations.	

Solvitur ambulando, St. Jerome was fond of saying. To solve a problem, walk around. ~Gregory McNamee

The FCCDHH goes to The Villages

The Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (FCCDHH) held its quarterly meeting on November 8 and 9 in The Villages, a 55+ community near Ocala. Joan Haber, board member of the Hearing Loss Association of Florida, is the chairperson of the FCCDHH. The Council was established in 2004 by the Florida legislature to serve as an advisory and coordinating body which recommends policies that address the needs of people in FL with hearing loss. The Hearing Loss Association of Florida holds two seats on the FCCDHH. HLA-FL Board members who attended the two-day meeting in The Villages were Lynn Rousseau, Judy Martin, and Don Shaffer along with HLA-FL members Janis Ward and Tom Martin. James Forstall, HLA-FL's Professional Advisor attended as well.

The meeting began with a presentation by Dr. David G. Myers, of Holland, MI, one of the world's leading experts in the field of looping systems and telecoil usage. He gave a Power-Point presentation on the many applications of looping systems and how people can increase their ability to hear in public places with something as simple and efficient as the telecoil in their hearing aids and cochlear implants. To learn more about Dr. Myers' work, visit www.hearingloop.org

The Council is currently working on improving access to effective communication within the legal system. A task force has been formed to coordinate the efforts of ADA compliance within all levels of Florida's court system, lawyer's offices, jails and prisons, and police and highway safety offices. Their work is ongoing and the goal is to initiate statewide trainings as to the correct way to accommodate people with hearing loss. All HLA-FL members are encouraged to submit input to the Council about personal experiences, both positive and negative, about dealing with the legal system in Florida, as it pertains to their hearing loss and receiving adequate accommodations.

In January of 2008, the Council will be producing a training video at Tampa General Hospital, which is the culmination of the Medical Accessibility Task Force, begun in 2005. This video will be available to all hospital personnel and people with hearing loss who want to advocate for better access to communica-

tion in medical settings. All Florida HLA members and chapters will be notified when this video is available.

The public hearing, held on Thurs, Nov 8 from 4-6



Joan Haber, left, and Judy Martin enjoy a light moment with Dr. David Myers who gave the council the benefit of his extensive knowledge in looping technology.

—photo by Tom Martin

was well attended by about 50 residents of The Villages. Most of the issues focused on the lack of qualified sign language interpreters and the fact that doctors and lawyers continue to refuse to pay for the services of interpreters for their clients. Many residents pointed out that none of the movies shown at the two theaters in The Villages are captioned. Concerns were raised about lack of funding for deaf and hard of hearing service centers around the state, which makes it difficult to provide adequate direct services to the people who need them.

The next quarterly meeting of the FCCDHH will be held in Daytona Beach on February 21-22, 2008. The FCCDHH will be going to Sarasota for its meeting on May 8-9, 2008. If you have any questions about the Council, please email Joan Haber at joan1@comcast.net or phone 941-921-9197.

Above all, do not lose your desire to walk. Every day I walk myself into a state of well-being and walk away from every illness. I have walked myself into my best thoughts, and I know of no thought so burdensome that one cannot walk away from it. ~Soren Kierkegaard



From left to right, are Laurette Findlay, Cheryl Nolte, Rachel Nazario, Wally S. Rodriguez and Patricia Dielmann.

—photo by William C. Nolte

We are looking for members, volunteers (VoluntEars) and ambassadors (AmbassadEars) to donate time and resources to this important group. The facts to support the great need for this group are:

- Hearing loss is the No. 1 disability in the world.
- There are currently twice as many ninth graders with hearing loss as there was 10 years ago; three out of 10 children are affected by hearing loss (many undiagnosed).
- Sixty per cent of the inductees into the Rock 'N Roll Hall of Fame are hearing impaired.
- A whopping 76.3 per cent of people lose their hearing after age 19; fifteen out of every 1,000 people under the age of 18 have a hearing loss.

A New Chapter is Formed

The nation's foremost membership and advocacy organization for people with hearing loss has announced that a new local chapter, the Treasure Coast Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) was formed as of October 1. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 11 a.m. at the Fountain Plaza, 10016 S. Federal Highway, Port St. Lucie.

The HLAA's national support network includes 250 chapters throughout the country, and now the Treasure Coast can be represented. There are over 33 million Americans with a hearing loss, and with the Treasure Coast area growing as fast as it is, this group can now be represented locally. Advantages included in being a member are education, information, support and advocacy all in relation to the world of the hard of hearing.

- Ten million Americans have suffered irreversible hearing loss caused by noise factors; thirty million more are exposed to dangerous noise levels EVERY day. A tragic 33.7% (and increasing each year) of hearing loss is caused by noise!

- At least 12 million Americans have tinnitus, at least one million of whom experience it so severely that it limits their day-to-day activities.

Help us bring the right kind of sound to the mind and body of those who are hard of hearing. Learn what's new, what's available and how you can help or be helped! For more information, see the website at treasurecoastflhlaa.com, e-mail us at noisegone@treasurecoastflhlaa.com or call 772-468-0123.

—Cheryl Nolte, Publicity VoluntEar

Don't Miss It!

Hearing Loss Association of America Convention 2008

June 12 – 15 in Reno, Nevada at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino

HLAA has it all! a highly interactive and accessible event for all people who are affected by hearing loss. Dynamic speakers, dozens of instructive workshops, informative research symposiums, exhibit hall with a wide range of products, services and information. Meet and visit with your friends from around the country.

RENO has it all! the Truckee River Whitewater Park, the Arts District, the Nevada Museum of Art, Fleischmann Planetarium and Science Center, the Ghost Trail Tour, Boom or Bust Driving Tour, historic Reno walking tour, or tour by helicopter or airplane. Lake Tahoe is nearby! Check out HLAA's website for more details.

<http://www.hearingloss.org/convention/>

You need special shoes for hiking - and a bit of a special soul as well. ~Emme Woodhull-Bäche



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A Word On Hearing Loss - What's In a Label?

We are all aware that there are differing degrees of hearing loss; hence the terms deaf, hard of hearing and late deafened.

All too often, most people are inclined to think of the term deaf as encompassing all degrees of hearing loss and they believe sign language interpreting is "the" communication modality for those who are hard of hearing and late-deafened. One should not be predisposed to believe that there is only one form of communication access, ie. sign language interpreting which is effective for all degrees of hearing loss.

We need to be a little more sensitive to people who have differing degrees of hearing loss and thus require different communication modalities. Typically, we see people who are deaf requesting sign language interpreters, people who are hard of hearing requesting assistive listening devices (ALDs) and people who are late-deafened requesting captioning (CART). There are instances when requests for these

communication modalities overlap; however, the main message here is that just because a person cannot hear well one should not automatically assume he/she is deaf and the only communication modality is sign language interpreting.

In proposing and requesting communication access services, the public should never think that all bases are covered with the word deaf. The words deaf, hard of hearing, and late-deafened should be used in the plural sense whenever appropriate; more advocacy among our constituencies is needed to educate the public about differing communication needs personally and under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

We all reside in a world of diverse communities and culture. Though strategies that foster unity, only then can we effectively make hearing loss better understood.

—Richard Herring

Walks. The body advances, while the mind flutters around it like a bird. ~Jules Renard

There's Nothing Wrong With My Hearing!

Question: What is the best way to help someone who is in denial regarding their hearing loss? The statement, "You need to get hearing aids" just doesn't work!—J. D.

Answer: It sounds to me that the real question you are asking is, "How do I knock some sense into a hard of hearing person so he will properly deal with his hearing loss instead of denying he has one?"

The short answer is, "You can't!"

When someone tells a hard of hearing person that he has a hearing loss, it shocks him to realize that his body is not "normal" or perfect anymore. He does not want his neat little world upset, nor does he want to think he is less than normal, so a defense mechanism kicks in—denial. Studies reveal that hard of hearing people continue to deny their hearing losses for an average of seven years! Unfortunately, hard of hearing people generally keep on denying they have a hearing loss until something "big" happens that jolts them back to reality.



Dr. Neil Bauman

It is almost impossible to get through to a person in denial. This is tragic as we could save them a lot of heartache and pain—but they won't listen. Consequently, they have to learn the hard way.

As long as a hard of hearing person is in denial (and this is very important to understand), they are **not ready** to accept any help. Why should they? There is **nothing** wrong with their hearing—and since there is nothing wrong, they don't need any help from us or hearing aids or anything else!

That is why, until a hard of hearing person reaches the acceptance stage, he typically won't get (or wear) a hearing aid. He is just not psychologically ready to wear one yet. If a spouse nags him enough, he will get a hearing aid to get her off his back. This ploy is not often successful as he will give it a cursory trial, find some excuse for not wearing it and then dump it in the dresser drawer to be forever buried.

Not until the pain of reality becomes greater than the pain of denial, will he have any real incentive to change. This could involve losing a job or making a mistake that costs him a lot of money.

When a person is in denial about his hearing loss and refuses to listen to us, we have to be firm with him. We mustn't make things easy for him regarding his hear-



Image Courtesy Micro-Tech Hearing Instruments - Copyright 2007

ing loss. We need to let him make some costly mistakes that will jolt him to reality. At the same time, we need to stand ready to help him when he comes to his senses. However, until then, it's largely a waste of time.

Even after a hard of hearing person breaks out of the denial stage, he is not still not yet ready for all the coping strategies he can use to make his life easier. He still has to work through the bargaining stage, and when that doesn't work, the anger stage. He soon finds that getting mad doesn't work either, so he gets depressed. Some people remain in the depression stage for years (just like many do in the denial stage).

It is only when a hard of hearing person finally decides to do something about his depression that he slowly begins to see that life, even as a hard of hearing person, is worthwhile living after all.

Then, and only then, is he really willing to do what it takes in order to hear again. He has finally reached the acceptance stage. It is here that he will really give hearing aids a fair trial. It is here that he will read what he can about coping skills. It is here that he will join one of the hearing loss support groups such as Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA), SayWhat Club (SWC) or Association of Late Deafened Adults (ALDA).

You too, will notice a difference in him. The spring will be back in his steps and you will once again see the twinkle in his eyes!

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(You can contact Dr. Neil at neil@hearinglosshelp.com)

I still find each day too short for all the thoughts I want to think, all the walks I want to take, all the books I want to read and all the friends I want to see. ~John Burroughs

Welcome to our new Trustees and State Chapter Coordinator

Richard Herring

Richard Herring was elected to our Board of Trustees at the October meeting for a three-year term. Richard is a resident of Sun City Center. He was appointed to the Grants Committee and is also on the Planning Committee for the Hearing Loss Association of Sun City Center.



Richard, a former resident of New Jersey, received his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from Farleigh Dickinson University and was employed by Hermann Weber & Co., Inc., in New York City and New Jersey for twenty years involved with importing, exporting, and manufacturing.

Next, Richard worked with the state government. As statewide Director of the Division of the Deaf, he was instrumental in renaming it the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing along with a transfer to the Department of Human Services. He was also instrumental in having the Governor appoint qualified hard of hearing members of the community to varied terms in the Advisory Council to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. He retired after 20 years.

Moving to the Tampa Bay area, Richard became involved with a local Chamber of Commerce, the South Hillsborough Lions Club and the Lions Foundation for Speech and Hearing.

Richard's goals are to improve the quality of life for people with hearing loss; to effectively advocate for continued improvements in hearing aids, cochlear implants, assistive listening/alerting devices, captioning services; and to work with others in broadening public acceptability of hearing loss with emphasis on mainstreaming and integration.

Don M. Shaffer

Don M. Shaffer was elected to a three-year term as a Trustee for HLA-FL and was appointed as Chair of the Grants Committee.

Don lives in Plant City with his wife, Katherine. They have a married daughter living in Valrico and a married son living in Dublin, OH. They have two grandsons and a third grandson on the way. Don and Katherine moved from Indianapolis in July 2006.

Don retired after 31 years as the State of Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation Coordinator for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. He served as the State Advisor to the Indiana Lions Speech and Hearing Program from 1981 to 2003.

Don's educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Texas A. & I. University in Kingsville, TX, a Master of Science in Vocational Rehabilitation from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, OK, and a Master of Arts in Audio-Communicative Disability from New York University in New York City. He has also completed all of the requirements, except the dissertation, for a Doctor of Education in Rehabilitation Administration at the University of Arizona, in Tucson, AZ. His main goal is to assist HLA-FL in obtaining grants or other funding while serving as the chairman of the HLA-FL Grant Research and Requests Committee.

Don had a moderate to severe hearing loss at birth due to maternal rubella (German measles), had it progress gradually to a profound loss, and had the remainder of his hearing disappear suddenly on October 1, 2007. He is a potential candidate for a cochlear implant,



since he no longer can use a hearing aid.

Larry Kavanaugh

Larry was appointed as the State Chapter Coordinator by the national office of HLA with input by the Board of Trustees of HLA-FL. His is the job of acting as liaison between the national office and the chapters. The Coordinator has many duties but prime is helping individuals develop groups and chapters.

Larry was born in North Plainfield, NJ and resides in Winter Haven. Routine testing in grammar school detected his loss at age 8. He does not know the degree of loss when he young, but currently it is severe to profound. He owes his early acceptance of hearing loss to his Mom. She, in turn, credits the school nurse for steering her to the resources offered by the Plainfield Hearing Society. Apparently, this was a forerunner of SHHH in the 1950's. Larry took weekly lipreading lessons for years and although it was determined that he required binaural hearing aids at age 16, he managed with only one until he could afford to buy a second one on his own.

Larry graduated from the College of New Jersey with a degree in Special Education for the Deaf. He is now employed by a large resort/entertainment company in Lake Buena Vista, FL. (Ed. Note— Now what company could that be?)



Following the 1996 Orlando SHHH Convention, LARRY joined the HLA-FL Board when it was known as FLASHHH. You can read about his goals and plans on the following page.

The civilized man has built a coach, but has lost the use of his feet.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Self-Reliance," 1841

A report from our new State Chapter Coordinator

*(Excerpts from his letter to
chapter leaders but can
apply to all members in Florida)*

This is my first communication as State Chapter Coordinator.

As I perceive it, the duties of the Chapter Coordinator include, but are not limited to:

- *Help you, the chapters, to be successful by facilitating communication between you and the HLA-FL Board of Trustees.*

- *Provide you with info and news from HLA National.*

- *Research the answers to your questions.*

- *Foster communication and cooperation among chapters.*

- *Receive inquiries about numerous hearing loss-related topics and try to find the answers or refer the writer to the appropriate source of help.*

- *When people are seeking a local chapter, provide that info, if I have it – or encourage them to start a chapter in their area.*

One of my passions is communication – and that's what hearing is all about, right? But in our case we sometimes have to find alternate avenues of communication. Here at HLA-FL we have some great avenues available to us: the award-winning newsletter, *Hear Ye Hear Ye*, and the award-winning website

at www.hla-fl.com. I hope that you will continue to use these resources and to recommend them to your membership as well as to anyone who is curious about hearing loss issues. And if you have any feedback or suggestions for material that could be included in either of these media, please let us know. Your input can make us better!

Speaking of input: I will need your help to perform well in my role as State Chapter Coordinator. Many . . . have more experience, so I will need your feedback as soon as possible regarding the following areas.

- *How do you attract new attendees/members?*

- *How do you keep them motivated?*

- *How do you promote/advertise your meetings and events?*

- *What kind of programs do you have? How do you find them?*

- *What sort of setting do you have – auditorium, round table, circular seating group, etc?*

- *Do you use any assistive devices? (CART, ALD's, etc.)*

Let me know what works for you, but also what does NOT. These are all things that I can share with other chapters to help us all to succeed in our goal of reaching more people. When you contact me, would you also tell me where you meet and when, as well as any info on special events that I can help you to convey on a broader scale.

As I am sure that you do, I have many pie-in-the-sky hopes for peo-

ple with hearing loss. HLAA is only one way that I hope to see them realized. For example, we are now planning the exciting Walk4Hearing for next spring. I hope that many of you will join us for that. Keep in mind that if you can't travel to Tampa to actually walk, you and your chapters can help with sponsorship and other support activities. The success of the Walk will directly benefit you and all other hard-of-hearing people.

Outside of HLAA, I have been overcoming my inherent shyness to advocate for people with hearing loss. Recently, I met with the pastor of my church to discuss the needs of HoH members of the congregation, e.g. acoustics, audio system, visibility, etc. He is very receptive, and has asked me if I would also consider being coordinating all things disability in our church. (I will have to pray hard on that before I give him my answer.) My most exciting project, though, is related to a new web site that has just premiered. It is an on-line networking and lifestyle information community. Having already joined, I plan to start a discussion group on hearing loss – and of course, I plan to use it to promote HLAA heavily. So look for referrals coming to you as a result.

Now that you know what I have been up to, let's hear from you. Thank you for all you do to make life better for so many.

–Larry Kavanaugh
wilowyndLK@gmail.com

Boca Raton Chapter

The Boca chapter of HLAA has had three successful meetings since September. We have had Ed Kissel from Mobile Source talking to us about Cell Phones for the Hearing Impaired in September. In October, we had Sergio Guerrio from Hear X to speak about The Latest Technology for the Hearing Impaired, and in November, we had Dr. Braadford Ress to speak on Different Kinds of Hearing Loss and When Surgery is Help-

ful. In December we're looking forward to our Annual Holiday Party where we have refreshments, Yankee Swap which is always a lot of fun and led by our wonderful Millye Cohen, Bingo (words to do only with hearing loss and HLAA), led by our wonderful Anita Morse, and Sing Along accompanied by our one and only David Young and his harmonica. Our party was held on December 17 and enjoyed by everyone. Call Geri Young at (561) 451-8494 to learn more about the chapter.

-- Geri Young

A vigorous five-mile walk will do more good for an unhappy but otherwise healthy adult than all the medicine and psychology in the world. ~Paul Dudley White

Hearing Loss Association of America Board of Trustees

—Kathy Borzell

Highlights from the meeting held on the weekend of March 2 to 4 in Bethesda, MD



Kathy Borzell

•Incumbent at-large board members Francis Beecher (FL), Kathy Borzell (FL), Jeannette Kanter (NY) and Vic Matsui (VA) were re-elected. Linda Bryan (OH) was appointed to the board as an at-large member until June 2008. Linda's name was placed in nomination for the regional representative seat from the Midwest. The regional representative election will be held in the spring.

•The operating budget for 2008 was adopted.

•The board voted to place approved board meeting minutes in a yet to be created "Members Only"

section of the web site.

•A presentation was made to the board on the site selection process and proposed site for the 2009 convention. The board accepted the proposal of Pittsburgh as the host city in 2009.

•The **Policy Committee** presented a draft of the policy manual the committee has been working on for the past three years. The board will review the draft and submit comments to the committee.

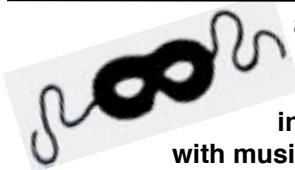
•The **Rocky Stone Remembrance Committee** submitted for the board's consideration a list of recommendations for recognizing SHHH/HLAA's founder, Howard "Rocky" Stone. The board adopted the recommendation that the committee coordinate the production of an oral history videotape featuring interviews with people who knew Rocky.

•The **Chapter/National Partnership Committee** submitted the following recommendations to the board: (1) Establish a toll free 800 number for the Bethesda office; (2) produce a "Universal Chapter Brochure" to be made available to chapters at cost; (3) produce two videos to be made available to chapters on a loan/buy basis; (4) create a library of Power Point presentations to be available to the chapters; and (5) re-establish annual leadership training. The committee will continue to meet and de-

velop additional recommendations and report again to the board. Staff will be asked to come up with a timeline on when these recommendations could be implemented. The board will assist staff with grant writing and/or formulation of proposals to cover the cost of implementation.

•The **Advocacy Committee** will focus on captioning for all TV sets and programming and has identified four projects they will be working on: (1) Development of a one-page informational handout to help consumers know what to ask for when purchasing a digital TV, and the committee will contact "big box" companies in an effort to help them educate their sales people to be adequately informed about captioning issues; (2) researching the various options that occur when the "CC" button is pushed on a TV remote control and defining what HLAA should be advocating for on this issue; (3) recruiting an FCC representative to present a workshop on the "converter coupon" which will be available to individuals who currently have analogue TVs that need to be adapted to accept digital; and (4) Researching the issue of captioning quality control and the training of captioners. The committee will report back to the board on the progress of these projects.

•The **Families and Young Adults Committee** will develop a brochure for hospitals to give parents when infants screen positive and a database of information pertinent for each year/age grouping for parents, and later for the older child and then the young adults that would be accessible on the web site. There would also be available a guide and check-off list for the parents of new diagnosed infants with hearing loss. Material would be added, updated and deleted as needed over time. The following year would be devoted to assembling similar informative material for the next year or stage of early childhood; two-three years of age/pre-kindergarten stage. In the third year, HLAA staff would focus these efforts on the four to six year age group with subsequent modules added up to and including material for the college/young adults years. The committee will search for a grant to fund a staff person to coordinate the program. While there will be cost involved in bringing in family services to HLAA, the program will serve as a building process for our future as these children become adults and give back to the organization.



8th Annual Celebration Sound Masquerade Ball "Unmask the Possibilities"

Clarke Jacksonville Auditory/Oral Center Saturday, February 9, 6:30 - 10:30 p.m.

Celebrate the spirit of Mardi Gras. Colorful costumes and creative black tie will infuse the grand ballroom of the Jacksonville Garden Club. Enjoy an evening filled with music, dancing, food, spirits, silent auction, entertainment by the Clarke children. Guest speaker is Olympic Gold Medalist, VONETTA FLOWERS. Proceeds benefit children's scholarship fund.

Please contact Kerrie Mitchell, Regional Development Officer - Jacksonville 904-521-9104

If you are seeking creative ideas, go out walking. Angels whisper to a woman when she goes for a walk.

~Raymond Inmon



At left is Lynn Rousseau, Gainesville and Molly Corum, Tampa, sailing the high seas with other members on the Hearing Loss Association of Florida cruise in September. At right, is Lynn, Larry Kavanaugh Winter Haven; Flo Innes, Sarasota; and Melissa Trauthwein, Jacksonville.



Jim Diaz, Oviedo, enjoys all the delights offered on HLA-FL's first annual cruise.



Paul and Melissa Trauthwein from Jacksonville



Lunching at The Villages, was Janis Ward, Joan Haber, Sarasota; and Tom Martin, Jacksonville. Janis, a Villages resident, was hostess **extraordinaire** by planning meals and acting as tour guide before and after the FCCDHH meeting.

After a public comment session sponsored by the FCCDHH, it was time for dinner! Joining Janis Ward at Katie Belle's Cattle Baron Club at Spanish Springs in The Villages were (from left), Diane and Warner St. John. He is President of the Tri-County Association of the Deaf which is part of the Florida Association of the Deaf (FAD). Janis, center, is flanked by Don and Kay Shaffer, Plant City. Don is a new board member with the Hearing Loss Association of Florida.

The 2008 Florida Walk4Hearing Committee met in Tampa at the home of Kathy Borzell, Co-Chair, on November 17. Clockwise from left, are Mike Cano, CART Coordinator; Ronnie Adler National Walk4Hearing Coordinator; Rich Herring, Assistant Sponsorships; Flo Innes, Treasurer; Judy Martin, Co-Chair; and Joan Haber, Sponsorship Coordinator.
--photo by Kathy Borzell



Tom Borzell, Tampa, at the Atlanta Walk4Hearing in 2007. Husband of Florida's Walk4Hearing Co-Chair, Kathy Borzell, he reminds YOU to put April 12, 2008 on your calendar.

Joan Haber, Sarasota, and Jim Diaz, Oviedo, were manning a booth for the Hearing Loss Association of Florida the Florida Hospital Association's workshop on "Providing Effective Communication for Healthcare Providers" in Orlando.





The Board of Trustees met in October at the Center for Independent Living in Winter Park. Elections were held at this annual meeting and two new trustees were welcomed in addition to a new State Chapter Coordinator. In the morning, presentations were heard from Dr. Patricia Krikos, Brandy Harvey, Alan Brown and others. Several vendors were on hand to explain their wares. The new Board of Trustees looks forward to a fruitful 2008 as they host the Florida Walk4Hearing and continue to support and advocate for those with hearing loss and to educate the general public. Shown above are Lynn Rousseau, Don Shaffer, Flo Innes, Nancy Day, Judy Martin, Larry Kavanaugh, Melissa Trauthwein, Jim Diaz, Joan Haber, Rich Herrington, Kathy Borzell and Carol Christopherson.

–photo by Daniel Diaz

Memories of dream vacation

Exciting events in September were experienced by members of HLAA and others as they cruised aboard the Royal Caribbean's Mariner of the Seas for a week in the Eastern Caribbean. Captioned live shows and other assistive devices were part of making this one of the first accessible cruises for the hard of hearing.

Twenty-two people joined us for this luxurious vacation from as far away as Washington State! Of the Florida members, Flo Innes, Jim Diaz, Melissa and Paul Trauthwein, Larry Kavanaugh, Lynn and Joel Rousseau, their families and other friends of HLA-FL were part of this cruise. Two people on the cruise wrote a note of thanks for making the ship accessible and asked how to become members of HLA-FL!! Flo was *ever-ready* with extra batteries and the like. We know how she keeps

Florida Walk4Hearing
Saturday, April 12, 2008
Register Now
www.walk4hearing.org
See back cover of this issue for
complete instructions

going and going! Ted Simons of Connections Unlimited was also on board assisting with the ADA kits in the cabins.

–Lynn Rousseau

Don't walk behind me, I may not lead. Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow. Just walk beside me and be my friend.
 Anonymous (often attributed to Albert Camus)

What you should know about buying a hearing aid

by Steve Barber

If you stick with major brands, and stay away from the "no prescription required, one size fits all, and (did I mention) invisible?" aids, then, really, brands aren't that important. What is much more important is:



Steve Barber

•**The Fitting:** that's not like getting shoes to fit or glasses to fit; it's the skill, and art, and willingness of the fitter to work with the customer to make the most of the aid and its settings.

•**The Features to Match Your Needs and Abilities:** Features are important. Read up on features before you commit to an aid. There are a lot

of features, but most people who buy hearing aids while spending thousands of dollars couldn't name two features or describe what they are good for. Would you buy a car not knowing that the wheels go on the bottom? Here's a list of features that may be worth knowing about. They may not be required for every person, but they are not only for serious losses. They are important to consider for moderate losses as well:

Telecoils, telecoils, telecoils. These are not expensive, but frequently they not provided or even activated if they are. T-coils are useful for phones, for use with neck loops and looped rooms or buildings.

Directional microphone. Effective for noise suppression rather than "aiming."

Volume control. Often it not available, but should be on all aids.

FM This is expensive, but wonderful if you need to supplement the hearing aid.

Wind Noise Suppression Generally available on digital aids and well worth having.

Feedback Suppression. Generally available on digital aids and well worth having.

Channels, bands, and program options These are common and useful.

Vents vs. Open Fitting Open fittings are very popular for less than severe losses.

Remote Control. Some people like them, others don't care.

Automation vs Manual vs. Automation with manual override Stay away from Auto Only. Most aids now have automatic features, but an override is useful.

Most of these are discussed in some detail in the consumers glossary of hearing loss terms at www.ncheatingloss.org

Ten people with identical losses on paper who try ten different aids may very well choose ten different aids because of how they sound to them. *It's not that one aid is better than the others, but it's that each aid may sound different to each person.* That's one reason that it's sometimes good to have choices.

Your needs are important. What do you want from your aids—hearing in noise, hearing better, TV, phone, in the car, at the movies, in meetings?

Your loss is important. Obviously the aid and features need to be suitable for your loss.

The ability to try different models and brands is very useful. This flexibility is more convenient and less expensive with behind-the-Ear (BTE) aids, of course, with a provider who sells different brands. Again, it's not because one brand is better than another; it's because two different brands will sound different to different people.

Standard BTE aids are more likely to include more features. Some small BTE aids do have telecoils, but some don't.

Your ability and mobility is important. Some people are not physically or mentally able to manage an aid with many features that can get into the wrong mode. If you're willing and able to learn, then the features can be useful.

Audiologists will have at least a Master's degree and often an Au.D. or Ph.D. related to hearing loss. Hearing aid dispensers are typically licensed by the state after taking a test and apprenticing to another more experience dispenser. I've known very good providers of both types. It's a good idea to see an ENT too, especially if you don't know the cause of your loss.

Here are some cautions that I can think of which I'd count t as red flags:

- the sales pitch is based on how "invisible" the aid is. Shouldn't it be based on how well it helps you hear?
- the sales pitch seems like you're getting the "bum's rush."
- the ads are on the obituary page
- They are willing to sell you hearing aids with just a "hearing screening."
- They imply that you'll be able to hear perfectly
- They have a *special offer* good only for today offering hundreds or thousands of dollars off.
- *They aren't willing to bring up the issue of a trial period.*

For more information go to:
www.ncheatingloss.org

As a single footstep will not make a path on the earth, so a single thought will not make a pathway in the mind. To make a deep physical path, we walk again and again. To make a deep mental path, we must think over and over the kind of thoughts we wish to dominate our lives.

- Henry David

Employ Florida submitted by Carlos Monserrate

Employ Florida links all of Florida's workforce services—state and local—to each other. The state partners are Workforce Florida, the state policy and oversight board, and the Agency for Workforce Innovation, the state agency which administers workforce funds. At the local level there are twenty-four regional workforce boards that administer close to 100 "one-stop centers." Together these organizations represent the **Employ Florida** network of workforce services and resources. The state and local boards are composed of educational, governmental and private business resources to address local workforce needs.

The **Employ Florida** website: <http://employflorida.com/> and toll free number, **1-866-FLA-2345**, provide our customers a consolidated point of entry to all of Florida's quality workforce resources and services.

Disability Program Navigator Initiative

The Disability Program Navigator initiative enhances employment and training services for persons with disabilities through expanded partnerships with the U.S. Department of Labor, the Social Security Administration, and local One-Stop Career Centers. Disability Program Navigators guide One-Stop Career Center Staff in helping people with disabilities access and navigate the complex provisions of various programs that impact their ability to gain/retain employment. The Initiative focuses on developing new and ongoing partnerships to achieve seamless, comprehensive, and integrated access to services, creating systemic change, and expanding the workforce development system's capacity to serve customers with disabilities and employers.

This program is administered by the following regional workforce boards (shown by board number and counties represented):

RWB	Navigator	Counties Served	Telephone Number	E-Mail
1	Jon Pena	Escambia, Santa Rosa	(850)595-5200 Ext.132	pena@escarosa.org
2	Will Miles	Okaloosa and Walton	(850) 651-2315 Ext. 202	wmiles@jobsplus02.com
5	Jeffery Douglas	Gadsden, Leon, Wakulla	(850) 922-0023 Ext. 261	jeffery.douglas@wfplus.org
7	Jeannie Carr Elizabeth Wetherington	Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Union	(386) 755-9026 Ext. 3114 (386) 755-9026 Ext. 3129	jcarr@flicrown.org emwetherington@flicrown.org
8	Lisa Palapiano	Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns	(904) 819-0231 Ext. 2507	lparlapiano@worksourcefl.com
10	Carole Savage Lisa Taylor	Citrus, Levy, Marion	(352) 840-5700 Ext. 1234 (352) 637-2223 Ext. 5202	csavage@clmworkforce.com ltaylor@clmworkforce.com
12	Freda Mays	Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Lake, Sumter	(407) 235-1509	fmays@goodwillcfl.org
13	James Watson	Brevard	(321) 394-0515	jwatson@job-link.net
14	Michael Roush Morgan Miele	Pinellas	(727) 328-3370 (727) 791-5807	mroush@worknetpinellas.org mmiele@worknetpinellas.org
15	Dorothy Dunlap	Hillsborough	(813) 930-7651	dunlapd@workforcetampa.com
16	Sharon Willman	Pasco, Hernando	(352) 200-3020 Ext. 3044	swillman@career-central.org
17	Jackie Small	Polk	(863) 508-1600 Ext. 102	jackie_small@polkworks.org
22	Joseph Belardinelli Verdine Stegall	Broward	(954) 535-2300 Ext. 3054 (954) 535-2300 Ext. 3072	jbelardinelli@wf1broward.com vstegall@wf1broward.com
23	Martha Scott	Miami-Dade, Monroe	(305) 594-7615	msscott@southfloridaworkforce.com
24	Deborah Reardon	Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee	(239) 931-8200 Ext. 244	Dreardon@sfwdb.org

Information on the Disability Program Navigator Initiative can be obtained at the following website:
http://www.doleta.gov/disability/new_dpn_grants.cfm

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. All voice telephone numbers on this web site may be reached by persons using TTY/TDD equipment via the Florida Relay Service at 711.

A staff member in the Agency's Office of One-Stop and Program Support serves as the State Lead Navigator and program coordinator. The Agency's equal opportunity (EO) officer and the program coordinator routinely share information with each other, and the EO officer attends the coordinator's semi-annual meetings with the Navigators.

Contact information for:
Mable Hicks, Disability Program Navigator Coordinator
Agency for Workforce Innovation
107 East Madison Street MSC G-229
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-4129
Telephone number: (850) 245-7292

Contact information for:
Peter de Haan, Equal Opportunity Officer
Agency for Workforce Innovation
107 East Madison Street MSC 150
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-4129
Telephone number: 850 921-3201
TDD/TTY number (via the Florida Relay Service): 711
Fax number: 850 921-3122

More about Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs)

Question: *Paul, we've heard much about assistive listening devices (ALDs) and how they work with t-coils. I'd like to know more about that and if there any ALDs that work with an aid that does NOT have a t-coil?*

—Judy Martin

Answer: Of course a hearing aid IS an “assistive listening device” and the best ones, when programmed properly, do a fantastic job.

Add-on ALDs tend to be more job specific (phone, TV, distance listening) enhancing the not inconsiderable capabilities of digital hearing aids or cochlear implants.

Getting sound directly from the source (TV, phone, conference speaker) will always be superior to trying to understand the same information after it has been subjected to the ravages of distortion (echo) and attenuation (loss of volume/power) over distance.

Background noise is another comprehension killer. Taping directly into the source (electronic output from an audio device or soundboard) eliminates background noise completely. Using well positioned directional microphones (close to and aimed at the speaker's lips) will also significantly reduce background noise and distortion.

Of course, another source of distracting background noise is from hearing aid microphones. The truism, “garbage-in equals garbage-out” applies to microphones too! Most of the time we don't want to hear everything: just the sounds that are the focus of our attention. The best hearing aids use multiple microphones to analyze input from front and back and filter out certain types of sound or sounds from a specific direction such as those coming from behind.

But what about T-coil? Traditional T-coil programs automatically disable the hearing aid's microphones thus eliminating background noise. “Normal hearing” people pay hundreds of dollars to achieve the same level of peace and quite with very hi-tech, noise-canceling headphones!

So, the key questions is; “How do we get what we want to hear into our hearing aid or CI?”

Well, short of using Direct Audio Input cables (which are not at all popular), we need a wireless receiver. And as luck would have it, many of us already have one: the wireless T-coil receiver that is built-in to our hearing aid or CI.

Currently, the only other practical option is to use an FM wireless receiver. This is typically connected to a BTE (behind the ear) hearing aid via a DAI connector and boot/shoe adapter. (Some newer state-of-the-art Phonak

hearing aids have an integrated FM receiver which eliminates the need for a boot.)

The constraints for implementing wireless receivers within a hearing aid or CI are size and power consumption. That is the major reason why Bluetooth receivers have not yet been incorporated into hearing aids and CIs.

So, back to Judy's question: “What can you do if you don't have a wireless receiver (t-coil)?”

Well, there's a whole family of ALDs for people who don't have hearing aids or CIs. These include amplified phones, MP3 players with graphic equalizers, Pockettalkers with earphones and the ubiquitous TV ears.

However, folks with hearing aids that have NO wireless receiver are kind of stuck! If you put headphones over hearing aids you risk getting feedback – the ones with foam cushions do the best job of absorbing reflected sound. And the other alternative is to remove the hearing aid and use an ALD that fits in the ear – a somewhat unsatisfactory solution when you consider that you are abandoning the customized hearing loss compensation that these expensive, little hearing computers provide!

So, “Long live the T-coil!” It's not always perfect and has some limitations – picking-up electromagnetic interference in a car for instance. But, it does use a universal frequency that works anywhere in the world and is very cost effective when compared to the current alternatives – most of which offer much less flexibility. And if you are using some other transmission technology such as Bluetooth or FM, the chances are that these technologies are actually leveraging T-coil, for the last few inches, to interface with the hearing aid or CI via a neck loop or ear hooks.

There are some interesting wireless advances just released and on the horizon. Most of these use a “gateway” device to pass received transmissions to the hearing aid. Gateway devices may include a Bluetooth transceiver, FM receiver, directional microphones and audio input sockets.

Gateway devices such as SmartLink have been interfacing with hearing aids via FM for a couple of years now. The new Epoq hearing aid (Oticon) uses a gateway device called the Streamer which uses Near Field Magnetic Induction (a close cousin of traditional hearing loops) to interface with the Epoq hearing aid.

New contenders (December 2007) to look out for from Phonak are Exelia and Naida. Exelia and Naida hearing aids use a gateway device called iCom to interface with FM and Bluetooth transmissions. You can find additional information at www.phonak.com

Paul Willington
www.TecEar.com

The sum of the whole is this: walk and be happy; walk and be healthy. The best way to lengthen out our days is to walk steadily and with a purpose.

—Charles Dickens

APRIL 12, 2008 . . .

**Going online for Walk4Hearing
Registering and Editing Your Page**

. . . APRIL 12, 2008

You can register for **Walk4Hearing** online or on the day of the Walk

TO REGISTER ONLINE:

1. Go to www.walk4hearing.org
2. Choose the Walk you would like to participate in.
3. You can register in one of 3 ways:
 - A. Form a Team
If you will be the Team Captain of a new team, choose this option. Name your team and start recruiting walkers!
 - B. Join a Team
If you've been invited to join a team, choose this option. You'll need to know the name of your team to sign up with your teammates.
 - C. Walk as an individual
If you'll be walking by yourself, choose this option.

TO VIEW AND EDIT YOUR PERSONAL PAGE:

- Go to www.Walk4Hearing.org
- Click "Go To My Walk Center"
- Login using the username and password that you created when you registered on the Walk site.
- You are now at your "Participant Center."
- Click on the image for "Personal Page."
- Choose "Click here to open this page for editing."
- Change the story and add an image.
- To add an image, enter the name of the photo file on your computer or use the Browse button to select the file. Images must be .jpg files. Uploaded images will be automatically resized to fit in a 300 x 400 pixel space. The maximum acceptable file size is 200 Kb.
- When you are finished be sure to save your changes.

How can you explain that you need to know that the trees are still there, and the hills and the sky? Anyone knows they are. How can you say it is time your pulse responded to another rhythm, the rhythm of the day and the season instead of the hour and the minute? No, you cannot explain. So you walk. ~Author unknown, from New York Times editorial, "The Walk," 25 October 1967

Hearing Loss Association of Florida
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