

# Hear Ye, Hear Ye

## Where the Magic Begins and Never Ends

### *A Diary of the 2006 Convention.*

A magical 2006 Hearing Loss Association of America Convention was held June 29th to July 1st, at the Coronado Springs Disney Resort in Orlando, Florida. Nearly 800 people gathered at the resort from all over the country and Canada!

The actual hosting job began on Tuesday, setting up and getting organized for the following days. A lot of hard work from national staff members, the men behind the scenes who set the rooms up for captioning and loops, and devoted members of the Florida Local Host Committee (LHC) made it seem like a piece of cake with the way the events flowed from one day to the next.

Before the convention doors opened, the LHC stuffed over 800 tote bags—donated by CTIA, the Wireless Association—with goodies and information, tickets and specially-planned events. Staff from National and the LHC worked side by side setting up signs to direct attendees to their own check-in registration desk at the resort. In addition, they assured that all employees of the resort were well-trained in being accommodating to the needs of the hard of hearing attendee.

Each and every event was accessible with the use of Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART). The CART providers were arranged by Deanna Baker. Interpreters were also provided as needed. By the time Thursday's *Welcome to Newcomers* event rolled around, we were ready to go! Barbara Bavido, a newcomer also, and Lynn Rousseau, co-chairs, welcomed all new attendees to Florida!

The opening session, sponsored by Cochlear Americas, featured Lou Ferrigno, two-time Mr. Universe and

known as "The Incredible Hulk" from the 70's TV series. He spoke of his upbringing in a rough neighborhood of New York City. The son of a policeman, he tried hard to fit in, but was often made fun of because he wore a body harness for his hearing aids and children often called him *Deaf Louie*. Lou was determined to find his own niche in the world of hearing people and turned to body building. This was one place he could concentrate on himself without having to hear or talk to communicate. The rest is history!

Lou was gracious enough to accept questions from the audience and share his advice on handling situations that have to do with being hard of hearing. He wears two behind-the-ear (BTE) hearing aids and believes that taking care of the body also takes care of the mind. At age 54, he feels much younger! And best of all, he recently fulfilled his lifelong dream of being a part of the police force.

It was an emotional moment when the packed audience also welcomed back a soldier. Tom Wiggins, who fought in Afghanistan, lost his hearing completely in both ears due to incoming fire. Two years later, at age 23, Tom has a cochlear implant and has shown great courage in coping with his sudden hearing loss. A standing ovation of gratitude was bestowed upon this young soldier as he stood to be acknowledged.

A Silent Auction was held after the opening session. Many chapters and individuals contributed to the success of this event. Many thanks go to Kathy Borzell and Tampa Chapter volunteers who put this together. It was a fantastic

*Continued on page 5*



*Joan Haber and Brenda Battat at 2006 HLAA Convention in Orlando*

--photo by Barbara Kelley

Joan Haber was the recipient of the 2006 Hearing Loss Association of America **Advocacy** Award at this year's convention in Orlando. In her own community and throughout the state of Florida, Joan has demonstrated a strong commitment to advocating for people with hearing loss.

In addition to serving on the HLA-FL board, Joan also currently serves as the vice chair of the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing. She has advocated for changes that will improve the quality of life for people who are deaf and hard of hearing in the areas of emergency preparation, media accessibility and captioning and access in the medical setting. As a member of the Council Joan works closely with the Florida Association of the Deaf and other consumer organizations represented on the Council representing the collective needs of all of these organizations and yet maintaining a separate identity for and awareness of the needs of the hard of hearing.

Joan previously served on the Governor's ADA Working Group, a

*Continued on page 12*

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION  
OF FLORIDA**

President: **James Diaz**, Oviedo

jdiaz@flashhh.org  
407-366-3024

State Coordinator:

**Lynn Rousseau**, Gainesville

west6273@bellsouth.net  
352-331-9808

**Barbara Bavido**, Orlando

bbavido@tmail.com  
407-227-7052

**Francis Beecher**, Sarasota

fbeecher@comcast.net  
941-952-9011

**Kathy Borzell**, Tampa

kborzell@verizon.net  
813-832-6810

**Alan Brown**, Maitland

abrown@boyken.com  
407-644-0650

**Carol Christopherson**, Jacksonville

buddynme@bellsouth.net  
904-771-7091

**Frank Corica**, Venice

corica@attglobal.net  
941-486-1068

**Merv Daniels**, Winter Garden

mmbdaniels@worldnet.att.net  
407-656-9283

**James Forstall**, Tallahassee

jforstall@ftri.org  
888-292-1950 X230

**Joan Haber**, Sarasota

joan1@comcast.net  
941-921-9197

**Flo Innes**, Sarasota

advocatesforbetterhearing@  
msn.com

941-349-3057

**Judy Martin**, Jacksonville

judy40@bellsouth.net  
904-778-2265

**Jane Motrinec**, Naples

Janemot@aol.com  
239-455-1870 TTD/V

**Kerry Payne**, Jacksonville

CKerry@aol.com  
904-998-9888

## President's Report

First off, I wish to extend many thanks to the volunteers and organizers for a successful convention in Orlando. The captioned movie, *Superman Returns*, the Banquet, the awards, entertainment by "Dr. of the High C's," the Silent Auction, the Hawaiian Luau were all just a few of the many m e m o r a b l e events.

Now, with the convention behind, HLA-FL will move on to new challenges, one of which will be to extend our board meetings into mini-conferences with the support of FTRI and Sprint. Our HLA-FL board meets three times a year for a public board meeting at various locations in Florida. To fund the CART reporter, advertisement fees and meeting amenities, both FTRI and Sprint have offered to foot the bill in return for time to obtain feedback from the public on the Florida Relay as well as Florida's phone distribution program. FTRI and Sprint's goal is also to help bolster our membership. With that in mind, we can use funds to add to our board meetings features such as guest speakers, an exhibit hall, luncheons and perhaps door prizes. Our HLA-FL board is spread across Florida, thereby, making planning such events difficult. However, we can call upon chapters to volunteer to be hosts for such an event. This October 7, the newly-formed Jacksonville chapter will be taking advantage of this opportunity to host a *mini-conference*. To submit your chapter as a possible host, please contact either me or any of the board members.

Jim Diaz, President



*President Jim Diaz takes a breather after a hectic few days at the 2006 Convention. Note the copy of "Hear Ye, Hear Ye" he is holding!*

Photo by Tom Martin



## Candidates for the Hearing Loss Association of Florida Board of Trustees

### Kathy Borzell

I've been around hearing loss all my life. My grandmother, father and brother all became deaf. I have an older sister with a profound loss, and my daughter has a moderately severe loss. I began to lose my hearing in my late teens. I got my first hearing aid at age 35 but didn't really begin my "rehabilitation" for another ten years when my audiologist introduced me to SHHH. I went to my first Tampa SHHH meeting and realized this was where I needed to be.



In 1997 I joined the Florida SHHH board. Last year I became involved at the national level when I was elected to the national board of trustees of Hearing Loss Association of America. When I look back at my Dad's struggles with hearing loss in his job, at home and socially, I am so thankful to this organization for the quality of my life and the hope I have for my child and her children.

### Wayne E. Cook, Jr.

My name is Wayne E. Cook, Jr. and I am 58 years old. I have been married 23 years to a wonderful wife, Debbie. She is also hard of hearing. We are members of HLAA and the Rhode Island Sargent Chapter.

I have an Associate's Degree from Rhode Island Junior College, and a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Roger Williams College. I worked for the City of Cranston for 32 years.

I became involved with SHHH because my audiologist in Rhode Island thought I might find it interesting. I was Secretary of the Sargent Chapter for two terms, and President for two terms. I was a Rhode Island State Coordinator of the Chapter until I moved to Florida. I was also appointed to the Rhode Island Governor's

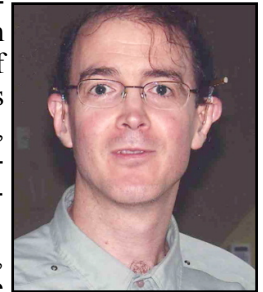


Commission of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for two terms. I was also the Chair of the Commission.

My goals for Florida are getting a Hearing Aid Insurance bill passed. I have more for Florida but not enough room to put here.

### Jim Diaz

Jim's hearing loss "challenge" began at age 15 with a moderate conductive hearing loss as a result of ear infections. High school, college and first years as an engineer were days of unawareness of how hearing loss affected his life. Not until age 30 did Jim obtain hearing aids. For this reason, Jim feels the strong need for an aural rehab program somewhere in our audiologist / doctor / service center system. Jim's coping strategy is high technology, lip reading, and just plain old awareness of the effects of hearing loss. His hearing aids are Oticon Digifocus II, matched with an Etymotic Research Link-It directional microphone.



Despite a hearing loss, Jim received a Master's Degree in Engineering at the University of Central Florida specializing in Digital Signal Processing. He currently is a Senior Software Engineer working on military training, simulation, and war game software. Previous he was an electronic engineer working on underwater acoustic sensors used for tracking submarines. Jim has been president of HLA-FL for the past six years. Hobbies include Swing Dancing, acting, guitar and photography.

### Joan Haber

Joan's hearing loss developed in her early 30s and is attributed to a genetic predisposition and exposure to ototoxic drugs as a child. In 1990, about a year before the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Joan lost her job due to her hearing loss, because of her difficulty in using the telephone. Today, due to the advocacy efforts of organizations like Hearing Loss Association of America, this would not happen and Joan could have retained her employment with better hearing aids and assistive technology. Joan decided to go to college and earned her bachelor's and master's degrees, all the while learning how to advocate for herself to hear in the classroom. After moving to Sarasota in 1997, she found her first SHHH chapter and attended her first SHHH conven-

*Continued on page 4*

*Continued from page 3*

tion in Boston in 1998. She then joined the state organization of HLA-FL (called FLASHHH in those days) and in 2002 became a board



member of the national HLAA organization. She currently serves as the Vice-Chair of The Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard and Hearing and secretary of her local chapter. She recently received a cochlear implant and is thrilled with her progress thus far. Joan credits the Hearing

Loss Association of America for providing her with the tools necessary to advocate for herself and the support to know she was not alone in dealing with her hearing loss.

**Judy G. Martin**

Moving from New York with my husband, Tom, almost two years ago, has been an eye-opener in more ways than just the traditions and the climate. A hearing aid-wearer since the age of 17, I have lived in the proverbial cave regarding what is available to the hard of hearing population in the way of assistive listening devices, laws of the ADA and advocating for oneself.



Since "finding" HLAA in April 2005, I realize I have all the zeal of any convert who finds a new cause. While living in New York, I was an avid community volunteer for many years. Now it seems fitting that I'm able to put that experience to work in any way I can for this most deserving organization. Along those lines, I was able to start a new chapter in Jacksonville, join the Board of HLA-FL and institute a newsletter for them.

Last but not least, I've been the proud owner of a cochlear implant since January. Did I say eye-opener? I meant ear-opener.

**Lynn Rousseau**

Born and raised in Hollywood, Florida, a preschool teacher discovered my hearing loss. Johns Hopkins Hospital proved I had a severe nerve deafness/hearing loss and also did remarkably well reading lips already! At three years old, it was hard to tell.

Twelve years of speech therapy followed to help me in school. It wasn't until many years later did

I have the courage to speak out to people other than my family and close friends. After all, I knew no one else like "me."

Thirty-seven years of marriage to Joel, four children born, and four grandchildren grace our lives.

Received The State of Florida Humanitarian and Advocacy Award in 1996; past member Human Rights Equal Opportunity Board; Founder, Gainesville SHHH Chapter; Chair, Alachua County Citizens Disability Advisory Committee; Member, FLASHHH Board; State Chapter Coordinator; Co-chair, 2006 Convention.

Along with keeping up with new technology, new hearing aids throughout the years, Assistive Listening Devices and the use of a computer; I honestly believe a sense of humor and educating others goes a long way in helping one cope with the daily challenges of living with hearing loss.



**Melissa Trauthwein**

My name is Melissa Trauthwein. I am 29 years old, married for six years to husband Paul, step mom to seven-year-old Kaitlyn, and mom to my two-year-old cats, Lily and Grace. I was born in Peoria, Illinois and I currently live in Jacksonville (St. John's County).



I have two Associate in Applied Science Degrees in Graphic Arts Technology from College of DuPage (Glen Ellyn, Illinois); one is in Desktop PrePress, and the second is in Web Publishing. I have spent my working career doing data entry and data analysis, among other clerical duties and some customer service. I currently work for an insurance company in downtown Jacksonville for the IT department.

I have had a severe bilateral sensorineural hearing loss since birth. There are three possible causes of my hearing loss: drugs administered during pregnancy; loss of oxygen after birth; or delayed treatment for jaundice after birth.

• • •

**The official ballot  
appears on page 11**

## Where the Magic Begins

*Continued from page 1*

display of nice items that people bid on and won!

A unique Get-Acquainted Party, sponsored by Cingular Wireless, was held later in the evening. Everyone was invited to attend and see the fabulous Tama Leao's Polynesian dancers and fire dancer. It was quite a show! Our own attendees joyfully joined the dancers in learning the hula dance, and the meaning of the hand movements. A hula contest was held for the women and the men, with everyone coming out a winner! After a break, the live four-piece band played music for enjoyment and dancing—from oldie goldies to the more contemporary. Midnight signaled the end of the first day of the convention festivities. Many thanks to Joan Haber and Flo Innes and the Sarasota Chapter for their great plans.

On Friday, the day began with an Awards Ceremony and Breakfast, sponsored by Hamilton Relay. Among the many award recipients, our own Joan Haber of Sarasota, was presented with the Advocacy Award!

Many seminars and informative workshops were offered and the exhibition hall was full of vendors and assistive hearing devices of every kind for attendees to try out. The exhibitors presented a Mexican Buffet to celebrate technology that evening with the sponsorship of Ultratec and Sprint Relay. A raffle of was also held with prizes galore of different gadgets and devices.

That evening, a chance to go to Downtown Disney and see the first-run open-captioned movie, "Superman Returns," was offered along with a free soda and popcorn! This was sponsored by Insight Cinema and Advanced Bionics Corporation. The theater was packed and the excitement was palpable.

Another choice of the evening activities was a chance to travel by chartered bus to *France* at Epcot. A delicious assortment of desserts on the private terrace facing the lakefront allowed for many of us to ditch our diets as well as visit and meet one another. Upon dusk, the sky above the water turned into a fabulous show of fireworks display. The Dessert and Fireworks Extravaganza was sponsored by Cochlear Americas and Disney Parks & Resorts. Another beautiful night among friends, family and new acquaintances.

Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. (FTRI) sponsored the Florida lounge at the back of the exhibition hall. Thanks to James Forstall, Tallahassee, and Sprint for making this happen. The Florida HLA Newsletter was made available to all attendees who visited the FTRI booth. Many thanks to our talented editor, Judy Martin, Jacksonville, for the up-to-date and interesting articles!



*Lynn Rousseau, Alan Brown and Barbara Bavido, co-chairs for the 2006 Convention enjoy a light moment before the banquet.*

—photo by Judy G. Martin

The Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (FCCDHH) gave a scholarship to four deserving people to attend the convention. Two mothers from North Central Florida and their young daughters greatly appreciated this chance to attend! It was a first for them and they expressed great joy in seeing their daughters feel *at home* among our attendees. Thank you, FCCDHH, for opening a new world of communication and technology to these individuals.

Saturday, a full day of speakers and workshops kept attendees busy. A nice refreshing ice cream social, sponsored by Motorola, gave attendees a chance to catch their breath and enjoy a tasty break!

The Farewell Banquet was sponsored by Advanced Bionics. A reception was held in the Ballroom Foyer before the banquet doors opened. The red carpet and red sanctions to welcome banquet attendees gave clue that there was to be another *magical* evening ahead. As attendees entered the banquet ballroom, they were greeted by gold stars adorning the top of gold wine bottles bearing the labels and logo, Hearing Loss Association of America 2006. Along side of the bottles were miniature "Oscar awards" and star-shaped tins containing mints. This was to celebrate the new Academy of Hearing Loss Specialists and the theme for the evening, "A Night on Broadway."

Michael Chorost, author of *Rebuilt, How Becoming Part Computer Made Me More Human*, spoke of his book and life experiences. As dessert was being served, the Emcee of the evening, Larry Kavanaugh

*Continued on next page.*



*Larry Kavanaugh and Lynn Rousseau, emcees  
for the Academy Awards Banquet.*

Photo by Judy G. Martin

and Mistress of Ceremonies, Lynn Rousseau began the showtime Academy awards portion of the evening to the tune of Broadway hit songs.

Different specialty awards were given to recognize those who worked behind the scenes and to staff members who made the convention happen. Recognition was also given to the all who participated in last year's *Welcome to Florida* production!

The real Academy Award performance began when Dr. Roger Geronimo, Tenor, took the stage. Accompanied by Martha McKie on the keyboard, he sang songs from various Broadway shows and included his specialty repertoire of Italian songs. All lyrics were captioned and the audience could be heard joining him in song from time to time. At one point, some of our more spry HLA'ers could be seen kicking up their heels in tandem, the LHC's own Rockettes.

Our 2007 Convention host, Oklahoma City, led by Danita Testerman, put on a skit that included the history of Oklahoma. They were presented with a

very special "torch" to pass on to each new convention host city. A miniature *World Globe*—with the logo and new name, HLAA, on top of a strong wood base to symbolize sharing the goals and concerns of the Hearing Loss Association of America around the world—was presented to Oklahoma City by the Florida LHC. Orlando 2006 and Oklahoma City 2007 were already printed on the brass plate with plenty of room for future host cities. The evening ended with song and good wishes to the Oklahoma LHC.

Sunday offered people a chance to attend a worship service with Ahme Stone, a retired chaplain, who is the widow of the late founder of SHHH, Rocky Stone. A research symposium on Hearing Enhancement Technologies and Rehabilitation Practices ended the convention sessions and events.

For those of you who were not able to attend the 2006 convention, I hope reading this brings a little of the excitement to your eyes. For those who attended, I hope you found it a worthwhile experience. To all who participated in various committees, much appreciation is extended for all your hard work. To all who volunteered their time to help attendees and the LHC, many, many thanks. It could not have gone as smoothly without your help.

To Alan Brown, Chair of the 2006 Convention and Barbara Bavido, Co-chair, thank you for your dedication to the Hearing Loss Association of Florida and a job well done!

Lynn Rousseau, Co-Chair  
2006 HLAA Convention

*(Ed. Note: And a multitude of bouquets to Lynn, who is also the State Chapter Coordinator, for her months of hard work in support of the Convention.)*

## 2006 Hearing Assistive Technology Training

Are you interested in learning more about assistive technology and educating others about assistive technology?

Why not consider participating in the up-coming Hearing Assistive Technology (HAT) Training in Gainesville, Florida?

This training will take place October 27-October 29. This program is a three-day training to educate people with hearing loss about assistive technology. The program was set up by a grant from the RERC at Gallaudet University.

For more information and an application please contact Christopher T. Sutton, Education and Marketing Coordinator at the Hearing Loss Association of America at [csutton@hearingloss.org](mailto:csutton@hearingloss.org). Priority will be given to those who live in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. Applications from other states will be considered.

--submitted by Kathy Borzell



## Open-captioned live theatre performances in Florida

--Submitted by Frank Stocco, Sarasota

Over the past two years, open-captioned (OC) live theatre performances have mushroomed in a number of Florida cities and hearing impaired theatergoers can now enjoy attending performances. Starting in February of 2004 with *The Sound of Music* at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall in Sarasota, the number of OC performances, both Broadway musicals and plays, has increased dramatically. During this upcoming fall/winter season, you will now be able to see **seventeen** captioned performances in four cities--Sarasota, Ft. Lauderdale, Miami, and Tampa!

Open captioning provides the means for deaf and hard of hearing audience members to read the dialogue or song lyrics of a performance in real-time, that is, while the actor/s are speaking. The text is displayed on a large LED sign placed near the stage and audience members with hearing loss are usually seated in the orchestra section so they can easily see both the text and the actors. Because they can fully understand what is being said, they can thus more easily enjoy a performance.

Captioning is the most effective way to provide enhanced access in theatres for people with hearing loss who constitute the largest disability group in the country. Sign-interpreted live performances are offered for a smaller number of shows, but over 98% of people who are hard of hearing and deaf that could benefit from enhanced access do not use, understand and most likely will not learn sign language.

For twenty-six years, the Theatre Development Fund (TDF) of New York City and its Theatre Access Project (TAP) has been one of the nation's strongest advocates for theatre accessibility for persons with hearing loss. TDF, a non-profit service organization for the performing arts,

sponsors open-captioned performances of Broadway and Off Broadway productions in New York, Connecticut, and Florida. It also offers sign language interpreted performances and provides free simultaneously open-captioned and sign language interpreted performances to deaf and hard of hearing elementary and secondary school students in New York City.

In the fall of 2004, TDF began providing support for OC performances in Florida by sponsoring two Broadway musicals at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall in Sarasota. In 2005 it expanded its program to include performances at the Asolo Theatre and the Van Wezel in Sarasota as well as Broadway musicals at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts in Ft. Lauderdale. This coming fall, it will continue its expansion by bringing OC Broadway musicals to the Miami Performing Arts Center and the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center!

If you would like to experience the joy of open-captioned live theatre performances, see the schedule below and plan to attend with a family member or friend. To purchase tickets, you should contact the respective box offices and ask for seating in the open captioning section of the orchestra.

### Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall - Sarasota

Phone: 1-800-826-9303

*Jesus Christ Superstar* – Sun., Nov. 26, 2006 at 2 p.m.

*Mamma Mia!* – Sun., Apr. 6, 2007 at 2 p.m.

### Asolo Repertory Theatre – Sarasota

Phone: 1-800-361-8388

*The Plexiglass Slipper* – Sat., Dec. 9, 2006 at 2 p.m.

*Amadeus* – Sat., Feb. 10, 2007 at 2 p.m.

*A Few Good Men* – Sat., Mar. 10, 2007 at 2 p.m.

### Broward Center for the Performing Arts - Ft.

Lauderdale Phone: 1-877-311-7469

*Annie* – Sat., Oct. 14, 2006 at 2 p.m.

*All Shook Up* – Sat., Dec. 2, 2006 at 2 p.m.

*Monty Python's Spamalot* – Sat., Jan. 20, 2007 at 2 p.m.

*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* – Sat., Mar. 24, 2007 at 2 p.m.

*The Lion King* – Sat., May 5, 2007 at 2 p.m.

*Camelot* – Sat., June 23, 2007 at 2 p.m.

### The Carnival Center for the Performing Arts –

Miami Phone: 1-866-949-6722

*The Light in the Piazza* – Sun., Oct. 1, 2006 at 2 p.m.

*Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* – Sun., Dec. 10, 2006 at 2 p.m.

*Chita Rivera, A Dancer's Life* – Sun., Jan. 7, '07 at 2 p.m.

*Wicked* – Sun., Mar. 18, 2007 at 2 p.m.

### Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center – Tampa

Phone: 1-800-955-1045

*Hairspray* – Sat., Dec. 16, 2006 at 2 p.m.

*The Producers* – Saturday, June 16, 2007 at 2 p.m.

## How You Can Advocate for Accessible First-Run Movies in Florida's Theaters

Many people with hearing loss find that "going to the movies" is an activity which is no longer enjoyable for them because they cannot hear the film's dialogue. Providing communication accessibility in movie theaters is improving in Florida, but achieving the goal of full communication access will take time and sustained effort. Here are a few things you, as a consumer of movies (and live theatrical productions), can do to advocate.

Most theaters today offer assistive listening device systems (ALDs) as a minimum attempt at accessibility. This may consist of an Infrared system or an FM system, where the consumer checks out a receiver and headphones and taps into the sound system of the auditorium. Many times, this equipment is not well maintained and the consumer may experience dead batteries, malfunctioning units and dead spots while sitting in certain seats. Ask the theater manager about the equipment they offer and report to the manager if the equipment does not work. Educate them on how to check the batteries and ask them to train their staff to be more sensitive to requests from people with disabilities.

A more recent form of accessibility in movie theaters is captioning. Most people with hearing loss prefer viewing a first-run movie with captioning rather than using ALDs that may or may not work for them. ALDs do not benefit a person who is profoundly deaf. Captioning allows all people with hearing loss to enjoy films as well as hearing people.

There are two basic styles of captioning – open and closed. Some of the major theater chains have elected to install equipment based on a decision by their corporate headquarters. For example, AMC Theaters only offer Rear-Window captioning

(RWC), which is a closed captioning system, and Regal Cinemas offer DTS-CSS captioning, which is open. In order to view RWC, the consumer must use special equipment whereas DTS-CSS captioning requires no special equipment. Closed captioning (RWC) can only be seen by patrons who use special equipment to view the captions, but open captioning can be seen by all the patrons in the theater, whether they have hearing loss or not.

Here are two websites that describe the two methods of movie captioning:

Rear Window Captioning (RWC) <http://ncam.wgbh.org/mopix/>

This website gives the historical background of the technology, the location of theaters with RWC in the United States and how to advocate for more RWC theater installations in your area. It also gives an explanation of Descriptive Video Services (DVS), which is a technology that assists people with blindness, in that the dialogue and scene changes are described to the moviegoer using special equipment.

DTS-CSS Open Captioning. The best website to learn more about open captioned movies (the form of captioning which does not require any special equipment in order to be seen) is from Insight Cinema at:

<http://www.insightcinema.org/> The Insight Cinema website lists all U.S. theaters that offer open captioned movies and can be searched by state and city. It also offers an option for a person to receive email notification each week with a listing of all the captioned movies that will be shown in Florida.

A few cities in the United States now offer captioned live theater performances. (Ed. Note: See Frank Stocco's article elsewhere in this issue for more information.)

What can you do? After you have learned more about the types of captioning available in Florida by reading the information on these websites, what can you do specifically to advocate for more captioned first-run movies in your city? First, we recommend that you decide

which type of captioning you prefer – Rear Window Captioning (RWC) or DTS-CSS Open Captioning. Try visiting theaters close to you that offer each type of captioning.

Below is a short checklist of steps you can take to effectively advocate for captioned movies and captioned live theater productions:

1. Gain strength in numbers. Enlist the aid of members of your hearing loss support group to start a letter-writing campaign to the manager of your theater.

2. Visit the manager of the theater you prefer and discuss captioning with them. Tell them WHY you need captioning. Gather statistics to bolster your case.

3. Learn what the theater would need in order to provide captioning in financial terms. Perhaps a joint fund-raising effort between the theater and a local civic group may result in finding the funding to accomplish the goal.

4. Write letters to the major movie studios and the corporate headquarters of the theater chains to express your desire for more captioned movies. Tell them WHY you need captioning and ASK them to make a commitment to this service. Here is a list of these names and addresses: [www.insightcinema.org/ResourceGuide.html](http://www.insightcinema.org/ResourceGuide.html)

5. When your favorite theater starts to offer captioned movies, thank them for doing so and encourage other people with hearing loss to take advantage of this service. This will encourage the theater to offer even more captioned movies.

6. Remember—YOU CAN make a difference by advocating for yourself and others. Good Luck!

**Joan Haber, FCCDHH  
Council Member representing  
The Hearing Loss  
Association of Florida**



**Hearing Loss  
Association  
of Florida**

## *Fellowship at the Convention*



*Merv and Bev  
Daniels, Winter  
Garden*



*Joan and Steven  
Haber, Sarasota*



*Alan and Terry Brown, Maitland*



*Lynn and Joel Rousseau, Gainesville*



*Judy and Tom Martin, Jacksonville*



*Carol Christopherson,  
Judy Martin and  
Zoey, Jacksonville*



*Kathy,  
Rosemary  
and Tom  
Borzell,  
Tampa*

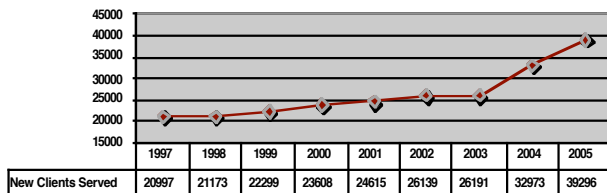


100-109 65

**FTRI Reports Another Record Year in New Clients and Services**

Once again during fiscal year July 2004 - June 2005, FTRI experienced its busiest year ever. It served more new clients and distributed more equipment than any other previous year.

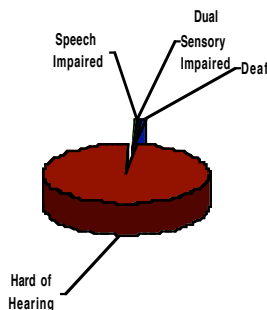
**New Clients**



FTRI served 39,296 new clients. This represents an increase of 19.18% over previous year.

Clients certified as eligible for the FTRI program are classified into four distinct groups:

- Deaf: 327
- Hard of Hearing: 38,613
- Speech Impaired: 277
- Dual Sensory Impaired: 79
- Total: \*39,296



**New Client Age Groups**

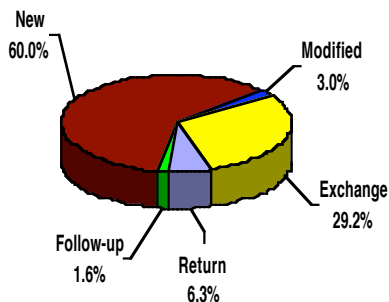
The breakdown of new recipients by age group is as follows:

- 4-9: 178
- 10-19: 144
- 20-29: 156
- 30-39: 320
- 40-49: 1,169
- 50-59: 3,373
- 60-69: 6,870
- 70-79: 13,110
- 80-89: 11,465
- 90-99: 2,446

More people in the 70 to 79 age group received equipment than those of any other specific age group. Approximately seventy-nine percent of all recipients served in this fiscal year were seventy years of age or older.

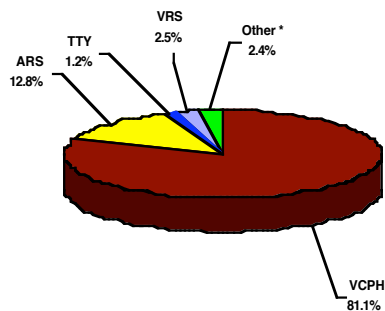
**Clients Services**

Total number of services provided during FY 2004 / 2005 were 65,546. Below is a pie chart that shows what type services were provided.



**Distributed Equipment**

FTRI distributes both new and refurbished equipment. Equipment distributed during fiscal year 2004 / 2005 numbered 76,197\* units. The monthly equipment distribution average was 6,349 units.



\*More than two percent of all distributed equipment in fiscal year 2004 / 2005 included Braille phones, in-line amplifiers, tactile ring signalers, voice-carry-over phones with large visual displays, phones for the speech impaired, hearing-carry-over phone, voice-carry-over phones and captioned telephone.

**FTRI looks forward to another successful year with serving the telecommunications needs of qualified citizens in the state of Florida.**

## Hearing Loss Association of Florida (HLA-FL)

# BALLOT

### Candidates for the 2006 HLA-FL Board of Trustees

**NOTE: If you wish to vote for this entire slate as recommended and endorsed by the Nominating Committee, you need not return the Ballot. Thank you!**

- Barbara Bavido**, Orlando • Member of the Hearing Loss Association of Orlando • Current member of the HLA-FL Board of Trustees • Member of ALDA and The Say What Club
- Kathy Borzell**, Tampa • Current member of the HLA-FL Board of Trustees and represents HLA-FL on the TASA (Telecommunications Access Systems Act) Advisory Committee • Member of Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) Board of Trustees • Member of HLA-Tampa chapter
- Carol Christopherson**, Jacksonville • Current member of the HLA-FL Board of Trustees and represents HLA-FL on The Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (FCCDHH) • Founder and President of Florida Service Dogs, Inc. • Current member of Hearing Loss Association of Jacksonville chapter
- Wayne E. Cook, Jr.**, The Villages • Former member of HLA-Sargent (RI) chapter • Former Chair of the Rhode Island Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing • New to Florida and HLA-FL
- James Diaz**, Oviedo • Currently President of HLA-FL Board of Trustees • Member of Hearing Loss Association of Orlando chapter • Represents HLA-FL at The Deaf Service Center Association board meetings
- Joan Haber**, Sarasota • Current member of the HLA-FL Board of Trustees and represents HLA-FL on The Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (FCCDHH) • Chair of The Citizens with Disabilities Advisory Council for the City of Sarasota • Member of Hearing Loss Association of Sarasota chapter, Secretary
- Florence Innes**, Sarasota • Current Treasurer of HLA-FL Board of Trustees • Founder and President of Advocates for Better Hearing, Inc., an assistive listening device center • Member of Hearing Loss Association of Sarasota, Past-President Hearing Loss Association of Florida (HLA-FL)
- Judy Martin**, Jacksonville • Current HLA-FL Newsletter Editor • Founder and President of Hearing Loss Association of Jacksonville chapter • Current member of HLA-FL Board of Trustees
- Lynn Rousseau**, Gainesville • Current HLAA Florida State Coordinator and member HLA-FL Board of Trustees • Founder and President of the Hearing Loss Association of Gainesville chapter • Chair of Alachua County Citizens Disability Advisory Committee
- Melissa Trauthwein**, Jacksonville • Member of Hearing Loss Association of Jacksonville chapter • New to HLAA and HLA-FL organizations

The current HLA-FL bylaws state that the Board shall consist of a minimum of nine, but no more than 18 members, and at least two-thirds of the Trustees shall be people who are hard of hearing. All ten candidates listed above have a hearing loss.

If you have any questions or concerns about this ballot, please direct your comments to: Joan Haber, Chair of the HLA-FL Nominating Committee, at: joan1@comcast.net or phone 941-921-9197. The term of office of these candidates shall be 3 years beginning on Oct. 7, 2006 except for Joan Haber and Carol Christopherson, whose terms on the FCCDHH Council expire in July of 2008, and Kathy Borzell, whose term on the HLAA Board of Trustees expires in June of 2008.

*The HLA-FL relies on the expertise of its board members with respect to hearing loss. In the Hearing Loss Association of Florida (HLA-FL) Professional Advisors assist the board with specific expertise. Currently, our Professional Advisor is: James Forstall, Executive Director of the Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. in Tallahassee, FL. If anyone is interested in serving the HLA-FL Board as a Professional Advisor in the area of Law, Audiology, Mental Health, Medicine, or Technology, contact Joan Haber as listed above.*

**Calendar**

**September 8, 2006**

FCCDHH -Medical Accessibility Task Force Meeting

**October 7, 2006**

HLA-FL Board of Trustees - Jacksonville

**November 2 - 3, 2006**

FCCDHH - Tampa

**February 3, 2007**

HLA-FL Board of Trustees

**June 2, 2007**

HLA-FL Board of Trustees

**Joan Haber**

*Continued from page 1*

gubernatorially appointed board that meets quarterly to discuss current issues and events involving citizens of Florida with disabilities and state-level staff who work to address action items. The Working Group's mission is to provide information, referrals, education and recommendations for compliance and implementation of the ADA and other disability rights laws in order to increase the independence and quality of life for citizens of Florida with disabilities.

Joan has served on the national board of the Hearing Loss Association of America, the board of

the Hearing Loss Association of Florida (formerly the Florida Association of Self Help for Hard of Hearing) and, currently, as a board member of her own Sarasota chapter.

Joan has demonstrated time and again her dedication to making a difference in the lives of people with hearing loss. When Joan received Florida SHHH's Mildred Savell Scholarship Award in 1998 it was clear that she was a deserving recipient, but we had no idea just how much Joan would give back. She continues to give back and make a difference. We're proud to have her represent us and serve as such a strong advocate for people with hearing loss.

--Kathy Borzell.

**Advertising Rates**

Full Page \$325.00  
 Half Page \$175.00  
 Quarter Page \$100.00  
 Donor (one line)

Individual \$10.00

Company \$20.00

**Make checks payable to**

Hearing Loss Assn of Florida

Send News items, photos ads or

checks to:

Judy40@bellsouth.net OR

Judy G. Martin, Editor

8019 Leafcrest Drive

Jacksonville, FL 32244

**Hearing Loss Association of Florida**

**8019 Leafcrest Drive**

**Jacksonville, FL 32244**