

Hear Ye, Hear Ye

Our special event is just around the corner – don't miss it!

The Hearing Loss Association of Florida and the Hearing Loss Association of Sarasota are excited and happy to welcome chapter leaders and members from all over Florida at the *Statewide Meetings and Hearing Health Expo* at Lakewood Ranch Town Hall, 8175 Lakewood Ranch Blvd. Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202.

The day will begin with the Chapter Collaboration Workshop at 9 a.m. At 1:30 p.m. the Statewide Meeting will begin. Two popular speakers will



**Hearing Loss
Association
of Florida**

be with us – Brenda Battat, Executive Director of the Hearing Loss Association of America who will discuss *How HLAA is Addressing Your Hearing Needs, Access and Rights*. Dr. Pat Kricos, Immediate Past

President of the American Academy of Audiology, will speak on the topic, *Let's Loop Florida. How Hearing Loops Can Transform Your Community*. The Hearing Health Expo will be open to the public from noon until 1:30 and after 3 p.m. until closing.

We hope you will support our sponsors and enjoy the exhibits which include Med-El, The Hearing Loop Group, Complete Hearing Solutions, the Hearing Loss Association of America, HearX USA, Florida Telephone Relay, Clarity, Div. of Plantronics, Advanced Bionics, Cochlear Americas, Sprint CapTel, and CaptionCall. Our other sponsors are David Myers & Juliette Sterkins, Gayl Hardeman, Hear Care, All Ears, Tampa Bay Hearing and Balance, Jacksonville Hearing and Balance, and Harris Communications. *Hear Ye, Hear Ye* is honored to publish ads for many of the above in this issue or in the May-June issue.



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redingtonrelaxation@yahoo.com
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Nancy Muscato, Tampa
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813-220-6491

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joe@jenadeau.com
941-6 85-0500

Jodi Pate, Fort Myers
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Lynn Rousseau, Gainesville
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UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Sat., March 24, 2012 - Sarasota
Sat., June 2, 2012 - Jacksonville
Sat., Oct. 6 - The Villages

**Attention Florida
Residents**

Join HLAA Now

We hope you agree that there is nowhere else where people with hearing loss can benefit from a national advocacy presence, a website with reliable, organized, and archived answers to questions about hearing loss and assistive technology, the Hearing Loss Magazine, with credible, current information, over 200 local support chapters and 14 state organizations, discounts to annual national conventions and many regional conferences.

All issues of *Hear Ye, Hear Ye* will be posted on our [website](#) only. If you are on our mailing list, you will receive an email when it is available. If you want to subscribe, unsubscribe or are getting duplicate notices, please use this link to tell us:

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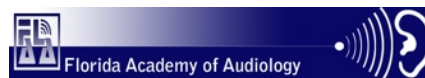


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full page, \$85 for a half page and \$50 for a quarter page. Chapter leaders, please forward the link for this newsletter to your members or you may send us their e-mail addresses.

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Online HLAA e-News

HLAA's e-News provides the latest news from HLAA about Convention, the Walk4Hearing, Chapters/States, and more. Sign up for the free *HLAA e-News* at www.hearingloss.org or [click here](#).

Chapter Development

HLAA is pleased to announce that there will be a fall Leadership Training Conference for 25 chapter/state leaders in Bethesda, Maryland, October 5 -7, 2012. Essentially the training is for new coordinators and state and chapter leaders who have not attended leadership training before. All reasonable travel expenses and lodging will be covered.

Award Nominations Due April 11

Notice of the 2012 Chapter/State Awards Application has been emailed to all leaders and is also on the Leaders Wiki. There are a variety of award categories all designed to honor dedicated members across the nation whose efforts have helped to advance HLAA's mission. [Chapters and states are encouraged share the packet information with members and submit nominations prior to the submission deadline of April 11, 2012.](#) Recipients receive their awards during the Sunday, June 24, at the Awards Ceremony & Breakfast at the Convention 2012.

Congratulations to the Virginia Beach Chapter whose leader Don Doherty presented HLAA National with six new members. Virginia Beach is the first chapter to receive one free Education Packet to HLAA Convention 2012 under the bonus feature of the new member recruitment rebate program. The prize is open to participating chapters that recruit five or more new HLAA members between November 1, 2011, and March 31, 2012.

HLAA is pleased to announce that four members have accepted the invitation to serve as HLAA state chapters coordinators. Welcome to Lilia Smith in Washington state; Toni Iacolucci in Downstate New York; Fannae Shields in Texas, and Don Doherty in Virginia.



Hearing Loss Association
of Florida

Statewide Meetings & Hearing Care Expo

March 24, 2012

Lakewood Ranch Town Hall

8175 Lakewood Ranch Blvd Lakewood Ranch FL 34202

9 AM - 4 PM



9 AM - Noon Chapter Collaboration Workshop- Chapter Leaders

All officers and board members of the 15 Florida HLAA Chapters are invited to this forum which will discuss the common issues and opportunities that each chapter is facing, as identified in the Chapter Leader Survey conducted last fall. The session will be moderated by HLA-FL President, Judy Martin and be kicked off by a "Meet and Greet" with HLAA Executive Director Brenda Battat, who will participate in the session. There is no charge for the workshop, but reservations are required while space lasts or before February 28, whichever comes first. Contact Judy Martin at judygmartin@bellsouth.net or 904-778-2265.

12 PM-1:30 PM Hearing Care Expo - Open to All Members & the Public

We invite all hearing care professionals, providers and manufacturers to exhibit their latest technologies and hearing solutions. The same concerns are invited to sponsor the day's events with ads in the HLA-FL Statewide Program & Guide that will be issued to attendees of the day's proceedings. This is an unprecedented opportunity for all concerns to promote their services and products to our national leaders, state leaders and all Florida members. Chapters can earn a 75% commission by attracting audiologists or any business concern to participate in one of 3 sponsorship packages, which include a geographical listing, ad in the program or exhibitor's booth. For details on all advertising or sponsorship packages, contact Judy Martin at judygmartin@bellsouth.net or 904-778-2265.



1:30 PM-3:00 PM HLAA Statewide Meeting- Open to Members & the Public



Brenda Battat, the Executive Director of the Hearing Association of America, will discuss "How HLAA Is Addressing Your Hearing Needs, Access & Rights". This is your opportunity to fully understand the HLAA's mission and current priorities, with ample time for Questions and Answers. Brenda will host a "Meet and Greet" for all members at 1:15. In addition, Pat Kricos, the immediate past President of the American Academy of Audiology will discuss "Let's

Loop Florida. How Hearing Loops Can Transform Your Community". Learn how the AAA and HLAA's joint initiative, "Get in The Loop", can assist with local advocacy efforts to loop your area. Please advise your chapter leader if you are coming, so we can be sure we have space to accommodate all members.



3 PM- Closing Hearing Care Expo continues - Open to the Public

Note: You are invited to "Hearing Loss Affects Everyone" reception at 6 PM. - See flyer

The Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has several openings and among them are two seats for the Hearing Loss Association of Florida. Anyone who is a paid-up member of HLAA and is a resident of Florida may apply. If you are interested and feel you have a good grasp of the precepts of HLAA, please consider submitting your application. The form can be found here:

<http://www.fccdhh.org/services/council-openings.html>

The next meeting of the Council, which meets quarterly and is open to the public, will be in Brandon on Thursday and Friday, March 10 and 11. Public comment period is scheduled for Thursday from 4 - 6 p.m. If you would like to listen in via teleconference, you may email Mary Grace Tavel -

MaryGrace_Tavel@doh.state.fl.us

- to receive information for access to the meeting.

www.fccdhh.org

From *Leave the team!* to Regional Championships

– by Suzanne Bidwell

My son, Sam, lost his hearing suddenly to meningitis at the age of 11 months. It was fortunate for him that it was the time when the FDA guidelines on cochlear implantation for children had just been lowered to 12 months of age. Sam had an amazing AVT who set us on a fast track at Boston Children's Hospital for a CI. At the



Sam in his swimming competition

time, he was the youngest child they had ever implanted and having been a hearing child was the perfect candidate.

Early on, we were told all of the things he wouldn't

be able to do and I have made it my life's mission to not let that be the case if there is something he wants to do. It has never been acceptable for someone to say that Sam can't do something only because of his hearing or lack of it.

September means the start of the short course USA Swim season. This has probably been the most challenging pastime which Sam has pursued. Sam has always spent a lot of time near water, as his grandparents lived at the shore. The first specific instance of this was being told he couldn't hear with his Sprint body worn processor when he was in the water; he would have to remove it. I took it upon myself to find a way and in the fall of 2001 I had found a way for him to safely swim with his Sprint.

By the spring of 2002, an article was written about him and his swimming for AGBell's Volta Voices and the idea had gone global. Sam has had smooth sailing with his Sprint body worn processor for many years now – with many trips to the ocean and water park. I still

get a smile when I'm out in the surf and can talk with him and see how he turns at the sound of the lifeguard whistle.

However, as with all good things, change happens. Sam grew up and joined a competitive swim team. The Sprint would not be svelte enough to maintain good swimming times. Many other CI friends were talking about putting the Freedom in a food seal bag (a heat sealed one-use plastic bag). We finally tried it and it worked successfully the first year. (*Please note: this is not recommended by the manufacturer and water damage knowingly will void warranty / service contract.*)

During the first year, Sam's swim coach was wonderful. She understood that on occasion Sam would be deaf (battery died or we left the "waterproofed" processor at home). On these days she would write down what he needed to do and would use gestures to demonstrate. Sam swam with everyone else; he was just another swimmer in the lane. There was no reason to believe at the beginning of 7th grade swim season that anything would be any different – but it was.

This year, there was a large change in coaching staff. Last year's head coach was gone and a new interim head coach was in his place. The direction of the team changed and Sam was often put in the lane with the new coach. Coincidentally, we were having difficulties with the heat sealed bag for the Freedom. Sam found himself

several times at practice without a working processor. Timing being everything, it was just days after the processor fell off service contract.

At the first incident during this practice, the new coach gave Sam a phone to call his parents. Now let's think about this – *the coach gave a deaf child a phone to call his parents.* This was the first clue that the coach did not understand that without his CI, Sam was deaf.

Several practices went by where Sam was deaf. His original coach worked with him, several of the other coaches worked with him. The new interim head coach had Sam and was yelling at him because *Sam was not listening.* Sam came out of practice and told me he



In addition to his swimming prowess, Sam is proud of his math and reading talents too. Here he is shown with his awards in the MathCounts competition (www.mathcounts.org). Sam also participates as a student-reader for the Connecticut Nutmeg Book Awards (www.nutmegaward.org).

Way to go, Sam. Your parents are proud of you and so are we!

Continued on next page

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had to apologize for not hearing. I strongly encourage Sam to apologize when he has in any way not toed the line in life – but apologizing for being deaf and not hearing is where I draw the line. I would not allow Sam to apologize and instead approached the coach the following evening at a parent-coach meeting. I had intended to further explain that Sam is deaf without his CI and could the coach write down the directions for Sam as the other coaches do in that situation.

What happened next was something I never would have believed could happen in the United States in this day and age – and said by a man, who by day, is an attorney. As I explained Sam was deaf, the man told me there was no difference between deaf and hard of hearing. Either way, he could not communicate with Sam. I requested that Sam be coached by any of the other coaches as they seemed to have no problem with Sam. I was told *No* to the other coaches, *No* to writing instructions for Sam. I was left with a towering, angry coach yelling at me “Why don’t you just take your son and leave the team. I can’t communicate with him. No one can communicate with him.” I was flabbergasted.

I contacted the president of the swim club to lodge a complaint against the coach and inquire as to what the team would do about the situation. Rather than contact me or investigate through USA Swimming, the coach took it upon himself to research cochlear implants and come up with his own “Coaching Protocol for Deaf Athletes”. Without any input, the team Board of Directors adopted it and things quickly deteriorated. On the national level, USA Swimming specifically addresses the issue of swimmers with a cochlear implant. In its “Safety/Risk Management and the Inclusion of Swimmers with Disabilities” document they clearly state that a swimmer who has a cochlear implant “must remove the external parts (e.g., microphone, processor) of the implant when swimming” and further states “coaches should use alternate methods of communication when the person is in the water.” However, the protocol which our local club team had produced was instead exclusionary and stated that “in the unusual circumstance that the swimmer is without their *normal* mode of communication, the swimmer “cannot be integrated into the larger group. Written communication will not be provided.”

This was a written document which specifically was attempting to deny Sam his right to be included, with minor accommodations, from being an active participant on the team – a violation of his civil rights guaranteed through the ADA.

Since the club leadership provided me with no satisfaction, I felt that I had to take it to the next level. I asked for advice from my vast network of resources including the friends I had made over the years on the Nucleus Forum – and my attorney. With their assistance, I crafted a very detailed letter to file a grievance with Connecticut Swimming against our club and I sent a copy all the way

up to the Executive Director of USA Swimming at the National level. Suddenly, we got the attention the incident deserved. In parallel, I also contacted the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) to file a complaint.

Shortly thereafter I was contacted by a representative from CT Swimming, and invited to talk about the subject and what it was I hoped would be the end result. It would have been easy to be spiteful and vengeful, but we decided to stay on target. I calmly explained that all I wanted was for Sam to be included equally on his team as he had been in the past – this meant a retraction of the “Deaf Athlete” protocol. Additionally, it was determined that the coach in question was not properly certified to be on deck coaching through USA Swimming. I requested that the uncertified coach be removed from that position and finally, and probably the most difficult thing – I requested that the coach personally apologize to Sam. The CT Swimming representative felt these were reasonable requests and spoke to the club who then agreed to the terms. The protocol was immediately revoked. The coach was immediately removed from the coaching position (although he remains in an advisory position with the club as he is also a parent of a swimmer on the team). Two months later, just before the Regional Championship competition where Sam will be competing with his team on February 25-26, and with only a week to go before the end of the season, the coach finally apologized to Sam!

With the satisfactory response from CT Swimming, I decided to drop the case with CHRO, feeling there was no need to continue with it. I had achieved what I had set out to do – keeping Sam on the team. I now have knowledge and experience in case it is ever needed again. I will hope it won’t be.

It has been an interesting season. Few of the other parents even knew what had happened. As they learned about these experiences, I was amazed to discover that there were parents on the team *who thought as the coach did*. They felt Sam did not belong on the team as he was an inconvenience and deterred from their child’s training. On the other hand, I was heartened by the number of parents who DID believe that Sam had been wrongly treated. I was particularly touched by one mother who early on paraphrased the saying, “First they came for ... and I did nothing. Then they came for ... and I did nothing. Before I knew it, it was too late.”

This friend added that she would not let Sam and me stand alone. She confirmed that putting the effort in, to correct this injustice to Sam, was the right thing to do. Although it initially seemed an insurmountable task, it was not because anything worth having, is worth fighting for.

(I followed Suzanne’s story for many months on the Nucleus Forum, an online forum. And finally, one day – success. I was so pleased to hear the good news, I asked her to write about her experiences to perhaps help inspire others. – Judy G. Martin)

Florida is getting in the loop - the *hearing loop*!

Saturday, March 24, 2012

If you use hearing aids or a cochlear implant, find out what this is all about:



Dr. Patricia Kricos, American Academy of Audiology immediate past-president, will discuss

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www.hearingloop.org

For a list of hearing loops in Florida visit: www.hla-fl.org/wp/category/looping
Free reprints to share with your community's worship places or audio companies are available at the registration table. Help to get the word out. For information to share with your audiologist contact: Juliette Sterkens, AuD, via www.loopwisconsin.com

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Hampton Inn & Suites Sarasota/University Park
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Comfort Suites
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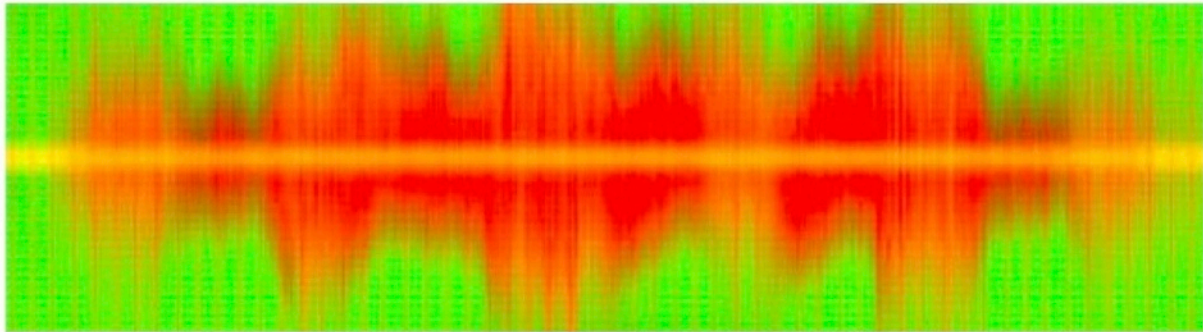
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**Joan Andrews Scholarship Award
Deadline: March 15, 2012
Description and Eligibility
Requirements**

**May be found in the January issue
of *Hear Ye, Hear Ye*
A link to the application may be
found on our
website home page, www.hla-fl.org**

A man, who is hard of hearing, and his wife visit the doctor’s office. The doctor tells the wife, “You must do three things to keep your husband well. First, keep everything clean and smooth. You must iron everything. Second, prepare fresh meals from scratch every day. No preservatives, no frozen food, no leftovers. Third, you must give him more lovin’.”

When they returned home, the husband asked his wife, “Well, what did the doc say, anyway?”

His wife replied, “You’re going to die.”

*Thanks to Bill Mitchell from the
HLAA Message Board.*

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Jacksonville Hearing & Balance patient



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HLAA Convention 2012 in Providence, Rhode Island • June 21-24, 2012



Planning for the HLAA 2012 National Convention, June 21 – 24 in Providence, Rhode Island, is well underway. For all the information about the convention, go to www.hearingloss.org and/or the [Convention page](#). In addition, people who are looking for a roommate to help share the cost of the hotel can join/login the HLAA [Message Boards](#) and post a message in the Convention 2012 section.

HLAA also offers complimentary registrations to veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

HLAA is grateful to all its Convention sponsors who are listed on the Convention page along with a [new video](#) where sponsors' answer the question, "Why do you exhibit and sponsor HLAA Conventions?"

Free entrance passes are available at the HLAA Convention Registration Desk on site for people who want to visit the Exhibit Hall only.

Convention Outing for Young Adults to a Pawsox Baseball Game -- Calling all young adults! Join us for Convention 2012 and as an extra bonus, you will attend the Pawtucket Red Sox (Triple-A affiliate of the Boston

Red Sox) game at McCoy Stadium on Friday, June 22. Young adults (age 18-35) will arrive in plenty of time to socialize and eat dinner before enjoying the game against the Louisville Bats. Many thanks to Starkey for sponsoring this event as well as six **young adult scholarships**. March 1, 2012, is the deadline for the scholarship applications/nominations. See the [Scholarship](#) page for details.

We are excited about the **Research Symposium** (June 22, 9 a.m. – Noon), *How the Brain Makes Sense of the World of Sound*, moderated and presented by professionals from Johns Hopkins University. Summaries of the presentations as well as the workshop schedule can be read on the [Convention page](#) of the HLAA website. There will also be an outstanding line-up of speakers presenting on the following topics: Advocacy; Assistive & Other Technology; Hearing Aids & Cochlear Implants; and Relationships & Communication.

Convention goers will want to bring their smart phones because all convention activities – program, events, updates, and exhibits will be on a mobile app which is funded by CTIA-the Wireless Association®.



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Make your plans now to set sail for historic

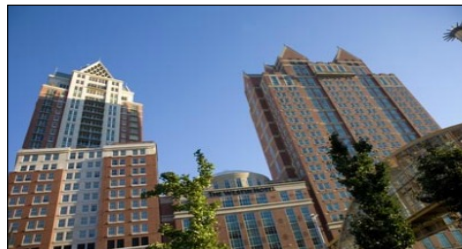
Providence, Rhode Island and CONVENTION 2012

Rhode Island Convention Center and The Westin Providence

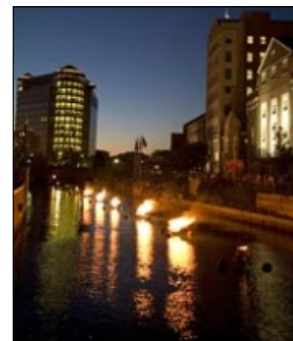
The 4-star Westin Providence hotel will be your home port as you sail out each day to explore the wonders of Convention 2012. Fascinating workshops, a whole new world of products and information in the exhibit hall, an inspiring keynote speaker, a world-class research symposium, a unique riverside experience called "WaterFire" and a glamorous closing banquet will send you home with knowledge and memories you will treasure for years. Meet old friends and make new ones. Come early or stay late to explore this charming and historic New England city.

REGISTER TODAY FOR THIS UNFORGETTABLE ADVENTURE

Register on line at www.hearingloss.org/content/convention, or call (301) 657-2248 to register or to request a registration form.



Enjoy the luxury of the 4 star Westin Providence just steps from the convention center.



Viewing WaterFire will be a highlight of your Providence experience.

Join HLA-Florida on its third cruise

The Hearing Loss Association of Florida invites you aboard Royal Caribbean's Independence of the Seas, sailing out of Fort Lauderdale on December 8, 2012 – an eight-day cruise to the Eastern Caribbean.



On all our past group cruises, RCCL made everything accessible to us, with captions in the live theater showtimes, assistive devices that worked and well-trained crew members who were attentive to our needs.

The ports of call are: Fort Lauderdale, Basseterre, Philipsburg/St.Maarten, San Juan, Puerto Rico, Labadee (RCL's Private Island with water sports, BBQ etc!), Fort Lauderdale.

To book the cruise, contact Barbara Maher at BARBARAM@GOTRAVEL.COM (Put HLA Cruise on subject line.) Or call her at 1-800-800-7703 x 112.

Inside \$810. Outside \$870. Balcony \$1000.

Per Person, Based on double occupancy

Deposit of \$50 per person due at booking

Second deposit of \$200 per person due April 25th.

Final due September 20, 2012

You may contact me at HLAFlorida@aol.com

–Lynn Rousseau, HLA-Gainesville



HLAA Online Portal

New! We want to make it easier for you to manage your information when it comes to HLAA members, supporters, and people interested in our organization and/or hearing loss. You can now create a User ID and Password on www.hearingloss.org.

Just because you receive *Hearing Loss Magazine* or the online *e-News*, it doesn't mean that you automatically have a login name. We invite everyone reading this to login to be able to:

See the latest issue of *Hearing Loss Magazine* before it hits your mailbox (HLAA Members only, coming soon)

- Choose what types of messages you want to receive from us.
- Update your email and mailing address and phone number.
- If you are a member, view your membership information such as the expiration date.
- Review your donation history and get receipts.
- Register for HLAA Convention 2012, courses and training.
- And there will be more to come.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye
Next issue - May 1
Deadline - April 25

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* App requires an Android-powered device with OS 2.2 or higher. Although CapTel and Wireless CapTel by Sprint can be used for emergency calling, such emergency calling may not function the same as traditional 911/E911 services. By using CapTel and Wireless CapTel by Sprint for emergency calling you agree that Sprint is not responsible for any damages resulting from errors, defects, malfunctions, interruptions or failures in accessing or attempting to access emergency services through CapTel and Wireless CapTel by Sprint whether caused by the negligence of Sprint or otherwise. ©2012 Sprint. Sprint and the logo are trademarks of Sprint. CapTel is a registered trademark of Ultratec, Inc. Android, Google, the Google logo and Android Market are trademarks of Google Inc. The HTC logo, and HTC EVO are the trademarks of HTC Corporation. Other marks are the property of their respective owners.

OUR CHAPTERS SPEAK . . .

**Have trouble hearing?
Need answers to questions about hearing aids and devices? Want coping skills? Talk to others with similar issues? Don't miss out on a social life because of hearing loss.**



New Meeting Location
10 a.m. 12 noon

Connect to Life™

2900 West Cypress Creek Rd. Ste. 3
(Private Rear Entrance / Parking in Back)
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

Located one block east of N.W. 31st Avenue;
Turn on N.W. 29th Avenue

Office Telephone: 954-601-1930; 954-601-1938 TTY

Meeting room is looped for hearing
Schedule

March 14 • April 1 • May 9

For information:

Louise Tobin 954-972-3319

Andrea Wilson

awilson4@comcast.net



HLA-SCC is proud to announce that at all of their monthly program meetings, anywhere from 25 to 60 members and invited guests are present - good turn outs! To assure continued good turnouts, the HLA-SCC steering committee has begun to work on selecting speakers who will be available to cover timely as well as interesting subject matters on hearing loss. Program topics will be presented monthly during the period September 2012 through May 2013.

HLA-SCC displayed informative literature about its chapter at a public Tampa Expo as well as the national HLAA, the statewide Hearing Loss Association of Florida and the South Palm Beach County Chapter of HLAA. The event took place in Tampa last November at a well attended second annual Communication Access & Technology Expo.

HLA-SCC is again planning to secure an exhibit table as they did last year at "The Z® Presents Clearwater Deaf and Hard of Hearing Day". It will be happening again this year on Saturday, April 14, 2012, 11 am to 5 PM, in downtown Clearwater.

HLA-SCC will be present on March 24, 2012 at a first Florida statewide membership meeting in seven years as well as the first ever chapter leaders collaboration workshop in Lakeland Ranch, Florida 34202. The executive director of HLAA, Brenda Battat, will also be present. In support of the March 24 event, HLA-SCC sent out sponsorship packages.

—Richard Herring, President

Calling on Lakeland area residents

The Hearing Loss Association of Lakeland wants to become a reality. If you live in that area, give a shout-out to Gail Wachtel-Smith or Jackie Bowman who would like to form a chapter. They can be contacted at gailgolfs2@aol.com or jbowman@cfshc.org

If you know of other areas where people with hearing loss might be interested in having an HLAA chapter in their neighborhood, please let me know. Please contact me if you would like more information about the above groups.

Judy Martin,
Florida State Chapter Coordinator
judygmartin@bellsouth.net

Special Announcement

Our next meeting date and time has changed! We will meet on **Monday 3/12/2012** from 1 to 3 p.m.

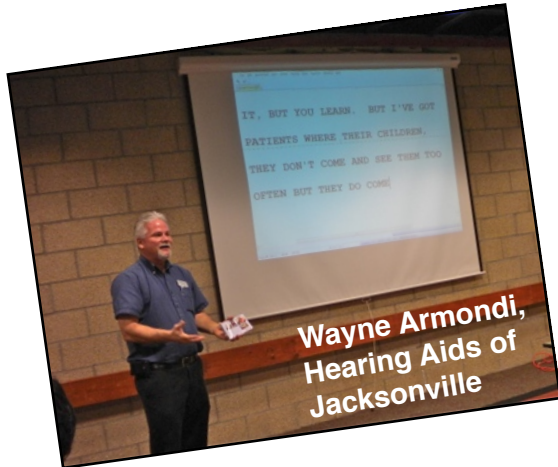
Come join us at the offices of Greater Miami Audiology at 3661 S. Miami Avenue, Suite 409, Miami 33133

Our guest speaker will be Cindy Simon, Au.D. of South Miami Audiology. Cindy will discuss some of the latest hearing aid technologies.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Joe Dashiell, President
info@hla-gm.org
www.HLA-GM.org





Jax Chapter enjoys a fun evening

Wayne Armondi, a hearing aid dispenser who works at Hearing Aids of Jacksonville, his family's business, was our speaker. He has a hearing loss himself.

Wayne said he works out of a family-run business which has been in the area for almost 30 years. His Mom and Dad started the practice in 1984. His Dad passed away in 1987 and his younger brother got involved. Wayne joined some time later. His Mom died just last year.

Wayne brought his hearing screener with him, a kind of fun machine, to let you know that you might possibly have a hearing loss. He brings it to Health Fairs and it's always a popular attraction. Wayne says the screener just gives a snapshot of the hearing loss;

it's not for professional use. It was invented by a gentleman up north who only made so many hundreds of them and there are still a few around. It only gives an idea whether you're having a hearing difficulty, a hearing loss.

All the members participated in the testing, whether or not they have a hearing loss. There was much laughter and amusing discussion while we all watched the colored lights and listened intently. Everyone agreed they'd like Wayne to bring his "machine" back again at some future meeting. Other business included discussion of the Statewide meeting and Hearing Health Expo in Sarasota, the June HLAA Convention in Providence, RI and the purchase of neckloops for the Terry Parker Baptist Church in memory of our late beloved Treasurer, Bill Scheibe, and long-time member Virgil Rogers.





**Michelle Hordinski,
CART provider**



Seated, Jane Henderson, Patricia Dekeyper, Michael Hogan
Standing, Jim Smith, Michelle Hordinski, Judy Martin, Lori Timson,
and Lois Smith

A visit to Lee County

It was a balmy, breezy Thursday evening when I arrived in the Cape Coral-Ft. Myers area to visit the Lee County chapter. I was warmly welcomed by Lori Timson and her husband, Tom, to their home. Lori is the Director of The Deaf Service Center of SW Florida, Inc. where the local HLAA chapter meets. She and I are both members of the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Following a wonderful dinner prepared by Chef Tom, I was shown to my room at *Chez Timson*, a welcome spot after the 300-mile drive from Jacksonville.

The next morning Lois and Jim Smith, leaders of HLA-Lee County greeted me with enthusiasm. As State Chapter Coordinator, I brought with me brochures, magazines, pamphlets, catalogs and other assorted information as well as best wishes from the National Office and from the Board Members of HLA-Florida. It was a good experience with questions and answers exchanged along with a lively discussion.

Among the members present was Michael Hogan, who has been deaf since birth. He now uses a cochlear implant and hearing aid. Michael brought his service dogs. Kylei, a blonde Lab, is the older female and is 9-1/2 years old. Bella, 10 weeks old, is a Boerboel Mastiff. In Dutch, Boerboel means farm bull. To this day, the breed is used mainly to protect livestock from lions and hyenas in South Africa. Bella was purchased from Armor Boerboel Kennel in Cape Coral to be trained to assist Michael with his auditory needs.

The Center has a wonderful meeting room available with plenty of parking. The staff is friendly and helpful and we were happy to have Lori join us at our



**Michael Hogan
and Friends**

meeting. Jim and Lois took me for lunch and by early afternoon I was on my way back to NE Florida.

I do appreciate all that Jim and Lois and Lori are doing for the cause of hearing loss in Florida and HLAA. We need to have them cloned.

—Judy G. Martin



Broward County
Andrea Wilson
awilson4@comcast.net

Central Florida
Muriel Raine
352-751-3464
murhlaacntrfl@aol.com
Jan Sharp
352-751-4532
fjs4532@embarqmail.com

Clearwater
Marjie Anderson
marjjea1@gmail.com
Tess Crowder
813-814-7736
tmt.tess@verizon.net
Janet White
jonewhite1@aol.com

Gainesville
Lynn Rousseau
352-331-9808
HLAGainesville@aol.com
www.hearinglossassociationofgainesville.com

Greater Miami
Joe Dashiell, President
Phone 305-213-4092
Email info@hla-gm.org
www.hla-gm.org
Alyssa Bobadilla
abobadilla@SouthFloridaENT.com

Jacksonville
Judy G. Martin
904-778-2265
judygmartin@bellsouth.net
Melissa Trauthwein
melissat1977@bellsouth.net
www.hla-jax.org

Lee County
Lois Smith
lojims@embarqmail.com
239-369-7532

Naples
Walter Renner
239-455-6544
walcyn@embarqmail.com
www.naples.net/presents/naplesears/

Orlando
Merv Daniels
407-656-9283
mmbdaniels@att.net
Jim Diaz
407-366-3024
jdiaz@flashhh.org

Sarasota
Ed Ogiba
941-966-8999
ed@groupefo.com
www.hlas.org

South Palm Beach County
Oscar Segal
561-499-9873
trip3584@comcast.net
<http://www.hladelrayboynton.org>

Sun City Center
Richard Herring
813-642-0558
rhmann@tampabay.rr.com
Shirley Nauman
813-634-7280
snauman@tampabay.rr.com
www.hla-scc.com/

Tallahassee (Big Bend)
James Forstall
850-205-1470 ex 230
jforstall@ftri.org
Carlos Monserrate
Carlos.Monserrate@flaawi.com

Tampa
Gail Wachtel-Smith
863-815-7179
Gailgolds2@aol.com
Mike Cano
mcano1@tampabay.rr.com
www.hearinglosstampa.org/

Treasure Coast
Cheryl Nolte
772-468-0123
noisegone@treasurecoastflhlaa.com
www.treasurecoastflhlaa.com

Please send corrections for this section to:
HearYeHearYe2006@gmail.com

Other chapters are forming and not yet official. If you are interested in joining them, please contact the people listed:

Babson Park meets the 2nd Tuesday. Terry LangVal, 3 Fort Clinch Heights Rd. ,Frostproof, FL 33843

Lakeland, Gail Wachtel-Smith gailgolds2@aol.com Jackie Bowman jbowman@cfshc.org

