



Heard In Fort Worth

Hearing Loss Association of America - Fort Worth Chapter
April 2023

April 8 Meeting Program

SPECIAL MEETING LOCATION THIS MONTH

Fort Worth Police Department's 9-1-1 Call Center

3000 W Bolt Street 76110

Off Lubbock Ave. between W Pafford St and W Seminary Drive.
Lubbock Ave is parallel to McCart Ave. and west of the FWISD Applied Learning Center,
formerly the B. H. Carroll School, on McCart Ave.

By special invitation from the City of Fort Worth, we will tour the operations center where Fort Worth 9-1-1 calls are received and emergency responses are dispatched. Learn about center operations, equipment, personnel, job qualifications, response times and priorities, and more.

See how voice and text emergency calls are handled. Learn how to insure effective communication, particularly for hard of hearing and deaf callers. Bring your questions.

CAPTIONING can be done on our cell phones, using either Apple captions or Live Transcribe for Android users. Leslie Kilton will bring her iPad and connect it to her hotspot for a person without a cell phone.

Arrive by 9:50 AM so we can go in together on time.

DIRECTIONS, PHOTO, & PARKING INSTRUCTIONS *on page 3*

Let us know if you plan to attend this Saturday at the 9-1-1 Center.

Email us at fortworthHLAA@gmail.com or call 817-966-1947.

A head count will help us and the center prepare for our group tour.

Please respond by Thursday, April 6.

NO MEETING AT CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH THIS MONTH

Photo Credit: *The photograph of The Fort Worth Herd on our Heard In Fort Worth banner is used by permission of The Fort Worth Herd and its sponsor, the City of Fort Worth Parks and Community Services Department.*

Joyce's Jargon

Greetings as I write this on a beautiful Saturday!

While catching up on some magazine reading, I found an interesting article in the *Texas Highways* February issue, "Peace and Quiet," by Jennifer Stewart. As we all know, everything is bigger in Texas and the author points out "it seems like everything is louder, too." Most Texans are exposed to way too much noise. Did you know that the urban and transportation planners are tasked with "improving transportation, housing, and commercial infrastructure to decrease noise in communities"? I need to find those people in Fort Worth!

The author quotes audiologist Dr. Tony Milesi about things we can do to protect our hearing (noise canceling headphones and custom plugs audiologists can make that have a filter bringing down the sound), and places we can go to escape the noise. She mentioned places in many Texas cities and the state park system but didn't give a suggestion for Fort Worth. I think the Botanic Gardens would be the best place here. All these are great suggestions and things we can share with friends and family. For those of us with devices, we can just take our devices off. Smile and enjoy the quiet!

See you Saturday, April 8th for our tour of the 9-1-1 call center.
Thank you, Kevin Medlin, for making this field trip happen.
Have a blessed week.

Joyce Parlin, Chapter President

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Heard In Fort Worth

This newsletter is published by the
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The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), founded in 1979 by Howard E. "Rocky" Stone, is the nation's leading organization representing consumers with hearing loss. The mission of HLAA is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support, and advocacy.



Hearing Loss Association of America
6116 Executive Blvd., Suite 320
Rockville, MD 20852. 301-657-2248.

Membership has its benefits. Please join or renew. Go to www.hearingloss.org and click on "Membership" to join. A portion of your national dues is remitted to our chapter for local support.

Chapter News

9-1-1 Center Tour Directions

Go to 3000 W Bolt St. The parking entrance is on the west side of the building along the line of trees in the photo, next to the Fort Worth Police Department South Station building. Take that drive to the gated entrance and press the button on the call box. Tell the person who answers that you are there for the tour. When the gate opens, drive in and take the driveway through the fence on the right. Follow the driveway behind and all around the call center. Parking is available in front of the building along the Bolt St. side. More parking spaces are along the fence on the east side of the building. Do not park next to the building on that side in the fire zone. Parking behind the building is also permitted. The doorway entrance to the building is on Bolt St. Please arrive at least 10 minutes early so we can go in together. If we have a very large group, we may be divided into smaller groups for the tour.



Special thanks to our chapter vice president, Kevin Medlin, for setting up this tour. Kevin serves on the Fort Worth Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities and has been active in working with the police department and other city departments and agencies in advocating for our needs and concerns.

Missed Anniversary!

Last month was our chapter's 33rd anniversary, and we overlooked it.

Saturday, March 10, 1990, was the first meeting of the group that formed the Fort Worth Chapter of HLAA. Eighteen people attended that meeting and voted to seek affiliation with the national hearing loss organization, then known as Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH). An executive committee was soon formed and began preparing official documents to fulfill the requirements for recognition as a chapter.

Exactly one year later, on Saturday, March 9, 1991, SHHH national board member and Texas State Coordinator Clyde Black and his wife Ouida drove up from Temple and delivered our chapter charter. They had just attended the national board meeting and returned with our charter in hand. It was a joyful day.

Let's plan a big 35th anniversary celebration in March of 2025!

New HLAA Group Starts in Flower Mound

Harley Nicholas, a resident of Pinewood, a large independent living community in Flower Mound, north of Grapevine Lake, was formerly an HLAA chapter member in another state. He realized that many other Pinewood residents also had hearing difficulties and needed the kind of assistance that HLAA can provide.

Harley reached out to our chapter for guidance. Accordingly, we have advised him on various aspects of starting a group. We recommended that he contact Esther Kelly, a retired hearing technology specialist and HLAA veteran, in Dallas. The upshot is that Esther is giving their first presentation this week, on Wednesday, April 5. With the support of the facility administrator, the outlook seems most promising, and we will still be available to assist as needed.

Congratulations and best wishes to Harley and the new group in Flower Mound! Thank you, Esther, for assisting.

HLAA Fort Worth meets on the second Saturday of each month
in the fellowship hall of Central Christian Church, 3205 Hamilton Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76107.
Snacks and mingle at 9:30 a.m. and meeting at 10:00. Please join us, and bring a friend!
We offer realtime captioning and assistive listening systems for communication accessibility.
Captioning is provided courtesy of Cauthen & Associates Court Reporting and CART Services.

HLAA in Texas

Report on a virtual meeting among Texas state HLAA leaders and chapter leaders.

By Dan White, newsletter editor

Will a sleeping giant wake up?

Due to the ravages of the COVID pandemic, the state of Texas now has only two active HLAA chapters: Houston and Fort Worth. Lois Johnson, of the Houston Chapter, has resumed leadership as Director of the HLAA Texas State Office. She led an online meeting of state and chapter leaders on Thursday night, March 29. The purpose was to coordinate and encourage statewide efforts in conjunction with the national organization.

Initiatives are underway to revive HLAA in some form in the areas where chapters existed previously and to begin new hearing loss groups in other locations. The hope is that the new and revived groups will grow, become organized, and affiliate with HLAA. Among these efforts, our Fort Worth Chapter has been assisting a new startup venture in Flower Mound.

Guidance for other startups is offered from the State HLAA office by Carolyn McMahon, Texas State Chapter Coordinator. Her role is to encourage chapters, seek to initiate new ones, and mentor their leadership.

During the online meeting, Carolyn reported that she is working with a group in Austin which is meeting every other month, with 10 to 15 people in attendance. She is also dealing with people in the Coastal Bend area and in Kerrville.

State Director Lois Johnson said we need to develop new HLAA initiatives in all regions of Texas. She mentioned specifically the DFW area, Houston, San Antonio, Corpus Christi, and Amarillo. She would like to have Chapter Liaisons or Coordinators for these areas. She would also like to have a Communications Director and an Events Coordinator. Lois said she set up the State Director position with a two-year term of office, and she is ready to hand it over to a new leader.

Legislative issues should be a top priority for chapters as well as for the state office. Needs and concerns of people with hearing loss are generally overlooked, so we need to be active in attending committee meetings, visiting with heads of agencies, and linking with other disability organizations to advocate for changes.

Legislative priorities this session include education, workforce, health care, digital connectivity, and budget. The session in Texas lasts only 140 days every other year. This year's session ends on May 29. She mentioned her personal experience with using telehealth for doctor and clinic visits. Lois said if you use telehealth, tell care providers to turn on captions. Communication must be effective, according to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). We must advocate for the kinds of services we need.

The virtual state HLAA leaders meeting also included a financial report, branding, and linking with the Houston chapter's Walk4Hearing and with service organizations for fundraising and donations.

Ann Thomas, of the Diabolo Valley (California) Chapter, led a presentation on branding, including the proper use of logos and colors for printed materials, advertising, and fundraising. Those standards and instructions for writing style are included in the HLAA national website.

Four Fort Worth chapter officers participated in the meeting. The content and information were good, but the use of Google Meet and automatic speech recognition software were rather ineffective for captioning and screen sharing. Members who could not hear struggled to follow much of the proceedings.

It was a valiant first effort, and more virtual meetings are to be desired, but improvements in digital communications are greatly needed. Lois and Carolyn are to be commended for their initiative in attempting to link chapter and state leaders in our common cause. Let's hope for better technology next time.

March 11 Meeting Presentation Summary

Pearls of Wisdom and World Hearing Day

Presented by Mary Catherine Hess, MA, Outreach Coordinator with CapTel's OEI division

Program summary edited by Darlene Liesner from a transcript by caption writer Carrie Gibson, of Cauthen & Associates, Court Reporting & CART Service

Mary Catherine Hess, MA, worked in EHDI (Early Hearing Detection and Identification) for fifteen years. She is now an outreach educator for OEI (Outreach, Education & Installation), a company that markets CapTel captioned phones.

Mary Catherine began her presentation with a brief explanation of World Hearing Day. Sponsored by WHO (World Health Organization), World Hearing Day is celebrated each year on March 3. The global awareness day focuses on hearing preservation, hearing screening, identification as having hearing loss, and technology.

Mary Catherine explained the “Pearl” pens and some of the tip sheets, and brochures on everybody's table:

- “A Night on the Town.” Before attending movies, theaters, and concerts, call ahead to reserve a captioning or assistive listening device. Wear your hearing aids. Make sure they are charged or that your batteries are charged. Bring your assistive listening devices.
- “Holiday Stress.” “Dinner Table Syndrome” is watching people talk, not engaging, not being a part of the conversation.
- “Speaking to Someone with Hearing Loss/Self Advocating with Hearing Loss.” Speaker tips and tips for the hearing impaired person.
- “Emergency Preparedness.”
- “Hearing Loss-Friendly Workspace at Home.” Lighting, noise-cancelling headphones, good Internet speed, captioned phone, cell phone captions vs. Zoom captions, protecting hearing at work.
- “Using a Phone with Hearing Aids” bookmark.
- Hearing health/eye health connection.

Mary Catherine gave everyone a “Proud Hearing Health Advocate” pin and encouraged them to share the materials with friends and family members who may be starting their hearing loss journey.

“Have You Heard? A Listening Project” is a podcast series (including one on auditory training). Podcasts and downloadable transcripts are available on www.oeius.org, Apple Podcast, Spotify, and Podbean.

Pearl is the official “spokes pen” (stylus and screen cleaner) for CapTel. Two video series are available at www.oeius.org/Pearl - “Did You Know” with Pearl and “Pearl's Hearing Health Wisdom.” Pearl is on [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and Instagram.

Individuals with hearing loss may receive an Internet-based CapTel captioned telephone at no cost. CapTel phones work with:

- Land line and Internet.
- Smartphone and Internet, so long as the phone has Bluetooth.
- The Jitterbug 3, a cellphone for seniors, connects to a CapTel phone. www.lively.com

The Hamilton Mobile CapTel app uses both realtime (automated) captioning and a live captioning agent. The captions are 98 - 99% accurate. Currently, the app is only available for iOS, not for Android.

Apple devices can alert users to unusual sounds. Settings>Accessibility>Sound Recognition. Tap Sounds. The user turns on the sounds he/she wants the device to recognize. Android phones also have sound detectors.

Assistive listening devices are available from several sources:

- Krown Manufacturing, Inc., Fort Worth. <https://krownmfg.com>.
- Diglo (formerly Harris Communications). <https://www.diglo.com>
- Teltex, Inc. <https://teltex.com>. Amazon or [Walmart.com](https://www.walmart.com) may be cheaper.

Everybody left with some good information and “freebies.”

Support your Fort Worth chapter

We will acknowledge your donations in each issue of the newsletter.

The list is updated monthly. We started over for 2023.

Platinum = \$400+; Gold = \$200 to \$399; Silver = \$100 to \$199;
Bronze = \$50 to \$99; Friends = Up to \$49

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husband of Dr. Shirley Molenich
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Hearing Loss Association of America - Fort Worth Chapter 2023 CHAPTER DONATION FORM

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Cauthen & Associates, Inc. is a woman-owned business, founded by Lisa Cauthen in 1998, and incorporated in 1999. Cauthen & Associates has provided the DFW Metroplex with **captioning, communication access real-time translation (CART), and court reporting services** for over 20 years. It provides CART services for our meetings

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