



Heard in Fort Worth

Hearing Loss Association of America – Fort Worth Chapter
September 2023

September 9 Program

Carolyn MacMahon, Texas State HLAA Chapter Coordinator
and Vice President of the Houston Chapter

Who Moved My Cheese? A Report on HLAA in Texas

HLAA in Texas is at something of a crossroads, especially since the COVID pandemic, which began three years ago. With few chapters surviving and other new challenges to confront, it's time for a reboot. State Chapter Coordinator Carolyn McMahon is coming up from Houston to speak to us about the past, present, and future of HLAA in Texas, post-COVID, and to share her vision.

Carolyn has had a lifelong hearing loss. She is a certified trainer for the Network of Consumer Hearing Assistive Technology. She has given hundreds of presentations on Hearing Assistive Technology as well as other topics related to hearing loss. She served as a hearing loss resource specialist (Technology Specialist) with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services for five years and has given presentations on the state, county and local levels. She is currently the Texas State HLAA Chapter Coordinator and Vice-President of the Houston Chapter.

Kevin Medlin, our Fort Worth Chapter Vice-President has just been named Texas Chapter Co-Coordinator, to serve along with Carolyn in developing new chapters, so we will have a vested interest and role in the outcomes. This concerns all of us, so please be sure to attend.

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.

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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

Dear Readers,

The HLAA-Fort Worth board and volunteers have been out in the community sharing our education and support to people in need of the services we provide. Many thanks to Sharon, Mary Alice, Dan, Leslie, Patricia, and Judy.

We have three more events:

1. **Empowering Seniors** at the Hurst Convention Center, September 28th, 8:30-1:30. Help needed.
2. **Arlington Aging Well Expo** at 1200 Ballpark Way, October 17th, 9:00-2:00. Help needed.
3. **The Walk to End Alzheimer's** at Clearfork, October 28th, 8:00 -10:30. Help needed.

We've had a great response to our invitation for people to receive our newsletter and hopefully visit the chapter meetings as well. We shared many pieces of literature and encouraged people to get their hearing checked and to wear their hearing aids. Connections were made for possible speakers for the chapter meetings and additional opportunities for HLAA to present at other locations. We look forward to the growth of the chapter through these events.

We are looking forward also to seeing you on Saturday, September 9th. We will welcome Carolyn McMahon, HLAA Texas Chapter Coordinator to our chapter.

Blessings,
Joyce Parlin, Chapter President

2023 Chapter Board of Directors

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Heard In Fort Worth

This newsletter is published by the
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Hearing Loss Association of America**
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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 clic

Movin' on up: VP Kevin Medlin

On August 14, 2023, I was officially welcomed into the HLAA state chapter coordinators team. I will be coordinating in Texas with Carolyn McMahon, who resides in the Houston area.

A lot of great things are happening with the Hearing Loss Association of America! My responsibility will be to help establish new chapters in the North/Central Texas areas and to enhance the initiatives of the current chapters.

First on my list is to help re-establish a Dallas chapter. We have some eager volunteers ready to begin work in the Dallas area, and our priority is to find a dedicated meeting space and determine a regularly scheduled meeting time to promote to potential members. It is an exciting time to be a part of HLAA, and I look forward to expanding our reach to the east.

I have also begun the process of establishing a "Heart of Texas" chapter in the Waco/Temple/Belton area. This one is in the preliminary stages but is near and dear to my heart.

I will also be working with the HLAA national team to bring news and information to our chapter. I am looking forward to what the next year will allow. I look forward to the opportunity, and I thank you for the support that you have given me for the past five years.

Kevin Medlin

EDITOR: Congratulations, Kevin, and best wishes!

Texas Marks Deaf Awareness Month

Texas Health and Human Services is observing September as Deaf Awareness Month with a series of activities to "raise awareness, promote inclusivity, and celebrate the achievements of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community." One of these initiatives is an **Education & Advocacy webinar** that may be of interest to many of us.

"Participate in a discussion on empowering individuals through education and advocacy. We'll learn about Deaf and Hard of Hearing culture, including sign languages and history. We'll also look at the obstacles that Deaf and Hard of Hearing people experience, as well as how to advocate for their rights and inclusion."

Date: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 Time: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

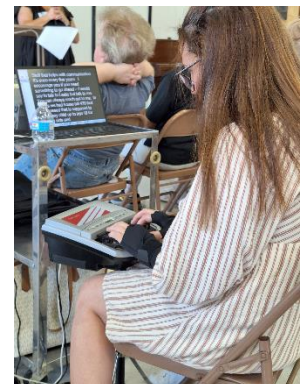
Registration: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2785472404887764064>

Email: dhhs.mailbox@hhs.texas.gov

Photos from August Meeting

Jennifer Clark, Manager, Dallas Hearing Foundation speaking on services and resources.

Carrie Gibson, CSR, of Cauthen & Associates, Court Reporting & CART Service, providing CART (captioning) services for our meetings.



August 12 Meeting Summary

Resources for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People

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

At the August 12 chapter meeting, Jennifer Clark, Manager of the Dallas Hearing Foundation, described the Foundation's mission and services and ran through a list of available resources. Jennifer has managed the Dallas Hearing Foundation for 12 years and has a college-age daughter with bi-lateral cochlear implants. Jennifer encouraged hard of hearing people to advocate for themselves.

Dallas Hearing Foundation is a needs-based nonprofit that works with children and adults with hearing loss in the greater Dallas area, across the U.S., and in nations around the world. DHF services include surgeries, audiological services and therapies, hearing aids and accessories, and cochlear implants. Surgeries are performed at the Dallas Ear Institute at Medical City. The surgeons and the anesthesiologists donate their services to Dallas Hearing Foundation patients.

The Dallas Hearing Foundation follows HUD low-income guidelines. However, income qualifications are flexible. DHF works with schools and with Medicaid to assure no kids "fall through the cracks." Since DHF stepped in, Plano police officers now receive up to 16 hours of deaf/hard of hearing training. One Plano 9-1-1 operator has hearing loss. Several operators know ASL.

The Dallas Hearing Foundation has a monthly meeting called the Lone Star Cochlear Clan where people considering cochlear implants mingle with people who have them. DHF also has a deaf teens group with deaf and hard of hearing adult mentors. The group discusses relationships and other topics. The teens learn to advocate for themselves. At Six Flags Over Texas, some of the teens received a Flash Pass, an \$80 dollar value for four people, as a perk.

DHF follows up with people who have come through their program to note their successes. November 4th is the Dallas Hearing Foundation's annual gala at the Dallas Hall on Dragon. Tickets are \$175.00. If money is an issue, Jennifer can sometimes get sponsors for people she thinks should attend.

The Dallas Ear Institute has a Fort Worth office at 3400 North Tarrant Parkway, Suite 120, Fort Worth 76177. Those approved for hearing aids can get them there. No surgeries are performed at the Fort Worth office yet.

JENNIFER'S RESOURCES LIST:

- The Dallas Hearing Foundation acts as a resource clearinghouse and directs people where to go.
- Texas Workforce Solutions provides free tuition to any state-funded college in Texas up to a Ph.D. for people with a certain level of hearing loss.
- STAP (Specialized Telecommunications Assistance Program) helps people with a disability that interferes with their access to telephone networks purchase specialized equipment or services.
- Texas House Bill 490 relates to health benefit plan coverage for children up to age 18 for hearing aids or cochlear implants.
- Starting September 1, 2023, if an infant fails the newborn screening, a CMV (cytomegalovirus) test is required.
- Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) is a Texas Health and Human Services program for families with children birth to age three with developmental delays, disabilities, or medical diagnoses that may impact development.
- AMC offers open caption movies. Open captions appear at the bottom of the screen. Search "AMC open caption movie times." Someone at the chapter meeting said that the cup holder closed captioning devices offered at some movie theaters are pretty much worthless. Another suggested holding it between the knees instead of placing it in the cup holder. If a movie theater is unaccommodating and you are afraid to advocate for yourself, text Jennifer Clark at DHF.
- Texas Hands and Voices is a parent-led non-profit assisting families with deaf or hard of hearing children.
- Childrens' Voice of North Texas in Denton aids families whose child has recently been diagnosed with hearing impairment.

- The Joyful Life Cochlear Implant Fund, headquartered in Colorado, helps the uninsured or underinsured to obtain cochlear implant parts or upgrades.
 - With the SoundPrint smart phone app, users can measure sound levels and find restaurants and venues with quiet to moderate sound levels.
 - Hard of hearing jurors may request a captioner rather than a court reporter.
 - When staying at a hotel, request a Deaf and Hard of Hearing kit at the front desk. Kits usually contain telephone amplifiers and alerting devices for alarm clocks, door knocks, and telephones.
 - Captioned phones like CapTel display captions of everything the caller says.
 - Texas license plates with “I love you” in sign language are available at myplates.com. When registering or renewing your vehicle registration, present a completed Certification of a Communication Impediment form. Law enforcement will know you have a disability which may impede communication. In Texas, deaf or hard of hearing drivers can get a deaf or hard of hearing visor card to carry in their vehicle. <https://hhs.texas.gov/services/disability/deaf-hard-hearing>.
 - Texas apartment landlords, property managers, and property management companies are required to provide deaf/hard of hearing smoke detectors for their deaf/HOH renters.
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A funny thing happened on the way to the HLAA convention

Source: <https://www.hearingloss.org/a-funny-thing-happened-on-the-way-to-our-convention/>

Did you hear about our [HLAA national office] development team’s wild 24-hour road trip to the HLAA 2023 Convention in June? When faced with the possibility of missing the convention, our determined group sprang into action to make it work. The first roadblock was severe weather, which canceled our flights. After waiting for hours at the Philadelphia airport, as helpful ticket agents tried to rebook us, we learned that, unfortunately, no alternative would get us to New Orleans in time.

We were crushed, as none of us wanted to miss this highlight of the year. But it didn’t take long for our can-do spirit to kick in and we pivoted to create a Plan B.

The plan: three volunteers, two staff members, one husband and 24 hours on the road from Philly to New Orleans.... Within 90 minutes, we picked up the van, grabbed sandwiches for the road, and arranged for family to collect our luggage at New Orleans airport and deliver it to our hotel. I still can’t figure how our luggage got a flight but not us....

Thankfully, we arrived safe and sound in New Orleans at 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, just in time for the convention start. And we all agreed that we would happily make that drive all over again.

...It was worth the extra effort getting there. Workshops, social events, the Exhibit Hall and inspiring presentations gave us much-needed in-person rejuvenation.

Start planning now for next year’s convention, June 26-29, 2024, at the beautiful resort setting of **Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass** in Phoenix.

In the meantime, we invite you to consider ways you might get more involved in HLAA’s nationwide community of support. Joining a local chapter can help you feel connected, encouraged and understood. Often, the next step is volunteering and taking on leadership roles with a chapter and the **Walk4Hearing**, to be of service to other people with hearing loss.

By getting involved in this movement HLAA has created, you will not only help yourself, but also set an example for others. HLAA is built on community spirit and empowerment. Your participation demonstrates that people aren’t alone with this invisible disability, and helps spread important hearing health messages to the growing number of people now at risk of hearing loss.

Support your Fort Worth chapter

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

The list is updated monthly.

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

Platinum: *Cauthen & Associates Court Reporting and CART Services (in kind)*

Gold: Steve Tumbry

Silver: Jill DeMoss, Patricia Hindman, Sharon Huber

Bronze: Joan Curran, Yasemi Oxley

Friends: Darlene Liesner, Kevin Medlin, Network for Good

**GIFTS IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM HETREED,
Husband of Dr. Shirley Molenich,**

Given by Stephen J. and Joan S. Boyle, Judith Fitzgerald, Dan White

**The Fort Worth Chapter is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization.
All contributions are tax-deductible.**



Hearing Loss Association of America - Fort Worth Chapter

2023 CHAPTER DONATION FORM

Make checks payable to: **HLAA - Fort Worth Chapter**

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Southern Star Technology provides the assistive listening systems for our HLAA chapter meetings.



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