



# Heard in Fort Worth

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Hearing Loss Association of America – Fort Worth Chapter  
March 2026

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## March 14 Program Assistive Listening Technology

Presented by Kevin Brown, owner, Southern Star Technologies



Kevin Brown will present a practical, engaging program on assistive listening technology—how it works, why it delivers the clearest sound possible, and what people with hearing loss should expect from a well-installed system. He'll break down the real-world benefits of assistive listening in everyday listening environments.

He will include hearing loops, radio frequency systems, infrared systems, Wi-Fi systems, and Auracast (Bluetooth LE). It promises to be a comprehensive overview of available assistive listening systems.

Kevin brings over 13 years of hands-on experience designing and installing assistive listening systems. His background blends technical precision with a deep commitment to accessibility, helping organizations create spaces where people with hearing loss can fully participate. His presentations are clear, approachable, and packed with practical insights that empower attendees to advocate for better hearing access.

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**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.**  
**We have snacks and mingle at 9:30 a.m. and meet at 10:00. Please join us and bring a friend!**  
*We offer real time captioning and assistive listening systems for communication accessibility.*

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## FUTURE PROGRAMS

- April 11 - Fire Safety for People with Hearing Loss - by Greg Schmidt, FWFD Fireman and Paramedic
  - May 9 - Suzanne Asfar, Texas Hands and Voices, serving families with children who have hearing loss
  - June 13 - Elma Torres with Senior Assist and Stephanie Stone with STAR+PLUS
  - July 11 - HLAA National Convention Report by Chapter President Joyce Parlin
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**The DALLAS Chapter of HLAA meets on the THIRD Saturday of each month**  
in room A120 (auditorium) at the Medical City Dallas Heart Hospital  
at 11970 North Central Expressway, Dallas, TX 75243.

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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

Greetings,

March is my favorite month: my sister and I have birthdays, spring break, which usually means a vacation, warm weather to be outdoors, and the beginning of spring!

I love spring flowers - daffodils, tulips, jonquils! I hope spring will bring new and old HLAA friends to our meetings. We have missed so many of you.

Please, feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if the chapter is not meeting the needs you have concerning your hearing loss. Are we providing the education and support you need?

You can email me @ [fortworthhlaa@gmail.com](mailto:fortworthhlaa@gmail.com) or [kjparlin@hotmail.com](mailto:kjparlin@hotmail.com) or you may call or text me at 817.966.1947. I will be on my spring break vacation 3/17 to 3/28. But I will respond when I'm home.

Your input is greatly appreciated!

Joyfully,

Joyce Parlin  
Chapter President

## 2025 Chapter Board of Directors

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## *Heard In Fort Worth*

This newsletter is published by the  
**Fort Worth Chapter of the**

**Hearing Loss Association of America**

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**The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA)** is the leading voice of the growing number of people with—and at risk of—hearing loss in the U.S. We advocate to increase access to care and treatment, break down stigmas through education and awareness, and empower people with hearing loss through a nationwide community of support.

Our work impacts millions, improving the lives of people with hearing loss, and elevating the importance of hearing health and accessible communication through national legislation and public policy and a network of chapters, state organizations, and grassroots efforts.

# Mission to Mars Martin High School

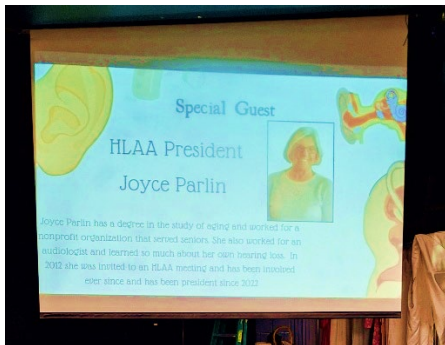


Among the 29 people who attended last month's meeting were three charming students from HOSA, the Health Occupations Students of America, at Martin High School in Arlington. These three, Samia Hossain, Sudipta Sarkar, and Julia Tran, were interested in meeting people with hearing loss and learning more about our experience, needs, and concerns. They participated in the Question and Answer discussion and stayed afterward to visit with our members personally.

They were so eager to share their interest and enthusiasm with other students that they asked if some of our members would speak at their first HOSA "Lunch and Learn" session at Martin

High. Joyce Parlin, Patricia Hindman, and Dan White accepted the offer and enjoyed the opportunity to meet with a significant number of students studying for work in medical professions.

We shared our personal experiences and provided information about causes and effects of hearing loss and about prevention and technology. They rewarded us with flowers, gifts, and pizza. They were wonderful hosts, and we enjoyed it immensely. We were delighted with their interest in hearing loss.



## **HLAA 2026 Convention June 10-12, 2026 | Louisville, Kentucky Early Bird Registration Is Open!**

Join the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) for our HLAA 2026 Convention, where we're all in the Winner's Circle! Get ready to run for the roses as we collaborate, learn and celebrate together at one of the most hearing-accessible events in the United States.

**Early Bird Registration is open through March 16, so reserve your spot today!**

Our Fort Worth chapter can send **three officers and one delegate** at a discounted rate. Contact our chapter president Joyce Parlin to see if we can help you with registration.

The national convention is a life-changing experience!

## Summary of February 14 presentation

### "All Ears"

*Bringing your questions about hearing loss, hearing aids, or implant technology into focus*

*Presented by Erin Washburn, Au.D.*

*Summarized by Darlene Liesner from the meeting transcript by Carrie Gibson, CSR*



In 2014, Dr. Erin Washburn received her Doctorate of Audiology from the University of Arkansas. She was an audiologist on staff for Cochlear Americas, cochlear implant company, for eight-plus years. She has been at Burleson Audiology Clinic since 2024. She is the mother of three. Dr. Washburn spent the entire February 14 meeting answering audience questions.

Burleson Audiology offers the usual hearing aid services. Dr. Washburn serves their cochlear implant patients. The clinic schedules six-month follow-ups. If you have an issue, contact your audiologist ASAP. For cognitive assessment, Burleson Audiology uses Cognivue. Cognivue is a self-guided computer-based program administered when the patient is first fitted for hearing aids. Patients then repeat the Cognivue program in six months. Even wearing hearing aids for a month or two shows a change in cognition.

Eyeglasses with built in hearing aids are available; however, the major hearing aid manufacturers do not sell them. So far, the need has not been great among Burleson Clinic patients, because people take their glasses on and off during the day. Most clinic patients can wear their hearing aids with their glasses. Eyeglasses with wire temples (stems) and thin temple tips (behind the ear) may be more comfortable and keep the hearing aids in the ear. Captify is one brand of eyeglasses with captioning. Tell your eyeglasses provider that you wear hearing aids.

"Hair cells" in the cochlea send sound to the auditory nerve. The auditory nerve sends the sound to the brain. Once damaged, cochlear hair cells do not transmit sound very well or at all. When the auditory nerve is not properly stimulated, it atrophies. A cochlear implant replaces the damaged hair cells in the cochlea. The earlier you have a cochlear implant, while the auditory nerve is still somewhat functioning, the better.

Most surgeons choose the implant they are most familiar with. The brand of implant also depends on the anatomy of the patient's inner ear. All cochlear implants basically function similarly. Learning to hear with a cochlear implant takes time. Inserting the electrode may disrupt the fluid in the cochlea causing dizziness or imbalance.

In Dr. Washburn's opinion, Cochlear Americas has the best customer service, reliability, and technology. Individuals with an outer or middle ear disfunction may benefit from a bone conduction device like the Cochlear BAHA 7 Sound Processor. The device bypasses the outer and middle ear and stimulates the auditory nerve. Patients get access to sound by vibrating the skull bones.

Hearing loss is the # 1 modifiable risk factor for cognitive decline. With hearing loss, the part of the brain responsible for hearing, understanding, and processing speech is not stimulated and begins to atrophy. Hearing aids and cochlear implants stimulate the brain and slow down the decline. If you have cognitive decline or memory concerns, ask your doctor to refer you to a neurologist.

Noise will always be a problem. Do not avoid noise. The more you are in it the more the brain knows how to filter what you want to hear from what you don't. Put your hearing aids in or cochlear implants on and keep practicing. Wear your hearing aids even when you are alone. Your brain needs to hear those house sounds. A basic rule: "Eyes open, ears on."

Lions clubs and Sertoma clubs and most audiology clinics accept old hearing aids to donate to others who can't afford them.

Most hearing aid manufacturers only offer a five-year warranty. Extend the warranty if possible. So long as your older hearing aids still work for you and are not costing a lot for repairs, keep them until they don't.

# Support your Fort Worth chapter

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

**The list is updated monthly, starting with the new year.**

Platinum = \$400+; Gold = \$200 to \$399; Silver = \$100 to \$199

Bronze = \$50 to \$99; Friend = Up to \$49

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**Bronze:** Kris & Linda Dorasami, Susan & Monty Tucker

**Friend:** Linda Hines, Darlene Liesner, Marlynn Smith, Fred & Laneta Terryn

The Fort Worth Chapter is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization.

All contributions are tax-deductible.

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Hearing Loss Association of America - Fort Worth Chapter

## 2026 CHAPTER DONATION FORM

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

Bring donations to the monthly meeting or mail to:

**HLAA - Fort Worth, PO Box 1310, Euless TX 76039.**

**Please take special notice of our mailing address.**

**DO NOT SEND MAIL TO OUR MEETING LOCATION.**

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