



Heard in Fort Worth

Hearing Loss Association of America – Fort Worth Chapter
December 2024

Holiday Party Brunch: December 14

10:00 AM to Noon

Featuring:

Favorite brunch foods.

Fun. Games. A door prize for everyone.

Great HLAA holiday mingling.

We would like a head count to prepare for the party.

Are you coming? How many others are you bringing?

What brunch food item are you bringing?

The chapter will provide meat items.

Reply by text to Janice Parker:

817-995-8323 or 254-420-8079

Or email: fortworthHLAA@gmail.com

Please come even if you can't reply or can't bring food.

**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 offer realtime captioning and assistive listening systems for communication accessibility.

Captioning is provided courtesy of Cauthen & Associates Court Reporting and CART Services.

Nominees for Chapter Officers for 2025:

President: Joyce Parlin; Vice-President: Sharon Huber; Secretary: Ann Marie Flint; Treasurer: Patricia Hindman;
Newsletter Editor: Dan White; Librarian/Historian: Judy Oetting; Program Chair: Melissa Forsythe; Hospitality:
Janice & Delton Parker

The election of officers for 2025 will take place during our December holiday party.

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

Happy Holidays to One & All!

It's a wonderful time of year with much celebration and reflection as well. 2024 has been a good year for the Fort Worth Chapter of HLAA. We've had some great speakers, amazing giving by our members, and many new faces. If you were a "new face" in 2024, we would encourage you to participate in our annual Holiday Party. We have fun, share brunch, win door prizes and install officers for 2025.

If you can let us know you are coming that would be great but if at the last minute you decide to celebrate with us, just come join us. We have never had a party with too little food!

As I reflect on the year, I would like to thank those on the board of directors and others who have worked so hard to make the meetings and the events we participated in successful. It takes a group of dedicated volunteers to make this chapter work so well.

With Deep Thanks,
Joyce Parlin
Chapter President

Flying Soon? Helpful Tips from Kevin Medlin

Our member Kevin Medlin, who is late-deafened, recently had to fly to Denver on business. He called the American Airlines disability group in advance. They printed DEAF on his ticket and told him to inform the gate agent, which would allow him to get preboarded. At the gate, the agent told Kevin about TSA Cares.

TSA is the Transportation Security Administration. The TSA Cares service can help you avoid the long lines getting through the security system. Kevin says, "You go online to TSA Cares and tell them when you will travel. They will e-mail you and let you know somebody will meet you and help you. If they ask if you need an escort, say yes."

Kevin contacted TSA Cares for the return trip from Denver. "The TSA Cares person took me to the gate agent at American Airlines and, once I was there, they were able to tell me if there was a change."

"I didn't know TSA Cares was available. It was awesome. It took away all the tension of making the trip. It was easy. I had never heard of TSA Cares before, and now I'm trying to tell everybody about it."

2024 Chapter Board of Directors

President: Joyce Parlin (kjparlin@hotmail.com)
Vice-President: Kevin Medlin (mysilentpew@gmail.com)
Secretary: Ann Marie Flint (ann.flint2@icloud.com)
Treasurer: Patricia Hindman (patricia.hindman16@gmail.com)
Newsletter Editor: Dan White (daniel.white761@gmail.com)
Librarian/Historian: Judy Oetting (judyoetting@earthlink.net)
Program Chair: VACANT
Hospitality: Janice & Delton Parker (jandelparker@att.net)

Heard In Fort Worth

This newsletter is published by the
**Fort Worth Chapter of the
Hearing Loss Association of America**
Website: www.hearinglossfortworth.com
Email: fortworthHLAA@gmail.com
Mailing address: Box 1310, Euless TX 76039
Telephone: 817-966-1947 or 817-228-8041



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.

November 9 Program Summary:
North Texas Veterans Administration Audiology Services
Presenter: Sarah Fray, Au.D.

Summarized by Darlene Liesner from the meeting transcript by Carrie Gibson, CSR, of Cauthen & Associates.

Sarah Fray, Au.D. grew up as a military “brat.” She has been an audiologist at the Fort Worth Veterans Administration Clinic since 2019. She got her undergraduate degree from the University of North Texas and her doctorate from the University of Texas at Dallas. She did her externship at the San Diego Veterans Administration.



At the November 9 meeting, Dr. Fray gave a general overview of audiological services provided by VA North Texas and discussed the difference between the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and the Veterans Benefits Association (VBA). She answered audience questions throughout.

There are many ways to be eligible for VA services. Just being a veteran may not qualify you. The most obvious qualification is having a specific disability which is service-connected. Veterans with several service-connected conditions receive individual disability ratings for each issue and a combined disability rating up to 100%. Viet Nam veterans “boots on the ground” refers to veterans physically stationed on the Vietnam land mass. “Boots on the ground” benefits are related to Agent Orange exposure.

Eligibility can also depend on income level. If it has been a long time since you have tried to receive VA services, try again. Take your DD214 separation paperwork and any service records to an enrollment/eligibility window at the Fort Worth VA Clinic.

Audiology is a specialty care clinic. Veterans whose hearing loss/tinnitus is not service related may have a small copay. The four main audiology clinics in North Texas are Fort Worth, Dallas, Bonham, and Tyler. Fort Worth and Tyler are Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC). They are smaller clinics which provide some services and no inpatient care. The Fort Worth VA Clinic has thirty days to treat a veteran, or the VA may send them for Community (outside) Care. Dallas and Bonham are full inpatient medical centers.

The VA works with five of the six major hearing aid manufacturers - Phonak, Signia, Oticon, Starkey, and ReSound - not Widex. The VA fits only premium, top-of-the-line hearing aids. Each device comes with a 180-day trial period and a three- year manufacturer’s warranty.

Even if the hearing aid is outside of warranty, the VA still services it at no charge. **Vets are eligible for new hearing aids every four years.** Hearing aids that are lost or damaged beyond repair are replaced for free. The VA provides assistive listening devices, tinnitus maskers, and more.

The Fort Worth Veterans Administration Clinic is at 2201 S.E. Loop 820, Fort Worth 76119. They have seven audiologists and three technicians. The Clinic primarily tests hearing and fits hearing aids. Miranda Joneson supervises the Clinic tinnitus management program. Using the VA Video Connect platform Dr. Joneson gives an overview of tinnitus, tinnitus management strategies, and more. The Clinic does not remove ear wax, per se. Go to a VA clinic that provides primary care or the Dallas VA Medical Center.

The Dallas Center provides cochlear implants. The surgeries are done at U.T. Southwestern Medical Center. All the programming and follow-up are done at the Dallas VA Medical Center. Community Care may apply. For example, a Grand Prairie resident can possibly get their programming and follow-up in Fort Worth. An audiologist at the Dallas VA Medical Center tests balance function.

The Veterans Health Administration serves veterans already established in the system. They aid veterans who are receiving care for service-connected disabilities. The Veterans Benefits Association is responsible for the disabled veteran. They oversee the process of connecting a disability to military service. After filing a claim, a veteran takes a compensation and pension exam for any disability they want to have rated by the VA. A package is created. Based on the C & P exam and the service treatment record, a medical provider gives an opinion. In the case of no service treatment record, the provider bases their opinion on the exam and forwards the claim to the regional office.

A board decides if the issue is more or less likely related to military service. The board assigns a percentage based on disability. The percentage receives a monetary number. Using a formula, the disabilities added up become the veteran's Total Service Connection.

When determining hearing and tinnitus compensation, a provider looks for the service entry and exit hearing tests. If there is no exit test, the provider may consider a veteran's Military Occupational Specialty (MOS). Infantry? Artillery? Was there toxic exposure? To qualify for disability compensation, a veteran must have hearing loss at certain thresholds.

The North Texas Veterans Administration system is the second largest in the United States. Based on volume, tinnitus and hearing loss are the number one and two service-connected disabilities.

Contacts: Fort Worth VA Audiology (817) 730-0179. Benefits counselors (800) 252-8387.

See HLAA's redesigned website

New site designed to help growing number of people with hearing loss

As the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) marks 45 years as the leading voice of the growing number of people with, and at risk of, hearing loss, we now have a powerful new tool to help us all connect, support and empower more people in need: HLAA's completely redesigned website at www.hearingloss.org.

It includes updated, easy-to-navigate resources and features to educate and inform, advocate for change and break down barriers in our community and across the nation.

- Visit our new **Find Help** and **Understanding Hearing Loss** pages, designed to get users to the information they need quickly.
- Want to invite someone to join our HLAA community? See the **Get Involved** page for all the ways to join HLAA's hearing health movement.
- If you're feeling apprehensive about holiday gatherings, check out the socializing strategies and resources on our **Living Well with Hearing Loss** page.

It's a work in progress. We'll continue adding more resources, pages and functionality to our new website as we go, so stay tuned!

Be sure to tell us what you think at inquiries@hearingloss.org.

Source: www.hearingloss.org.

PS from Dan White:

The new website includes a great new section of resources for state and chapter HLAA leaders. Register for the new chapter leaders' portal and check it out. It's very beneficial for all aspects of organization, operations, governance, requirements, forms, ideas, communications, fundraising, resource sharing, and many other aspects. Like the rest of the new website, it is still in development, dynamic and changing.

Future Programs:

January 11	Megan Bozarth	Asst. VP of Customer Programs. DFW airport
Feb 8	Connetta Mosley	AuD. Helped Melissa with rehab through her most recent Cochlear Implant.
March 8	Amy Gonzalez	Physical Therapy - balance and hearing loss
April 12	Janet Standifer	Dementia in Perspective

Support your Fort Worth chapter

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

The list is updated monthly. 2024 Gifts:

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),
Sharon Huber, Gerald Tye

Gold: Richard Neely, Yesemi Oxley, Steve Tumbry, Elsa Vargas

Silver: Erlinda Gibbons, Patricia Hindman, Leslie Kilton, Jill DeMoss, Ken Parlin, Andy Ybarra

Bronze: Grace Cromwell, Mariam Gore, Janice and Delton Parker

Friends: Jane Cull, Joan Curran, Kris Dorasami, Darlene Liesner,
Judy Oetting, Fred & Laneta Teryn

**GIFTS IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM HETREED,
Husband of Dr. Shirley Molenich,
Given by Dr. Marie Kelly**

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

Hearing Loss Association of America - Fort Worth Chapter

2024 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.

Name: _____

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Lisa Cauthen



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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.

Kevin Brown

kevin@SouthernStarTechnology.com
214-614-8388

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



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