



Heard in Fort Worth

Hearing Loss Association of America – Fort Worth Chapter
July 2025

July 12 Program

Ear and Brain Workouts: Auditory and Listening Training

Presented by Carol Cokely, PhD, Clinical Professor and AuD Program Head
School of Behavioral & Brain Sciences at the University of Texas at Dallas

“Workouts are not just for your abs.” Manage your hearing loss. Make the best use of the hearing you have. Optimize speech/auditory perception. Develop new auditory skills. Go beyond amplification. *These are just a few of the highlights of this presentation.*

Dr. Cokely teaches courses in adult aural rehabilitation and research methods, coordinates the AuD independent-research requirement, and directs independent research projects. Each year, she co-directs the Summer Intensive Aural Rehabilitation Conference (SIARC), a five-day program that brings state of the art rehabilitation techniques to adults with hearing loss and their families and provides an excellent learning forum for graduate students.



Dr. Cokely earned a B.A. degree from Queens College of the City University of New York, an M.A. degree from Northwestern University, and a Ph.D. from Indiana University.

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 real time captioning and assistive listening systems for communication accessibility.

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

Future Programs

August: Joyce Parlin will report on the HLAA national convention in Indianapolis

September: Cochlear Corporation Representative Ali Castillo

October: Med El Corporation Representative Janet Lane

NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

We are extremely grateful for the financial support we receive for our newsletter from our sponsors.

We have some new ones! Please see our sponsor list on page 7.

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 Independence Day!

As I write this piece on July 4th, anticipating a golf cart parade, a family picnic and fireworks, I'm thankful for our country and the freedoms we have, for our founding fathers and their expertise in drafting the Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, and Constitution.

For the many who have served in branches of government and the military, I'm grateful for their sacrifices to maintain our freedom. I'm also thankful for my daddy, who served in WWII and taught me patriotism! Some of my fondest memories are of watching him march in July 4th parades.

The chapter board had a great meeting recently. Thank you to each of them for their time and talents in keeping the Fort Worth chapter moving forward and growing. If you have a desire to be more involved in the chapter, please speak with one of us. Our chapter has many hidden talents, I'm sure.

Joyfully,

Joyce Parlin
Chapter President

Will you serve on Mayor's Committee on Persons with Disabilities?

Kevin Medlin served on the Mayor's Committee representing people with hearing loss or deafness.

Kevin's passing away in May leaves a vacancy on the Committee. The position is influential because it brings hearing loss needs, concerns, and ambitions to the attention of the city.

If you are a resident of Fort Worth and are possibly interested serving in this capacity, please send email to fortworthHLAA@gmail.com and state your qualifications.

2025 Chapter Board of Directors

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Heard In Fort Worth

This newsletter is published by the
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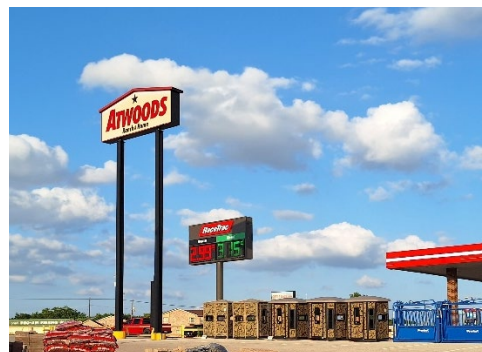


The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) is the leading voice of the growing number of people with—and at risk of—hearing loss in the U.S. We advocate to increase access to care and treatment, break down stigmas through education and awareness, and empower people with hearing loss through a nationwide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

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

Help with Our Chapter Fundraiser

HOTDOG DAY SALE



*6001 Lake Worth Blvd/Jacksboro Hwy, Fort Worth, just inside the NW Loop 820
right behind the RaceTrac gas station at Roberts Cut Off Road*

Saturday, July 19, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For our chapter fundraiser, Atwoods will GIVE us the hotdogs, buns, and drinks *FREE!* It's a wonderful fundraising opportunity for our chapter.

Each customer gets two hotdogs and buns and a drink. We sell them for just one dollar, and we get to keep the dollar. *It's free money!* Atwoods will even donate \$100 to our chapter. We will add condiments: mustard, ketchup, relish, and onions.

In addition, we can sell chips and cookies at our expense and keep those profits as well.

We will have a shaded booth near the entrance. Melissa Forsythe will bring a large fan. Atwoods will provide the grill and an ice chest and will help with setup and clean up.

Volunteers are needed to greet people, grill the hotdogs, sell our own items, distribute food, collect money, assist in general, and assist with setting up and cleaning up.

We need volunteers in two shifts: 9:30 to Noon and Noon to 2:30. Any other time you can help or provide relief will be welcome.

Please sign up to volunteer by sending email to daniel.white761@gmail.com or by signing up at our chapter meeting this Saturday. Just give your name and the time you'll be there.

This will be a fun event, good team building, and profitable for our chapter.

This fundraiser will support our general chapter expenses: meeting room rent, storage rent, website domains and hosting, paper and printing, booth fees at events, refreshment serving items, office supplies, brochures and promotional materials, and newsletter distribution.

Please sign up and volunteer a bit of your time to help support your HLAA chapter.



June 14 Program Summary:

See, Hear, Connect: Assistive Tech for All

Presenter: Erineka Alexander, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Technology Specialist

*Summarized by Darlene Liesner from the meeting transcript
provided by Brandy Walthall of Cauthen & Associates Court Reporting and CART Services*

Erineka Alexander, a cochlear implant recipient herself, is a Deaf and Hard of Hearing Technology Specialist with Texas Health and Human Services, covering Region 3B (Fort Worth and surrounding counties). Erineka evaluates a hard of hearing employee's workplace and recommends technology which can probably benefit the employee. However, you need not be employed to take advantage of DHH services.

At the June 14 meeting, Erineka, via PowerPoint, described a host of alerting devices and real-time transcription applications.

Some extra loud alarm clocks come with telephone signalers and bed shakers. Alarm clocks for the hard of hearing also come in travel-size. AC powered smoke detectors with Smart Strobe have separate flash patterns for smoke and for carbon monoxide. Apartment managers are required to provide hard of hearing renters with visual smoke detectors. Hard of hearing home dwellers may contact Erineka for help with purchasing a visual smoke detector. Bedside smoke alarms with a bed shaker may also be set to detect the doorbell, baby crying, and other sounds.

Some weather alerting devices may include strobe, bed shaker, captions, and voice. The Midland NOAA Weather Alert Radio talks.

WEATHER APPS:

- **MyRadar** provides various weather alerts. Users may select which types of weather events they want to be notified about. Closed captioning can be enabled through your device's Accessibility settings. Free.
- **NOAA Clime Weather Radar Live.** Free. Available in the iPhone App Store.
- **NOAA Live Weather Radar Storm Tracker and Live Radar Map.** Free for iPhone.
- **AccuWeather Weather Forecast** is free for iPhone. Subscribe to Premium or Professional level service.
- **AccuWeather Weather Radar** is free for Android.

In case of an emergency, make sure you have all your hearing accessories with you, and be sure your batteries are charged.

CLOSED CAPTIONING APPS:

- **Taptic app.** Choose the sounds you want the Taptic app to detect. Receive real-time transcriptions. Notification. Flashlight. Vibration. Send a message to play out loud. *Basic* is free, or subscribe to the upgraded version. tapticapp.com. [Continued on the next page]

- **The Safeware wrist band** vibrates for calls, alarms, timers, messages, baby monitors, alarm clocks, and smart security systems. Best when attached to a smart watch.
- **Ava (www.ava.me)**, an app for phone or computer, enables real-time live captions. Powered by AI, Ava uses your device's microphone to "listen" to what's being said. Ava is available on iOS (Apple) and Android, the Web, and Desktop App with a subscription.
- **Live Transcribe** is a mobile app for real-time captioning developed by Google for the Android operating system. Google Live Transcribe for Android is free. Apple also has a free version. You can subscribe to premium features. Live Transcribe provides live captioning of spoken audio, including podcasts in seventy languages.
- **Amazon Fire TV Stick** can pair with your cochlear implants or hearing aids. Plug the Fire TV Stick into your TV, connect to WiFi, and stream movies, TV episodes, sports, news, and more. You can also pair your devices directly to a certain brand of smart tv.
- **NuCaption** closed caption eyeglasses have tiny microphones that listen and transcribe speech into text in real-time.
- **Convo** is on-demand ASL interpreting. Businesses or services provide a QR code. A quick scan connects the deaf user to a live interpreter. The Deaf user can also make phone calls with Convo Video Relay Service.
- The **InnoCaption** app offers real-time captioning of phone calls. Make outgoing calls from your laptop with InnoCaption's **DeskView** web streaming portal. Free. Federally funded.
- **CapTel, CaptionCall, and ClearCaption** are three popular captioned phones. Voice messages and conversations are saved. The FCC, under the ADA, pays for these free captioned phones. Use these phones with your landline, cell phone, or VoIP. Make and receive calls with captions with the CaptionCall Mobile App for iPad. CaptionCall only works with iOS (Apple) products.
- **Otter.ai** offers real-time transcription. Posts may be edited.
- **Rogervoice** allows the deaf and hard of hearing to make phone calls. The app is available 24/7. Type-to-Speech: type what you want to say, and Roger speaks for you. Free. FCC Certified. Available on iPhone and Android.
- **LiveCaptions** (Beta) allows real-time transcription of audio on mobile phones. LiveCaptions will appear for audio in FaceTime, podcasts, and during conversations. Live captioning often in Beta may not be fully polished or perfectly accurate. Available on Android and iPhone.
- Designed for live performances, the **GalaPro** app delivers individual real-time closed captioning and audio description to the user's own mobile device. Free from the App Store or Google Play. New users need to register when you download the app. For Theater, set your phone to airplane mode and connect to the GalaPro Wifi network right before the show starts.

Erineka answered audience questions. After the meeting she gave out her business cards and helped several individuals.

Frustrated by Hearing Aid Battery Packaging?

HLAA Communications/July 2, 2025

You're not alone. A recent bill to protect children has some unintended results.

Since 2024, hearing aid battery packages have become notoriously difficult for users to open, often requiring sharp scissors, strength and dexterity. Although frustrating, there are some valid reasons for the changes—mostly related to safety, longevity and regulatory concerns, although disagreement remains about implementation and unintentional adverse effects.

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) represents millions of Americans with, and at risk of, hearing loss, and we've heard from many people negatively impacted by these new standards. It may help to understand what led to them, their purpose, and steps you can take.

Read the rest of the story at <https://www.hearingloss.org/frustrated-by-hearing-aid-battery-packaging/>

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; Friend = Up to \$49

Gold: Sharon Huber

Silver: Anonymous, Kris & Linda Dorasami, Patricia Hindman, Dao Ly

Friend: Darlene Liesner

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF KEVIN MEDLIN

Lanny and Jill DeMoss, Patricia Hindman, Darlene Liesner, Dan White

IN-KIND GIFT

Captioning by Cauthen & Associates Court Reporting and CART Services

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.

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See our new Sponsors listed below.

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