



# Heard in Fort Worth

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Hearing Loss Association of America – Fort Worth Chapter  
July 2024

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July 13 Program:



## 2024 Convention Report presented by Chapter President Joyce Parlin

Hear Joyce share about all the workshops she attended, the chapter leader training, the hearing loss research symposium, the technology vendors, and her networking with others with hearing loss. These things will benefit our members, our visitors, and our chapter.

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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.

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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### Our Future Programs

- Aug. 10:** Serpil Anthony, Office of Emergency Management. On Code Red, Communication Connection, and the Red Cross. All three programs provide services for people with hearing loss.
  - Sept. 14:** Jessie Roberts, mother of an eight-year-old son with bilateral cochlear implants. On her experiences and the organizations that help children with hearing loss.
  - Oct. 12:** Lisa Bixler, Cityview Audiology. On a new tinnitus treatment.
  - Nov. 9:** Sarah Fray, Au.D., Worth Veterans Clinic. On services for veterans with hearing disorders.
  - Dec. 14:** Holiday party
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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,

Here's hoping you had a great celebration of our nation's Independence! Even with all the turmoil in our country and the world, we have much to be thankful for.

One of the things that I'm thankful for was the opportunity to go to the HLAA National Convention. Thank you to the chapter for helping with some of my expenses. The Sheraton Grande at Wild Horse Pass south of Phoenix was beautiful, but a little too warm to be outside much in late June! I had three days of workshops, chapter leader training, a research symposium, visits with vendors, and the opportunity to meet new friends with hearing loss from all over the country. I'll try to condense my thoughts and things learned for the July 13<sup>th</sup> HLAA meeting.

Come and hear where the 2025 convention will be, and begin to plan to attend. It is an amazing opportunity.

Joyce Parlin  
Chapter President



HLAA Executive Director Barbara Kelley  
with Joyce Parlin

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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.

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## Heard In Fort Worth

This newsletter is published by the  
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Membership has its benefits. Please join or renew. Go to [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org) and click on "Membership" to join.



## I'm no Dick Tracy... (but I do wear an Apple Watch)

*Posted by our Chapter Vice President Kevin Medlin on his website [mysilentpew.com](http://mysilentpew.com), June 7, 2024. RepPrinted by permission.*

From my earliest days, I have been aware of smart watches. Detective Dick Tracy wore a version of a smart watch and communicated with police headquarters via a two-way radio/watch in the 1960's version of the daily Dick Tracy comic strip. The concept of communicating through a wristwatch was a futuristic dream for children born during the Eisenhower administration, but then, there have been a lot of technological breakthroughs during the next sixty years.

Fast forward to the present day. I have become deaf in the last few years. To help me adjust to the silence around me, one of my children bought me an Apple Watch. Now, when I receive a text message, the watch vibrates to alert me to the incoming message. It is also linked with my doorbell, and when a visitor arrives, a message appears on the screen indicating that "someone is at your door." Very handy for a deaf guy.

I am doing a disservice to Apple Watches here. There are many really nice features available to those wearing an Apple Watch, but the doorbell and text messages have been the most prominently used benefits for this wearer...until now.

On the Friday before Memorial Day, I returned to my home office late in the day to do some computer work. I was not feeling my best that day, a little light-headed and sluggish, but I had attributed those symptoms to the aftereffects of donating blood. On Wednesday of that week, I stopped by the American Red Cross and donated my 265<sup>th</sup> unit of blood and, when I was feeling a bit droopy afterward, I just assumed that my symptoms were a result of that donation.

I settled into an office chair and pulled up my email. I was responding via email to a customer when my watch vibrated and flashed a message:

*"Your heart rate has been below forty beats per minute for ten minutes."*

1. I did not realize until that moment that my Apple Watch was monitoring my heart rate.
2. I had no idea what the consequences of a heart rate below forty indicated.

A quick Google search indicated that I should seek some medical help. Maybe not the best decision of my life, but since my wife was out of town at a conference, I drove myself to my doctor's office (less than a mile away). I explained to the receptionist at the doctor's office that I was deaf, alone (my wife being out of town), and that my heart rate was under forty beats per minute. She responded quickly, and I was soon getting an EKG.

The physician on call that afternoon shared the news with me. I would need to get to the nearest emergency room, and I should expect to be admitted. He typed a note to me telling me that I should plan on staying at the hospital until I received a pacemaker. He made a call to one of my daughters and explained the situation. She arranged transportation to the hospital. Friends met me at the hospital and stayed with me until my daughter arrived.

I was admitted. My low heart rate sent me to ICU for monitoring during the holiday weekend, and on the Tuesday after Memorial Day, I received a pacemaker.

Today the cardiologist gave me a post-op exam and cleared me to resume normal activities. What a crazy turn of events! I am truly blessed. I'm no Dick Tracy (but I do wear an Apple Watch), and after having time to contemplate such things over a long weekend in ICU ... I think you should too!

Thanks for listening!

## *June 8 Meeting Summary* **Advanced Bionics Cochlear Implant System**

Katie Revolinski is a Senior Clinical Specialist with Advanced Bionics (AB) cochlear implant company. She works with audiologists and surgeons on the clinical management of the product. At the June 8, 2024, meeting, Katie discussed the Advanced Bionics internal implant and external sound processor, AB resources, and what's special about Advanced Bionics. She answered questions throughout.

The Hi Res Ultra 3D Cochlear Implant is MRI compatible. The number of MRIs an implanted patient may receive is limitless. Because the internal implant magnet rotates, the patient may be scanned lying, sitting, or standing.

Currently using only twenty five percent of the computer chip, the implant has room to grow. It will work with future technology. The implant has two electrodes. The lateral wall electrode sits on the outside wall of the cochlea. The middle scala electrode sits in the middle of the cochlea. AB's Hi Res Fidelity 120 Optima sound processing creates virtual electrodes and stimulates 120 spots on the hearing nerve. The stimulation results in better music appreciation, easier hearing in complex environments, and more frequency access.

The Naida Marvel Cochlear Implant (CI) sound processor was created with Phonak, the hearing aid company. Owned by the same company, Advanced Bionics has access to Phonak's incredible microphone technology and front-end processing. Auto Sense OS is Phonak's automatic sound classification system. Every 200 milliseconds the scene classifier reads the environment and adjusts the sound automatically.

Worn in the opposite ear, AB's Naida Link M hearing aid is compatible with the Naida Marvel CI sound processor. The hearing aid and sound processor "talk" to each other. Together they can stream and connect to smartphones, TVs, and other Bluetooth devices. Attached to the cochlear implant, AB's Acoustic Earhook hearing aid uses the remaining hearing in the implanted ear along with the cochlear implant for more natural hearing and better music appreciation.

Currently Advanced Bionics uses CROS technology for people with one sided deafness. With a CROS hearing aid, a microphone and a transmitter collect sound from the dead ear and wirelessly transmit it to the Marvel CI on the other side. The CROS is an option for those needing a second implant but for some reason cannot or will not get one.

To use your cochlear implant in water, fit your Marvel CI sound processor into the M CI Waterproof Battery and clip the battery on to your hat, goggles, armband, or waist. The Aqua Mic Waterproof Headpiece has a sound processor microphone in it.

Phonak's *Roger* microphones reduce background noise and transmit the speaker's voice directly into hearing aids or cochlear implants. *Roger* is compatible with AB's cochlear implants and hearing aids. Although *Roger* is a Phonak product, it can work with many devices by using extra adapters and so on. The new *Roger On* microphone works with almost all hearing aids and cochlear implants. A digital FM system, *Roger* provides greater speech clarity. The name *Roger* is an acronym: R.O.G.E.R. = Receive order given. Expect results.

Control your AB hearing aid and cochlear implant volume, change programs, and check battery and microphone status with AB's smartphone app. Marvel CI patients now have access to remote programming. You can have a cochlear implant programming appointment with programming changes and implant management via a smartphone app - everything you can get in your doctor's office.

Check out the Advanced Bionics website, [advancedbionics.com](http://advancedbionics.com). Find aural rehabilitation activities, practices, apps and more on their rehab website, [hearingsuccess.com/intro](http://hearingsuccess.com/intro). AB's Success Team helps with troubleshooting, rehab, and follow-up appointments. AB offers a virtual appointment between surgery and activation to help patients get comfortable with the product and equipment and download apps.

Consumer Specialists (outreach people) provide the community and candidates information and guidance in choosing a cochlear implant company. These Consumer Specialists are your best resource for making an educated decision. Volunteer CI Mentors are CI wearers who have gone through the process themselves.

[Thehearingjourney.com](http://Thehearingjourney.com) is a message board featuring hundreds of AB implant recipients. Log on. Ask questions. Facebook also has a website for CI recipients where you can ask questions. Candidacy for a cochlear implant is 60 % or less word recognition and 60 dB or greater pure tone average in the better ear. Success with a cochlear implant depends on the auditory nerve having had some stimulation over time.

Contact the various cochlear implant companies yourself or through your audiologist. A rep from each company will visit you. For Advanced Bionics, contact Connecthearing, AB's sister company, for a form. Complete the form and an AB rep will visit you. Rehab-auditory training can help you get the most out of your cochlear implant.

## SIARC: UTD's Summer Intensive Audiology Revitalization Conference

SIARC is a unique opportunity for adults with hearing impairment and their communication partners to strengthen their communication abilities and experience assistive listening technology in real-world scenarios. The conference will be held July 21-25 (Sunday through Thursday) at the Callier Center for Communication Disorders in Richardson.

Participants try out the latest hearing aids and various assistive listening devices in restaurants and other venues. These devices work with hearing aids or cochlear implants.

Registration is \$400 per couple or \$200 per individual. **Scholarships are available.** The fee includes all classes, assessments, activities, and meals. Registration deadline is July 19.

Contact Dr. Linda Thibodeau, Professor, Au.D. Program. 972-883-3463. Email thib@utdallas.edu.

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### *Support your Fort Worth chapter*

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

***The list is updated monthly. 2024 Gifts:***

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**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  
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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**

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



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