



Heard in Fort Worth

Hearing Loss Association of America – Fort Worth Chapter
August 2024

August 10 Program: Office of Emergency Management Services Presented by Serpil Anthony, Emergency Management Officer

The Office of Emergency Management promotes several programs, including CodeRed, Community Connect, and DeafLink. The office also collaborates closely with other community agencies, and some of those community partners may come with her.

Red Cross offers to install bed shaker fire alarms free of charge for residents with cochlear implants, hearing aids, or people who are deaf. AHAS is a company that manages DEAFLink, which sends out warning messages in ASL with text and with voice.

Serpil “Sappy” Anthony is a dedicated professional at the Fort Worth Office of Emergency Management. She says her mission is to reduce the risk to city departments, employees, and residents. By assessing vulnerabilities before, during, and after disasters and emergencies, closing gaps in preparedness and response, and demonstrating a passion for assisting vulnerable groups, she is making a significant impact on the community.

In September 2023, Sappy graduated from the University of North Texas with a BS in emergency administration and planning and a minor in Mandarin. Prior to her current role, she served for 11 years as a Staff Sergeant (SSG) in the United States Army.

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.

Our Future Programs

- Sept. 14:** Jessie Roberts, mother of an eight-year-old son with bilateral cochlear implants, speaking on her experiences and the organizations that help children with hearing loss.
 - Oct. 12:** Lisa Bixler, Cityview Audiology, speaking 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.

Senior Synergy / Empowering Seniors

Thursday, Aug 29th, Round Up Inn at Will Rogers Center

”Join us for this epic 2024 combined event known as Empowering Seniors. which is a health and lifestyle expo for boomers, seniors, and caregivers! Good times are ahead...”

This Tarrant County-sponsored event is our biggest outreach and information opportunity. It will be jammed with other exhibitors, workshops, entertainment and attendees.

For event information, go to <https://www.tarrantcountytx.gov/en/senior-synergy-and-empowering-seniors.html>.

For registration, go to <https://www.tarrantcountytx.gov/en/senior-synergy-and-empowering-seniors/attendee-registration.html?linklocation=Button%20List&linkname=Attendee%20Registration>

If you register as an attendee, you will get a free lunch. REGISTER NOW!

Our Booth at TAGS Conference

Joyce Parlin, Patricia Hindman, and Daniel White staffed our booth at the Tarrant Area Gerontology Society conference, July 16th at the Hurst Convention Center. Attendees received information about HLAA and hearing loss.



Please note our mailing address!

Recently we received a generous donation, and we are most grateful!

Unfortunately, it was delayed in reaching us because it was sent to the church where we meet and got misplaced.

Please send any postal mail to us at: PO Box 1310, Euless TX 76039.

Thank you, friends, for your support.

2024 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), 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

July 13 Meeting Summary

2024 Convention Report

presented by Chapter President Joyce Parlin

Summarized by Darlene Liesner from the meeting transcript by
Carrie Gibson, CSR, of Cauthen & Associates, Court Reporting & CART Service

Chapter President Joyce Parlin presented highlights from the HLAA 2024 Convention she attended in Phoenix, June 26 - 29. She discussed the chapter leader training, workshops she attended, the hearing loss research symposium, the technology vendors, and networking with others with hearing loss.

At the Leadership Training session for HLAA chapter and state leaders, the Rochester, New York Chapter talked about their professional advisory committee: professors, audiologists, ENTs, and other community members. The New Yorkers also said that each member of their chapter has a role in the chapter.

The Industry-Consumer Alliance for Accessible Technology brings together technology developers with consumers who have hearing loss to create more accessible technology. See more about ICAAT at hearingloss.org/programs-events/icaat.

Fundraising: Chapter and state leaders discussed fundraising. Some chapters have done presentations and asked for contributions. Seventy-three-year-olds with IRAs are required by Uncle Sam to take a minimum distribution. They may donate part of their required minimum distribution to a non-profit like HLAA Fort Worth tax free. Joyce needs help now filling out a North Texas Giving Day application and a profile with the North Texas Community Foundation.

Workshops: Joyce attended several educational workshops. The Auracast broadcast audio enables an audio transmitter like a smartphone, laptop, TV, or public address system to broadcast audio directly to Bluetooth audio receivers like hearing aids, cochlear implants, earbuds, and other Auracast-enabled devices. Auracast is still in the beta phase. Currently only the high-end ReSound Nexia hearing aid has the Auracast receiver. Auracast improves the signal to noise ratio. An Auracast Bluetooth listening system would be much cheaper than a looping system.

Representatives from AT&T, Verizon, and other communication companies presented “Wireless Inclusion for All: Finding Mobile Devices and Features that Work for You.” The Global Accessibility Reporting Initiative, gari.info, is a website for developers. Manufacturers may submit their devices. Assistive technology app developers may submit their apps. The website includes government mobile accessibility policy.

AT&T has developed a 5G helmet for deaf and hard of hearing football players so they can see the next football play inside their helmet.

Created by CAN Mobilities, CAN Go is a smart cane with fall detection, health reports, activity tracking, GPS, a flashlight, and emergency-calling features.

Google’s Project Euphonia is working to make speech recognition software like Google Assistant more responsive to people with speech disorders.

Joyce got some good tips at the “Advocacy to Meet the Challenge of Air Travel” workshop. When traveling, self-identifying that you have a hearing loss is important. One place you can self-identify is when you purchase your ticket on the website. TSA and airline accommodations are inconsistent. If you have a problem regarding your disability at TSA or an airline, get the person’s name when you file a complaint. Also, if you have trouble at TSA, ask for a supervisor. Request a support specialist with TSA seventy-two hours in advance if you want someone there to help you. The Air Carrier Access Act was updated in 2024. Unfortunately, there is no deadline as to when it will take effect.

At the General Session, Shanna Ademic credited her optimism for helping her persevere through challenges to reach her goals. Read her book, *Audacious Optimism*.

At the Research Symposium, a panel of mental health and psychology experts discussed the emotional side of hearing loss. Hearing loss can diminish our easy connectedness with other people. Hearing loss can lead to loneliness and isolation. There is a correlation between isolation and premature death. Having one-on-one connections is important.

Loneliness is higher in the hearing loss population. Hearing loss increases the risk of depression and anxiety. People with impaired hearing may withdraw from social gatherings, restaurants, and noisy places and pull inward. Consistently wearing your hearing aids or cochlear implants can reduce depression and anxiety. One question that came up was “When do I self-disclose my hearing loss?” The panel advised self-disclosing right away. Be true to yourself. No shame. No guilt.

Twenty-seven exhibitors attended. All three cochlear implant companies were there, but no hearing aid manufacturers. The Hearing Industries Association, www.betterhearing.org, an organization of manufacturers, will follow up on why.

InnoCaption is a mobile app that captions cell phone calls. It is free for people with hearing loss. Download the InnoCaption app from the Apple Store or from Google Play. It is FCC approved. Joyce and an audience member have found it lacking. Other cell phone captioning apps are available.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association has a lot of good information on its website, asha.org. ASHA is a professional group for speech pathologists and audiologists.

Hearing Brain Centers of America has a magazine and a book called *Preventing Decline*. They have an office in Weatherford.

Research resulting from temporal bone donation may one day provide millions with hearing. See National Temporal Bone Registry. Middle ear implants are safe and effective for patients with certain types of hearing loss. The Esteem by Envoy Medical was the first fully implanted active middle ear device. envoymedical.com.

Joyce closed by affirming that HLAA is a great support organization and that the convention was phenomenal. The HLAA 2025 Convention will be held in Indianapolis, June 12 -14, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday before Father’s Day. There’s a student discount and an “early bird” special.

More Accessible Captions are On the Way!

A new rule adopted on July 18 by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requires television and video captioning display settings to be easier to access within two years.

One of the most common hot-button issues we hear within our HLAA community is frustration about how hard it is to find and adjust captioning display settings.

So many of us with hearing loss spend far too much time in trial-and-error mode looking for those elusive settings to help us understand speech, dialog and sound effects, and customize the text size, font, color and other features. It can seem like an endless, exasperating game of hide and seek...and seek...and seek! How often have you missed most of a TV show or news report while clicking on multiple buttons and adjustment settings without success?

On July 18, the FCC unanimously passed a rule requiring TV manufacturers and multichannel video programming distributors (e.g., cable, satellite) to make caption settings “readily accessible.” That means the Commission will look at the following factors to determine compliance: proximity, discoverability, previewability, consistency and persistence. Entities must comply within two years of publication in the Federal Register, which is expected in the coming months.

This new requirement is the result of a multi-year effort by HLAA and other groups to improve access to captions, which are essential to consumers with hearing loss and other disabilities. We collaborated with NCTA - The Internet and Television Association, National Association of the Deaf (NAD), TDIforAccess, Inc. and Communication Services for the Deaf (CSD) to file a proposal and submit comments to move the issue forward.

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),
Gerald Tye*

Gold: Sharon Huber

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

Bronze: Grace Cromwell, Mariam Gore, Yesemi Oxley

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.

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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

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



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