



Heard in Fort Worth

Hearing Loss Association of America – Fort Worth Chapter
September 2024

September 14 Program:
A Family's Journey with a Son's Deafness
Presented by Jessica Roberts, mother of Scotland Roberts, age 8

Jessie Roberts, mother of an eight-year-old son with bilateral cochlear implants, will speak about her experiences and the organizations that help children with hearing loss.

Join us for an interesting personal story of one family's coping with hearing loss.

“When we first discovered our son’s hearing loss, it was a moment that shifted our world. Like many parents, we never anticipated that our child would face this challenge, and we quickly realized we had a lot to learn.

“Our journey took a significant turn when, at just two years old, our son received bilateral cochlear implants. Now eight years old, he uses a combination of ASL and verbal communication.

“This journey has taught us that hearing loss is just one part of our son’s identity. His resilience, creativity, and joyful spirit shine through in everything he does. We’ve learned to celebrate the small victories, advocate for his needs, and cherish the unique path that life has set before us. And most importantly, we’ve realized that our son’s potential is limitless, defined not by his hearing loss, but by the strength and love that guide him every day.”

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

- Oct. 12:** Lisa Bixler, Cityview Audiology, speaking on a new tinnitus treatment.
Nov. 9: Sarah Fray, Au.D., FW 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!

HLAA was represented at two health & wellness events in August. Thank you to the helpers for these events: Sharon Huber, Linda and Kris Dorasami, Patricia Hindman, and Dan White. It takes a lot of work to set up, talk to people and then break it down. There were many interested people, and new email addresses were added to the growing list. Another thanks to Dan for keeping the email list and writing such great newsletters. **All the help is greatly appreciated!**

An interesting note about my recent trip to Sweden: My husband preached to a small congregation and the room was *looped*. The church rents space from the organization that serves the hearing impaired. It was the first time I heard my husband preach through a looping system.

Joyce Parlin
Chapter President



Swedish loop sign



Row 5 booths at Empowering Seniors event



Joyce, Patricia, and Dan

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



HLAA WEBINAR

Election 2024 - Accessibility and Voting

September 10, 2:00 PM Central Time

Join this informative session and learn how to make sure your voice is heard in the upcoming election. Topics covered will include registering to vote, ensuring your access as a voter, and finding accurate information about issues that impact the hearing loss community.

Webinar registration:

https://hearingloss.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jUiQjPQhQT6zrcBosg9eoA#/registration

City of Arlington Aging Well Expo

Wednesday, September 18, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Esports Stadium, Arlington Expo Center

1200 Ballpark Way, Arlington 76011

VISIT OUR BOOTH! Over 100 vendors & professionals



The Fort Worth Zoo will host its second Deaf Day in partnership with the Sign Language Interpreting Program at Tarrant County College on Saturday, Sept. 21

Deaf Day is designed for the Deaf community and individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing to enjoy a fun-filled day at the Zoo with their families and friends.

American Sign Language interpreters, provided by TCC, will be interpreting our zookeeper chats and will be stationed throughout the Zoo at areas like giraffe feeding and select restaurant and merchandise locations to allow communication access to all our guests.

Deaf Day 2023 was a successful event for the community, and we are thrilled to carry that momentum forward this year.

Please note that these discounted tickets are only valid for Saturday, Sept. 21. For reservations (tickets) and further information, go to:

https://www.fortworthzoo.org/deaf-day?_hsenc=p2ANqtz-

[9xN9b7boLIQH7oo7zo0jsj0m8EF88TQD2aFvPZkEtmK4A8ozYh444fagJKMUSM8Ik1yAQfVxBJMZ97KGCEv71DGTznIA&_hsmi=323377690](https://www.fortworthzoo.org/deaf-day?_hsenc=p2ANqtz-9xN9b7boLIQH7oo7zo0jsj0m8EF88TQD2aFvPZkEtmK4A8ozYh444fagJKMUSM8Ik1yAQfVxBJMZ97KGCEv71DGTznIA&_hsmi=323377690)

August 10 Meeting Summary

Emergency Management Services

presented by EMS Officer Serpil Anthony

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

Both the PowerPoint and the CART (captioning) screens were employed.



Serpil “Sappy” Anthony is an officer with the Fort Worth Office of Emergency Management. She has a BS degree in emergency administration and planning. She was a Staff Sergeant (SSG) in the Army for eleven years. At the August 10 meeting, Sappy began her presentation with the history of federal disaster relief. She went on to tell what emergency management does. The acronym L.I.P. describes the overall function of emergency management. “L” is for *save lives*. “I” is for *stabilize the incident*. “P” is for *protect property*.

Emergency Management increases cooperation and coordination. When a major incident occurs, Fire, Emergency Medical Technicians, Police, Parks and Recreation, and other departments meet at the Emergency Operation Center. They work together to assure the incident runs smoothly, to limit casualties, to limit structural and environmental damage, and to avoid duplication of effort.

The four phases of emergency management are: preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. Preparedness, for example, may include education on alerting devices. Bed shakers, for example, wake the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in case of an emergency. Mitigation means managing or reducing the impact of harmful incidents or potential hazards. Mitigation is long term, like building codes, insurance, training, and exercises aimed at saving dollars. Response is immediate - saving lives, helping victims. Recovery is clean-up and rebuilding which can take a long time.

Community Connect is a free, secure website. Fort Worth residents can enter information about their households to help first responders assist more effectively during an emergency. Here are the information fields to input. *Property* - residence type, fire sprinklers, family emergency meeting place, bedroom locations, hazardous materials locations, gate/door codes. *People* - list of emergency contacts, how many in household? *Needs* - mobility, other functional needs like visual, hearing, mental, another language, medication, medical equipment. *Pets* - pet name, photo, veterinarian. Sign up for Community Connect on any internet-connected device at www.communityconnect.io/info/tx-fortworth. Keep your Community Connect account updated. Dallas will have Community Connect by the end of 2024.

The CodeRED Mobile Alert app sends out warning messages like Stranger Danger, active shooter, biohazards, floods, road closures, and West Nile Virus to Fort Worth residents. Residents may select which notifications to receive, including the National Weather Service option. The app is free, secure, and geolocated. Accommodations are available for residents with accessibility requirements. Create an online account. Keep your information up to date. Register at fortworthtexas.gov/departments/emo/code-red-alerts.

David Cisneros, from San Antonio, has been a certified ASL interpreter for thirty years. He works for **Deaf Link, Inc.** The city of Fort Worth partners with Deaf Link, Inc. to provide the Accessible Hazard Alert System. AHAS sends alert messages before, during, and after an emergency free of charge to registered residents who are Deaf, Blind, Hard of Hearing, or Deaf/Blind. AHAS subscribers receive an accessible alert message in American Sign Language (ASL), English voice, and text. AHAS sends accessible alert messages to internet and video capable devices such as computers, cell phones, smart phones, and tablet computers. AHAS alerts are also Braille reader accessible. Go to www.ftwahasalerts.com. AHAS is primarily for the Deaf who rely on sign language. Some contracts in Colorado, California, and Texas have requested Spanish translations.

Through their “**Sound the Alarm: Save a Life Program**,” the American Red Cross provides free regular fire alarms. For the Deaf or Hard of Hearing they also provide free National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) strobe light alarm clocks with a bed shaker and audible alert and strobe smoke alarms. Go to redcross.org

If your city or county does not have any of these systems, contact your Emergency Management Office, city council, or county commissioner’s office.

Serpil and David answered questions and helped people register.

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, Richard Neely

Silver: Erlinda Gibbons, Patricia Hindman, Leslie Kilton, Jill DeMoss, 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.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

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Donation to Fort Worth Chapter \$ _____

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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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