



Heard in Fort Worth

Hearing Loss Association of America – Fort Worth Chapter
October 2026

October 10 Program: A Hearing Dog for a Pharmacy Student Presented by Elizabeth Brownen

Elizabeth Brownen is a fourth year doctor of pharmacy student at the University of North Texas Health at Fort Worth. She has bilateral hearing loss and cochlear implants. She received her hearing alert service dog, Rock III, from the national nonprofit organization Canine Companions in 2022. Canine Companions breeds, raises, and trains service dogs for adults, children, and veterans with disabilities free of charge to the recipient. Elizabeth will tell us how she received Rock, how he assists her, and how her life has changed since he joined her side.



This is sure to be an engaging program, not only for service dog information but also for the human interest about Elizabeth's student career and plans for the future. Elizabeth's mother, Kim Brownen, is a past president of our HLAA chapter. Be sure to attend this month's meeting.

Bring your family and friends for Elizabeth's inspiring presentation.

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 have snacks and mingle at 9:30 a.m. and meet at 10:00. Please join us and bring a friend!
We offer real time captioning and assistive listening systems for communication accessibility.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| November 14: | Charles Scoma on legislation and advocacy for Texas seniors
<i>Give your input for the Silver-Haired Legislature. Become an advocate.</i> |
| December 12: | Holiday Brunch Party with entertainment |
| January 9: | Shelly Young, program chair, Alzheimer's Association of North Texas |
| February 13: | Allison Schwartz on Basic Sign Language Communication |
| March 13: | Erin Washburn, Au.D. with Burleson Audiology Q & A |
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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,

Some months as I sit down to write this message I have lots to say and other times - oh, no, what do I write about this month? The chapter email provided some thoughts: the interesting requests and strange requests we get in the fortworthhlaa@gmail.com email.

In the month of September, we received three requests to ask our members to be part of a research questionnaire. They consisted of 1. noise in restaurants 2. using mainstream wireless technology as a handicapped person 3. understanding how small businesses select and use payment processing resources. Others were emails from HLAA national requesting paperwork due 10/31, from future speakers requesting information, Bonfire about T-shirt sales, two invitations to participate in other vendor functions, one asking us to partner with their audiology network, etc.

One was of interest - UTA Social Work requesting a letter of support for a grant they are writing on communication with public transportation challenges for deaf and HOH. Some want to clean the building, take care of the landscaping, freshen up our website, etc. The one that brought the biggest smile was, and I quote, "How can we help you get more involved with the HLAA FW chapter?" Opening the chapter email brings many requests, some of interest and some not, but also a big smile and a chuckle.

Joyfully,

Joyce Parlin
Chapter President

2025 Chapter Board of Directors

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Heard In Fort Worth

This newsletter is published by the
**Fort Worth Chapter of the
Hearing Loss Association of America**
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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

Know Your Rights at the Polls

Election Day is November 3, 2026. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) offers guidance about effective communication at polling places, but it's always good to be ready to advocate for yourself if the need arises. Here are three things you can use to prepare yourself (and poll workers) for exercising your rights on Election Day:

1. Know where your polling place is. In Texas, go to <https://votetexas.gov> and make all necessary plans to vote on time.
2. Be prepared to ask for the specific accommodation(s) you might need when you get to your polling place.
3. If you need to report a violation of the accessibility requirements laid out by the ADA or the Help America Vote Act, you can do so by phone (1-800-253-3931) or on the U.S. Department of Justice website.

Source: [https://](https://app.getresponse.com/view.html?x=a62b&co=S2xsMU&m=B5K5dU&mc=IQ&s=B5q60go&u=QQmeu&z=EwFh9J6&pt=view)

app.getresponse.com/view.html?x=a62b&co=S2xsMU&m=B5K5dU&mc=IQ&s=B5q60go&u=QQmeu&z=EwFh9J6&pt=view

Our Chapter Wants Your Voice and Your Vote

Being a member of the Fort Worth Chapter offers several rights and benefits.

- Members have the right to vote on chapter officer candidates and other chapter business. Our chapter board is working on updating our bylaws to protect our legal status and govern our affairs. We will need your vote when the time comes.
- Members also have the right to hold a chapter office, serve on committees, and to serve on the board of directors.
- Members have the right to represent the chapter at the national convention and other venues.

Become a member simply by contributing any amount to the national HLAA organization. National membership confers additional rights and benefits. As an annual HLAA member, you will...

- Make an impact helping millions thrive with hearing loss
- Receive *Hearing Life* magazine, published three times a year*
- Get the latest in hearing news, events and action alerts each month
- Advocate for change through important local and national initiatives

You can donate and sign for membership up at <https://hearingloss.org/get-involved/donate/>. As a member, you will receive the online *Hearing Life* magazine. A donation of \$45 or more will bring you the printed version of the magazine.

For your convenience, we will have donation forms available at our chapter meeting.

Driving with Hearing Loss

Many people with hearing loss drive safely every day. However, good safety planning for those who are deaf or hard of hearing can be very helpful for everyone on the road. The Harding Mazzotti law national firm has a comprehensive created a guide that goes in depth on all of this, and more. It's worth a look. It covers legal and safety issues, basic safety tips, interactions with law enforcement, tools and technology such as advanced driver assistance systems, and how other senses compensate for hearing loss.

Read the website's details about these safe driving tips: Keep your vision sharp. Work with an audiologist. Limit distractions. Plan ahead.

Website: <https://1800law1010.com/driving-with-hearing-loss/>

The AI Revolution in Hearing Health

Smarter Tech, Greater Access

Did you miss this HLAA Research Seminar and Webinar on AI? Artificial intelligence (AI) is poised to transform nearly every aspect of hearing healthcare, from screening and diagnosis to treatment and rehabilitation.

Watch now at https://hearingloss.org/resources/hlaa-2026-research-symposium-ai-revolution-in-hearing-health/?utm_campaign=Hearing+Loss+Association+of+America&utm_content=HLAA+Events+Roundup%2C+September+2026&utm_medium=email&utm_source=getresponse&utm_term=

Other HLAA Resources You May Have Missed

Convention Highlights. Read highlights of the 2026 HLAA National Convention in the June online issue of *Hearing Life* magazine. Go to www.hearingloss.org/resources/hearing-life-e-news-june-2026/

WEBINAR—The Information We Carry: Genetics and Hearing Loss. Go to www.hearingloss.org/resources/webinar-the-information-we-carry-genetics-and-hearing-loss/

Have Tinnitus? Meet Leading Researchers at Dallas Event

From October 27 to 29, Tinnitus Quest will be holding its second annual Hackathon at the Center for BrainHealth in Dallas, bringing together some of the world's leading tinnitus researchers, clinicians, patients, advocates, and research funders to discuss the major challenges facing tinnitus research and how we can accelerate progress towards better treatments.

While much of the Hackathon is a scientific working meeting, on **October 27, from 2 to 5pm**, the event will be open to the public completely free of charge.

For people living with tinnitus, as well as their families and caregivers, **this is a unique opportunity to engage with world leading tinnitus researchers**, hear about the latest developments in research, share their experiences, and ask questions during an open Q&A.

For information and registration, email jack@tinnitusquest.com.

Texas Parks & Wildlife Offers Webinar for Deaf & HH

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) will present a webinar on deaf and hard of hearing accessibility to facilities and events. Whether you are camping in a state park, visiting a fish hatchery, or renewing your hunting license at a law enforcement office, TPWD is committed to outdoor access for all Texans and is making strides every day to increase accessibility to facilities, programs, and services.

In this webinar, TPWD will showcase accessible facilities and outdoor spaces, and talk about how accessibility is included in new parks and projects. Staff will share helpful resources for visitors with disabilities and show you how to use the TPWD website to find what you need. They will also share information about upcoming events designed for people with disabilities.

Called "EXPLORE!", the webinar is also sponsored by the Texas Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services. This webinar will be presented in spoken English and American Sign Language (ASL). Captions and ASL/English interpretation will be provided.

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2026, Noon-1:30 p.m. CDT

To register for the webinar, go to <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7739675011780548698>

Summary of September 12 Presentation

Aging & Disability Resource Center

Presented by Patricia Aguirre, Director

Summarized by Darlene Liesner from the meeting transcript by Carrie Gibson, CSR

Patricia Aguirre, LMSW, MBA, is the Director of the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of Tarrant County. At the September HLAA Fort Worth meeting, Patricia engaged the audience in an interactive dialogue of ADRC services.

The Aging and Disability Resource Center of Tarrant County is a part of the Area Agency on Aging of Tarrant County. ADRC serves people of all ages with all types of disabilities, caregivers, and people wanting to plan in-advance of their need.

ADRC provides information and referrals and works alongside you to identify and connect with the long-term services you need. Services include local and state programs, Medicare, Medicaid, the Area Agency on Aging, Veterans Affairs, and volunteer and nonprofit organizations including services that help people remain in their home.

ADRC helps people find and understand their options. ADRC provides housing information and resources. When looking for housing, the earlier the better. ADRC has a partnership with MHMR of Tarrant County, the local Intellectual and Developmental Disability authority and mental health services. ADRC connects people with agencies that provide ongoing services. ADRC provides information about respite care. It helps people look at options for the care of aging parents.

Call the Aging and Disability Resource Center Monday through Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. An in-person appointment is better. Call 855-937-2237 or 682-207-6107 or email info@tarrantcountyadrc.org.

The Area Agency on Aging is nationwide. The United Way of Tarrant County runs the Area Agency on Aging of Tarrant County to provide help to people who are aging or have disabilities and their caregivers. The Area on Aging Community Attendance Service provides thirty-five hours per week for home health care. You must need help with at least three daily activities. Your income must be below \$2,200 per month. They also look at your savings.

The Area Agency on Aging and Community Action Partners of Fort Worth modify homes and assist veterans with rent and utilities. Community Action Partners has some eligibility requirements. Respite care and home maintenance supplies received through the Area Agency on Aging are for the veteran, all family members, and connected loved ones.

Medical Benefits Counselors walk people through Medicare, Medicaid, and more. The Area Agency on Aging's Ombudsman program oversees nursing homes and assisted living facilities in Tarrant County. An Ombudsman advocates for people in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. The Ombudsman phone number should be posted at the entrance of the facility so you can call anonymously. The Agency provides respite time for caregivers. It provides medical equipment and supplies, home maintenance supplies, grab bars, and ramps. The Agency offers \$200 per month for utilities assistance to people aged sixty and older regardless of income.

Patricia left business cards and flyers.

A Chapter on the Go

Our Chapter hosts an information booth at various events. Most recently we went to the Azle Hometown Senior Event and then to last week's big EMPOWERING SENIORS EXPO at the Will Rogers Center in Fort Worth



Support your Fort Worth chapter

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

The list is updated monthly, starting with the new year.

Platinum = \$400+; **Gold** = \$200 to \$399; **Silver** = \$100 to \$199

Bronze = \$50 to \$99; **Friend** = Up to \$49

Platinum: Anonymous, Patricia Hindman, Sharon Huber

Gold: Kim Brownen, Bennet Jones, Delton & Janice Parker, Andy Ybarra

Silver: Kris & Linda Dorasami, Yolanda Thursby,

Bronze: Darlene Liesner, Susan & Monty Tucker

Friend: Linda Hines, Marlynn Smith, Fred & Laneta Terryn

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

Hearing Loss Association of America - Fort Worth Chapter 2026 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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