



Heard in Fort Worth

Hearing Loss Association of America – Fort Worth Chapter
February 2026



February 14 Program

"All Ears"

Bringing your questions about hearing loss, hearing aids, or implant technology into focus

Presented by Erin Washburn, Au.D.

We previously advertised this program as "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Hearing Loss but Were Afraid to Ask." The program title is different; the concept is the same. Come with your questions. Expect expert answers.



Dr. Erin Washburn graduated with her Doctorate of Audiology from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in 2014. She has been at Burleson Audiology Clinic since August 2024. Prior to that, she worked as a clinical representative for Cochlear Americas for eight years. Dr. Washburn has worked extensively with implant technology, developing a strong specialization in hearing implant solutions. Her professional mission is to improve hearing healthcare awareness among peers and to foster meaningful relationships with her patients by addressing each individual's unique hearing needs.

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.

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM

March 14 Southern Star Technology (Kevin Brown) about audio loop systems

The DALLAS Chapter of HLAA meets on the THIRD Saturday of each month
in room A120 (auditorium) at the Medical City Dallas Heart Hospital
at 11970 North Central Expressway, Dallas, TX 75243.

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 and Happy Valentine's Day!

This year our February meeting falls on Valentine's Day. I'm guessing there will be chocolates and sweets for the meeting. And the celebration of our friendship. We have missed many people on our newsletter email list! We'd love to see you again. I hope you will be with us for the February meeting!

Four members had the privilege of participating in "Tarrant County Salutes Veterans." The chapter was provided with a free non-profit vendor table. We appreciate that very much. We had the opportunity to speak with veterans and spouses about hearing loss. Many veterans have received hearing aids from the V.A. Some, as I originally did, don't wear them as they should. We tried explaining the need to wear your hearing aids all the time. It's always a pleasure to represent the chapter at these events.



See you on Saturday the 14th for a great Q & A with Dr. Erin Washburn and chocolates!

Joyfully,

Joyce Parlin
Chapter President

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.

HLAA 2026 Convention

June 10-12, 2026 | Louisville, Kentucky

Early Bird Registration Is Open!

Join the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) for our HLAA 2026 Convention, where we're all in the Winner's Circle! Get ready to run for the roses as we collaborate, learn and celebrate together at one of the most hearing-accessible events in the United States.

Early Bird Registration is open through March 16, so reserve your spot today!

Our Fort Worth chapter can send **three officers and one delegate** at a discounted rate. Contact our chapter president Joyce Parlin to see if we can help you with registration.

The national convention is a life-changing experience!

Upcoming webinar:

Thriving in Sound-Intensive Workplaces:

Wednesday, February 18 | 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET



Great workplaces are built for clear communication—even in challenging, sound-intensive environments. A panel of professionals with hearing loss will share how to navigate accommodations, use technology effectively and build confidence in noisy, fast-paced work environments.

Register here: <https://www.hearingloss.org/work>

Nuts to You!

What did you do while shut up at home during last month's ice days?

Our Fort Worth chapter attendee Brantley ("Pete") Hinshaw shelled pecans - LOTS of pecans - from the trees in his backyard.

Pete says they're great pecans.

Now he's selling them.

EIGHT CUPS of either halves or bits for \$15 + \$1.50 for the container.

He plans to sell them at our meeting this Saturday. Bring cash if you want to buy some.



January 10 Program Summary

The Effects of Hearing Loss & How Treatment Can Help

Presented by Tyler Milrany, Au.D.

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



At the January 10 meeting, Tyler Milrany, Au.D. gave a PowerPoint presentation on hearing loss, its connection with other conditions, and treatment. Dr. Milrany received his bachelor's from the University of Texas at Austin and his Doctor of Audiology from the University of North Texas. He is an audiologist at AudioNova's (formerly Connect Hearing) Henderson Street Clinic in Fort Worth.

In 2022 - 2023, 37.5 million people in the U.S. had some degree of hearing loss. Among people aged 65 and over, 40% - 50% have some communication difficulty. Worldwide there are 360 million hearing loss sufferers.

The most common causes of hearing loss are aging and genetics. Next comes noise exposure often from industrial jobs and military service. Medications for severe cancer and any drugs ending in M-Y-C-I-N may be ototoxic (poisonous to the ear).

Sensorineural (nerve) hearing loss caused by genetics, noise exposure, or medication is far more common than conductive hearing loss. Sensorineural hearing loss occurs when the inner ear's cochlea or the auditory nerve pathways to the brain are damaged, causing permanent hearing reduction and is treatable with hearing aids or cochlear implants. With Bluetooth, phone calls and TV go directly to your hearing aids or cochlear implants.

Head trauma and chronic ear infections can cause conductive hearing loss. Conductive hearing loss occurs when sound waves are blocked from traveling through the outer or middle ear to the inner ear and are often treatable with medication, surgery, or cleaning. Most hearing loss is progressive.

Hearing loss may be connected to other health conditions like diabetes, chronic kidney disease, smoking, and falling.

Hearing, speech understanding, and cognition are different issues. Actual understanding takes place in the brain. A 2009 - 2010 Johns Hopkins' study showed that people with hearing loss are at greater risk of dementia. A more recent study showed that hearing loss should be treated ASAP. Even with mild hearing loss, a person is twice as likely to develop memory problems. The memory of people with untreated hearing loss decreases about 40% faster than people with normal hearing.

Dr. Tyler explained an audiogram. People generally lose the high pitches first - F, TH, or S. They cannot hear parts of words. Because it is not receiving input, the brain begins to atrophy. While brain atrophy is not reversible, treating hearing loss prevents further deterioration.

Not hearing a knock at the door, the smoke alarm, the doorbell, or a car horn can be dangerous. Not hearing the boss or coworker, or someone needing to tap you to get your attention can be embarrassing. Hearing loss can lead to isolation and depression.

Since hearing loss increases the chance of memory problems, there are things you can do. Don't just sit around. Exercise and eat well. Get good sleep. Be open to new experiences. Be curious and creative. Try new things. Maintain social connections. Practice mindfulness and meditation. Play brain training games on the computer. Do crossword puzzles and word searches. Reduce stress.

AudioNova offers free hearing exams and assessment. Dr. Milrany answered audience questions and left business cards.

Support your Fort Worth chapter

We will 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

Gold: Cowtown Clowns Alley

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Friend: Linda Hines, Darlene Liesner, 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.

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