



# Heard in Fort Worth

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Hearing Loss Association of America – Fort Worth Chapter  
August 2025

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## August 9 Program

### HLAA 2025 Convention Highlights

Presented by Joyce Parlin, Fort Worth Chapter President

Indianapolis was the backdrop of this year's Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) annual convention, with more than 30 workshops, a Research Symposium exploring the stigma of hearing loss, motivation from a former NBA player with hearing loss, social events, HLAA awards, a hearing health and technology expo, and more.

Joyce will share her personal experience meeting new and old friends, learning in workshops, hearing inspirational speakers, and attending special events. Go to Louisville next year!

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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 real time captioning and assistive listening systems for communication accessibility.*

*Captioning is provided courtesy of Cauthen & Associates Court Reporting and CART Services.*

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## Future Programs

September: Cochlear Corporation Representative Ali Castillo

October: Med El Corporation Representative Janet Lane

November: Hearing Loss and Veterans Services by David Schible from HLAA Veterans Chapter

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## Dallas HLAA Meetings Resume

**Location: Medical City Dallas Heart Hospital**

**Address: 11970 Central Expressway, Dallas, TX 75243**

**Meeting on the Third Saturday of each month**

**Time: 9:30 to 11:00 (first 30 minutes is networking and refreshments)**

**Contact Facilitators: Jason Taylor - Text 945-239-3480, David Elliott - Text 214-542-0713.**

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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

First, I've missed all of you while attending the convention in June and participating in a mission trip in July.

For our August program, I will share information about the HLAA National Convention in Indianapolis. The event is always encouraging, informative and motivating. This one offered many speakers and much insight into hearing loss and the emotional side of hearing loss. I'll share from the chapter leader's day - great ideas for developing our chapter. Hope you'll join us for this Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup> chapter meeting.

Last week I found a very interesting piece in an email from the University of North Texas, Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. Just a week ago, a mother of six entered the Osteopathic medical school. Being a mother of six and entering medical school is a challenge, BUT this woman received a Bluetooth-enabled stethoscope that links to her hearing aids. She is deaf and now can pursue her career in medicine. In a report from 2019, fewer than 40 medical students nationally identified as deaf or hard of hearing. That is around 0.04% out of 90,000 medical students. I'm hoping we can contact her for a future meeting.

Joyfully,

Joyce Parlin  
Chapter President

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We hope you like our newsletter and that you want to continue to receive it. We strive to give you meeting information, program summaries, and other news and features that you will find helpful and relevant.

***PLEASE RESPOND.***

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### Heard In Fort Worth

This newsletter is published by the  
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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 network of chapters, state organizations, and grassroots efforts.

Hearing Loss Association of America, 6116 Executive Blvd., Suite 320, Rockville, MD 20852. 301-657-2248

# HOTDOG! SUCCESS!

*Our first ever fund-raising event netted \$443.79, and we had a lot of fun.*

Thanks to **Atwoods Ranch & Home Store** on Jacksboro Hwy for making this success possible for us. Atwoods provided the space in front of the store, two canopies, a grill for cooking, and all the *free* hotdogs, buns, and drinks we could sell. They also gave us security guy/liaison to make sure all went well.



Sales receipts and donations came to \$343.79, and Atwoods donated \$100 on top of that. We cannot thank them enough! They even invited us to do it again in the future.

In addition to our own member volunteers, we had enthusiastic help from UT Dallas audiology students. Thanks to them and all who participated in making this a success.

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## July 12 Program Summary

### Ear and Brain Workouts: Auditory and Listening Training

Presented by Carol Cokely, PhD, Clinical Professor and AuD Program Head,  
School of Behavioral & Brain Sciences at the University of Texas at Dallas

*Summarized by Darlene Liesner from the meeting transcript provided by  
Carrie Gibson of Cauthen & Associates Court Reporting and CART Services*



Carol Cokely, PhD, is a clinical professor and head of the Doctor of Audiology (AuD) Program at the University of Texas at Dallas. At our July 7 meeting, Dr. Cokely explained the ear-brain connection and discussed various auditory training programs we can use to improve our hearing comprehension and communication. It's like working out at the gym. It's not just for your abs. It's for your ears and brain - for hearing with more comprehension. It takes time and practice. You must be willing to work at it if you want to improve it.

The cochlea is a snail-shaped organ within the inner ear. Damage to the hair cells in the cochlea results in loss of hearing sensitivity, clarity, loudness perception, frequency discrimination, and timing analysis. In other words, a person with hearing loss has trouble hearing soft sounds, understanding speech, perceiving sounds in noise, and enjoying music.

The cochlea is organized by tones. Different parts of the cochlea pick up low, middle and high frequencies. Likewise, certain *brain centers* pick up low pitches, mid pitches, and high pitches.



Hearing loss in high frequencies is very common. When the part of the brain devoted to high frequencies receives none, it changes. The brain changes. Brain change is called *plasticity*. With a hearing aid or cochlear implant, the brain *changes back* to processing some of the high sounds - plasticity again.

Hearing loss is a chronic health condition. Managing hearing loss is long term, requires consistency, and requires commitment (working at it). Hearing assistive technology can help as can auditory training. Systematic listening activities help optimize speech/auditory perception, (re)interpret auditory information, develop new auditory skills, and make the best use of the hearing you have.

*Auditory training listening activities* let you practice outside the “risks” of real-world communication. Even if you have not been practicing, it is never too late to start auditory training. Of course, the sooner you start the better. Several auditory training programs are available. Consider these:

**LACE AI PRO** (Listening and Communication Enhancement) has three major parts: memory, fast speech, and noise. It also has sections on communication and coping strategies. You must work at it. LACE AI PRO is generally obtained through your provider.

**SoundSuccess™** rehabilitation resource is an online listening training program for adults, available from Phonak and Advanced Bionics. You do not need a Phonak hearing aid or an Advanced Bionics cochlear implant to use it. Listen to paragraphs, sentences, different speakers, and in noisy environments.

**ARR-O** (Auditory Rehabilitation to Reconnect-Online) is done online with Dr. Cornetta Mosley of UT Dallas. It is communication strategies, self- advocacy, and cochlear implant and auditory training enhancement for adult cochlear implant users.

**Randall’s ESL Cyber Listening Lab** is not specifically an auditory training program. Rather, it is an English as a second language program. It has lots of speakers. Those with hearing loss can take advantage of the many passages, the practice listening in quiet and in background noise, and the General ESL Listening Quizzes. Free.

*Discourse Tracking* is a useful training activity done with a partner. The partner reads a selection from everyday reading material one sentence at a time. Then the listener repeats it back to the partner. If the response is incorrect, it gets repeated. Count the number of words and monitor the words per minute.

Dr. Cokely answered questions. After the meeting, the UT Dallas AuD students in attendance demonstrated some auditory training programs on their phones. They helped audience members try out various programs in groups of two or three. Members enjoyed the experience and remained for discussion. The fellowship was lively.



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Lanny and Jill DeMoss, Patricia Hindman, Darlene Liesner, Dan White

## IN-KIND GIFT

Captioning by Cauthen & Associates Court Reporting and CART Services

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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