



Heard in Fort Worth

Hearing Loss Association of America – Fort Worth Chapter
December 2025

December 13 at 10:00 a.m.

Holiday Brunch with Entertainment by the Gold Tones

Come join us for great food, fun, fellowship, prizes, and holiday entertainment by Fort Worth's Gold Tones singers and musicians.

Did you sign up in November to bring a dish for our December Holiday Brunch? If you did, please remember to bring it. If you didn't sign up, please bring a dish to share suitable for the occasion. The chapter will provide meat dishes. If you can't bring food, come anyway! We'll have plenty for all. Whatever holiday you celebrate this month, come and celebrate with us! Come for the prizes. Come for the seasonal songs. Come and mingle with others who have hearing loss and know how to make the most of it.

Please let us know if you are coming so we can set up enough chairs and be prepared for you.
Email us at fortworthHLAA@gmail.com.



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 normally 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 Service

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

Holiday Greetings,

What a great November meeting honoring veterans with David Scheibe, VP of the Veterans Across America HLAA chapter. He brought an encouraging message, sharing combat experiences, hearing loss challenges during military time and his advocacy for veterans with hearing loss. We appreciated his enthusiasm for the message of treating hearing loss.

Twenty people participated in the Panera Bread company fundraiser after the meeting, raising \$58.19 for the chapter. Thanks to all who joined us for lunch!

The December 13th meeting (beginning at 10:00) will include a performance by the Gold Tones Choir, a greeting from Carolyn McMahon, Texas State Office Director, and brunch. Ann Marie and Patricia have put together their fun door prizes again and everyone wins! Please, bring a food item to share (meat will be provided) and we will enjoy each other's company celebrating the holidays.

See you soon!

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.

November Program Summary

“Loud & Clear”

Presented by David Scheibe, VP of Veterans Across America

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



At our November 8 meeting, David Scheibe spoke about hearing loss in the military. David served twenty years as an Infantryman in the United States Army, including combat tours in Afghanistan and Iraq. While serving, David suffered noise related hearing loss yet went on to serve and to earn Drill Sergeant of the Year.

David's hearing loss kept him from becoming a Green Beret. It nearly prevented him from becoming a drill sergeant and almost got him discharged.

David is now the Code Enforcement Officer for the city of Richmond Hill, Georgia, and volunteers in several organizations. He is HLAA's Vice President

of Veterans Across America.

His presentation offered an overview of hearing loss, its effects, and available services, particularly for veterans.

Hearing loss is an occupational hazard in the Army. Not only combat soldiers are at risk. Many soldiers are frequently exposed to loud noise with little or no hearing protection.

Hearing loss is one of the most common service-connected disabilities. 1.3 million veterans received compensation for hearing loss. Active-duty service members and veterans only receive 10% compensation for tinnitus and bilateral, not singular, hearing aids. Tinnitus, due to noise exposure, affects two million veterans.

Hearing loss affects communication, employment, relationships, and quality of life. It contributes to isolation, frustration, increased risk of depression, and cognitive decline. Hearing loss, PTSD, and anxiety are all mixed up together. Trigger words, trigger body language, and other trigger situations may make a service member or veteran snap.

Active-duty service members are educated to limit their exposure to loud noises. They are required to get their hearing tested annually. If they don't, it could affect not only the service member but their unit as well.

The VA provides hearing tests, counseling, group support, and research initiatives for hearing restoration. Both active-duty service members and veterans can get new hearing aids every two years when the warranty is up. Some common support groups for veterans are VA Audiology Services, the American Tinnitus Association, and the Hearing Loss Association of America.

With Bluetooth enabled hearing aids or cochlear implants, you can listen to any electronic device. Hearing devices have AI sound processing. A Smart Phone app with white noise can mask tinnitus. Starkey and other hearing aid brands have Life Alert built in. When he was a drill sergeant, David piloted hearing devices that synced with the soldier's weapon system, improved hearing amplification, and communicated with teammates on the battlefield.

In his conclusion, David offered the following advice: Communicate with your hard of hearing family member or friend clearly and patiently. Encourage them to have their hearing tested on a regular basis. Hard of hearing people, be patient with your hearing family and friends. They do not know about hearing loss. Hearing loss is a hidden injury. Advocate for yourself and for hearing research funding. Promote noise safety education. Carry your "When Pulled Over" placard and your driver identification visor card in your vehicle.

David answered audience questions after the meeting and then joined many of our members for lunch at Panara Bread. He was an inspiration to our attendees.

FOR YOUR CALENDARS

Dean Olson's LIVING WITH HEARING LOSS WORKSHOP AT GHOST RANCH, New Mexico, March 26-28.
([HTTPS://WWW.GHOSTRANCH.ORG/PROGRAMS/](https://www.ghost ranch.org/programs/))

HLAA National Convention in Louisville, KY, June 10-13.

SIARC - Summer Intensive Auditory Revitalization Conference at UTD around mid-July

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The list is updated monthly.

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Friend: Marie Kelly, Darlene Liesner

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IN-KIND GIFT

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

Hearing Loss Association of America - Fort Worth Chapter

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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.

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