



Heard in Fort Worth

Hearing Loss Association of America – Fort Worth Chapter
July 2026

July 11 Program:

HLAA National Convention Report



Presented by Joyce Parlin, Ann Marie Flint & Patricia Hindman

Our chapter President, Secretary, and Treasurer attended the national HLAA Convention in Louisville, KY, in June where they learned and experienced many things to share with our members.

Highlights included a panel discussion on “Inside Hearing Innovation,” a research symposium on “The AI Revolution in Hearing Health,” numerous helpful workshops, the exhibit hall with new technology and services, the HLAA board and awards meeting, social events, meeting new friends, and helps for local chapters. Come and learn all about it on Saturday, July 11.

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.

We're Raising Dough! with Panera Bread

Join us for lunch after our July 11 meeting for another Panera Bread fundraiser. This time they are sharing 30% of sales proceeds with us. Use **Promo Code FUND4U** at 1700 S University Drive location.

See the flier inside for more information.

HOT DOG SALE AT ATWOODS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

Atwood's ranch and home general store on Jacksboro Hwy. has invited us to return this year and hold another fund-raising HOT DOG SALE. Atwoods will GIVE us the hotdogs, buns, and drinks *FREE!* We keep ALL the proceeds! See details in this newsletter and sign up to help.

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



Happy 250th Anniversary to the USA!

What an encouraging thought! The privileges we have of living in the United States of America are not surpassed. I hope your July 4th celebration was one to remember.

We have some wonderful opportunities in the next couple of months to share the message of HLAA and the local chapter. See more about this on page five.

Patricia, Ann Marie and I had a real learning experience at the HLAA National Conference in Louisville. We will be sharing our thoughts and the highlights with you at the July meeting.

The chapter has a great fundraiser on the day of our meeting. Join us for lunch at Panera Bread on University Drive as soon as the meeting is over. The chapter will receive 30% of all the sales connected with our group. You are encouraged to invite others as well. Let's make it an overwhelming success.

Here's another fundraising opportunity: the chapter hot dog sale at Atwoods, 6001 Lake Worth Blvd, (AKA Jacksboro Hwy) on Saturday, August 1. If you'd like to help, let us know or just make a trip out for a hot dog and support the chapter. Let's make both of these events an overwhelming success.

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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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.

RAISE SOME DOUGH

Help support us!

30% of sales will benefit
**HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA FORT WORTH
CHAPTER**

**July 11, 2026
11:00 am to 3:00 pm
1700 S University Dr
Fort Worth, TX**

In Cafe Drive-Thru
Pick-Up Delivery

Enter promo code **FUND4U** at online checkout.

Panera
FUNDRAISING



HOT DOG SALE AT ATWOODS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. HELP WANTED!

Atwood's ranch and home general store wants to give us money if we do a little work work for it. Atwoods GIVES us the hotdogs, buns, and drinks *FREE!* We sell two hotdogs and buns and a drink for one dollar, and we get to keep the dollar. *It's free money!* We can sell chips, candy and other goodies as well.

This will be our second fund-raising HOT DOG SALE. Last year we had good helpers and had a lot of fun. Sales receipts and donations came to \$343.79, and Atwoods donated \$100. It's a wonderful fundraising opportunity for our chapter.

Will you help us? Morning? Afternoon? All day? Please let know what time you'll come by sending an email to fortworthHLAA@gmail.com.

LOCATION: 6001 Lake Worth Blvd. (AKA Jacksboro Hwy), inside the 820 loop.



Get T-Shirt or Polo Shirt with Our Chapter Logo

Some of our members have asked for a T-shirt or polo shirt with our chapter logo to wear to meetings and events. Accordingly, we are in the process of setting up a fundraising page with Bonfire. We will have five to seven different shirts to choose from. You can choose from different fabrics, sleeve lengths, colors, and sizes, but all have the 3-color HLAA FW logo on the left side. They will range in price from \$24 to \$40, plus tax, shipping and handling. We will have details at our meeting and in the August newsletter.

SIARC Registration is Still Open

SIARC, UTD's annual Summer Intensive Auditory Revitalization Conference, will be offered July 26-30 at the Callier Clinical Research Center in Richardson.

SIARC "is a unique opportunity for adults with hearing impairment and their communication partners to strengthen their communication abilities and experience assistive listening technology in real-world scenarios."

Participants receive a thorough hearing evaluation, try different types of hearing aids, and use various assistive listening devices that work with hearing aids or cochlear implants.

Classes offer coping skills, communication strategies, and new listening technologies. Special evening activities allow participants to practice their new skills and experience some of the assistive devices in real life situations.

The registration fee includes all classes, assessments, activities, and meals. If completed by July 15, the registration fee is \$350 per couple or \$175 per individual. After July 15, the registration fee is \$400 per couple and \$200 per individual. **Registration Deadline** is July 20. Ask about scholarships.

Summary of June 13 presentation

Captioned Telephones & Other Free Specialized Telecommunications Devices

Presented by Ann Mannon and Elma Torrez

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

We had two speakers at our June 13 chapter meeting. First was Ann Mannon, with CapTel captioned phones. Second was Elma Torrez with STAP (the state's Specialized Telecommunications Assistance Program). She will tell you how you're able to get equipment from the state for free.

Ann Mannon is the North Texas Outreach Educator for CapTel captioned phones (email : Oeius.org/aman). She brought information packets for everyone and a demo phone. Ann offers presentations at residential facilities, churches, senior centers, civic and social clubs, and other places.

CapTel phones and installation are free, thanks to the FCC and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Ann or one of her team can come to your house and set up the phone. To qualify, you need medical documentation of your hearing loss from your hearing health professional. You should receive your phone in one to two weeks. The program is available in all fifty states.

CapTel offers several different models of phones. Phone features include:

1. Real Time Captions of what is being said to you in the conversation.
2. A built-in answering machine that saves captioned voicemails for later review.
3. Caller ID and Speed Dial.
4. Speakerphone.
5. Amplified sound.
6. Tone control.
7. Wi-Fi or Ethernet connection.

It also saves those captions so you have record of exactly what was said to you in the conversation. You can go back and see doctor's appointments, lab results, or other important things that you might need to refer back to later. At home, you can forward your cell phone calls to CapTel. If you dial 9-1-1 from our phone, the dispatcher will have your information on their screen before you tell them what is going on

With a special-order CapTel phone and an Internet connection, you can use Bluetooth to transmit calls directly to your hearing aids. You do not need a landline. The installer can help you get set up.

The CapTel phone comes with a separate phone number. You can forward calls from the CapTel phone to your cell phone.

Elma Torrez is a STAP Community Education Director and STAP Vendor. She has worked with the STAP program for seventeen years and has been a vendor for eleven years. While Elma primarily serves Fort Worth, the mid-cities, and Tarrant County, she can help anyone in the state. Elma left brochures with information about STAP and her contact information: Elma.Torrez@SeniorAssistTexas.com.

The Specialized Telecommunications Assistance Program (STAP) allows people who have a disability that interferes with using a telephone to get basic specialized assistive equipment or services for free. A State of Texas program, STAP is funded by the usage fees shown on the back of your phone bill and by other grants. Getting your equipment or services currently takes four to six weeks, compared to longer waiting times in the past. You are eligible for a new device every five years.

To qualify you need to have at least one of the following disabilities:

1. Hearing Loss
2. Vision Loss
3. Upper Mobility Difficulties
4. Cognitive Impairment
5. Speech Impairment

Qualification has nothing to do with income or insurance. You must be at least five years of age. You need medical documentation. People with hearing loss need an audiogram. If you do not have one, you can go to hearing aid centers or dispensers, such as at Sam's or Costco. Most audiologists do it for free. Your certifier (hearing health provider, optometrist, primary doctor, nurse practitioner, deaf educator, or social worker) must know you well enough to verify your needs and that the type of device you are requesting aligns with your needs. You need proof of Texas residency.

Some places you may get a STAP application are from Elma, from a STAP Community Education Director at an event, from your hearing health provider, from the STAP website (<https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/disability/deaf-hard-hearing/stap-services>), or from Senior Assist Texas.

Once your application has been approved, you will receive a voucher and a list of vendors where you can get your equipment. Elma delivers the equipment to her customers and helps set it up.

The most popular devices right now are iPads, Samsung tablets, iPhones, and Samsung cell phones. The smartphone comes with amplification and live captioning. One desk top phone comes with an emergency alert pendant. You can get only the basic iPhone or basic iPad. If you want a bigger or better device, you must pay the difference out of pocket.

Both presenters answered audience questions and stayed after to help people.

We Are Reaching Out

Linda Dorasami recently staffed an information table for our chapter at the Benbrook YMCA health fair.

We will have a vendor table at the TAGS Summer Forum (Tarrant Area Gerontological Society) at the Hurst Convention Center on Tuesday, July 14th from 9:00 to 5:00. Can you help? Please let Joyce know.

The chapter will also have a booth at the Alzheimer's Association's "Healthy Lives Matter" conference on Saturday, August 22nd at Tarrant County College Trinity River Campus, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is a major event, with speakers, workshops, lunch, and many vendors. If you can help, please let Joyce know.

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

Gold: Mike & Kim Brownen, Patricia Hindman, Sharon Huber,
Bennet Jones, Delton & Janice Parker

Silver: Anonymous, Yolanda Thursby, Andy Ybarra

Bronze: Kris & Linda Dorasami, Susan & Monty Tucker

Friend: Linda Hines, Darlene Liesner, Marilynn Smith, Fred & Laneta Terry

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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