



SUMMER 2022

804-239-9546

HLAAGreaterRichmond.org

Facebook.com/HLAARVA

HLAA-GREATER RICHMOND CHAPTER 2022 MID-YEAR REPORT

SUBMITTED BY:

LARRY HERBERT, HLAA-GR PRESIDENT

Kathi Mestayer (HLAA-GR Vice President) and I recently attended the 2022 HLAA Convention held in Tampa, FL. We have returned with a renewed commitment to lead HLAA-GR in its mission of advocacy, education, and support for people with hearing loss in our area.

If you ever have a chance to attend the annual convention, I urge you to do so. It's a great opportunity to learn about research into hearing loss, HLAA's advocacy work — all while making new friends with hearing loss who are active in local chapters around the country. Next year's convention will be held in New Orleans.

Here's a sampling of the workshops offered this year:

Cochlear Implants: What's new? What's next?
Different Patients, Different Journeys: Three CI Surgeon's' Experiences

ICAAT (Industry-Consumer Alliance for Accessible Technology): A Community that Brings Together Consumers and Industry - BTW, Kathi Mestayer is active in this group.

Hearing Loops and Bluetooth Accessories: Benefits of Wireless Connectivity.

Manufacturers Panel: Hearing Aid Innovation.

Hearing Loss Goes to Court.

There were demos of new products - Mobile Connect Assistive Listening, Auracast Bluetooth, and Starkey Evolv Hearing Aids - to mention a few. There was an Exhibition Hall that featured thirty-seven Exhibitors.

I learned about two exciting developments: **Google Maps** now includes an accessibility menu when you search for a specific venue - and that encompasses wheelchair access and hearing

(Continued in adjacent column)

loops. Go to the "About" tab for the venue. Secondly, a **BlueTooth Audio Sharing** system has been developed which can be used for assistive listening - it's called **Auracast** and enables more than one person to link to a BT stream. There was some lively debate about whether or not it might replace inductive loops, but the general consensus was that Auracast would be another tool that might be more appropriate for some venues. HLAA has, and continues to be, a strong advocate for hearing loops for their simplicity and ease of use.

Your Executive Committee will be meeting this summer to decide whether we will resume "in person" meetings or continue our ZOOM meetings in conjunction with the Virginia Beach and Fredericksburg chapters - or perhaps a hybrid of both approaches. Stay tuned. As you know, we have had some great educational programs, and we're beginning to line up some presenters for the coming year. Hopefully, our speakers will include:

Dr. Daniel Coelho - Cochlear Implantation;
Dr. Shantell Lewis - Tinnitus; Arthur Somers
- Central Virginia Lions Hearing Aid Bank.

If you have suggestions for future programs, email me (lawrence.herbert@gmail.com), Kathi (kschachinger@gmail.com), or Linda Wallace (wallace1911@me.com).

And on a very sad note, we lost long-time HLAA-GR member **Brenda Eggleston** on **June 2, 2022**. We send condolences to her husband, Matt, and daughter, Sarah (also long-time HLAA-GR members). Brenda was a recipient of the Hamilton Relay Better Hearing & Speech Month Recognition Award. In Brenda's honor and memory, your Executive Committee voted to contribute \$1,000 to HLAA. Linda Wallace has more about Brenda in this newsletter.

In Memory of Brenda

Submitted by Linda Wallace



Brenda Burger Eggleston, 56, of Chester, Virginia, passed away on June 2, 2022. She was predeceased by her mother, Martha Daniels Burger, and is survived by her loving husband of 33 years, Matt Eggleston; her daughter, Sarah Eggleston; one granddaughter, Joyce Wood; and her father, Lou Burger and his wife, Angie. She enjoyed cross-stitching and creating stained glass artwork. Her greatest passion in life was her family. The family received friends on Wednesday, June 8, at the Chester Chapel of J.T. Morriss & Son Funeral Home. Interment was private. Contributions in Brenda's memory may be made to the Hearing Loss Association of America by visiting www.hearingloss.org.

I remember the first HAAA-Greater Richmond Chapter meeting Brenda attended, accompanied by her husband, Matt. She was shy, quiet, unsure of herself. She told me so many times over the years how walking into that meeting changed her life. She said it was a safe place...no one judged her or her hearing loss. Brenda quickly became involved in Chapter activities; she dove right in, no task being too big or too small. She volunteered to be our Refreshments Chair almost immediately and never relinquished that position. It was then that we learned she was a premier organizer and frugal shopper, hunting down bargains and cutting costs at a time when Chapter funding was at its lowest. In the process, Brenda earned the affectionate title of "The Cookie Lady;" her chocolate chip cookies were unparalleled. When the Chapter would participate in health fairs, other vendors, organizations, and agencies would request that their booth be next to ours...they wanted to be in close proximity to The Cookie Lady.

Brenda boldly advocated for hearing loss accessibility, especially in the workplace and in hospital settings. She tackled accessibility issues in her own job...and solved most, if not all, of them. She and Matt created a Hospital Kit for people with hearing loss to simplify their hospital stay and help with more effective communication between the patient and hospital staff. For her efforts in this area, she was presented with the Hamilton Relay Better Hearing & Speech Month Recognition Award. In addition, Brenda served as our Chapter Secretary for many years.

Guest speakers enjoy presenting at our meetings because we participate and ask questions. This was another of Brenda's many talents; she sparked many a lively exchange of information between speakers and meeting attendees by asking pertinent questions. Her thirst for knowledge about the latest hearing aid technologies, assistive devices, advocacy, and hearing loss management strategies was insatiable and, ultimately, benefitted so many of our members and guests.

Even as Brenda and I worked closely together professionally on Chapter business for many years, we also became close friends. We were there for each other in good times and bad. I will miss her down-to-earth wisdom...and her sense of humor. We have lost a pillar of our Chapter; but her memory will remain with us. We will miss her guidance in Chapter issues and her selfless support of our Chapter's mission.

Rest in Peace

USED HEARING AID DROP OFF LOCATION

The Lions Club now has only one collection point in the Richmond area for the donation of used hearing aids: The UPS store in the Cross-ridge Shopping Center, 10286 Staples Mill Road in Glen Allen.

They will accept a sealed package, placed in a secure area, and email the Lions Club that they have a package. Put your name and address inside the package, and the Lions Club will send you an acknowledgement letter for the gift of the donated used hearing aids.

~ Thanks to Larry Herbert,
HLAA-GR President

Visit **www.HearMore.com** for an excellent selection of assistive devices designed for people with hearing loss.

Products range from FM assistive listening systems to the PockeTalker.

Get their **free catalog** to see all the products and materials they provide!

NEED CHAPTER OR HOSPITAL TRIP BROCHURES?

HLAA-GR will provide our chapter & hospital trip brochures to any audiologists/hearing health care professionals who request them. Please contact Linda Wallace at **239-9546** or **GRHearingLoss@verizon.net** about the quantity of brochures you would like to receive. This is a **FREE** service of HLAA-GR Chapter.

HLAA-GR Chapter members may contact Linda Wallace at 804-239-9546 (voice or text msg) for brochures to display in area schools, libraries, churches, and hearing health related businesses and agencies.

HLAA MISSION STATEMENT

HLAA opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, support, and advocacy. Our purpose is to advocate for people of all ages who have hearing loss, their family and friends, to enable them to meet their individual potential and to reduce their social isolation.

HLAA National Information

Hearing Loss Association of America membership benefits include:

- *Hearing Life*, a bimonthly magazine
- Discounts on publications
- Latest information on hearing aids and assistive technology
- A national support network
- HLAA advocacy

HLAA is a 501(c)3 tax exempt non-profit organization. All donations and contributions to HLAA are tax deductible.

You can also subscribe to free HLAA e-News. Visit **HearingLoss.org** and follow the links to subscribe to HLAA e-News.

The Hearing Loss Association of America is the nation's foremost membership and advocacy organization for people with hearing loss. Hearing Loss Association of America opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support and advocacy. The national support network includes the Washington CD area office, 13 state organizations, and 200 local chapters. Our clear, straightforward message has changed the lives of thousands of people. Hearing loss is a daily challenge you can overcome. You do not have to hide your hearing loss. You do not have to face hearing loss alone.

**Contact the national organization at:
www.hearingloss.org**

or

**Contact your local Greater Richmond
chapter at:
GRHearingLoss@verizon.net
804-239-9546 (voice/text msgs)**

DISCLAIMER:

**Mention of goods or services in
articles or advertisements does not
mean HLAA-GR endorsement,
nor should exclusion suggest
disapproval.**

**THOM'S TIPS
SPRING 2022**

BY
THOMAS A. CASEY, M.S., F-AAA

“PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT”

You take your car to the mechanic from time to time to have the oil changed or to have the tires rotated – routine maintenance! Why shouldn't your hearing aids get the same treatment?

From time to time you should see your audiologist or hearing aid dispenser to have your hearing aids checked/serviced and your ear canals checked for earwax. Believe it or not, earwax rivals moisture when it comes to hearing aid failure. If you brush your hearing aids and or ear molds daily and change your soft rubber domes and wax guards periodically, you're doing about as much as you can.

A dehumidifying device is available for home use and your audiologist/dispenser has special equipment to do a more thorough cleaning. This includes cleaning of microphone ports, receivers and tubing. Follow the professional's recommendation regarding frequency of follow up visits to keep your hearing aids in tip top shape.

**TIPS FOR TRAVELING WITH
HEARING LOSS**

*(Excerpts from The Commonwealth Caller,
Summer 2022)*

- Ask about disability discounts on unadvertised deals on attraction admissions and accommodations.
- Ask if hearing accessible hotel rooms are available.
- Download airline/train apps to get notifications on your phone.
- Pack extra hearing aid/CI supplies, chargers, and pen and paper in your carry-on luggage.
- Have your itinerary and confirmation on hand...on your phone and on paper.
- Alert security staff you are wearing or carrying hearing aids. Tell staff you have a hearing loss. Ask to be alerted about important announcements.
- Let hotel staff know you have a hearing loss.



Providing Accessible Telecommunications Since 1991

Virginia Relay has worked closely with our HLAA-Greater Richmond Chapter for many years.

We sincerely want to thank Virginia Relay for their on-going generous support and their belief in both HLAA's and our Chapter's mission.

Thank you, Virginia Relay!

SIGN UP FOR HEARING LIFE E-NEWS

Hearing Life e-News is delivered twice a month to your inbox and keeps readers up to date on the latest news and information on hearing loss.

Sign up at:

[Hearingloss.org/news-media/e-news/](https://hearingloss.org/news-media/e-news/)

Visit:

[Hearingloss.org/coronaviris-covid-19-resources/](https://hearingloss.org/coronaviris-covid-19-resources/)
for COVID-19 resources

2022 HLAA-GR OFFICERS

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Lawrence.herbert@gmail.com

Vice President.....Kathi Mestayer
kschachinger@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer.....Linda Wallace
GRHearingLoss@verizon.net
804-239-9546 (voice calls or text msgs)

Community Outreach Chair...Lisa Mottesheard
Lmottesheard@captioncall.com

Thom Casey, M.S.
Advanced Hearing Specialists

Cell: 804-539-1217
Email: Thom@AHShearing.com
Website: www.AHShearing.com

Proud sponsor of HLAA-GR
“Quality In-Home Hearing Health Care”

Lori Klein Gardner, Au.D.
Hear Virginia

6722 Patterson Ave., Suite A
Richmond, VA 23226
804-282-5590
Website: Hear-Virginia.com

Proud sponsor of HLAA-GR
“Audiology & Hearing Aid Services”

FREE PERFECTDRY LUX

A PerfectDry Lux, a hearing aid dehumidifier and sanitizer, has been donated to the Greater Richmond Chapter. It uses a UV light and fan-pulsed air to sanitize and dry out any type of hearing aids.

Anyone interested in getting this device for FREE is to contact Linda Wallace at:

Email: Wallace1911@me.com
Cell/text: 804-239-9546 (leave a message)

LOOPED AREA VENUES UPDATE

Larry Herbert, HLAA-GR Vice President and Looping Initiative Chair, has prepared an updated list of looped venues in our area. The three latest additions include: Second Baptist Church, St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church (in the Lake Gaston area), and the Sarah November Theatre at Westminster Canterbury. Larry’s list is normally available at Chapter meetings; however, our meetings will be virtual until further notice. If you would like a copy of the updated looped venue list, feel free to email Larry at: **lawrence.herbert@gmail.com**.

**HEARING LOSS ASSOC. OF AMERICA
GREATER RICHMOND CHAPTER
CHAPTER FEE & NEWSLETTER INFO**

HLAA-GR Chapter Fees are \$12 per individual or family per year, and include a subscription to the quarterly Chapter newsletter. *Payment of Chapter Fees is OPTIONAL. Or, you may make a tax deductible donation.* If interested in making a donation or paying a chapter fee, please fill out the form below (please print) and mail it with your check made out to “HLAA-GR” to:

**Hearing Loss Association of America
Greater Richmond Chapter
1911 Oakway Drive
Richmond, VA 23238**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Check one of the choices below:

Please send my newsletter by email.

Please send my newsletter by US mail.

Please note: Any *contributions* to HLAA-GR are tax-deductible. Donors may deduct contributions to HLAA-GR as they would contributions to any other 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

THE HEARING TRACKER PODCASTS

Join host Steve Taddei, Au.D., to learn about today’s most promising hearing loss solutions. Dr. Taddei will introduce you to the companies and academics that are trailblazing life-changing advancements in hearing loss tech and treatment. And you’ll meet people just like you, who are learning how to best cope with their hearing problems.

Visit:
Hearingtracker.com/podcast
for more information.

~ Hearing Life, Fall 2021

ABOUT VIRGINIA RELAY...

A free public service, Virginia Relay enables people who are deaf, hard of hearing, Deaf-Blind, or speech disabled to communicate with standard telephone users. A specially trained Virginia Relay Communication Assistant (CA) relays the conversation between the two parties.

Relay services are available 24 hours a day, 365 days per year, with no limit on the number or length of calls a user may make.

By law, every call is handled with the strictest confidentiality.

Special features also are available for Spanish-speaking and sign language users.

Anyone can make a Virginia Relay call just by dialing 711.

~ *"The Commonwealth CALLER,"*
Winter 2021 Edition

VIRGINIA LEADS WAY TO HELP CHILDREN WITH HEARING LOSS

(Excerpts from a Richmond Times-Dispatch article, May 14, 2022, written by Valerie James Abbott)

In February 2022, the Virginia General Assembly did something no other state has done before. Through a joint resolution, May 4-10 was established as Late Onset Hearing Loss Awareness Week. The campaign calls attention to children who become Deaf or Hard of Hearing after birth. Children with delayed hearing loss are at a disadvantage from their peers with congenital hearing loss. The gap between hearing loss onset and diagnosis is wide, often resulting in major communication issues.

Virginia led the way and the New York State Assembly has since announced it will be the second state to adopt Late Onset Hearing Loss Awareness Week. It is hoped that individuals, agencies, and other states and territories will join in this grassroots movement for increased childhood hearing screening.

Ms. Abbott is co-founder of the national Late Onset Hearing Loss Awareness Campaign and author of Padapillo, a children's book about this issue. She lives in Richmond and recently was a guest speaker at a combined Zoom HLAA Greater Richmond, Virginia Beach, and Fredericksburg meeting.

IMPORTANT REMINDER...

The HLAA Greater Richmond, Virginia Beach, and Fredericksburg chapters will not have meetings in July and August. Meetings will resume in September. Decisions will be made then as to whether we will continue to have joint Zoom meetings, begin "in-person" meetings, or perhaps a hybrid platform of the two.

Are You a Veteran with Hearing Loss, Tinnitus, or Other Auditory Issues?

HLAA stands ready to help our nation's veterans live successfully with hearing loss and related issues. In addition to a complimentary Online Membership and first-time convention registration, you can participate in the HLAA Veterans Across America Virtual Chapter. Its mission is to provide education, be an advocate for veterans with hearing loss, and to provide support in civilian life.

***For more information, go to:
Hearingloss.org/Veterans
Or email:
chapters@hearingloss.org***

HELP SUPPORT THE UKRAINIAN DEAF COMMUNITY

CaptionCall is partnering with Sorenson Communications in donating to Deaf Ukrainians. For a limited time, your donation will be matched up to \$50,000.

To learn more and/or make a donation, visit:
www.sorenson.com/Ukraine/

The video is captioned and has a donation link.

HEARING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY VIDEOS AVAILABLE AT HLAA NATIONAL WEBSITE

Visit: www.hearingloss.org/hearing-help/technology to view videos on the following:

*Technology in the Workplace
Technology for Patients
Technology for Leisure Time*

**VIRGINIA DEPT. FOR THE
DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
PROGRAMS, SERVICES, & RESOURCES**

Visit **VDDHH.org** to find out about the programs and services including Virginia Relay, technology assistance, emergency preparedness, access during COVID-19.

Learn about all the resources available to those with hearing loss in the Commonwealth.

HCAA WEBINARS

Visit **HearingLoss.org** and click/tap on webinars. Captioned webinars are available for viewing once you register for webinars at HearingLoss.org. All it requires is your email address and you set up a password. Very easy. Once you register, you can view all captioned webinars on your computer or mobile device free of charge.

PURCHASING A HEARING AID

The Hearing Loss Association of America has produced a fact sheet on "**Purchasing a Hearing Aid: A Consumer Checklist.**" The fact sheet contains a comprehensive list of questions to ask during the purchase process and covers the areas of testing, dispensing, and disclosure. Copies of the fact sheet are available from HCAA-Greater Richmond chapter. Contact Linda Wallace at:

**804-239-9546 (call or text)
GRHearingLoss@verizon.net**

!!! IMPORTANT !!!

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAIL
FREQUENTLY, ESPECIALLY AS WE
APPROACH MEETING DATES. YOU WILL
BE RECEIVING PROGRAM/SPEAKER
INFORMATION, AS WELL AS LINKS TO
JOIN OUR VIRTUAL MEETINGS.**

**HCAA-GR CHAPTER
CAN USE YOUR SUPPORT!**

The Hearing Loss Association of America, Greater Richmond Chapter, is asking you to **donate your spent inkjet cartridges** to the Chapter. Our organization receives \$2.00 from Staples toward chapter expenses for every spent inkjet cartridge turned in. We may turn in up to 20 cartridges each month. This goes a long way towards helping with the expenses incurred for the general supplies and materials needed for the functioning of the Chapter. **For the time being, we are suspending collection of spent toner cartridges.**

Of course, until further notice, our meetings will be virtual; so, you cannot turn in cartridges as you did in the past. We urge you so save them and when you want to get them out of your house (LOL), contact Linda Wallace at 804-239-9546 and she will arrange a pickup location...masks required.

Thank you for your support!

**VCU/MCV AUDIOLOGY,
VCUHS/MCV Nelson Clinic,
Children's Hospital, & Stony Point**

www.vcuhealth.org
www.facebook.com/vcuaudiology

Nelson Clinic
403 North 11th Street, 3rd Floor
Richmond, VA 23298

and

Stony Point
9109 Stony Point Drive
Richmond, VA 23235

All appointments: 804-828-0431

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

Even if you have state-of-the-art hearing aids or cochlear implants, you may need assistive devices/apps to fill in the gaps your hearing aids may not cover.

Go to HearingLoss.org. On the home page, scroll down to GET INFO. Then click/tap on TECHNOLOGY. There are links to several assistive technology articles on the website. Well worth the time. Check it out!!

RESOURCES

MELISSA ALBRIGHT, Au.D.
Doctor of Audiology
Virginia ENT Associates
3450 Mayland Court, Richmond, VA 23233

LEAH BALL, Au.D.
KIM FISHER, M.A.
KIM IMAJO, Au.D.
DEBRA OGILVIE, Au.D.
SUSAN ULMER, M.Ed
Richmond Hearing Doctors, PLLC
West End Location:
7301 Forest Avenue, Suite 202
Richmond, VA 23226
804-282-0022
Southside Location:
13925 Coalfield Commons Place, Suite 101
Midlothian, VA 23114
804-818-0000

JENNIFER WILLIAMS
B.S., HIS
Hearing Aid Specialist
Hanover Audiology, PLLC
7484 Lee Davis Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111
804-789-1764 FAX:804-789-1762

THOMAS A. CASEY, M.S., CCC-A/F-AAA
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P. O. Box 4235, Midlothian, VA 23112
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Email: Thom@AHShearing.com
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www.HearingLoss.org

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Doctor of Audiology
Hear Virginia, LLC
6722 Patterson Avenue, Suite A
Richmond, VA 23226
804-282-5590
www.hear-virginia.com

EMMETT L. JONES, Ph.D.
Deaf & Hard of Hearing
Community Counseling Services
1503 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 211
Richmond, VA 23229
804-282-1943 Voice 804-282-1944 TTY

SHANTELL D. LEWIS, Au.D.
Doctor of Audiology
**Virginia Professional Hearing
Healthcare Center**
3507 Boulevard, Suite D
Colonial Heights, VA
804-330-1350
9327 Midlothian Tnpk, Ste. 1-S
North Chesterfield, VA 23235
804-774-8311
www.Here2Hear.org

**VIRGINIA DEPT. FOR THE DEAF &
HARD OF HEARING**
1602 Rolling Hills Drive, Suite 203
Richmond, VA 23229
804-662-9502 V/TTY or
1-800-552-7917 V/TTY

**HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Membership benefits include a subscription to *Hearing Life Magazine*, discounts on publications, up-to-date information on hearing aids and other assistive technology, coping strategies, and much more. To become a member of HLAA, fill out the adjacent form and mail it, along with your check for the appropriate amount, made out to “**HLAA**,” to:

**Hearing Loss Association of America
6116 Executive Blvd., Suite 320
Rockville, MD 20852**

**Application for HLAA National
Membership**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____ Zip: _____

\$45 (individual)

\$55 (couple/family)

\$25 (student online membership)

\$35 (individual online membership)

** Online memberships include copies of *Hearing Life magazine* in digital format only.

(Important: Write “Membership Dues” on the bottom of your check.)



**1911 Oakway Drive
Richmond, VA 23238**

