

**NEWS FROM THE HLAA NATIONAL OFFICE**

**Bethesda, MD**

[**www.hearingloss.org**](http://www.hearingloss.org)

**HEARING LOSS MAGAZINE, MAY/JUNE 2014 ISSUE**

The May/June [Hearing Loss Magazine](http://www.hearingloss.org/membership/hearing-loss-magazine/current-issue) went into the mail the first week of May. HLAA members can also preview the [issue online here](http://www.nxtbook.com/ygsreprints/HLAA/g40226_hlaa_marapril2014/) on [www.hearingloss.org](file:///E:\_-ChapterCommunications\www.hearingloss.org) before it hits the mailboxes in mid-May. Those who aren’t members can preview a sample and see if they might like to receive the magazine on a regular basis. When you [join HLAA](http://www.hearingloss.org/content/join), you not only join the leading organization for people with hearing loss who advocates on your behalf, you get a subscription to *Hearing Loss Magazine.*

**In the May/June *Hearing Loss Magazine*:**

* **It Takes a Family** by Ronnie Adler and various HLAA members– Read about adults who are involved in the HLAA Walk4Hearing because of their parents with hearing loss. There are three touching stories told from the heart.
* **Are You Computer Savvy? If Not, Join the Club!** By Joel Strasser – Learn about the Telikin computer and why it’s great for older people with hearing loss.
* **I Have the Job…Now What?** By Barbara Johnson – The author explains how to advocate for yourself in the workplace.
* **When a Complaint Means More Than Just Complaining** by Lise Hamlin – HLAA’s director of public policy reports on the new rules just released by the FCC on closed captioning quality. Lise includes information on how to complain AND compliment.

**HLAA IS WORKING FOR YOU – ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC POLICY**

Your national office, located in the metro Washington, D.C., area, is geographically positioned to advocate on behalf of the rights and interests of people with hearing loss. Lise Hamlin, HLAA director of public policy, spends a lot of time on Capitol Hill working on issues of the day. If it weren’t for Lise and HLAA, people with hearing loss who use their residual hearing and technology would not be represented in discussions about policy and laws that affect you. You can email [Lise Hamlin](mailto:lhamlin@hearingloss.org) for more information. Here are some of the latest issues HLAA is working on:

**National Court Reporter Association’s Caption Community of Interest Meeting**

HLAA was asked to join NCRA’s Captioning Community of Interest Meeting to provide consumer input to their regular meetings. At this meeting, HLAA discussed the new FCC Captioning Quality Report and Order and how that impacts captioners. NCRA became a [Corporate Member](http://www.hearingloss.org/content/our-corporate-members) of HLAA.

**More on Captioning**

HLAA met with NBC/Universal/Comcast and Time Warner to discuss the captioning standards rules. Also attending were NAD (National Association of the Deaf), TDI, AADB (American Association of the Deaf-Blind).

HLAA also met with the FCC to discuss rules about captioning of video clips provided over the Internet. Also attending were NAD and TDI.

**Access Board’s Rail Vehicle Access Advisory Committee (RVAAC) Meeting**

HLAA, as a member of the RVAAC sits on the Communications subcommittee. That committee is reviewing signage, including electronic signage, and audible access through hearing loops. As this was only the second of this subcommittee’s meetings, we are at the beginning of our deliberations, which will be taken to the full committee for approval. Upon approval, it will go to Access Board staff, which will consider our recommendations and draft guidelines. Those guidelines will be released for public comment. After public comment has been reviewed and considered, the final guidelines will go to the U.S. Department of Justice, which will then draft a notice of proposed rulemaking, review all submitted comments, then provide the final rulemaking.

**FCC’s Consumer Advisory Committee Health Care Working Group Meeting**

The Federal Communication Consumer Advisory Committee, of which HLAA is a member, provides recommendations to the FCC Commissioners on a range of consumer needs, including people with disabilities. There are representatives from industry, state agencies, people living in rural areas and Native Americans as well as those with hearing and vision loss. This Working Group focuses on issues related to health care. This meeting focused on possible future recommendations FCC to enable the creation of wireless testing environments by helping to streamline its experimental licensing program for medical device experimentation.

**Dial 9-1-1**

HLAA made a presentation on this topic as part of a panel discussion to the National Emergency Numbering Association (NENA) Conference. The panel focused on the impact of text-to-911 technology for people with hearing loss. This technology is available in some communities and will be rolled out in other communities in the coming year. The panel was moderated by the FCC with representatives from NAD and Gallaudet University also attending.

**PUBLIC AWARENESS**

**2014 Annual Conference of the American Society of Aging (ASA)**

HLAA Executive Director Anna Gilmore Hall presented at the American Society on Aging (ASA) conference in March with Noreen Gibbens, Au.D., lead audiologist, *hi HealthInnovations* on the Serious Nature of Hearing Loss and Innovations in Hearing Health Care Delivery.

**HLAA Gets Top Billing in *USA Today* Supplement**

HLAA was delighted to collaborate with MediaPlanet on their campaign, *Vision and Hearing Loss,* a supplement to the March 28, 2014, issue of *USA Today* (in select major cities)and available online. MediaPlanet invited HLAA Executive Director Anna Gilmore Hall to write an article for this campaign.

In her article, [*Living Successfully with Hearing Loss*](http://www.visionandhearingnews.com/overcoming-obstacles/living-successfully-with-hearing-loss#.UzzAHj9dV8F)*,* Anna wrote, “There are tools and resources that can help you and your family live successfully with hearing loss. Yes, your family – because hearing loss impacts not only the individual with hearing loss, but the entire family.”

[Read the article](http://www.hearingloss.org/content/hlaa-in-usa-today-supplement), forward it on to family and friends – together we can create awareness about hearing loss, eradicate the stigma, and help you live successfully with hearing loss.

**GreatNonProfit.Org Contest**

If you love HLAA’s work – both local and national -- then tell the world with your five-star review. You have an opportunity to help us make even more of a difference in communities across the country. GreatNonprofits – a charity review site – is honoring highly reviewed nonprofits with their **2014 Top-Rated List**. Will you help us raise visibility for our work by posting a review of your experience with us? All reviews will be visible to potential donors and volunteers. It’s easy and only takes three minutes! Go to: [http://greatnonprofits.org/org/hearing-loss-association-of-america-1](http://greatnonprofits.org/org/hearing-loss-association-of-america-1" \t "_blank)

**AmazonSmile Program**

HLAA is now participating in the AmazonSmile program, where Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases at no cost to shoppers. Support HLAA when you shop at Amazon: [http://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1177011](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1177011" \t "_blank).

**EDUCATION**

**HLAA Webinars – They’re Free and Captioned**

Tune into your favorite topic with HLAA Webinars. Go to [www.hearingloss.org/content/schedule](http://www.hearingloss.org/content/schedule) for presenters and times. Can’t make the time? Webinars are recorded and available to play back are your convenience.

**Walk4Hearing Ambassador**

[Watch this video here](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJmBw7SkOXo&feature=share&list=PL8E625BE22B68B817) and see our eight-year-old Walk4Hearing Ambassador tell us why she walks. Is she cute or what? Take some inspiration from this adorable little one with hearing loss.