

# GATEWAY NEWS



February 2015

Volume 31, No. 2

Greater St. Louis chapter is an affiliate of Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814. The mission of HLAA is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support, and advocacy. HLAA has more than 200 chapters and 14 state organizations.

## This month's meeting

Saturday, February 14, at 1:00 p.m. at **DEAF, Inc., 25 E. Frisco, in Webster Groves on the lower level.** An elevator is available.

This will be the first month at our new meeting place! We will have an audiologist speaking about hearing aid technology.

**The meeting is real time captioned (CART) and includes an amplification system.**

Please come to the meeting around 12:30 to allow time to pick up your badge and sign in. Thank you.

For the February meeting, the following members have signed up for:

*Make Coffee:* Ron Brueckner

*Refreshments and clean up after the meeting:* Rachel Balbach and Kathy Patrick

*Greet Visitors and Friends:* We need 2 volunteers!

*Set up and clean up after the meeting:* We need volunteers!

## Local Captioning in St. Louis by Mary Stodden

On January 21st, I had the pleasure of talking to Walt Nichol, Director of Technology with Channel 4, KMOV-TV in St. Louis. He graciously gave me a tour of the studio while we talked about the importance of captioning in news, breaking news and special events that are broadcast on Channel 4.

As many of you know, Colorado Captioning provides the captioning for Channel 4. Walt indicated that there is an average of a 7 second lag time between the

## Chairperson's message

This month, we will start out at our new meeting place at DEAF, Inc., 25 E. Frisco Ave., Webster Groves, MO. On February 14, Kristie Oedling, from the Audiology Department in the Center for Advanced Medicine will be speaking about new hearing aid technology. We are also kicking off HLAA birthday celebration for the month of February. Do you have an old hearing aid that you are not using sitting in a drawer? This month make a point of donating your old hearing aids to the Center for Hearing and Speech in St. Louis. They can refurbish them and distribute them at a lower cost to those in need of a hearing aid and cannot afford them! It is a win-win situation!!! If you want to bring them to the meeting, Kathy Patrick will take them, and we will deliver them when I get back from Florida. Although I will not be there in February (I am attending the Cochlear Celebration), it is my hope that many of you will attend! Happy Valentine's Day!!!

Mary Stodden

speech and the captioning. He occasionally times it, and he has seen as much as a 14 second lag time, but he feels that it is not the norm for captioning on Channel 4. I did tell him about the frustration we have that sometimes when the captioning for one segment is not done before the next segment of the news starts, it results in confusion for the person that is reading the captions. He understands the frustration and is committed to providing good captioning for the viewers who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Walt mentioned that new rules that will be starting by March 2015 as instructed by the FCC. The new rules deal with accuracy, completeness, placement and latency. Accuracy means the actual words spoken, no omissions or paraphrasing, proper spelling of geographic nouns and people's names. Completeness means from the beginning to the end of the program. Placement means that no captions should cover important text, graphics or visual elements. Finally, latency is how the captions display as words are spoken. FCC best practices is 3 to 5 seconds which Walt believes will be very difficult to achieve but for our part it is important to TRY and achieve as we are well aware how frustrating the lag time is.

Also, if a program airs 24 hours or more after it is produced/recorded, the captions must be done off-line to be fully synchronous with the voice.

Channel 4 is serious and committed to having the best captioning for their viewers. Obviously, there are times when captioning breaks down either at Colorado Captioning or at the station. The sound engineers watch it carefully and are aware immediately when the captioning has gone down. If a breakdown occurs, please email Walt at [Walt.Nichol@kmov.com](mailto:Walt.Nichol@kmov.com). Keep your email short – date, time, for how long and what program so he can see what needs to be done. Oftentimes, he already knows and is on it.

Let's support Channel 4 (KMOV-TV) and watch their news and special reports. By the way, Walt also indicated that if there is a small group interested in a tour, he would be able to arrange it. I think it would be an interesting field trip.

## Chapter News

**Meetings are held the second Saturday of the month at the Deaf Community Center, 25 E. Frisco, Webster Groves, MO.**

**There is no meeting in January or August.**

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### Chapter Committee

*Chairperson* – Mary Stodden

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Kristen Kramer, Au.D., CCC-A

Maureen Fischer, M.S., CCC-A

### Website

[www.hlaastl.org](http://www.hlaastl.org)

As part of our year long celebration of HLAA's 35th anniversary, February is dedicated to collecting old hearing aids. If you have an old hearing aid you would like to donate, please bring it to the meeting and give it to Kathy Patrick. We will be taking all of them to the Center for Hearing and Speech. Thank you!

If you haven't done so, all dues should be paid by the end of this month. You can pay Kathy Patrick at the meeting, mail payment to her, or you can pay via Paypal on our chapter website. Kathy's address is on page 2.

### Chapter Spotlight--Why did YOU join?

We want to put the spotlight on our members, whether you are brand new or have been a member for a while! We would like to know more about you and why you joined HLAA and/or our local chapter! You can send a couple sentences or a couple paragraphs about yourself! Send it to Kathy Patrick at [kathyp2880@gmail.com](mailto:kathyp2880@gmail.com), call 636-296-2393 or mail it to her at 3163 Wellington Way, Arnold, Mo. 63010. We would love to hear from you! We will have it featured in each monthly newsletter.

"I joined HLAA because there were a lot of people with Cochlear Implants, and I wanted to make sure that is what I wanted to do. I am glad I did because I have met a lot of NICE people that I call my friends now." :) *Rosalie Long*

"HLAA and our chapter is near and dear to my heart. When I first joined, I was struggling with my hearing and my emotions. I never knew about support groups, assistive listening devices and all the other items available for people with hearing loss. I didn't know about my rights as a person with hearing loss. Joining HLAA and our local chapter is the best thing I have ever done! I have 2 Cochlear Implants. I have learned SO much. I am no longer a hermit. I do not have to rely on my husband to make all the phone calls or go to the store with me "in case someone talks to me." I have met some wonderful people and made awesome friends. HLAA will always be a part of my life, and I will always try to help anyone I can, just like I was helped in that very first chat and so much more since then. Thanks to HLAA and my local chapter, I have my life back!" *Kathy Patrick*

### 2015 Professional Advisor Award

We are very pleased and very excited to announce that Dave Levine, chapter member and friend, will be given the Professional Advisor Award at the 2015 HLAA Convention at the Union Station Hotel in downtown St. Louis on June 28, 2015 at the Awards Breakfast and Ceremony.

Dave has been a member of our chapter for a long time. Most recently he was our chapter Treasurer and resident joke teller! He has since retired from that job and is truly missed at our meetings.

Congratulations Dave! No one deserves this more, and we are so happy for you!

### Chapter Vote

We hope many of you will be at the meeting at our new place, DEAF, Inc., this month.

We will be having a chapter vote after members have seen the new location. We will be voting on whether to keep our Holiday party at Helen Fitzgerald's, where we have had it the past few years, or if we want to have it at DEAF, Inc., and have the party catered. All members who are current on their dues will have the opportunity to vote. We will need to do this in a timely manner so we can get Helen Fitzgerald's booked if that is the way the vote goes. It will be in the newsletter again in March with instructions on how to vote, so make sure your opinion is given!

### **Board Meeting**

On January 10th a board meeting was held at Mary Stodden's home. Here is a wrap-up of that meeting.

- The board approved the purchase of a storage cabinet to be kept at DEAF, Inc. for most of our meeting supplies. It was approved for \$25 more than the original approved cost.
- We will have a DEAF, Inc. sign made to make it easier for members to know which street to turn onto since it comes up so quickly.
- We will have 2 sets of keys made for our new meeting place, DEAF, Inc. so that someone from 2 different areas will have a set.
- Convention volunteers will be putting Convention postcards in envelopes to mail to local audiologists.
- Each month a different board member will lead the meeting. This will begin with the February meeting.
- Kathy Patrick gave a breakdown of Walk4Hearing figures. The Greater St. Louis chapter share of the walk was \$14,595.50. Walk expenses were \$4,147.21. Alliances were paid \$4,237.60. We had a profit of \$6,210.69.
- We are still working on a date and place for the 2015 Walk4Hearing.  
(Contributed by Diane Walters)

## **News from Bethesda**

### **HLAA Makes Your Concerns Known at the U.S. Access Board**

The U.S. Access Board hosted a panel on communication access for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing on January 12, 2015. The agenda featured a consumer panel including HLAA that addressed access for people with hearing loss. This panel included representatives from the National Association of the Deaf, the **Hearing Loss Association of America**, the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Consumer Advocacy Network, and the American Association of Deaf Blind. A panel of representatives from Federal agencies will review regulatory and enforcement efforts concerning accessibility for people with hearing impairments. Representatives from the Access Board, the Department of Justice, the Department of Education, the Department of Transportation, and the Federal Communications Commission participated in this discussion. In addition, there will be a briefing on research that is underway by the Gallaudet Technology Access Program and a presentation on emerging technologies by a representative from a hearing assistive technology firm.

### **HLAA Files Comments with CMS Concerning Hearing Aid Coverage**

HLAA and other consumer organizations joined Hearing Access & Innovations in comments filed with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Service (CMS). CMS requested comments on a Proposed Rule on certain "Benefit and Payment Parameters" that apply to health plans offered through the Exchanges (a.k.a., Marketplaces) established by the Affordable Care Act. This Proposed Rule includes several provisions that, if finalized, could affect coverage for hearing aids for individuals enrolled in Exchange plans beginning with the 2016 plan year.

### **HLAA Comments in 911 Proceeding**

HLAA signed onto comments in the FCC's proceeding on Wireless E911 Location Accuracy. These comments urged the Commission move forward FCC to adopt its proposed rules and begin the process of protecting wireless callers indoors as well as they do outdoors.

These comments also recommended that the FCC consider the carriers' Roadmap exploring address-based solutions along with other alternatives for near-term verifiable and achievable rules and emphasized that, whatever rules are adopted need to promote continued improvement in wireless E9-1-1 location accuracy.

### **From Vertigo to Tinnitus, Ear Ailments are New Focus for Drugs**

Driving to a meeting in 2008, Jay Lichter, a venture capitalist, suddenly became so dizzy he had to pull over and call a friend to take him to the emergency room.

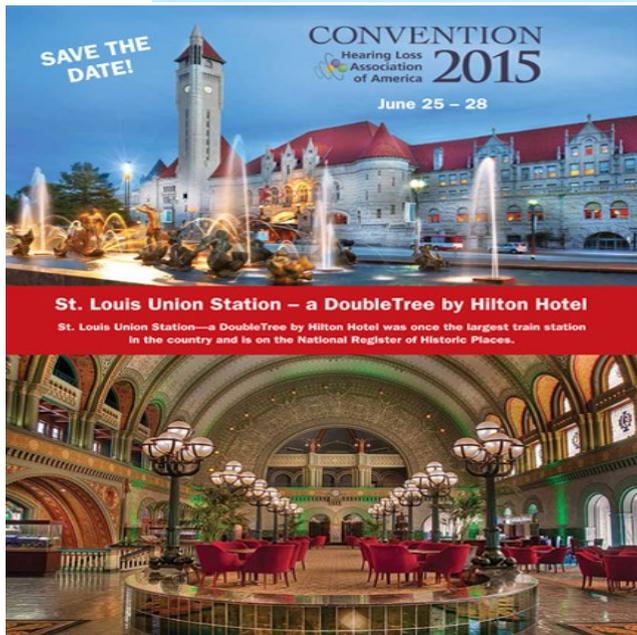
The diagnosis: Ménière's disease, a disorder of the inner ear characterized by debilitating vertigo, hearing loss and tinnitus, or ringing in the ears.

But from adversity can spring opportunity. When Mr. Lichter learned there were no drugs approved to treat Ménière's, tinnitus or hearing loss, he started a company, Otonomy. It is one of a growing cadre of start-ups pursuing drugs for the ear, an organ once largely neglected by the pharmaceutical industry. Two such companies, Otonomy and Auris Medical, went public in 2014. To read the article, copy and paste the link.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/10/business/ear-disorders-long-neglected-attract-drug-makers-attention.html? r=0>

(Contributed by Kathy Patrick)

# HLAA Convention 2015 in St. Louis, Mo., June 25-28, 2015



## Meet Us in St. Louis

You're invited to join us for our 30th annual Convention in St. Louis! It's a big year for HLA as we turned 35 this past November and kicked off a year of commemorative activities, including a special banquet in St. Louis.

Registration is still open but early bird registration is closed. There are several packages available so be certain to review the packages carefully to determine which is the right one for you.

<http://www.hearingloss.org/content/registration>.

**Online Registration** – You will need to create an HLA Portal Login if you don't already have one. **OR**

**Registration Form** – we welcome your completed form by: Mail to: 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814, Fax to: 301.913.9413 or Email to: [convention@hearingloss.org](mailto:convention@hearingloss.org).

## Convention Hotel

Built in 1894, the St. Louis Union Station, a DoubleTree by Hilton

Hotel, was once the busiest and largest train station in the country. Even if you are not a history buff, you will marvel at the attention to detail devoted to the renovation and restoration of this architectural masterpiece. Book early because this block is bound to sell out!

## Hotel Rates and Reservations

The HLA room block at the [St. Louis Union Station Hotel](#) runs Tuesday, June 23 through Sunday, June 28; based on availability the following rates are offered three days before and three days after the Convention (plus 15.741% tax):

Single/double - \$159/night

Triple - \$174/night

Quad - \$189

Suites – starting at \$289

Make your reservation online at <http://bit.ly/STLUnionStation>. If you have special needs (i.e. need disability-accessible room, need to be close to elevator, etc.), you may prefer to call the hotel at 1-855-271-3620. The cut-off date for reservations is June 2, 2015.

Other things to know about your stay at the hotel:

- Check-in time is 4 p.m.; check-out is noon;
- Parking is \$8/day for self-park;
- Complimentary Internet in sleeping rooms and common areas; and one night deposit is required at the time of reservation.

## Opening Session Keynote Speaker

We are pleased to announce Charles A. Laszlo, Ph.D. as the keynote speaker for Convention 2015. Charles, the founding president of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association, will deliver his speech, **Advances, Obstacles and Solutions in a Changing World** at the Opening Session on Thursday, June 25, 2015 (5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.). Charles Laszlo, Ph.D. is a biomedical engineer with experience both in academe and as an entrepreneur. He is professor emeritus of electrical engineering and past-director of the Institute for Hearing Accessibility Research at the University of British Columbia. He is the co-founder of several companies developing and manufacturing assistive listening devices, heart valves and other cardiovascular devices.

## Schedule

Start planning your Convention experience by reviewing the Schedule-at-a-Glance and the Workshop Schedule for the four educational tracks and State/Chapter workshops. Copy and paste the link below.

<http://hearingloss.org/convention> From there you can click on the Schedule-at-a-Glance or Workshop schedule.

(*Hearingloss.org*, contributed by Kathy Patrick)

## Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH) is collaborating with law enforcement agency in Missouri and has received the endorsement of the Missouri Sheriff's Association to produce Visor Communication Cards to increase better understanding and improve communication between Police Officers and the Deaf and Hard of hearing people in Missouri. MCDHH is now releasing the Visor Communication Cards for the Deaf, Oral Deaf and Hard of Hearing. This card can be kept in vehicles and shown to Police officers whenever a Deaf or Hard of Hearing Missourian is stopped on the road. If you would like a Visor Card, please fill out the form here:

<http://mcdhh.mo.gov/files/VisorCardForm.pdf>. Also, please remember, **YOU MUST** fill out a Deaf Census form available at: <http://mcdhh.mo.gov/files/DeafCensusForm.pdf>. You may send both forms to us by email or regular snail mail on the address provided on the forms. Please, note that these cards are only available to residents of Missouri. (Missouri Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing, e-news, 1/16/15, contributed by Kathy Patrick.)

## Repertory Theater

The 2014-2015 season is almost over! Open-Captioned shows are held on the last Sunday of each run at 2 p.m. You can contact them at 314-968-4925.

March 8, 2015 "The Winslow Boy"  
April 12, 2015 "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike"  
(Contributed by Nancy Dietrich)



**February birthdays** - Patty Taake 2/11, Kathleen Trankle 2/12, Arline Simerman 2/13, Edward Cunliff 2/16, Elva Chiappa 2/19, Karl Cook 2/19, and Jenny Cook 2/27.

If we missed your birthday, and you would like to be included, please contact Diane Walters at 636-671-2525, email [Walters.Diane@att.net](mailto:Walters.Diane@att.net), or email Nancy Dietrich at [n.dietrich@wisperhome.com](mailto:n.dietrich@wisperhome.com).

**Thank you** to Mary Stodden, Nancy Dietrich, Diane Walters and Kathy Patrick for providing news/information.

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### February Quote -

Friendship is born at that moment when one man says to another: "What! You too? I thought that no one but myself . . ." (C.S. Lewis, Contributed by Kathy Patrick)

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**Deadline for March newsletter is February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Please send news/information to Kathy Patrick, 3163 Wellington Way, Arnold, Mo. 63010, call 636-296-2393, or email [kathyp2880@gmail.com](mailto:kathyp2880@gmail.com).**

### HUMOR CORNER-- Traffic Stop

One day a certain lady was driving on the highway. She frequently checked her speed gauge to make sure she stayed within the speed limit. However, when she looked into her rear mirror, much to her dismay, she saw a police car not far behind! And, to make matters worse, the police car turned on the flashing lights!

She thought to herself, "Uh-oh, what have I done now? I'm not speeding. I'm not drinking. I have my seatbelt on! I have kept up my license dues and everything!" So she pulled over, and the police car pulled over to the side right behind her car. She drove her car slowly to a stop, slowly rolled down the window, and prepared herself for a ticket when she knew she didn't deserve it.

A policeman walked up to her window and spoke to her. The lady pointed to her ear and shook her head, meaning she was deaf. The policeman smiled slightly and wrote, "I know. I am here to tell you that your horn is stuck."

(Contributed by Kathy Patrick)

**Disclaimer** – Hearing Loss Association of America, Greater St. Louis Chapter neither recommends nor endorses products, people or services. Opinions expressed are those of the individuals, not those of the chapter.

**HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION APPLICATIONS**

**Hearing Loss Association of America,  
Greater St. Louis Chapter**

To join the chapter, I am enclosing dues of:  
\_\_\_\_ \$12 Individual \_\_\_\_ \$17 family (up to 4)  
The payment entitles me to the chapter newsletter and  
other information.

Name (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_  
Send a newsletter by E-mail Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_  
Member of HLAA National? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_  
Birthday (Month/Day) \_\_\_\_\_

**Check payable to:**

HLAA--Greater St. Louis Chapter

**Mail to:** Kathy Patrick  
3163 Wellington Way  
Arnold, Mo. 63010

2/2015

**Hearing Loss Association of America**

To join the national organization, Hearing Loss Association  
of America, I am enclosing **Individual dues** of  
\_\_\_\_ \$35/1 yr. \_\_\_\_ \$95/3 yrs. \_\_\_\_ \$140/5 yrs. or  
**Couple/Family dues \$45/1 yr.** (including subscription to  
**Hearing Loss Magazine**)

Or go to [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)  
Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Mr. \_\_\_\_ Mrs. \_\_\_\_ Ms. \_\_\_\_ Dr.  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

**Check payable to:**

HLAA Membership

**Mail to:** Hearing Loss Association of America  
7910 Woodmont Ave. Suite 1200  
Bethesda, Md. 20814

2/2015 Greater St. Louis

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Greater St. Louis Chapter  
3163 Wellington Way  
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