

Choo-Choo Signal

Hearing Loss
Association
of America
Chattanooga Chapter

MARCH 2103 • A SELF-HELP NEWSLETTER FOR PEOPLE WITH HEARING LOSS • www.hearingchattanooga.org

March 17 program: Cochlear Implant Users Panel

Member birthdays

- **March:** 13-Helen Kitchings

Calendar of meetings & events

- March 14: Signal Centers Deaf & Hard of Hearing Expo, 1-6pm, Brainerd UMC
- March 15: Walk4Hearing Team Challenge due by 8pm (see page 2)
- March 17: HLAA meeting, 2pm (see pg 6)
- March 18: TN Hands & Voices Chattanooga group mtg, 6pm, Ronald McDonald House
- April 6: Color Me Chattanooga Walk benefits Signal Centers (see pg 2)
- April 27 & 28: HLAA helps at Cornbread Festival for donation to Walk4Hearing, contact Susie Collins at sherrisusieq@yahoo.com to volunteer
- May 3: Grapes on the Green
- May 11: 5th Annual Walk4Hearing; registration at 9am, activities begin at 9am, Walk at 10am along Riverwalk. Register NOW at www.walk4hearing.org
- June 10-13: Hearing Heroes Camp for Deaf/HOH kids in Jasper, 9-11:30am CST; contact Susie Collins if you have a child who would like to attend. Chattanooga Kids on the Block, Language Lab, & more. It's FREE - funded by Walk4Hearing!

In our thoughts & prayers

- Sam McBride, pacemaker surgery
- Stephanie (Rider) Saluk, Siskin Rehab

Ronald McDonald House

Item of the Month: DRYER SHEETS



- Because RMH allows us to meet at the house without charge, we ask members to bring ONE item to the meetings in support of RMH. THIS MONTH: Dryer sheets.

www.hearingchattanooga.org

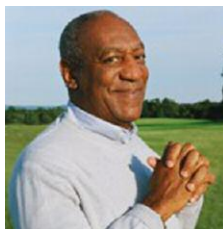
Walk4Hearing Kickoff a Success -

see more photos on www.hearingchattanooga.org



Approximately 70 guests enjoyed the 5th Annual Brunch at the Walk4Hearing Kickoff Event followed by our famous "foot" birthday cake. Photos by Terry Hunt.

Captioned event coming to Chattanooga



An Evening with Bill Cosby

Tivoli Theatre • Sunday, April 14 at 7:00 pm EDT

\$48 - \$65.50 + convenience fees

One of America's most beloved comedians, Bill Cosby has captivated generations of fans with his comedy routines, iconic albums, hit TV shows, and best selling books. His comedy transcends age, gender and cultural barriers.

W CHILDREN'S F HOUR

April 18 at 7pm -
Captioned Play!



By Lillian Hellman, directed by George Quick

"They have secrets or something, and they're afraid I'll find out and tell you." - Mary Tilford

A hateful lie told by an angry student at an all-girls boarding school irrevocably tarnishes the reputation of the two women who run it, leading to the destruction of their careers, relationships, and lives. The highly successful first play by New Orleans-born Lillian Hellman.

<http://www.theatrecentre.com> • 423-267-8534



COLOR ME CHATTANOOGA
benefiting signal centers

brewer media **SIGNAL CENTERS** United Way


A COLOR STORM
5K
APRIL 6

\$35
Before March 15

ColorMeChattanooga.com

ALL net proceeds will be used locally to benefit people with disabilities.

BY LOCALS. FOR LOCALS.



2013 TEAM CHALLENGE #1

We currently have 9 teams:

- Team Weston
- TN Hands & Voices
- Knoxville HLA
- Triple H
- FCC Chalice Champs
- Hear4Miles
- Nashers
- TN Organ.of the Deaf-Blind
- Twitchell Gang

Do you want a chance to win \$100 in your team total?

- All you have to do is register your team, alliance team or affiliate team on the W4H Convio system by 8pm on Friday, March 15.
- You and your team members must have raised \$100 for your team by 8pm on March 15.
- You must have entered this total amount in your Convio Walk4Hearing team account by 8pm on March 15.
- At 8pm on March 15, I will look at the Chattanooga Walk4Hearing page and make note of each team who has registered and raised \$100
- Each name will be written on a piece of paper and put into a basket.
- One lucky team will be drawn from those eligible and declared the winner of the \$100!
- The \$100 will then be added to the winning team's account by the Convio administrator Dick Twitchell.

**Be sure to register this week
no later than 8pm on March 15.**

Have fun and get ready to Walk4Hearing on May 11!!!

Chattanooga's Speech and Hearing Center welcomes new president and CEO



Chattanooga, Tenn.- - The Speech and Hearing Center, Chattanooga's only non-profit speech and hearing organization, is pleased to announce Connie Fernández as President and

CEO. Fernández enters the position after having been a dedicated team member with the Center for four and a half years.

A native of Middle Tennessee, Fernández is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga where she earned degrees in both Mass Communication and Anthropology. She began her career in corporate marketing, but later realized her passion was for nonprofit work after volunteering for United Way. As a result, Fernández has spent the last fourteen years serving nonprofit organizations in a variety of capacities.

"We appreciate Connie's dedication and service to The Speech and Hearing Center over the years," said Patsy Hazlewood, Vice Chair of the Center's Board of Directors. "Connie has all of the qualities and leadership skills to lead the Speech and Hearing Center, and her promotion is well-deserved."

In addition to her new position as The Speech and Hearing Center's President and CEO, Fernández is a member of the Downtown Sertoman Club of Chattanooga, and currently serves as President. She also serves on the Health Services Advisory Council for Georgia Head Start. Fernández resides in Flintstone, Georgia with her daughter and husband.



Visit us on
Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/hearingchattanooga>

- **DJ Rocks despite hearing loss -**
<http://www.cnn.com/2013/02/23/showbiz/dea-f-dj/index.html>
- **Sudden Hearing Loss signals emergency**
- <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-2284411/Deaf-Ringing-ear-It-sign-youre-just-moments-going-deaf.html>
- **Cochlear implant news -**
<http://news.yahoo.com/cochlear-implants-aid-adults-hearing-loss-223755619.html>
- **Ear buds' hearing loss falls on deaf ears -**
<http://www.thedenverchannel.com/lifestyle/health/ear-buds-hearing-loss-risks-fall-on-deaf-ears>

Storm preparedness

The next time the sky gets dark, the weather alarm begins sounding and TV stations warn you of upcoming bad weather...are YOU prepared?

Recently, the *Chattanooga Times Free Press* ran a front page article that listed the supplies that families should have on hand for **three days**:

- One gallon of water person per day
- Non-perishable food items, enough for 3 days per person
- Manual can opener
- Personal sanitation items
- Extra clothing & blankets
- Medications in a supply kit or somewhere readily accessible
- Hand-cranked or battery powered radio and flashlights
- Extra batteries
- Battery powered cell-phone charger
- Toys for children
- Whistle

See page 6 to find out if your chapter fees are due.

Many are PAST DUE.

Thank you for your attention.

The myths and truths about hearing loops

By Richard McKinley of Contacta, Inc. published in HCAA, South Palm Beach County Chapter

In the last ten years, the number of venues and locations with loop systems has grown dramatically in the United States. Today we find hearing loops at drive through windows, train stations, basketball stadiums, worship centers, boardrooms, ticket counters, cinemas, and theaters. These are all common places where hearing aids fail to sort out the spoken word from other background noises.

There are many myths and truths related to the use and implementation of hearing loop systems. A few of those are discussed below.

Truth - Simply because one can hear that someone is speaking does not mean that the words are understood, even with the use of hearing aids. Distance from a presenter causes the desired sound level to be low and random room sounds such as echoes result in confusion. This can happen in auditoriums or worship centers with the finest of sound systems. Often I hear comments like, "Just turn the volume up a bit and they will be able to hear better," when in most cases that would actually decrease intelligibility.

Myth - People with hearing loss don't need assistive listening devices at this venue because we already have assistive listening receivers that they can wear around their neck with headsets but they never use them. I hear this statement quite often. Sadly, it's like putting square tires on the car and expecting an enjoyable ride.

They might want to attend movies and worship but, because they don't have access to reasonable accommodations for a program, they stay home.

Hearing loss is called the invisible disability. Over 10 times more people are denied access to events because of hearing loss than they are due to lack of wheelchair accessibility. It is sad that many consider hearing loss a nuisance rather than a disability.

Truth - Loop systems need to be properly designed, adjusted, and installed in order for them to work well. In most cases a hearing loop design requires more than placing a hearing loop wire around the periphery of a room.

An international standard exists that defines the major parameters of proper loop system design. These include: uniformity, so that the same signal level is heard at an even level throughout the space; frequency response, so all the letters in the words are comprehended; and background noise level, so electromagnetic interference (EMI)

in the room does not negate the benefit of the loop system.

Myth - Any amount of electro magnetic interference (EMI) is too much for the hearing aid user. Although EMI can be an issue, the IEC standard sets guidelines that must be taken into consideration before installing a hearing loop system. When a hearing loop system is properly installed, adjusted, and checked, the users hearing aid will have a minimum of 20 dB signal-to-noise ratio, which is an excellent ratio. Therefore, it is still possible to hear some EMI with personal hearing loop receivers that are worn by individuals without hearing instruments, but this does not reduce the benefit of the hearing loop system.

Truth - You can install a loop system almost anywhere. This is true unless there is an excessive amount of EMI. I have seen systems installed in ticket windows, telephones, airports, court rooms, city halls, interview rooms, train stations, bus stations, on buses and trains, in taxis and elevators, boats, drive-thru windows, and even under a bed. They can be installed almost anywhere audio communication is essential.

Myth - The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) will protect us and make sure there is hearing assistance wherever we need it. If the ADA would ensure hearing assistance, some manner of hearing assistance would be in all of the aforementioned environments. While the ADA is an excellent act and supports the need for hearing assistance, there is no enforcement mechanism to confirm that the systems are in place and installed properly

Truth - All audio systems and the source of sound for the hearing loop are not created equal. This is true. The audio signal going into the loop must be considered- when designing and specifying a hearing loop system. The audio signal is a factor no matter what type of assistive listening system is used and is a critical part of the design and installation of all hearing assis-

tance systems. The audio source should be clean, clear and free of any background noises within the room.

The Loop Benefit Cycle - A hearing loop system is a win-win for everyone involved. Andrew Thomas of Contacta UK developed the chart above that shows the benefits provided to each stakeholder in the hearing loop process when a cooperative environment exists. The ultimate winners are people with hearing loss. In this way induction loop manufacturers and suppliers will sell more products, architects and consultants will become more respected, installers will receive more work and the service providers will raise customer service levels, both obtaining and retaining more customers. People with hearing loss will have a more positive experience in public places leading to more sales for hearing instrument manufacturers and improved patient care for hearing aid providers. Ultimately co-operation will lead to greater levels of understanding among stakeholders and to a greater appreciation of the long-term benefits of both hearing instruments and As Dr. David Myers (hearing assist advocate) likes to say, "effective loop systems double the use of my hearing aids." How can that not be great for everyone one involved? Check the chart and look at the benefits you, and those you connect with, gain from hearing loops. If there are no losers then we all must be winners. One hearing loop user said it best: "For the first time in many, many years I could hear every note, understand every word and I felt NORMAL."



Caption Associates LLC
CLOSED CAPTIONING
Your Trusted Captioning Professionals

Anne Schulman
President

1-866-602-3933 office toll-free 24/7
1-785-838-3933 office 24/7
1-785-838-3951 fax
1-785-766-4158 mobile

3514 Clinton Parkway
Suite A324
Lawrence, KS 66047-2145
captionanne@gmail.com

www.captionassociates.com

HLAA Chattanooga Chapter Treasury Report	
Feb. 11, 2013 - March 11, 2013	
Beginning Balance (Feb. 11, 2013)	\$4,240.02
Deposits & Credits	545.00
Withdrawals.....	0.00
Checks:	
#597 Signal Centers, Deaf/HOH Expo fee	25.00
#598 HLAA Rocky Stone Foundation Donation	500.00
#599 Betty Proctor, postage	13.80
#600 HLAA (HLAA tablecloth).....	167.00
Total.....	\$705.80
Ending Balance (March 11, 2013)	\$4,079.22
Beatrice R. Lyons, Treasurer	



Teams Wanted!



Hearing Loss Association of America Walk4Hearing 2013 Alliance Group Agreement

Name of Alliance Group: _____ Walk4Hearing Location: _____

A Walk4Hearing alliance group represents a 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations or educational institutions such as a school, hospital, hearing health-care-related group or house of worship that teams up with the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) to raise money by participating in the Walk4Hearing. The purpose of a Walk4Hearing alliance agreement with HLAA is to bring local community groups and organizations together to raise money for, and support the cause of, the Walk4Hearing. The alliance arrangement is a revenue sharing plan that gives other hearing-loss-related groups a financial incentive to join the Walk4Hearing. The alliance group benefits by retaining a portion of the total amount of money raised by their team(s).

The gross cash proceeds raised by alliance group team(s) are distributed as follows: **50% to HLAA, 10% to the local Walk4Hearing site (to cover local Walk4Hearing costs), and 40% will go to the alliance group.** HLAA uses its share of gross cash proceeds to support its work in behalf of people with hearing loss and to provide funding support for the Walk4Hearing including: Walk marketing materials distributed to every Walk site (folders, brochures, posters, etc.), t-shirts for every walker who raises \$100 or more, production and maintenance of the website (www.walk4hearing.org), online donation facility to accept credit card donations, production of promotional materials (press releases, media pieces and the like), support and guidance for walk site volunteers by two full-time staff persons.

The portion of money retained by the alliance group **must be used for programs and/or services benefiting people with hearing loss.**

Please provide us with some ideas or plans of how the portion of the Walk4Hearing funds will be used:

I have read, understand and agree to the procedure outlined above.

Print Name of Alliance Group Representative _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name of HLAA Local Walk Chair _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Make Alliance proceeds check payable to: _____

Alliance Group's Employer Identification Number (EIN): _____

Mail Check to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Contact E-mail / Phone: _____



The Nation's Voice for People with Hearing Loss
7910 Woodmont Avenue Suite 1200 Bethesda, MD 20814
www.hearingloss.org

All about Alliance Teams and how YOU can earn 40% of what your team raises!

Go to www.hearingchattanooga.org for the form

2013 WALK4HEARING ALLIANCE GROUP AGREEMENT Q&A

What is an alliance group agreement?

An alliance group is an entity such as a non-profit organization, local school, hospital, hearing health-care-related group or house of worship that wants to team up with the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) national office to raise money by participating in a local Walk4Hearing site. An example of an alliance group is Child's Voice, which is an oral school for children with hearing loss. Their team(s) participated in the 2009, 2010, 2011 & 2012 Chicago Walk4Hearing.

What is the purpose and benefits of an alliance group agreement?

The purpose of an alliance group agreement is to bring local community groups and organizations together to raise money for and support the cause of the Walk4Hearing. It is a revenue sharing plan to give other hearing-loss-related groups a financial incentive to join the Walk. The alliance group benefits by retaining a portion of the total amount of money raised by their team(s) for their own cause.

Who is eligible to be an alliance group?

Any entity which helps or supports programs or services for people with hearing loss is eligible to be an alliance group. The portion of money retained by the alliance group must be used for programs or services benefiting people with hearing loss. Another example of an alliance group is the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. They have participated in the 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 & 2012 Pennsylvania Walk4Hearing. They used their Walk funds one year to provide an informational and educational conference for parents with children who have a hearing loss.

How will the money raised by the alliance group team(s) be divided?

The money raised by the alliance group team(s) will be split between the alliance group and HLAA national. HLAA national gets 50% of what is raised by a participating alliance team to support its national programs and activities that include:

- Public policy and Advocacy
- Informational Webinars
- Hearing Loss Support Specialists Training
- Annual national HLAA Convention
- *Hearing Loss Magazine* and HLAA *e-News* (online newsletter)

It also is used to cover national expenses relating to the Walk, such as:

- Walk materials distributed to every Walk site such as Walk folders, brochures, posters
- T-shirts given to every walker who raises \$100 or more
- Production and maintenance of the website (www.walk4hearing.org)
- Provision and maintenance of Convio TeamRaiser to collect donations online in a secure way
- Production of press releases, public service announcements and videos to promote the Walk4Hearing nationally and locally
- Support and guidance for Walk site volunteers by two full-time staff persons

The alliance would then get the remaining 50% minus their percentage share of local Walk site related expenses, such as:

- The Walk permit, equipment rentals and signage for the Walk day
- Kickoff Event expenses
- Mailing expenses

Local Walk site expenses will range from approximately 8% - 10%.

What procedures need to be taken to form an alliance group agreement?

The alliance group agreement form is attached. This form needs to be completed and signed by the alliance group. The alliance group and local Walk site should keep a copy for their records and the original document should be sent to the national office. The Walk Chair should also be notified about an alliance group and he or she should inform the national organization. The national organization will then put the alliance group's name in the dropdown box menu on www.walk4hearing.org for their walkers to select when they register online.

Local support as of 3/11/2013

Lewis Addison	(past due)	\$15
Larry & Jane Akers (4/2013)		\$15
Nels & Mary Ann Angelin	(past due)	\$20
Lillian Barnett (2/2013) - 2 years		\$20
Warren Barnett	(past due)	\$20
Lana Bazemore	(past due)	\$20
Marge & Bill Bennett (2/2013)	(past due)	\$20
Jeff Bonnell (10/2013)		\$10
Mrs. Walter Brissenden	(due)	\$10
Joyce Casey	lifetime	\$10
Dorothy Casteel & Cindy Groves (10/2013)		\$15
Mary Coleman	(past due)	\$15
Susie Collins (2/2013)	(past due)	\$15
Brian & Annette Drake (2/2013)	(past due)	\$15
Cynthia Eby (1/2013)	(past due)	\$15
Mary Elam (4/2013) - 2 years		\$20
Marilyn Fisher (1/2013)	(past due)	\$20
Gary & Ruth Fox (11/2013) - 2 years		\$15
Provash Ghosh (1/2014) - 2 years		\$20
Winnie Hargis (8/2013)		\$10
Kris Headrick	(past due)	\$10
Linda Hershey	lifetime	\$10
David, Debbie & Alexis Ingram (3/2014)		\$15
Taber Jenkins	(past due)	\$15
Katye Jones (12/2014)		\$20
Judy Kincer (4/2014) - 2 years		\$20
Helen & Charles Kitchings	(past due)	\$20
Jeanette Legg (8/2014) - 2 years		\$20
Bea Lyons (11/2014) - 2 years		\$20
Nita Martin (12/2014)		\$20

Jana Massengale	(past due)	\$15
Dorris & Sam McBride (1/2014)		\$15
Tom & Diane McCombs (1/2014)		\$20
Elaine Moniz (2/2014) - 2 years		\$10
Beverly Morris (5/2013)		\$15
Doug & Nadia Oliver (11/2013)		\$10
Marge Pasch (2/2014)		\$10
Gail Pedigo (4/2013)		\$10
Donna Pomeroy (1/2013)	(past due)	\$10
Betty Proctor (3/2013)		\$10
Robbye Reep (10/2013)		\$10
Ron Reynolds (1/2013)	(past due)	\$10
Peggy Anne Rogers (12/2013)		\$10
David Saluk (11/2012)	(past due)	\$10
Jim & Joan Sewell	(past due)	\$10
Cindy Sharrock (3/2013)		\$10
Charlie Slover (3/2013)		\$10
Laqueta Soule (10/2013)		\$10
Betty Soward (10/2013)		\$15
Dave & Myralin Trayer (12/2013)		\$15
Nelda & Dick Twitchell (12/2013)		\$10
Howard VanZant (3/2013)		\$10

If your support fees are past due, please remit as soon as possible.

Individual fees are \$10 while family fees run \$15. You may pay your fee at the regular meeting or mail it to our PO box shown on mailing panel of this newsletter. The chapter survives because of your generosity! Not a supporting member? See box at right and pay your fees to become one!

(Date next to name indicates when chapter fees are next due - thanks for supporting the chapter!)

HLAA Membership

HLAA is committed to creating awareness of hearing loss issues.

Local Support Benefits:

Newsletter, membership directory, special mailings, educational info, support, National HLAA information

Memberships are good for one calendar year.

To become a member, sign up below:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Phone # _____

Work Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Birthday _____

___ HLAA Chattanooga Chapter, circle one:

\$10 individual, or **\$15** family, **mail to:**

PO Box 25254, Chattanooga, TN 37422-9992

___ HLAA National Dues, **\$35**

Includes Hearing Loss magazine subscription, **mail to:**

HLAA, 7910 Woodmont Ave., Suite 1200

Bethesda, MD 20814 or visit www.hearingloss.org and pay online!

CHOO-CHOO SIGNAL Published monthly - Betty A. Proctor, Editor

Choo-Choo Signal is written, edited and printed by the Chattanooga Chapter of Hearing Loss Association of America. Views expressed are those of chapter members. Permission to reproduce articles is hereby granted; however, credit and original information source must be cited. Mention of goods or services in articles or advertisements does not mean HLAA endorsement, nor should exclusion mean disapproval.



HLAA

CHOO-CHOO CHAPTER SIGNAL, c/o Betty A. Proctor, editor
P.O. Box 25254, Chattanooga, TN 37422-9992

Next Meeting: March 17, 2pm



Join us on Sunday, March 17 at 2pm
in the Community Room of the Ronald
McDonald House.

Program: Cochlear Implant Users Panel: A panel of cochlear implant recipients sharing their personal experiences. Margo Klug, Michigan; Jennifer Thorpe, Nashville; Sarah Samarin, Chattanooga - Moderator: Ruth Fox

Captioning by Joyce Casey - Loop in place for those with telecoils.

Refreshments by Susie Collins & Sarah Samarin

<http://www.hearingchattanooga.org>