

## Chapter Calendar of Events

**Wednesday, February 11 - TODB MEETING**  
(TN Organization of Deaf-Blind) 10am-2pm, Signal Centers on Bailey Ave.

**Thursday, February 12 - HAPPY HANDS**  
4:30pm, casual ASL group meets at Hamilton Place Food Court - all welcome!

**Sunday, February 15 - HLAA MEETING**  
2pm, program: Tax Tips

**Thursday, February 19 - CAPTIONED PLAY**  
Into the Woods, CTC, 7pm

**Saturday, February 21 - DEAF CHAT**  
10:30pm, casual ASL group meets at Hamilton Place Starbucks - all welcome!

**Sunday, March 15 - HLAA MEETING**  
2pm, program: To Protect & To Serve, Police Services

**Thursday, March 19 - DEAF & HARD OF HEARING EXPO - FREE!**  
Eastgate Towne Center, 1-6pm

**Thursday, March 19 - CAPTIONED PLAY**  
Festival of New Plays, CTC, 7pm

**Saturday, March 28 - Walk4Hearing KICKOFF**

**Saturday & Sunday, April 25 & 26 - NATIONAL CORNBREAD FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERING**  
Time slots available both days, fun! Sign up during February & March regular HLAA meetings



*Celebrating 35 years for  
48 million people with hearing loss*



**2014-2015 Chattanooga Theatre Centre**  
Thursday evening 7 p.m. captioned plays:

- February 19 - "Into the Woods"
- March 19 - "Festival of New Plays"
- June 18 - "Vanya and Sonia"
- July 23 - "9 to 5, the Musical"

www.theatrecentre.com or call 423-267-8534



## Chattanooga Chapter

**CHOO-CHOO SIGNAL NEWSLETTER**  
*A resource for people with hearing loss*

**February 2015**

### "Tax Tips" - Timely Topic for February 15 Meeting

The February 15 meeting topic will be "Tax Tips," presented by **Laurence Schnur** and **Rita Rogers**. Laurence, a Senior Tax Advisor 5, has 13 years experience with H & R Block, 35 years as a boiler maker and he enjoys hunting and fishing. Rita, a Senior Tax Advisor 4, has 20 years experience with H & R Block and enjoys taxes because she likes helping people and the challenge of the complexity of tax law.

*All are welcome to our monthly meetings, questions welcome!*

### Hamilton County's Emergency Services Update

*By Tony Reavley, Director, Hamilton County Emergency Services*

Hamilton County Emergency Services utilizes a program called Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) to alert citizens of Hamilton County in the event of natural or man-made disasters or emergencies.

"During an emergency, alert and warning officials need to provide the public with life-saving information quickly. The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) is a modernization and integration of the nation's alert and warning infrastructure and will save time when time matters most, protecting life and property.

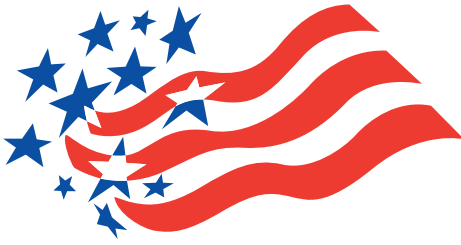
Federal, State, territorial, tribal and local alerting authorities can use IPAWS and integrate local systems that use Common Alerting Protocol standards with the IPAWS infrastructure. IPAWS provides public safety officials with an effective way to alert and warn the public about serious emergencies using the Emergency Alert System (EAS), Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio, and other public alerting systems from a single interface."

One way these messages are sent is by text. All the receivers have to do is ensure that their cell phones are Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) compatible. No sign up is required and there is no cost for this service.

*See: <https://www.fema.gov/integrated-public-alert-warning-system>*



**Walk4Hearing is celebrating 10 years of Walks nationally - 7 years here in Chattanooga!**  
Register for the 2015 Walk4Hearing at [http://hlaa.convio.net/site/PageServer?page-name=walk\\_home\\_page](http://hlaa.convio.net/site/PageServer?page-name=walk_home_page)



## Hearing Aid Tax Credit Revived in Senate

From <http://www.hearingaid-taxcredit.org>

On January 29, 2015, **Senators Dean Heller (R-NV) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)** reintroduced the Hear-

ing Aid Tax Credit (S 315), which would provide a \$500 credit to people who need a hearing aid. The bipartisan bill is unchanged from legislation in the 113th Congress, as previously announced in a November 18, 2013 Hearing Review article, when it was championed by Senators Heller and Tom Harkin of Iowa who has since retired. Senator Heller is a member of the Senate Finance Committee which has jurisdiction over all tax legislation including the HATC.

As explained in a recent announcement from the Hearing Industries Association (HIA), the Hearing Aid Tax Credit would provide assistance to many of the 36 million people\* who need hearing aids to address their hearing loss. Medicare and most private insurance policies expressly exclude coverage of hearing aids, and as a result, cost is cited as a prohibitive factor by two-thirds of the people who do not treat their hearing loss. If enacted, S 315 would provide a \$500 tax credit per hearing aid for people of all ages, or \$1,000 if two hearing aids are needed. This assistance would be critical, since 61% of all hearing aid purchases involve no third-party payment.

Todd Murray, chairman of HIA and president of GN Hearing Care North America, points out that studies indicate a link exists between untreated hearing loss and dementia, as well as other conditions such as depression and the risk of falling. Murray believes that a lack of financial assistance should not be a barrier to hearing aid adoption. The HIA announcement also said the Hearing Aid Tax Credit is actively supported by hearing health organizations, including the Alexander Graham Bell Assn for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (AG Bell), Hearing Loss Assn of America (HLAA), Academy of Doctors of Audiology (ADA), American Academy of Audiology (AAA), American Speech Language

Hearing Assn (ASHA), International Hearing Society (IHS) as well as Hearing Industries Association (HIA).

For more information about the bill, please visit the Hearing Aid Tax Credit website. <http://www.hearingaidtaxcredit.org/hr1694.cfm>

### Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act

#### What would the Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act do?

Provide a non-refundable \$500 tax credit for the purchase of a hearing aid, or \$1,000 if two are needed, once every five years. The House bill includes a \$200,000/year income eligibility cap.

#### Statistics: Basic Facts About Hearing Loss

From <http://www.hearingloss.org/content/basic-facts-about-hearing-loss>

- About 20 percent of adults in the United States, 48 million, report some degree of hearing loss.
- At age 65, one out of three people has a hearing loss.
- 60 percent of the people with hearing loss are either in the work force or in educational settings.
- While people in the workplace with the mildest hearing losses show little or no drop in income compared to their normal hearing peers, as the hearing loss increases, so does the reduction in compensation.
- About 2-3 of every 1,000 children are hard of hearing or deaf
- Estimated that 30 school children per 1,000 have a hearing loss.

#### Three Types of Hearing Loss

- **Conductive hearing loss** - when hearing loss is due to problems with the ear canal, ear drum, or middle ear and its little bones (the malleus, incus, and stapes).
- **Sensorineural hearing loss (SNHL)** - when hearing loss is due to problems of the inner ear, also known as nerve-related hearing loss.
- **Mixed hearing loss** - refers to a combination of conductive and sensorineural hearing loss. This means that there may be damage in the outer or middle ear and in the inner ear (cochlea) or auditory nerve.

## Walk4Hearing Starts NOW!

Walk4Hearing 2015 is on the move!

The 2015 W4H website is now live and we are seeking sponsors, alliances, teams and walkers!

### What is a Sponsor?

A sponsor can be anyone, but is usually a business or organization who sponsors our Walk for as little as \$100, up to \$5,000. Sponsors may also choose to provide in-kind donations.

### What is an Alliance?

An alliance is a *registered 501c3 non-profit organization*. 40% of the money raised by their team goes to the organization they represent to provide programs or



services to people with hearing loss, 10% goes to the Chattanooga Chapter and 50% goes to HLAA National. (A few past alliances have included Marty's Center, Memorial Hospital, Chattanooga State Foundation, League of Women Voters, First Christian Church & more.)

### What is a Team?

Teams are groups of people who get together to walk and raise funds for the

Walk4Hearing. 50% of funds raised stay with the local Chattanooga Chapter for use in the community. 50% goes to National HLAA for programs and services that serve all HOH members.

### What is a Walker?

Walkers are individuals who want to participate in the W4H but don't necessarily have a team to register with.

### Sponsors as of 2/8/15:

**Audiology Services of Chattanooga, Chattanooga Times Free Press, Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of Chattanooga, Johnson Audiology, Roadtec, Volkswagen Chattanooga, and WRCB-TV 3.**

**HCAA Chattanooga Chapter Treasury Report  
January 09, 2015 - February 03, 2015**

Beginning Balance (January 09, 2015)	\$5,877.30
Deposits & Credits	45.00
Withdrawals	0.00
Checks:	
#642 Betty Proctor, reimburs. (Casey gifts)	122.35
#643 Center for Non-Profits, member renewal	50.00
Total	\$172.35
<b>Ending Balance (Feb. 03, 2015)</b>	<b>\$5,749.95</b>

**Note:**  
Outstanding check to Signal Centers for \$30, exhibit fee for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Expo not reported at this time  
*Beatrice R. Lyons, Treasurer*

**Marty Dunagan**  
Director

423.805.3025

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Chattanooga, TN 37411  
[www.facebook.com/martyscenter](http://www.facebook.com/martyscenter)




**STATE OF TENNESSEE**  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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Fax: 423-634-8721  
Video Phone Number: 423-933-1228

**HCAA Convention Scholarships**  
Never attended a convention? Apply by Feb. 20 - see <http://www.hearingloss.org/content/convention-scholarships>



Hearing Loss Association of America  
**Chattanooga**  
**WALK4 HEARING®**  
*Save the date!*  
Saturday, May 9  
Chattanooga State & Riverwalk  
9am Registration/Activities • 10am Walk



**In the Classroom**

From <http://www.betterhearing.org/hearing-loss-children/classroom>

Accommodations and modifications in the classroom can help your child with hearing loss learn at his or her best. These include teaching strategies specific to your child's needs, as well as simple physical accommodations—like seating placement and keeping the classroom door closed to minimize extraneous noise. Importantly, other audio technologies to supplement and/or work in conjunction with your child's hearing aids can be extremely beneficial in enabling greater communication ease for your child.

It's important to ask the school principal or appropriate administrator for a meeting with a multidisciplinary team—including the teacher, audiologist, speech pathologist, special education teacher, and/or others as appropriate—to determine the best accommodations and modifications for your child.

At this meeting, be sure to explore the most commonly used audio technologies to learn what can be done to help your child. Classroom technologies for children with hearing loss include FM systems, induction loop systems, and remote microphones, among others.

FM systems are wireless audio systems designed to help people hear speech better in noisy environments. Working as a standalone system—or in conjunction with your child's hearing aids, cochlear implant, or other auditory management technology—FM systems help children with any degree of hearing loss. In fact, research shows that having FM systems in the classroom benefits all students,

even those without hearing loss. Schools are beginning to use induction loop systems—or “hearing loops”—more frequently. There is a growing movement, in fact, to make them standard in large public venues, such as performing arts centers and airports, where people need to hear broadcast sound. Hearing loops typically circle the periphery of a classroom or public space, and work on electromagnetic signals that connect with the teacher, speaker, or performer's microphone and audio system. This enables state-of-the-art hearing aids and cochlear implants to pick up the sounds coming from the microphone—without the unwanted background noise.

Remote microphone hearing assistance technology (HAT) delivers the speech signal from the microphone to other audio devices so your child can have easier access to what the teacher is saying. HAT devices can bring the speech and sound signals from the microphone to your child in a number of ways:

- Directly to your child's hearing aid, cochlear implant or other hearing device via a hearing loop;
- Directly to your child's hearing aid, cochlear implant or other hearing device via a wireless receiver that your child wears;
- To a strategically positioned loudspeaker that benefits your child and others in the room;
- To a single, personal loudspeaker close to your child.

There are many options available today to help your child with hearing loss in the classroom. Figuring it all out may feel overwhelming at first. But realize there are many knowledgeable professionals in the education system and hearing health profession ready, able, and eager to guide you and help your child.

Remember: You are not alone. These professionals have gone through this many times before with parents just like you who want to do the very best for their children. The important step is setting up that initial meeting with the multidisciplinary team in order to put the best plan in place for your child.

# Deaf/ Hard of Hearing EXPO!



Assistive Technology  
Services

March  
19  
2015  
  
1 - 6pm

Where:  
Eastgate Towne Center  
5600 Brainerd  
Road  
Chattanooga, TN  
37411

For more Information  
Contact:

Steve Powell  
423-629-4174 ext. 502

[steve\\_powell@signalcenters.org](mailto:steve_powell@signalcenters.org)

Free to  
the  
Public!!!



Choo-Choo Signal Published monthly -  
Betty A. Proctor, Editor  
  
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## 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](http://www.hearingloss.org)  
and pay online!



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

### FEBRUARY MEETING:

**Sunday, February 15 • 2pm**

Ronald McDonald Community Room

Topic: "Tax Tips"

#### Speakers:

Laurence Schnur & Rita Rogers from H & R Block

**Also:** More Walk4Hearing Funding Suggestions

**Refreshments:** Charles & Diane Slover

**Door Greeter:** Rachael Johnston or Janet Pearson

**Captioning:** Linda Hershey

Room also is looped for use with telecoils

<http://www.hearingchattanooga.org>  
[www.facebook.com/hearingchattanooga](http://www.facebook.com/hearingchattanooga)