

## Chapter Calendar of Events

- Saturday, September 12 - ANNUAL ESA TASTER'S LUNCHEON & FALL FASHION SHOW, CAPTIONED - featuring clothing from the Dress Barn. Doors open at 10am for Chinese Auction; Lunch served at 11:30am. Tickets \$15.
- Saturday, September 12 - GoFEST! at the Zoo, 10am-3pm
- Sunday, September 20 - HLAA MEETING, 2pm, Ronald McDonald House; Smart Phones
- Thursday, September 24 - CAPTIONED PLAY "Sister Act" CTC, 7pm



- Thursday, October 15 - CAPTIONED PLAY "22 Variations" CTC, 7pm
- Sunday, October 18 - HLAA MEETING, 2pm, Ronald McDonald House; Veterans & Hearing Loss - More planned, stay tuned!
- Thursday, November 12 - CAPTIONED PLAY "Harvey" CTC, 7pm

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- Sunday, November 15 - HLAA MEETING, 2pm, Place TBA due to unavailability of the Ronald McDonald House; Topic TBA

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- Saturday, December 12 - Annual Christmas Party, 12-noon, Alexian Village Dining Room
- Thursday, December 17 - CAPTIONED PLAY "A Christmas Story, The Musical" CTC, 7pm
- Thursday, February 11 - CAPTIONED PLAY "The Royal Family" CTC, 7pm
- Thursday, March 10 - CAPTIONED PLAY "Sordid Lives" CTC, 7pm
- Thursday, April 14 - CAPTIONED PLAY "Dividing the Estate" CTC, 7pm
- Thursday, June 23 - CAPTIONED PLAY "Camelot" CTC, 7pm
- Thursday, July 21 - CAPTIONED PLAY "Spamalot" CTC, 7pm



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

# Hearing Loss Association of America

## Chattanooga Chapter

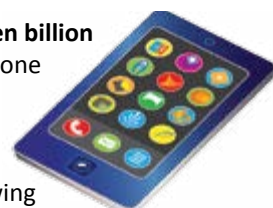
**CHOO-CHOO SIGNAL NEWSLETTER**  
*A resource for people with hearing loss*

**September 2015**

### September 20 Meeting Topic:

### Smartphone apps for the deaf and hard of hearing

The population of the world is approximately **seven billion** people. Last year, approximately 6.5 billion cell phone subscriptions were sold. And currently, there are only 4.5 billion toilets accessed in the world. Smartphones are here to stay. Charlie Slover, who attended the 2015 HLAA Convention, will be showing apps specifically geared to the Deaf as well as apps specifically geared to the needs of the hard of hearing. There are literally hundreds of these things and he will discuss only a few. He will provide a list of the major apps to the attendees to take home with them.



This is a condensed slide version of the presentation given at the 2015 National Convention. Dr. Perry C. Hanavan so very graciously provided his slides of the presentation to Charlie. Dr. Hanavan currently teaches in the Communication Disorders program at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He is a fun person and his sessions are always packed.

**Don't miss this wonderful learning opportunity: Sunday, Sept. 20 @ 2pm, Ronald McDonald House, 200 Central Ave. Refreshments & captioning provided.**

### Chattanooga Speech & Hearing Center Welcomes Erica Newman

The Speech & Hearing Center announces that Erica Newman is the new President/CEO of the Center. Mrs. Newman is a graduate of the University of Miami where she earned degrees in both Broadcast Journalism and English. She began her career in the television news industry and lived in California, Nevada, and Georgia before moving to Chattanooga for a reporting job with a local news affiliate. Her passion for helping people led her into the world of healthcare and non-profit work. She has extensive experience working with both non- and for-profit healthcare agencies, including OT/PT/Speech services, as well as serving on several boards for education resource groups, area Chambers of Commerce, and (continued on page 4)





### HLAA Supports the HEAR Act

July 14, 2015

The time has come for Medicare to cover the cost of expensive hearing aids. On June 9, 2015, HLAA penned a letter of support for the Help Extend Auditory Relief (HEAR) Act, H.R 2748. On June 12, 2015, U.S. Representative Matt Cartwright announced the reintroduction of the HEAR Act, H.R 2748 with the support of 10 members of Congress. Cartwright first introduced the HEAR Act in 2013.

The HEAR Act would provide Medicare coverage for hearing rehabilitation services, including a comprehensive audiology assessment to determine if a hearing aid is appropriate.

The bill would also extend Medicare coverage to hearing aids.

“HLAA receives numerous calls and emails from people seeking help and information about hearing loss. By far the call we receive most often is the one seeking help purchasing hearing aids. It’s particularly troubling that seniors with hearing loss have very few places to turn when they cannot afford a hearing aid. We will never forget the son who called us desperate for help and guilt-ridden that he could not afford to finance the cost of two hearing aids for his 85-year-old mother,” said Anna Gilmore Hall, executive director of HLAA.

Read more here: <http://cartwright.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-cartwright-re-introduces-legislation-to-provide-coverage-of>

### Advocacy Updates

#### Your response was overwhelming! The CDC is listening

On August 7, 2015, Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) issued an action alert regarding a recent study, Prevalence of Disability and Disability Types Among Adults conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). That study excluded people with hearing loss. Read the HLAA media release for our reaction to the CDC study that ignored people with hearing loss.

Your response was overwhelming! Consumers and professionals alike are aghast at the exclusion of people with hearing loss in a study administered by CDC. The responses we received were compelling, heartfelt stories of what it really is like living with a hearing loss:

(Continued on page 4)

**CAPTIONED!!**

28th Annual  
*Taster's Luncheon*  
& *Fall Fashion Show*  
Fashions provided by the Dress Barn

**Saturday, September 12**

St. Stephen's Catholic Church  
7111 Lee Highway

Doors open 10 a.m. • Luncheon served 11:30 a.m.  
Emceed by local celebrity Jed Mescon, WRCB-TV anchor

**WALTER E. BOEHM BIRTH DEFECT CENTER BENEFIT**

- Assorted hors d'oeuvres, salads & desserts  
Prepared by ESA members
- \$100 CASH drawing  
Only one lucky advance ticket sale holder will win!  
Must have ticket in hand at door!
- Chinese Auction  
Items valued at \$25-\$50 each  
Buy 20 tickets for \$5
- Bidding Auction

423.266.5215  
423.778.2222

Captioning provided for guests with hearing loss

Tickets: \$15

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**HLAA Chattanooga Chapter Treasury Report**  
**June 13, 2015 - August 4, 2015**

Beginning Balance (June 13, 2015)	\$5,638.06
Deposits & Credits	548.93
Withdrawals	0.00
Checks:	
650 Thank You to HLAA Captioners	160.00
651 Hershey stipend 2015 HLAA convention	25.00
652 Proctor stipend 2015 HLAA convention	108.34
653 Collins stipend 2015 HLAA convention	108.34
654 NTwitchell stipend 2015 HLAA convention	108.33
655 DTwitchell stipend 2015 HLAA convention	108.33
656 Lyons stipend 2015 HLAA convention	108.33
657 CSlover stipend 2015 HLAA convention	108.33
658 DSlover stipend 2015 HLAA convention	25.00
659 Donation to TODB 2015 Camp	500.00
662 Betty Proctor reimburse W4H certificates	37.73
Total:	\$1,397.73
Ending Balance August 4, 2015	\$4,789.26

*Note: Checks # 660 & 661 were voided.*

Beatrice R. Lyons, Treasurer



### Rare gene variant associated with middle ear infections

*Hearing Health Blog - Baylor College of Medicine*  
Many parents have heard the night-time cry of “my ear hurts.” For some children, this might happen frequently beginning in infancy and even persist into adulthood. An international consortium led by those at Baylor College of Medicine may have taken the first step on the road to

understanding why only some people get frequent painful or chronic middle ear infections. The culprit may be rare genetic variants in a gene called A2ML1.

A report on their work appears online in the journal *Nature Genetics*.

See: <http://hearinghealthfoundation.org/blog?blogid=149>

ADVOCACY: continued from page 1

An advocate in New York wrote, "We need to take hearing loss in the United States from the realm of invisible, often ignored and still too often regarded as a shameful or embarrassing personal affliction to the forefront of major public health concerns."

"We can't fix that which we fail to see," wrote one teacher.

A consumer in Virginia said, "Given how this report will be used by federal, state, and local governments, as well as by other organizations to help them make decisions about funding and other issues to support the disability community, I really think you need to meet with the people at the Hearing Loss Association of America and listen to what they have to say."

CDC itself notes in this study, "Understanding the prevalence of disability is important for public health programs to be able to address the needs of persons with disabilities."

In a call with CDC, HLAA discussed that the study is part of a collaborative project among all the states in the country and CDC, and is administered and supported by CDC and conducted via phone. The objective is to collect uniform, state-specific data on preventive health practices and risk behaviors that are linked to chronic disease, injuries and preventable infections diseases that affect the adult population.

HLAA made it clear to CDC that we had received a strong response from our community. We told them that it's vital that public health programs have access to data that includes people with hearing loss. CDC heard our message.

The door has been opened, thanks to your overwhelming show of support. CDC is listening. HLAA will continue to talk and to listen to CDC as well. We appreciate that CDC has been responsive to our request and has opened up a dialog with us. HLAA will continue to work with CDC. We know that data regarding the health needs of people with hearing loss is sorely needed. We see this as just the first step to ensure that people with hearing loss are counted and there are voices heard.

### Now in Chattanooga!!

Following our trek to St. Louis and the HLAA Convention where Regal received the National Access Award, I got on the bandwagon immediately and with contacts from HLAA was able to find out that Regal's Hamilton Place 8 theatre now carries Sony's Access Glasses.

Carmike Theatres have offered access with their Captiview drink holder mounted captioners for several years.

I received the following note from Regal:

"Thank you for your kind words regarding the recent HLAA award the Company received. I wanted to contact you regarding captioning at our Chattanooga theatre. We currently only operate one theatre in the Chattanooga area, the Hamilton Place 8 theatre. This theatre offers closed captioning via Sony Access Glasses and USL seatmount devices <http://www.regmovies.com/Home/Theatres/Theatre%20Folder/Regal%20Hamilton%20Place%208%201541>."

We can ALL enjoy the big-screen movie experience now - at your choice of theatres! A big round of applause to the theatres for finally making this happen and another round to HLAA for their advocacy efforts!



(NEWMAN: continued from page 1)

developing relationships with area physicians and medical institutions. Mrs. Newman has a personal connection with the mission of the Center, as both her sister and brother-in-law were born deaf and communicate through text, email, FaceTime, and American Sign Language (ASL). Mrs. Newman has always been passionate about helping those with hearing challenges and is fluent in ASL herself. She continues to be an active member of many deaf and hard of hearing groups in the Chattanooga area. Mrs. Newman is originally from Boston but now lives in Chattanooga with her husband, and their family.

<p>HLAA Membership HLAA is committed to creating awareness of hearing loss issues.</p> <p>Local Support Benefits: Newsletter, membership directory, special mailings, educational info, support, National HLAA information</p> <p>Memberships are good for one calendar year.</p> <p>To become a member, sign up below:</p> <p>Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State/Zip _____ Phone # _____ Work Phone _____ E-mail address _____ Birthday _____</p> <p>___ HLAA Chattanooga Chapter, circle one: \$10 individual, or \$15 family, mail to: PO Box 25254, Chattanooga, TN 37422-9992</p> <p>___ HLAA National Dues, \$35 Includes Hearing Loss magazine subscription, mail to HLAA, 7910 Woodmont Ave., Suite 1200 Bethesda, MD 20814 or visit <a href="http://www.hearingloss.org">www.hearingloss.org</a> and pay online!</p>
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