

## Chapter Calendar of Events

### JANUARY 2017

- 5 - Happy Hands at the Mall, 4:30-6:30/7:30pm, Hamilton Place Mall Food Court.
- 7 - Nelda Twitchell 's birthday
- 12 - Happy Hands meets, see above; Charles Slover's birthday
- 15 - HLAA Meeting, 2pm, Ronald McDonald House - What you Need to Know About Cochlear Implants. Join us to learn more about CIs. Dr. Courtney Guthrie from Johnson Audiology will be our guest speaker. All are welcome!  
Cindy Eby's birthday  
HLAA newsletter sent out
- 16 - Marge Pasch's birthday
- 17 - Jennie Brown's birthday
- 19 - Happy Hands meets, see above  
Jane Aker's birthday
- 20 - Marge Bennett's birthday
- 21 - Deaf Chat meets at Hamilton Place Starbucks, 10am. Practice signs, make new friends!  
Nita Martin's birthday
- 26 - Happy Hands meets, see above
- 29 - HLAA newsletter sent out

### FEBRUARY 2017

- 16 - "Lovesick" **Captioned Play**, 7pm, Chattanooga Theatre Centre; tickets \$23/\$25.
- 19 - HLAA Meeting, 2pm, Ronald McDonald House, Topic TBA

### Captioning at the Movies, an Update

After 6 1/2 years, the Department of Justice has released their Final Rule, requiring movie theaters to:

- have and maintain the equipment necessary to provide closed movie captioning and audio description at a movie patron's seat whenever showing a digital movie produced, distributed, or otherwise made available.
- provide notice to the public about the availability of these features, including on communications and advertisements at the box office, and other ticketing locations, on websites, mobile apps newspapers and via telephone. Third party websites are not required to provide that information.
- ensure that theater staff is available to assist patrons with the equipment before, during, and after the showing of a movie with these features.



# Hearing Loss Association of America

## Chattanooga Chapter

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

**January 1, 2017**

### Chapter Review

**Happy New Year!** I hope each of you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season.

I did not prepare the Dec. 18 newsletter, due to the holiday, but today starts the regular 2-week cycle again. I'll put the dates for the newsletter on the Chapter Calendar of Events. If Businesses, Organizations, Members or Others have anything to include in the newsletter, get it to me no later than the day before the newsletter comes out. Since I have not announced birthdays regularly, that information also will be included in the dates.

**Tom McCombs** reports that the DAV in Red Bank was busy all day long on Dec. 7 when they had VA reps available to answer questions.

**Bea Lyons** shared some photos from the Dec. 8 Signal Center Expo. Thanks to Bea, **Susie Collins, Dick & Nelda Twitchell, Charlie Slover and Tom McCombs** for volunteering. Be on the lookout for events where we might exhibit at to bring information about hearing loss to others.



On Dec. 10, we had a joyful, fun Christmas Party at Alexian Village - thanks to **Peggy Anne Rogers** for hosting the event - and I know y'all enjoyed watching me literally "run" our annual game - lol!



### January 15 HLAA Meeting:

*If you are interested in learning more about Cochlear Implants, join us at 2pm on Jan. 15 when Dr. Courtney Guthrie from Johnson Audiology will present a program and answer your questions!*





## FCC Clears Path for Transition from TTY Technology to Real-Time Text

Southeast ADA Center: <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-adopts-real-time-text-services-americans-disabilities>

The Federal Communications Commission [FCC] today amended its rules to allow phone companies to replace support for an outdated form of text telephone communications, known as TTY, with support for real-time text, to provide reliable telephone communications for Americans who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, or who have a speech disability.

As the nations communications networks migrate to [Internet protocol] IP-based environments, real-time text technology will allow Americans with disabilities to use the same wireless communications devices as their friends, relatives and colleagues, and more seamlessly integrate into tomorrows communications networks. Under FCC rules, phone companies and manufacturers are required to support accessible text communications services, which for years have taken the form of TTY services. Under the new rules, carriers and manufacturers will be allowed to use the more advanced and interoperable real-time text technology to meet this obligation.

Real-time text allows characters to be sent as they are created without hitting “send.” This allows text to be sent at the same time as voice communications, permitting a more conversation-friendly service. In addition, by not requiring users to hit “send,” 911 call center personnel, for example, will be able to receive even incomplete messages from people in need. Real-time

text enables the full integration of people with disabilities into IP communications networks as they become widely available. It allows consumers using text communications to interact directly with consumers on voice phones, and vice versa. This technology will also be able to function in off-the-shelf devices like common smartphones. This will eliminate the need for consumers with disabilities to purchase expensive and often hard-to-find specialized text devices.

The order adopted today allows companies to transition to real-time text as a replacement for TTY services. The Commission has already granted various wireless carriers waiver requests of the Commissions requirements to support TTY technology as they committed to developing and deploying real-time text services on their wireless IP networks. They and other stakeholders generally agree on the technical feasibility of real-time text, as well as its superior reliability, efficiency, character sets, features and speed over TTY.

This order responds to AT&Ts petition asking the FCC to initiate a rulemaking that would authorize the industry-wide substitution of real-time text for TTY technology to meet accessibility requirements on wireless networks. To fulfill this requirement, real-time text services must be both compatible with existing TTY services and interoperable with real-time text applications on other networks. The Commission also adopted a notice asking questions about next steps in the process of integrating these services into telecommunications relay services and the need for certain RTT features for people with cognitive disabilities and who are deaf-blind.

For more information about the FCCs Disability Rights Office, visit: <https://www.fcc.gov/general/disability-rights-office>.

<https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-adopts-real-time-text-services-americans-disabilities>

### HLAA Chattanooga Chapter Treasury Report November 04, 2016 – December 02, 2016

Beginning Balance (November 04, 2016)	\$7,055.90
Deposits & Credits	00.00
Withdrawals	00.00
Checks:	
1014 ChattState Theatre Dept (6 admissions)	90.00
Ending Balance December 02, 2016	\$3,870.90

Note: Two checks [#1015 & #1016] still outstanding and have not yet been processed at the bank

Beatrice R. Lyons, Treasurer  
Chattanooga Chapter, HLAA  
Chattanooga, TN

### Erin Mirante: New at HLAA to Help Serve Members

Erin Mirante is the new Program Assistant for Chapters and Membership Services who came on board November 28th. Valerie Stafford-Mallis, Director of Chapter Development, says Erin is warm-hearted, enthusiastic, and eager to assist the chapters. To welcome Erin, please drop her a line and say “Hello.” Erin’s email address is [emirante@hearingloss.org](mailto:emirante@hearingloss.org).

During December, Erin has been working with HLAA’s Membership Coordinator Gaelin Bryant to learn the HLAA database system. “While databases are not everybody’s idea of a good time, they form the foundation for HLAA to support its chapters and members. If you remember the old computer adage GIGO (garbage in - garbage out), it goes a long way to explain why Erin spent her first month immersed in databases. Without accurate and up-to-date data, HLAA simply cannot serve its members,” shares Valerie.

**Members should send emails requesting assistance to:**  
[vstafford-mallis@hearingloss.org](mailto:vstafford-mallis@hearingloss.org) or to [chapters@hearingloss.org](mailto:chapters@hearingloss.org).  
Either Erin or Valerie will respond.