

Chapter Calendar of Events

JANUARY 2017

- 16 - Marge Pasch's birthday
- 17 - Deaf Senior Citizens Meeting, contact Elaine Moniz for details
Jennie Brown's birthday
- 19, 26- Happy Hands meets, Hamilton Place Food Court, 4:30pm. Practice signs, make new friends!
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
- 29 - HLAA newsletter sent out

FEBRUARY 2017

- 2, 9, 16, 23 - Happy Hands meets, Hamilton Place Food Court, 4:30pm. Practice signs, make new friends!
- 15 - Ruth Fox' birthday
- 16 - "Lovesick" **Captioned Play**, 7pm, Chattanooga Theatre Centre; tickets \$23/\$25.
- 18 - Deaf Chat meets at Hamilton Place Starbucks, 10am. Practice signs, make new friends!
- 19 - HLAA Meeting, 2pm, Ronald McDonald House, 911 Services Update for People with hearing loss
- 21 - Deaf Senior Citizens Meeting



MARCH 2017

- 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Happy Hands meets, Hamilton Place Food Court, 4:30pm. Practice signs, make new friends!
- 3 - Marty Dunagan's birthday
- 13 - Helen Kitchings birthday
- 15 - Cindy Groves birthday
- 18 - Deaf Chat meets at Hamilton Place Starbucks, 10am. Practice signs, make new friends!
- 19 - HLAA Meeting, 2pm, Ronald McDonald House, Topic TBA
- 21 - Deaf Senior Citizens Meeting
- 31 - Early-bird registration for the HLAA convention closes



Hearing Loss Association of America

Chattanooga Chapter

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

January 15, 2017

Chapter Review

Chattanooga HLAA welcomed **Dr. Courtney Guthrie** from Johnson Audiology as its speaker on January 15. Dr. Guthrie discussed Cochlear Implants (CI) in depth and her role as an audiologist who provides services needed for CI recipients.

If you have not been to an HLAA convention lately to learn more about CI's, technology keeps improving. Some of the changes include different sizes in the sound processors and how they are connected, Hybrid CI's, waterproof options, and more.



According to the American Speech Language Hearing Association, audiologists are involved in many of the components of the cochlear implant program, including determining the candidacy of an individual for implantation, as well as activating and programming of the speech processor after surgery. They also state that more than 219,000 individuals have received cochlear implants worldwide.

To read more FAQ about CI's, see <http://www.asha.org/public/hearing/Cochlear-Implant-Frequently-Asked-Questions/>. To reach Dr. Guthrie log-on on www.johnsonaudiology.com or call 423-710-1432.

YOU'RE INVITED!

Hearing Loss Association of America **HLAA**
2017 CONVENTION
JUNE 22-25 | SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Salt Palace Convention Center
Little America Hotel
hearingloss.org

HLAA Webinar: Making History: The NAS Report Explained

Date & Time: Jan. 18, 2017 - 8:00pm - 9:00pm

Presenters: Barbara Kelley, Executive Director, HLAA; Lise Hamlin, Director of Public Policy, HLAA; and Brenda Battat, member of the NAS Committee on Accessible and Affordable Hearing Health Care, for Adults and former HLAA executive director

The nation turns to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAS) for independent, objective advice on issues that affect people's lives worldwide. On June 2, 2016, the NAS released their historic study on Hearing Health Care for Adults: Priorities for Access and Affordability. HLAA was the only consumer-group sponsor of the study along with several federal agencies.

Question: Why should HLAA Chapters be ready to talk about this report and why should people with hearing loss everywhere care about it?

Hearing is a complex physiologic process and when one has hearing loss, it can have its effects on health, independence, well-being, quality of life, and daily function as well as on everyday communication.

This evidence-based study which declares hearing loss as a major health issue focuses on improving accessibility and affordability of hearing health care for adults.

Tune into the webinar to learn why this is happening now and what HLAA is doing to ensure that the recommendations of the NAS study will be moved forward. Everyone needs to learn why this is an historic time for people with hearing loss.

See <http://www.hearingloss.org/content/schedule> to find out how to access this important webinar.

HLAA Chattanooga Chapter Treasury Report December 02, 2016 – January 15, 2017

Beginning Balance (December 02, 2016)	\$3,870.90
Deposits & Credits	00.00
Withdrawals	00.00
Checks:	
#1015 Susie Collins Sertoma Dues	280.00
#1016 Signal Centers AT Expo Registration	25.00
#1017 Chapter Donation: Rocky Stone Founders	500.00
Total:	805.00
Ending Balance January 15, 2017	\$3,065.90

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

Scientists Identify Gene that Causes Sensorineural Hearing Loss

Reprinted from The Hearing Review, January 2017

A causative gene for a highly common type of hearing loss - sensorineural hearing loss, or SNHL - has been identified by a group of Japanese researchers, who report they have successfully replicated the condition using a transgenic mouse. This discovery could potentially be used to develop new treatments for hearing loss.

The gene identified in this study is related to actin - as many as one third of the causative genes for sensorineural hearing loss that have been discovered so far are genes that encode proteins with functions related to actin. Actin plays an important function in the formation and maintenance of auditory hair and inner ear hair cells. By using a model transgenic mouse to find the compounds that transform actin functions within the inner ear hair cells, scientists could potentially develop new treatments for various strains of hereditary sensorineural hearing loss. The hearing impaired mouse used in this study could also be a key to discovering treatments for acquired sensorineural hearing loss.

The study findings were published in the October 5, 2016 online edition of *EMBO Modular Medicine*.

FCC Seeks Comment on 911 Smartphone Apps

January 9, 2017 • Source: Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

On December 19, 2016, the FCC's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB) released a Public Notice seeking comment on whether to initiate proceedings to address issues related to 911 smartphone apps. The National Association of State 911 Administrators (NASNA) has raised concerns that 911 apps may harm consumers by slowing down the process of gaining access to the 911 system, interfere with the process of responding to calls for service, and can present a danger to emergency responders.

PSHSB seeks comment on NASNA's concerns, the appropriate role for the Commission, and other comments related to 911 apps or public safety-related smartphone apps. For example, individuals and organizations representing individuals with disabilities may comment on their experiences and expectations when using 911 apps and other emergency-related apps for smartphones.

Comments are due February 2, 2017; reply comments are due March 6, 2017.

Public Notice:

Word: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-16-1405A1.docx

PDF: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-16-1405A1.pdf

Text: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-16-1405A1.txt

For more information, please contact Austin Randazzo, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, at (202) 418-1462 or Austin.Randazzo@fcc.gov. For those using videophones and fluent in American Sign Language, you may call the ASL Consumer Support Line at 844-432-2275.

Link: Go to website for News Source <https://www.fcc.gov/general/disability-rights-office-headlines>