Hearing Loss Association of America is the largest non-profit for people with hearing loss in the world. The Wake Chapter meets in the Raleigh/Cary area. Meetings are free and open to the public. Come and learn how you can make the most of your hearing (or how you can help).

Our Next HLA-Wake Program Meeting is planned for 7 to 9 pm Tuesday, September 17th at the Jaycee Park located at 2405 Wade Avenue, Raleigh NC 27607. Our program will be “Understanding your choices and options for Hearing Assistive Technology (HAT)” will be presented by our President, Tim Boyd, who just returned from the HLAA conference in Portland and who recently completed the HLAA HAT training program.

Also In this Newsletter: Scroll down to see the other 5 pages

Don’t miss the extra pages of this newsletter, which include:
- An invitation to the Walk4Hearing Kickoff luncheon (RSVP by 16 Aug)
- A “Message from the HLAA Executive Director”

Our Wake Walk4Hearing Team

Wake Chapter has a team that will walk in the upcoming 2013 North Carolina Walk4Hearing in Winston Salem on Saturday, 12 October.

Here’s how you can support our team by raising funds for our chapter and raising awareness of hearing loss:

1. Join and walk with us
2. Donate to our team

You can join or donate to our team at our Team’s web page, by bringing a donation to our Sept. chapter meeting, or by sending a check to our chapter Treasurer,

Susan Goldner
2221 Trellis Green,
Cary, NC 27518

Another Way To Help

Do you know of a business, agency or non-profit that might sponsor our Walk4Hearing?

Sponsors don’t have to be hearing loss related, though audiologists, hearing aid dealers, ENTs, and other hearing loss related businesses or organizations may be especially interested in supporting the NC Walk4Hearing.

Sponsors can make a cash donation, offer to pay some particular expense of the Walk4Hearing or donate goods or services that we can use as Walk prizes.

Please refer potential sponsors to the 2013 Local Sponsorship Opportunities form and be sure to tell them that local sponsors at “Friends Level” or above will receive a free banner ad on our HLA-NC web site for a year.

Your Thoughts Please:

We’d like to hear from you, so our new President, Tim Boyd, has created a survey to gather your thoughts to help HLA Wake Chapter better serve our interests.

Please take the survey by clicking on THIS LINK.

Who Should Be Involved

People with hearing loss, their family, friends and hearing healthcare professionals are encouraged to participate in the Hearing Loss Association of Wake County. We invite you to come and join us … and make the most of your hearing.

Wine and Design?

Susan Goldner and Julie Bishop have again arranged with “Wine and Design” in Cary to host a fundraiser for our Walk4Hearing.

You’re invited to join the fun on Sunday, Sept 29th. A great floral to paint and fabulous MaryAnn Conti to teach.

Everything is supplied for you to go home with an amazing 16x20 painting. Light appetizers, sweet tea and wine will be provided. Arrive 15 minutes early to sign in, put your apron on and pour yourself a glass of wine. Thank you and we look forward in seeing you.

Hoping for a great turnout and great fun painting and sipping wine; It’s not just for the ladies; men welcome, too. Click HERE To register.

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KICKOFF EVENT
NORTH CAROLINA WALK4HEARING KICKOFF

Saturday, August 24, 2013 | 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Graylyn in the Mews
1900 Reynolda Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27106
Directions

If you've already RSVP'd, thank you!
If not, there's still time!

RSVP by August 16, 2013
Reply now by filling out the online form or contact:

Meagen Lewis
Melewis@wakehealth.edu | 336.716.8187

Anyone interested in learning about how they can support the Walk4Hearing may attend this free event. Space is limited, so please RSVP early.

WALK EVENT
NORTH CAROLINA WALK4HEARING

Saturday, October 12, 2013 | Distance 5K (3.1 miles)

Tanglewood Park
4061 Clemmons Road
Clemmons, NC

Walk Chairpersons:
Adele Evans
akevans@wakehealth.edu

Meagan Lewis
Melewis@wakehealth.edu

www.walk4hearing.org
One month at HLAA! What a fun and exciting few weeks it has been.

When I was hired by the Board, we agreed that as part of the transition I
would spend a few weeks becoming a “student of HLAA.” Starting first at
the national office in Bethesda, Maryland, and then moving out to listen
and learn from, and dialog with, HLAA Chapter and Walk4Hearing
leaders.

I am so impressed at the amount and scope of work done at the national
office! We have an amazing organization full of smart and energetic
people – no surprise there. I can’t take the space to list everything this
great team is doing, but I want to give you a snapshot of some of the things these amazing people do
here at the national office. The activities of the national office – a lean, mean advocacy and action
machine if there ever was one – are centered in three areas:

1. advocacy on behalf of people with hearing loss that focuses on gaining access to mainstream
   American culture for people with hearing loss
2. support services for the more than 176 state organizations and chapters
3. development of information for people with hearing loss and others interested in issues that
   impact people with hearing loss

The advocacy efforts of HLAA are noteworthy for our breadth and varied approaches for getting results.
We make progress through collaborations with other advocacy organizations, dialog and negotiate with
important industry service and equipment providers, maintain a continued presence at key federal
government agencies such as the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and work with legislators
on new initiatives of interest to people with hearing loss. HLAA advocates directly and also provides the
information and means for its members and friends to add their individual voices on issues that are of
interest to them.
A few issues of the many addressed through our targeted advocacy efforts have included:

- HLAA was a key leader along with other advocacy organizations in the push to pass the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 (CVAA) which requires access to online programming that has previously been shown on television with captions. Following the passage of the CVAA, HLAA participated heavily in the FCC rulemaking process where the FCC established specific rules for the enforcement of the CVAA. HLAA continues to provide input on implementation and enforcement of CVAA.
- Promoted hearing aid compatibility for mobile telephones (resulting in a breakthrough agreement – the “Joint Consensus Plan” – with key industry providers and manufacturers; e.g., T-Mobile, Motorola, Verizon, AT&T).
- Stopped a tax from being imposed on hearing aids in health care reform.
- Supported the federal Hearing Aid Tax Credit legislation (an ongoing effort especially important to families with children and senior citizens).
- Successful effort to establish Internet-enabled captioned telephone services (Since 2008, Hamilton, Sorenson and Sprint have provided service.
- Worked with Telecommunications Industry Association and others to bring about new performance standards for cordless telephones that will sharply curtail phone interference for hearing aid and cochlear implant users.

This past month we provided comments and attended meetings at the FCC, attended coalition meetings involving many groups, including the Captioning Community of Interest Committee at the National Court Reporter’s Association (NCRA); Deaf and Hard of Hearing Alliance (DHHA); Deaf and Hard of Hearing Consumer Action Network (DHHCAN); Hearing Aid Tax Credit Coalition; Friends of Congressional Hearing Health Caucus (FCHHC); Steering Committee at the National Disability Leadership Alliance (NDLA); and Be Safe America.

Here is a sampling of some of national staff activities in supporting members and non-members:

- Phone inquiries per month average about 660-700, that translates to about 8,400 annually.
- We respond to almost 4,500 emails each month – that equals about 54,000 a year.
- We have visited 18 states by visiting chapters and participating in the Walk4Hearing (AZ, CA, CT, FL, GA, IL, MA, MD, MN, MO, NC, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, TX, VA, WI).
- Our Facebook followers have increased to more than 4,600 and we will soon reach 5,000!
- We have more than 3,400 Twitter followers and our goal is 5,000.
- HLAA e-News reaches more than 30,000 people.
- Last year almost 350,000 people visited our website (www.hearingloss.org) and more than 180,000 have visited our Walk4Hearing website (www.Walk4Hearing.org).
- We have started an online mobile community.
• Providing support to our 22 Walk4Hearing sites that have raised more than $7 million through the participation of 9,000 people who have “stepped up.” These funds are putting real programs on the ground for people with hearing loss.
• Providing yearly Hearing Assistive Technology Training (HAT) across the country as a subcontractor to the RERC at Gallaudet University

We are clearly seen as the go-to expert on hearing loss issues. Here are four examples from just this month.

• We received a call from an educational website talking about iPads/pods and hearing damage from loud sounds. They have asked us to review their text to make sure it is okay, things are worded correctly, etc.
• We are working with a medical writer for Reader’s Digest to review material about hearing loss for one of their articles
• We got a call from someone who has 250 hearing aid distributors and wants to place our video “Learn about Hearing Loss” in every one of them so we will work with him to get that accomplished.

This Month’s Other Accomplishments

• We had a successful Hearing Assistive Technology (HAT) training on July 19-21 where 25 people (including me) had the pleasure of learning A LOT about HAT and trends in technology. The participants were motivated and knowledgeable when they left and eager to begin giving their presentations to people back home. I want to thank the CEA Foundation for their generous support of the program. Special thanks also go to Brad Ingrao, Ph.D., Patricia Kricos, Ph.D., Lise Hamlin, Holalice Goodman, Nancy Macklin and Brenda Battat who made it all happen.

• We have received generous pro-bono assistance from Knowlera Media to develop a radio PSA for our Walk4Hearing program. Right now we have a generic radio PSA for the Walk4Hearing, as well as specific PSAs for Walks in New York City, Washington, D.C., Boston, Chicago, and Pennsylvania. We will get a link out to you shortly so that you can hear them.
Well, That’s the First Month!
I celebrated my first four-week anniversary by attending a meeting in Atlanta with the Georgia HLAA Chapter leaders from Atlanta, Augusta, and Woodstock. I will be reaching out to chapter and Walk4Hearing leaders to learn more about what you are doing and how we can work better together. I will be talking with all members about your experiences as HLAA members. I am anxious to hear from all of you!

Front, from left: Tony Quave, past president, Augusta Chapter, Debbi Quave, Augusta Chapter and state newsletter editor, Anna Gilmore Hall, executive director, HLAA

Second row, from left: Winnie Hargis, past Board of Trustees member, HLAA, Cathy Fletcher, GA state treasurer and historian, Marlene Phillips, past chapter president, NW Metro Chapter, Becky Kendall, president, NW Metro Chapter

Missing: Gayle Tison, president, Augusta Chapter and Laura Tison; Photo taken by Jeff Bonnell, Georgia state office director

Founder Rocky Stone’s vision was for this organization to help individuals build happy and successful lives as well as be the organization that is seen by policy makers and the public as THE leader in eliminating the stigma associated with hearing loss. I think we are all confident that we CAN do that by continuing to have an aggressive advocacy agenda; championing our demands for more affordable hearing health care access, and all the while systematically building our organization at the local, state and national levels.

We are all students together on an exciting journey to achieve Rocky’s vision. I am excited to be your partner in this adventure.

Join HLAA now and be part of this exciting journey.

Warm Regards,

Anna Gilmore Hall
Executive Director