Upcoming HLAA Wake Chapter Virtual Meetings
The first Wake Chapter Virtual Meeting the 23rd of July was a big success. Since we’re unable to safely have live in-person chapter meetings, we have scheduled two more virtual meetings this year. You can “attend” this meeting simply by clicking on a link in the emailed Zoom meeting invitation you’ll receive a couple of days before the meeting. If you don’t want to attend, just ignore the invitation email. But we hope you’ll want to attend. And when you get the Zoom invitation, please feel free to share it with anyone else who might be interested.

Zoom lets people invited to a virtual meeting use any laptop or computer with a camera and microphone, or any smart phone or tablet participate in a virtual meeting from wherever you are. No registration is required … When you click on the link in the invitation email, at the start time of the meeting, your video will be added to everyone’s screen and you’ll see the other attendees’ videos. You’ll be able to hear others; if that’s a challenge, our meeting will also be captioned by a professional CART provider, thanks to the Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DSDHH). The meetings are scheduled for 6:45 – 8:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 17th</td>
<td><strong>Consumer Perspective of Cochlear Implants</strong></td>
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<td>Several members with Cis will share their experiences in a panel discussion with time for questions, answers and comments</td>
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<td>November 19th</td>
<td><strong>Knowledge is (Hearing) Power!</strong></td>
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<td>Guest speaker, Patricia Johnson Au.D., who is an Assistant Clinical Professor – Speech and Hearing Sciences at UNC Hearing and Communication Center in Chapel Hill.</td>
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<td><strong>What You Should Know About Getting Help in 2020</strong></td>
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<td>Including:</td>
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<td>- What to look for in a hearing provider</td>
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<td>- What does best practice look like in Audiology (what’s research based)</td>
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<td>- Current legislation regarding hearing aid coverage</td>
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<td>- What you should know about over the counter hearing aids</td>
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Want More Virtual Resources?
HLAA National and Other HLAA Local chapters in NC are conducting Virtual Zoom Meetings that you’re invited to participate in. Learn More.
At whatever stage of life you become hearing impaired, a whole new world opens; you’re never going to stop learning how to make life the best it can be. Technology will change and get better, and you can help promote progress. The Walk4Hearing is a chance to do that. Grab it! That’s exactly why the Walk4Hearing is a vital, fundraising day. Not only do we have a chance to help others, but also the entire day is spent learning how others are helping us.

I lost my hearing relatively late in life, and I am still learning. The Wake Chapter welcomed me with open arms, and when I volunteered to help at the Walk, I never suspected I’d meet people of all ages and with such variety of hearing experiences. I never realized the number of children and teenagers and adults who work so hard at getting the ever-changing tools and education to manage every aspect of their lives.

I never realized the number of companies and organizations ready to reach out to anyone with a hearing issue, and I learned from them at their tables and displays. How much things have changed with the development of loop systems, caption phones, movie and live theater introductions of captioning systems—just a few of those “everyday” keys to a full life.

There’s one immutable fact. **We walk to raise money**, and what we raise enriches us all. Without money, we would not be able to reach out and offer today’s available help and promote the need for additional technology. We would not be able to advocate for changes leading to more inclusion. We would not be able to develop programs answering our needs. The more we raise, the more all of us profit. It’s a win/win situation.

I do a lot of my fundraising through Facebook, and it works. But I ask my neighbors, my family, and my friends in different community settings. It works. I’m not on Twitter or Instagram, but if I were on any other platforms, I’d use them as well.

The Walk4Hearing is not all seriousness. Don’t ever think this is an outing devoid of fun. It’s a load of fun. There’s entertainment and games and amusing costumed characters. Last year, we dressed up and had pictures taken in a great photo booth, participated in (and did very well, I might add) a Chance Auction. We had a marvelous lunch under the tent, and we even had our caricatures drawn. We earned t-shirts by raising a certain amount of contributions.

And, of course, lest I forget to mention, there was the walk itself—last year in a drizzling rain. The number of people walking, of all ages, some pushed in strollers, was inspiring. I felt it was a day of moving forward together.

I would not have missed the Walk4Hearing for the world, and this year I aim to raise more money. I hope you will too. It’s for all of us today and for the future as well.
Other On-line and Virtual Resources

HLAA National Webinars
HLAA National has several pre-recorded Webinars (think of them as Virtual Presentations), you can view any time you want at https://www.hearingloss.org/programs-events/webinars/schedule-recordings/

HLAA National Calendar
HLAA National has a calendar you can see that includes events you might be interested in registering for. Some are Zoom meetings, including Walk4Hearing online celebrations. See the calendar and register for events if you’re interested.

Greensboro Hearing Loss Group Virtual Meeting
You’re invited to attend a Greensboro Hearing Loss Support Group Zoom on Aug 26th at 7 p.m. Brady S. Workman, a Doctor of Audiology, will provide a workshop on The Common Causes of Dizziness and Imbalance. Dr. Workman is a staff audiologist in the Balance Disorders and Audiology programs at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. He specializes in balance disorders such as vertigo, dizziness, and imbalance. He plays an active role in training audiology students as well as otolaryngology residents and physician assistants completing clinical rotations at Wake Forest Baptist. He is also a co-editor of the Dizziness Depot at Hearing Health & Technology Matters online.

To RSVP for this meeting ID & password please email
Katie Franklin, Hard of Hearing Services Specialist
Katie.Franklin@dhhs.nc.gov

HLAA Charlotte Chapter Virtual Meeting
HLAA Charlotte Chapter has future virtual meetings planned usually for the 2nd Thursday of the month. You can request to be invited to Charlotte chapter’s virtual meetings by emailing Myra White or if you’d like to receive the Charlotte E-News, which includes their virtual meeting information, please email Jenni Campagna.

HLAA Asheville Chapter Virtual Meeting
HLAA Asheville Chapter is planning its first virtual meeting using Zoom on Wednesday, September 23rd from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. to accommodate those who are working either in the workplace or at home. If you’d like to receive an invitation with details of how to join Asheville’s virtual meeting, you can send an email to hlasheville@gmail.com.
The NC Walk4Hearing Is On and Virtual for October 11th

It's time to join or donate to the Wake Chapter team for the NC Walk4Hearing. This year's event, one of 20 being conducted across the country by the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), will take place Sunday, October 11th.

It's going to be virtual this year, but that leaves several ways to participate and make a real difference for people with hearing loss.

Attend the Virtual Zoom Meeting: Register as a walker for any team or as an individual, and you'll get an invitation via email with a link you can click on from any Internet connected computer, tablet or phone when the NC Walk4Hearing Celebration starts at 11 a.m., on Sunday, October 11th, and join in the fun. You'll meet others and learn about organizations supporting HLAA and hearing loss in the meeting.

Support HLAA Wake Chapter's Team: HLAA Wake Chapter already has a team. Join or donate to support one of the walkers for our team. If you join, you can encourage family and friends to support you and Wake Chapter. At our HLAA Wake Team web page, you can Join as a walker or donate to support any existing walker. Donations as a walker or to any team walker will be shared between HLAA-National and our chapter. This funding is one of our main sources of income, enabling us to help people in our area with hearing loss through organizations and projects such as Beginnings, Sertoma, Camp Woodbine and the chapter's scholarship program for college-bound high school graduates. You can also donate directly to the HLAA Wake Chapter by sending a check to our Treasurer, Susan Goldner (see address in Wake Contacts).

Create Your Own Team: Anyone can create your own team for the NC Walk4Hearing, and share your story. Get others to join or contribute to your team, after (or before, if you prefer) your team members can walk in your neighborhood or local park (safe distancing is encouraged where appropriate). Your team can celebrate and support a family member, business or organization on your Walk web page, with hats or T-Shirts. Donations to your team can go to HLAA National or you can choose a Local HLAA Chapter to share in the donations raised.

Encourage an Alliance Team: Do you know a non-profit that might create an alliance team? Any funds raised by an Alliance Team will be shared with that non-profit and must be used to fund benefits for people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. See Details.

Encourage a Sponsor: Businesses or organizations are often happy to sponsor an HLAA Walk4Hearing at the local or national level. Maybe your ENT or Audiologist would like to be a sponsor. See the benefits for various sponsorship levels.

Volunteer: You can become a Walk Day Volunteer or join the Walk Committee!

The Walk4Hearing reaches out to the more than 48 million Americans with hearing loss, their families, friends and hearing health professionals to educate and raise awareness about hearing loss, good hearing health and communication access.
Introducing the New Hard of Hearing Specialist for the Raleigh Area

Richard Watkins, Jr is a new Hard of Hearing Services Specialist (HHSS) under Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DSDHH) in the Raleigh area. He covers 17 counties; Caswell, Chatham, Cumberland, Durham, Franklin, Granville, Harnet, Hoke, Johnston, Lee, Moore, Nash, Orange, Person, Vance, Wake, and Warren.

Richard was born and raised in a small town, Gibsonville, North Carolina. Richard is Deaf and has several Hard of Hearing family members. After living in Washington, DC to attend graduate school, he realized he missed his Deaf and Hard of Hearing community in North Carolina. He relocated back to NC!

Richard graduated from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with a Bachelor of Science in Professions of Deafness: Advocacy and Services for the Deaf, a minor in Business Administration, and a second minor in Social Work. He recently graduated from Gallaudet University with a Master of Social Work (MSW). While completing his master's degree he lived in Norway for three months and completed an internship with Conrad Svendsen Senter. In Norway, he worked with DeafBlind populations ensuring they received proper resources and advanced their independent living skills.

When not working, he enjoys outdoor adventures such as hiking, camping, and relaxing at the beach! Also, he volunteers to support the DeafBlind community by providing support service. If you have any questions or curious about anything else, feel free to contact him at Richard.S.Watkins@dhhs.nc.gov or (919) 985-7773.

HLAA Wake Chapter Contacts

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