CONFERENCE, *Continued from p.2* >>>>>>>>>>>>>>

She emphasized the importance of keeping laughter and love in your life concluding her presentation with a lovely modern dance using her upper body and arms to Elton John's, "Wind in Your Wings."

There were more things going on than I could possible write about but I can't neglect talking about the presence of some of the people from New Mexico. Tom Dillon, Executive Director of the NMCDHH was visible everyday. The first day was "Cultural and Linguistic Issues in Health Care" changing to how to balance services to populations with very different needs and yet bring them together as he encouraged audience participation. These include people who are deaf, hard of hearing, oral hearing loss, deaf-blind, and late-deafened. Tom's passion for his job was evident in trying to resolve these issues.

The second day, he introduced Kelby Brick. The third day he moderated a panel of people who discussed "Cultural Diversity Within the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind Communities." This last presentation was especially good with real experiences discussed and Tom's caring about each one was evident. On Thursday of the Conference, Teresa Burke, member of Albuquerque SHHH and instructor at Galludet University, spoke about "Deaf Culture and Quality of Life." She is a bioethicist and philosopher and spoke of some very sensitive issues concerning the right to a life of quality. It was dynamic! We are going to be privileged to hear her at our Nov. 12th meeting.

The loop systems in the main conference room and at least four of the break out rooms made the talks so easy to hear. Sally Schwartz of HandLinks was one of the conference's sponsors and provided the loop systems in all of the areas. There were some kinks to be worked out and we had to learn to advocate for ourselves to bring attention to the fact that the loop system was available and find Sally to turn it on or whatever needed to be done to make it accessible.

I went to several programs not specifically for people who are deaf and hard of hearing. One of these was "A view for the Practitioner: Living with a Disability, "Let's Get Real" with a discussion by representatives from the City of Santa Fe Mayor's Committee on Disabilities, New Vistas Adult Services and Administration, and other organizations about services and how they do or do not function at this time. They forgot to provide even a microphone and scrambled to make up for it without success. They even went out and obtained one of Sally's boxes for the Loop without realizing they needed a loop to go with it. In any case the speakers learned to stand up, face the audience, and slow down as they spoke when they found out there were people trying to hear them who were hard of hearing.

It was a very good conference. All in all, I highly recommend that SHHH consider participating more next year (it is an annual conference) as presenters, responders to individual questions at a booth, or general volunteers to help with the conference. We needed to be more visible as an advocacy group and it appeared that it would be a good opportunity to do that..

Chris

Committee formed for Chapter's "Loop New Mexico" initiative

By Jim Ogle

Your board has formally organized a committee to work on a Chapter effor to encourage organizations with large meeting rooms to use audio loops (AL) for the Hard-of-Hearing . The committee members are Carol Clifford, Steve Frazier and Jim Ogle.

Audio loops are nothing new to the SHHH community. They are used in many of the chapters throughout the country and at the SHHH national headquarters. The Albuquerque chapter has been using loop technology for many years. This committee believes that the AL technology is the preferred assistive listening system for the HoH community. We would love to see AL technology used in such locations as churches, auditoriums, entertainment centers, university lecture halls, and the airport waiting areas.

Your help needed

The first focus area for the committee is SHHH members' churches. This is where we need your help. A two page description of the AL system titled, "An Assistive Listening System that may be of Interest to your Church", was available at the October chapter meeting. The purpose of the paper was to provide some literature that Chapter members can deliver to their church for consideration. If you are interested in a copy of this document, contact me at 899-6514 or pick up a copy at the November chapter meeting.

For this initiative to be successful we need the support of the Audiology professionals. We need them to recommend hearing aids with high quality telecoils, and then to adjust them for this technology as well as for telephones.

As mentioned earlier, this is not a new technology. It is common in churches and cathedrals in Britain (http://www.hearingloop.org/places_churches.htm) and there are a few communities in the US that have aggressively adopted the technology (http://www.puredirectsound.com/id19.html), with an impressive number in the State of Michigan. We would like to see Albuquerque eventually challenging Grand Rapids or Holland/Zeeland for the largest number of facilities looped. Image the improved quality of life for the HoH in such a community! We hope you will join us in this new initiative.

Special note to readers of WIRED FOR SOUND

If the word COMP appears after your name on this newsletter' mailing label, it is a complimentary copy that has been sent to familiarize you with our Chapter as part of our outreach to the hearing loss community in the hope that you will consider joining our group. The printing and mailing costs have been covered by our members and by the generous donors listed on page 7 of the newsletter.

FROM OUR COORDINATOR:

Have you ever wondered how the Chapter newsletter got its name?

Eli Butler, an early and longtime member, suggested "Wired for Sound." The members wholeheartedly agreed so the name was adopted and has been used since the Chapter's beginning in 1985.

Once, when Eli made plane reservations, he told the clerk that he and his wife Ethel were hard of hearing and would need some assistance when they arrived at their destination. He was indignant when they were met with wheelchairs. He told the attendants they were Hard of Hearing, not physically disabled. One of the attendants said, "But we want to keep you with us this way so we can be sure you can hear us." Eli and Ethel were faithful in attendance until his death and Ethel's ill health prompted a move out-of-state. She is no longer living. They were colorful people and added a great deal to the meetings, Eli especially.

If you have an experience good or bad with air travel, shopping, restaurants, etc. related to hearing loss, why not share it by writing it and sending to the Steve Frazier, Editor, for the newsletter.

COORDINATOR POSITION OPEN

Do you like to travel? Do you enjoy meeting new people? Has SHHH meant enough to you that you would be willing to assist Hard of Hearing people in other areas of the state form chapters?

If you answer "yes" to any of these questions and you would like more information, please contact Virginia Carr, 615 Val Verde Dr. SE, Albuquerque, NM 87108-3465; E-mail: carrvl@aol.com. I have a CapTel phone so call me toll free by first dialing 1-877-243-2823 then, enter my phone number 505-265-5073 followed by the pound sign.

It has been a very rewarding experience being NM SHHH Coordinator but it is time for someone else to come forward and promote SHHH in the state. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Virginia Carr

Helpful Hint Department : Put those little brown or orange stickers from batteries on your calendar the day/date you use them - then you can judge when you need to replace. V. Boyle

CHAPTER NEWS:

At the October chapter meeting, **Eleanor Strout** was unanimously elected to fill the vacant Chapter Treasurer's position. This relieves the Secretary, **Jim Stanley**, of the double duty he's been performing by keeping the financial records up-to-date and the bills paid while the search was on for a new Treasurer. Thanks, Jim and thank you Eleanor, for volunteering..

INCREASE IN CHAPTER FEE

The Board of Directors has voted as ask the membership to approve an increase in the annual Chapter Fee from $12 per year to $15. This is the first increase in many, many years and is necessary to cover increased costs for our newsletter, our web site and, especially, our outreach efforts that spread the word about SHHH to those Hard of Hearing individuals in the community who might benefit from participation in our Chapter. The members will be asked to vote on this increase at the upcoming November meeting and it would become effective on January 1, 2006 when next year's Chapter Fee becomes due.

MEMBER NEWS: Does anyone travel to our meetings from near I-25 and Lomas? One of our members would like a ride share. If you're available, please contact Roger Proctor (821-7187 or proc207@msn.com) to make arrangements. If anyone else needs help with transportation or is willing to provide it for others, please let Roger know also.

Welcome to our newest members, Don Arenfeld, Bob and Carolyn Braziel, Dolores Clark, Theresa Morrow and Sylvan and Opal Zuercher.

SPECIAL THANKS: We got a chance to meet a new CART captioner, Jennifer Russin, at our October meeting and she did a great job! Deb Dickey was there to show her the ropes and familiarize her with our equipment. Thanks gals!

Thanks, also, to Kate Niven and Olivia Kasheta, our UNM student ASL terps for this meeting. After the meeting, they really had an opportunity to practice their new skills with the hall teaming with Deaf Fair participants.

Karen Twohig was in Texas birth of her grandson, Daniel James Powell, in San Antonio on October 4 and stayed on for two weeks admiring him so she missed this meeting and couldn't man the sign in table >>>>>>>

>>>>>>>>>>>>>> so Sandi Schwartz stepped in to help out at the table and distributed badges. Thanks Sandi. Joan Parker, still recovering from her recent surgery, was on hand to oversee hospitality with help from Patricia Gonzales, Emily Holguin and Vera and Ben Serna.

LOCAL HoH NEWS: There was a big turnout at the Deaf Fair that took place at the Community Center even as our monthly SHHH chapter meeting was in progress. Following the meeting, SHHHrs could browse through an impressive display of assistive devices mounted by Hand Links LLC, a display of telephone equipment and services available through Relay New Mexico, and a sampling of the telecommunications and other equipment available (often at no cost) through the New Mexico Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing. This opportunity for a hands-on look at the various items was invaluable to many who have never seen or heard of some of these items before.

Interspersed were booths for such service providers as the Community Outreach Program for the Deaf and various organization like the New Mexico Association for the Deaf (NMAD) and the Association of Late Deafened Adults that provide the same sort of support for two different groups of deaf people as SHHH provides for the Hard of Hearing.

Albuquerque continues to add Hard of Hearing and Deaf service providers to an impressive list of companies and agencies located here. The latest addition to this list is Sorensen Communications. This telecommunications company recently opened a call center here in Albuquerque that employs a substantial number of ASL interpreters to provide video relay service (VRS) to users living throughout the U.S.. This move has not been entirely beneficial to those area residents who communicate through ASL. Because so many interpreters have been hired at the center, there is a real shortage of these specialists and arrangements must be made well ahead of time by any business, group or individual who find they are going to need to hire a terp. Weekends are reportedly the most difficult period to fill when attempting to hire an interpreter.

NATIONAL SHHH NEWS:

HEARING AID TAX CREDIT BILL CONTINUES TO GAIN SUPPORT

The national office of SHHH is one of the leaders in the movement to secure support in the Congress for The Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act and that effort continues to show success. Support has now grown to over 76 members of the House of Representatives and 13 Senators signed on as cosponsors of the bill. Albuquerque Chapter is playing a part in this by working to get the entire New Mexico Congressional delegation signed up as supporters of this legislation.

Rep. Heather Wilson is among the 40 Republicans and 36 Democrats who are cosponsoring HR414, the official designation of the bill in the House. After studying and agreeing with its provisions, she signed on in both this Congressional session and the previous one at the urging of Albuquerque SHHH.

The remainder of the New Mexico Congressional delegation was queried last spring about their support of this legislation and have been re-contacted several times since. None have, as yet, agreed to support the bill that would be such a great benefit for many who need but cannot afford hearing aids. Neither Medicare nor most health insurance policies cover hearing aids and the average cost of medium quality hearing aids today is reported to be $1700 each.

These bills, introduced in the House by Congressman Jim Ryun of Kansas and in the Senate by Senator Norm Coleman of Minnesota, would permit seniors and, if they met certain qualification, others to claim a credit of $500 per hearing aid (for one or two hearing aids) against any federal income tax they owe. The credit could be claimed once every five years.

In the Senate, this bill has been referred to the Finance Committee for consideration. Senator Bingaman serves on this committee so his support of the legislation is especially critical to its possible referral to the full Senate for consideration.

For anyone wishing to encourage our New Mexico Senators and Representatives to support this bill by becoming one of its cosponsors, you can make your feelings known by calling their New Mexico office, sending them a snail mail letter or emailing them. Those office numbers are:

Sen. Domenici: (505) 346-6791 (Albuquerque)

Sen. Bingaman: (505) 346-6601 (Albuquerque)

Rep. Udall: (505) 994-0499 (Rio Rancho)

Rep. Pearce: (505) 522-2219 (Las Cruces)

You can express you appreciation to Rep. Wilson for her support at:: (505) 346-6781

A web site that has sample letters, copies of the bills, a link to a site where you can get email or snail mail addresses and other information on this is:
www.nowhearthis.homestead.com
All readers are urged to speak up on this issue.

Reader Questionnaire Very Important

The questionnaire inserted in this newsletter is intended for members and non members alike.

Ever since the possibility of moving the Chapter meetings to the Taylor Ranch Community Center was first broached, there has been considerable discussion at Chapter Board meetings about the affect the move has had on long time members who live on the East Side.

The move to Taylor Ranch was made because our membership is now so large, and attendance at meetings so plentiful, that we had simply outgrown the Deaf Culture Center where we met for many years. A search for a larger, centrally located facility produced no new meeting place. This doesn't mean there's not a suitable central location, only that the search for one was not successful at the time.

Your participation in this survey of our readers is most urgently requested

The new Taylor Ranch Community Center was able to offer everything we need and want for our meetings. A big, bright, comfortable room (with additional space available any time we need it), storage space, a full kitchen, adequate parking and more. Those attending the meetings there have all raved about this wonderful facility and there's no expectation or plan for moving the meetings elsewhere.

There are a lot of long time members who are no longer seen at meetings though, and comments from some of them and others that this new location is just too far for them to travel are heard. There may also be some who would prefer to meet on a different day, at a different time, or both. The questionnaire in this newsletter is being circulated to give all members and guests an opportunity to play a part in a decision about the Chapter.

With a membership of over 100 (and a list of over 300 guests who periodically attend Chapter meetings) there are certainly adequate numbers available to organize a second SHHH group in the city.

Oklahoma City and some others have a "day" group and a "night" group. Some groups hold a luncheon meeting. These, and other alternatives, will be considered by the Board of Directors but your input is necessary before any decisions can be made.

The questionnaire inserted in this newsletter is intended for members and non members alike. A generous benefactor has already paid the postage for you to return them so all you have to do is take a minute to fill it out, fold and staple (or tape) it shut and drop it in the mail.

We need to hear from you!
Please, help us by participating.

Your Albuquerque SHHH Board of Directors

Advocacy *continued from page 1.....*

appropriate state or Federal agency to get the matter reviewed. In this process, there is no expense to you, with the Commission pursuing the matter and keeping your identity confidential.

Through such intervention, the NMCDHH can help individuals work out problems of employment access, access to government facilities and agencies and to public accommodations. They can help in getting captioning, interpreters or whatever assistance an HoH individual needs to deal with to participate and function in those setting.

She advised that, because they are in short supply, an ASL interpreter must be requested at least three weeks in advance and a CART captioner a week-and-a-half ahead of time.

Peinado told us that another advocacy position has been created at the Commission and it will be filed with an individual charged with working with the Deaf while she will be working with the Hard of Hearing. In the near future, her efforts for the HoH will include the creation of a Hard of Hearing Task Force made up of people from throughout the state. With representatives from five different regions in the state, the Task Force will have bimonthly meetings to discuss HoH issues and how they can be addressed by the Commission. (see page 6 for more information.)

Following Peinado's presentation, the meeting adjourned with many people remaining for a social hour while others went out into the hall where there was a Deaf Fair in progress. Vendors, agencies and others had booths at the fair where assistive devices, literature and other items were on display and available to participants.