





Wake Chapter Newsletter Feb 2021

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Upcoming Wake Chapter Virtual Meetings

Date	Topic
<p>HLAA Wake Chapter Virtual Meeting</p> <p>Thursday March 18th 6:45 p.m.</p>	<p>At our last Wake Chapter Meeting in January, we had a very interesting presentation by Dr. Brittany Larson of Cary Audiology. The topic was hearing loss and cognitive decline. Dr. Larson discussed the studies that have identified hearing loss as a likely modifiable risk factor for cognitive decline. She also discussed Oticon and their use of “artificial intelligence” in their newest hearing aids. If you missed Dr. Larson’s presentation, you can view her presentation HERE.</p> <p>For our March 18th meeting, we will continue this discussion from a practical and personal perspective on how we can improve and help modify this risk factor for cognitive decline. Julie Bishop, HLAA-NC President and HLAA Wake Board member, will lead the discussion by presenting what she has done to modify her risk factors for cognitive decline as it relates to hearing loss as well as other modifiable risk factors. Other members of the Wake Chapter will also give tips on what they do to hear better and how to help and encourage others to treat their hearing loss.</p>  <p>We hope you can join us for this virtual meeting. If you receive our Wake Newsletters, you’ll also receive an invitation by email a couple of days before the meeting that includes the link that will let you join any time after 6:45 p.m. on the 18th of March.</p>
<p>HLAA Wake Chapter Virtual Meeting</p> <p>Thursday May 20th 6:45 p.m.</p>	<p>The virtual program for May 20th will be Rebekah Matta, AuD and Anna Benson, AuD of Duke Otolaryngology of Raleigh presenting "Connectivity Options and Assistive Listening Devices."</p> <p>If you receive our Wake Newsletters, you’ll also receive an invitation by email a couple of days before the meeting that includes the link that will let you join any time after 6:45 p.m. on the 20th of May.</p>

HLAA Virtual Meetings and Webinars Available to All

HLAA National Prerecorded Webinars and Virtual Meetings.	<p>Several prerecorded webinars can be viewed at this link: Webinar Schedule and Recordings - Hearing Loss Association of America</p> <p>You can register for several upcoming live national virtual meetings at this link: This is the February calendar, but you can choose other months. HLAA Virtual Meetings - Hearing Loss Association of America</p>
Upcoming HLAA National Feb 23th 2-3 p.m.	 <p>Each of us has a story—several really—that goes beyond our hearing loss, our hearing aids and the challenges we face living with them.</p>
Greensboro Group Virtual Meeting Feb 23 rd 7–8:30 p.m.	<p>Hard of Hearing Services Specialists Katie Franklin & Ivy Williams will guide a discussion on Advocacy.</p> <p>During this session you will learn about the basics of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 laws as they pertain to your communication rights. You will listen to different advocacy stories, advocacy tips relating to the pandemic, as well as tips for self-advocacy. Bring any advocacy questions you have to the virtual meeting.</p> <p>See the Flyer. If you're interested in attending, please email Katie.Franklin@dhhs.nc.gov</p>
Charlotte Chapter Virtual Meeting Mar 11 th 6:45-8:00 p.m.	<p>Jeff Campagna will lead a discussion on effective communication via the telephone, both landline and mobile. Come and join us to learn about connectivity options for better listening on phones.</p> <p>The Zoom Meeting link is: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89021218735</p>
Asheville Chapter Virtual Meeting April 22 nd 6:30-7:45 p.m.	<p>The Asheville Chapter will host a virtual meeting with Dr. Lauren Hadden from The Hearing Center in Asheville in April. She will discuss a range of topics including the training and services provided by OTC hearing aid providers and by audiologists; the differences between OTC hearing aids and hearing aids programmed by an audiologist that matches a person's hearing loss; and a variety of devices that can enhance the use of hearing aids.</p> <p>If you're interested in attending, please email deborahareynolds@gmail.com</p>

Tech Introduction: Streaming from Work, Home or Smart Phones

Many of us have Hearing Aids (HA) or Cochlear Implants (CI) that can stream directly or via an accessory from smart phones, and that's great. But how can you hear better on home phones or work phones? And if your HA or CI doesn't have a direct streaming capability, is it still possible to stream from phones, including smart phones? There are lots of ways to hear better on the phone. I hope this gives you some ideas.

- 1) Try using your telecoil. Most phones (work, home or smart) are telecoil compatible, so they emit a magnetic signal representing sound. If your HA or CI has a telecoil that your audiologist has made available to you, and if you know how to switch to telecoil mode, you may be able to hear on a work or home phone just by holding the hand set of the phone close to your HA or CI.
- 2) Try using a neckloop. If you're home or work phone has a 3.5 mm jack, you can plug in a neckloop and (of course) wear it around your neck. If your phone doesn't have a 3.5 mm jack, you can use a [Phone Recorder Adapter](#) (see at right) It will generate a magnetic signal representing sound that your telecoil(s) will hear. If you have telecoils for both hearing devices, you'll hear the phone call in both ears.
- 3) Older iPhones and all Android smartphones have a 3.5 mm jack, so you can plug your neckloop or a streaming accessory directly into the smart phone. Newer iPhones have a Lightning jack, if you want to plug in a 3.5 mm plug of a neckloop or streaming accessory, you'll need a [Lightning-to-3.5mm adapter](#) (shown at right).
- 4) Some work phones no longer use a desk phone, but the calls come through your desktop or laptop that's connected to the company's internal network. You simply plug in a head set that has a USB plug, and answer the phone via your computer. The headsets are telecoil compatible, so this may be a good option.
- 5) Some work phones are Bluetooth capable, so if your HAs or CIs are compatible with standard Bluetooth, you may be able to pair them directly to your HAs or CIs. Most HAs and CIs do not support direct pairing with standard Bluetooth sources, but some of the newest do. If yours do not, you might be able to use an accessory to pair them to a standard Bluetooth adapter.
- 6) If your phone (either work or home) has a standard handset that's wired to the desk phone, you might be able to insert a "Phone Recorder Adapter" into the phone (where the handset wire goes in) ...then reconnect the handset to that adaptor. A [Phone Recorder Adapter](#) (see above image) gives you a male 3.5 mm plug to plug into your compatible accessory ... or with yet another adaptor, convert the plug to a jack that would let you plug in a neckloop.
- 7) Add a Bluetooth capability to some phones. If your HA, CI or accessory supports standard Bluetooth, you might be able to buy a Bluetooth transmitter that will make your work or home phone Bluetooth capable.
- 8) For home, (and non-digital work phones) you may qualify for a free captioned phone from one of several providers. Those phones have a 3.5 mm jack that you can use to plug in a neckloop or other assistive option, so you can not only see the captions but stream the audio and hear it better.



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Introducing our New HLAA Wake Board Member

Wendy Dembeck has accepted an invitation to be an HLAA Wake Board Member. Since joining HLAA Wake Chapter, Wendy has been enthusiastic, and shared ideas based on her experience. She was one of our most successful fund raisers in the 2020 Virtual Walk4Hearing. We're excited that Wendy has agreed to serve on the Wake Board.



Wendy's comment: "Wake Chapter has given me quite a bit through its welcoming ways, the people I've met along the way, the information and understanding I've gained, and the widening understanding of what hearing loss is and how we can deal with it. I want to give back and contribute to this mission. I'm very happy to have the opportunity to do that."

Hearing Life Magazine

Don't miss seeing the quote from **Steve Latus**, HLAA Wake Board Member, in the Winter 2021 issue of HLAA's *Hearing Life* magazine. Steve had volunteered with the 2020 NC Walk4Hearing and was quoted about how the virtual Celebration lifted his spirits. National HLAA members receive the *Hearing Life* magazine ... [join HLAA National](#).



Local Actor Stars in Film

Steve Barber, HLAA-Wake Chapter Board Member stars in new Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DSDHH) video. The public service video suggests how to solve with communication problems caused by masks by using clear masks. Please submit nominations for an Academy Award. [See the captioned video](#)



Spread the Word About the Wake Chapter Scholarship Program

Do you know a Wake County high school senior with hearing loss who plans to go to college? Let them know about the Hearing Loss Association of America Wake Chapter Scholarship Program.

The program, in its second year, provides \$500 scholarships for one or two college-bound students with hearing loss from Wake County. The application deadline is March 31. Application materials are available at the HLAA Wake Chapter website: www.nchearingloss.org/wake.htm.

Applicants must reside in Wake County and be seeking acceptance at an accredited university, college or community college. They also must have a moderate hearing loss or more and wear a hearing aid or cochlear implant. Financial need is not a consideration. The \$500 scholarship is a one-time award and will be sent to the recipient when s/he begins classes.

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In Memoriam

With deep regret, we report the passing of two of our HLAA Wake Chapter members.

Gary Sarkozi passed away in January. Gary was an active volunteer at our meetings and at our Walk4Hearing events. Gary attended most meetings with Deborah Stroud and loved so much being involved in everything we did. He was very passionate about helping in any way he could. [See obituary.](#)



Ron Venezia passed away in February. Long time members will remember Ron and his wife, Rita, who attended most meetings together. Ron was a member of HLAA Wake Chapter for over 30 years and served as Treasurer for HLAA-NC for several years. [See obituary.](#)



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