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Upcoming Meetings and Events

HLAA Charlotte Chapter Live Meeting: Wake Chapter Members are invited via Zoom! On Thursday, June 8th 7:00 p.m. Charlotte welcomes Katie Franklin, the NC Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCSDSDHH)'s Hard of Hearing Services Coordinator. Katie leads the Work Group for the Hard of Hearing on the NC Telehealth project. Katie will help us navigate Telehealth appointments, as Hard of Hearing individuals. [Click here at the start of the meeting to join the Zoom meeting.](#)

HLAA Wake Chapter Lunch Social: Members and friends plan to meet at [Lugano Ristorante](#) in Cary for lunch and social on **Saturday July 8th at 1:00 p.m.** Lugano Ristorante has a wide range of entrees ranging from about \$15 up ... plus appetizers, drinks, desserts, and tip. We've arranged a special private room that should be quiet enough for chatting with other attendees. You can order what you want, and separate checks will be provided. The room only holds 22 people, so **please RSVP to [Steve Latus](#) by July 1st.** Only the first 22 attendees can be accepted.

The address is [1060 Darrington Dr, Cary, NC 27513](#). There will be no formal program, but we will pose one or more questions to stimulate discussion, such as "What's the biggest challenge you have faced with your hearing loss?" and "Have you made mistakes in your hearing loss journey, and what have you done to overcome them?" Participants also will be invited to bring unused hearing aids for donation to the Hearing Aid Project.

It's a chance to meet friends that understand hearing loss and enjoy a nice lunch. We hope you can join us.



Planning Ahead: HLAA Wake Chapter In-Person program meetings are planned to resume next Fall. We hope to make them available as Zoom, as an option, but hope you can join us in-person if possible. Program details, location and time will be announced in a future newsletter and members will receive an email invitation.

HLAA National 2023 Convention: The 2023 HLAA national convention will be held June 29th - July 1st in New Orleans. There will be so many great presentations you can choose from that it is often difficult to decide which to attend. The huge vendor area will be filled with companies and non-profits introducing their products and services ... often letting you try them out.

Finally, one of the greatest benefits of the convention is the chance to meet hundreds of others and instantly feel that you are kindred spirits with your shared interests in hearing loss learning and advocacy. Plus, New Orleans is one cool city to visit. See the [HLAA 2023 Convention web page](#) for details and plan your 2023 summer adventure.



Two Recognized With 2023 Wake Chapter Scholarships

Joanne Setti of Apex and **Ethan Slonac** of Wake Forest are being recognized with college scholarships through the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) Wake Chapter Scholarship Program.

The program provides \$500 scholarships to high school seniors residing in Wake County who plan to attend an accredited university, college, or community college. In its fourth year, the program is made possible by the generous support of participants in the North Carolina Walk4Hearing, a hearing health awareness and fundraising event conducted by HLAA.

Setti will graduate from Apex Friendship High School and attend the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Slonac will graduate from Heritage High School and attend Wake Tech in Raleigh.

Click the links above or the photos to learn more about the accomplishments of the HLAA Wake Chapter scholarship recipients.



JOANNE SETTI ETHAN SLONAC

HLAA Wake Chapter Member Article Published

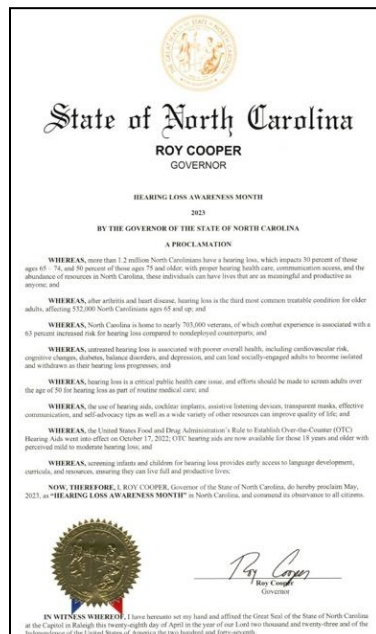
Susan Monroe, a member of HLAA Wake Chapter, had an article published in *Hearing Health Magazine*. Her article provides the humorous and effective approach she has used as a teacher and patient in doctor's offices to deal with hearing loss. You can read Susan's article [here](#).

Hearing Health magazine is a free, quarterly magazine that covers hearing loss. If you'd like to subscribe to *Hearing Health* magazine, you can do that [here](#).

Hearing Health magazine is not to be confused with *Hearing Life* magazine that you can receive as a national HLAA member. If you're not an HLAA national member, you can join [here](#). HLAA is the most effective non-profit working on behalf of all people with hearing loss and deserves the support of every person with hearing loss.



Observing Hearing Loss Awareness Month in North Carolina



Governor Roy Cooper proclaimed May as Hearing Loss Awareness Month in North Carolina.

In North Carolina, over 1.2 million people ages 18 and older have hearing loss. Untreated adult-onset hearing loss is associated with poorer overall health, including cardiovascular risk, cognitive decline, dementia, brain shrinkage, diabetes, balance disorders and depression.

Fortunately, with proper hearing healthcare, communication access and an abundance of resources in North Carolina, these individuals can have lives that are as meaningful and productive as anyone. These are just some of the many reasons why Governor Cooper, the N.C. Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DSDHH), the Hearing Loss Association of America chapters in the state (including the Wake Chapter) and other partners recognize May as Hearing Loss Awareness Month.

Check out the full-size [Hearing Loss Awareness Month proclamation](#) and a slide presentation created by DSDHH titled [Thriving with Hearing Loss Through Self-Advocacy, Communication Access, Technology, and Resources](#).

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Tech Focus: Cochlear Implant Introduction

It goes without saying that hearing loss can be a challenge. It can be something that happens rapidly, or very gradually. It very seldom goes away or gets better. If your loss can be aided with hearing aids, you may be lucky, and it will never get worse, but it's not uncommon for it to gradually get worse. If (or when) your loss gets bad enough, even the best, most powerful hearing aids won't be able to help, because amplification still requires enough remaining hearing to be effective. If your loss is the more common sensorineural loss, and it's beyond useful help of hearing aids, you may qualify for a Cochlear Implant (CI). Fortunately, a CI can provide much better hearing than a hearing aid can provide for those that qualify. CIs are not like hearing aids. CIs directly stimulate nerve cells in the cochlea. Hearing aids just amplify sounds. With a hearing aid, you still need natural hearing that can be aided by amplification. CIs don't need any natural hearing from the hair cells back through the ossicles and eardrum.

CIs have an **internal part** (*Figure 1*) that's surgically implanted just under the skin behind the ear. The round part is a small magnet that the external processor or coil can magnetically attach to through the skin. The "D" shaped part in the image is an electronic device that can send a multi-channel signal down the wire to the electrodes in your cochlea. The tiny curl at the end of one of the wires is the part that gets inserted into your cochlea. The other wire is a ground wire. In that tiny, curled end of wire that leads to your cochlea, there are several (between 12 and 22) electrodes that are the targets of the multi-channel signals. Those signals represent sounds of specific frequencies and allow the electrodes to stimulate the nerve cells at the base of hair cells in your cochlea to send nerve signals to your brain. Your brain perceives these signals as sound. It doesn't matter whether the hair cells are working, damaged or dead, the nerve cells at their base are usually fine and the auditory nerve that carries the signals to the brain is usually fine.



FIGURE 1 INTERNAL PART

CIs also have an **external part**. There are two styles:

- A **Behind The Ear (BTE)** processor (*Figure 2*) wired to a separate coil that includes a magnet that will connect to the internal magnet through the skin. The BTE processor contains microphones that hear sounds and send them to a computer in the processor. The computer splits the sounds into different frequencies, creates the signals that represent the frequency needed by each of the electrodes to allow your brain to perceive that frequency. Those signals are sent to the coil which sends the signals through the skin to the internal part, which sends the signals to the electrodes.
- An **Off The Ear (OTE)** processor (*Figure 3*) includes all the same parts that the BTE contains, but it's all in a single device that attaches magnetically to your head and can transmit the needed signals through the skin to the internal parts.



FIGURE 2 BTE



FIGURE 3 OTE

There are three different CI brands. Each brand is unique and once you're implanted with a particular brand's internal unit, you must use an external processor of the same brand. You can use any hearing aid with a CI, but some brands are compatible with specific hearing aid models so you can stream audio to both a CI and a hearing aid.

- **Cochlear Corporation**, which has a BTE and an OTE model called *Kanso*.
- **Advanced Bionics**, which has a BTE model.
- **Med EI**, which has a BTE and OTE model called *Rondo*.

Each brand can stream from compatible smart phones, and each brand has various compatible accessories that allow streaming of audio from TVs or remote microphones, rechargeable and/or disposable battery options, and waterproof options that protect the processor for swimming. Smart phone apps can also control the processor settings.

If you're interested in more information about CIs, there's an excellent Facebook group you can join for free called [CI Experiences](#) or you can see helpful web sites like [Cochlear Implant Help](#). [GO TO Page 1](#)

HLAA Past Event: NC Museum of Natural Sciences

Several Wake Chapter members had a light lunch at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences before enjoying the museum's special exhibition, *James Cameron: Challenging the Deep*.

This exhibition included artifacts and videos about James Cameron's deep-sea adventures like his finding and visiting the Titanic, and his dive to the bottom of the Marianna Trench in a specially designed submersible. The collection included videos about those adventures and his sea-related movies, including *Titanic* and *The Abyss*.



We hope you'll join us for future social activities. It's good to get together with others that share the challenges of hearing loss.

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