



Chicago North Shore Chapter

Join us for our regular meeting at the North Shore Senior Center 161 Northfield Rd, Northfield, IL



Newsletter

Next Meeting - August 12

Something NEW at Sound Off on August 12 starting at 11:00 am. Anyone who would like to learn about using speech to text apps should come to this meeting.



Bring your Smartphone, either an iPhone or other, and the password to get into your App Store, Play Store, etc. Bring a spouse or family member or friend. We

will help you download a speech to text app and begin using it. We provide the Wi-Fi.

Future Programs - All programs begin at 10:00

September 9 - Emergency Preparedness/Personal Safety Chief Burke, Northfield Fire Dept and Officer Aniolowski, Northfield Police Dept

October 14 - Hospital Safety for People with Hearing Loss

November 11 - Traveling with Service Animals: By Air, Road, Rail and Ship. Henry Kisor, retired book editor of the Sun-Times & his dog Trooper

December 9 - Annual Holiday Party

January 13, 2020 - Dr. Pam Souza

2019 - 2020 Chapter Sponsors

Platinum Level (\$200 or more)

Northwest Speech and Hearing Center
Audiology Associates of Deerfield, PC
Sheri Gostomelsky, Mark Christian and Liza Meyer AuD
Sharon L. King Foundation
Jane Mueller

Gold Level (\$100 or more)

Elaine and John McCaffrey
Gwen and Cary Weiner, In Memory of Libby and Joe Sanes

Silver Level (\$50 or more)

Toby Nicholson

Bronze Level (\$25 or more)

Betty De Gryse Buino
Charles Ecanow

We are grateful to these Sponsors for their generosity and support of HLAA Chicago North Shore Chapter. NOTE: if your name or business is not listed correctly, please let us know.

More information on the program is available further on in this newsletter so please keep reading.



CHICAGO NORTH SHORE CHAPTER SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

We are saddened to inform you of the passing of Emilie Barry, a long-time member of our Chicago North Shore Chapter. Her death occurred on Friday, August 2. No arrangements were available at press time.

We also extend our condolences to our long-time member and past chapter president, Liz Hupp, on the death of her mother July 15. Her mom's Obituary is at <https://koepsellfh.tributes.com/obituary/show/Barbara-B.-Tryon-107327157>

July 8 Meeting Recap

At the July HLAA Chicago North Shore Chapter meeting was the election of Officers for the upcoming year. All of our existing officers and Steering Committee Members agreed to serve for another one-year term and were reelected for the 2019 – 2020 term. The Officers are Elaine McCaffrey, President, Jean Draths, Secretary, and Mike Wehman, Treasurer.

The reelected members of the Steering Committee are Sharon King, Liz Hupp, Elizabeth Buino, Christine Rudolph, Bindy Bitterman, and John McCaffrey. Immediately after the election, President Elaine McCaffrey thanked the newly reelected officers and Steering Committee members for their extraordinary efforts this past year. She also encouraged other members of the Chapter to become more involved so that we can form a new team in July 2020.

Our Chapter has launched a Sponsorship Program where companies, organizations, and people who would like to support our Chapter can have the name of their company, organization, and/or their name(s) listed every month for 12 months beginning July 2019 in a special column in our monthly newsletter. Sponsors may select from the following levels of participation:

- Platinum Level
- Gold Level
- Silver Level
- Bronze Level

As a not-for-profit 501(c)(3), our Sponsorship Program will help pay for live captioning, maintain the hearing loop, support our advocacy for people with hearing loss, and help pay the cost of printing and postage. It will also help us to provide; information and materials to those who attend our meetings, education on new technologies, stipends for members to attend outside educational events and other basic expenses of our Chapter.

To become a Sponsor, please pick up a Sponsorship Application Form at one our meetings or contact any of our Chapter officers. Please visit our website at www.HearingLossChicagoNorthShore.com to learn more about our activities.



The Walk this year will be held on Saturday, September 28, with festivities beginning at 10:00 am. It will be located on Cannon Drive between W. Diversey and W. Fullerton Parkway in Lincoln Park. [For further information about the Chicago Walk4Hearing please click here.](#)

Our Walk4Hearing Captain, Christine Rudolph wants you to keep in mind that:

Everyone knows you can accomplish so much more by working together and becoming part of something bigger than yourself. Our team, "Sound Off for Hearing" will be representing the HLAA Chicago North Shore Chapter. [For further information please visit our team page.](#)

Walk day itself is a chance to meet others with hearing loss, their families and friends, and an opportunity to see firsthand that no one is alone. If you haven't participated in the Walk4Hearing before I can make one promise to you about your experience at the Walk – it will be fun!

For further information about our team please click http://hlaa.convio.net/site/TR/Teamraiser/ChicagoWalk?team_id=46414&pg=team&fr_id=2562

For further information about the Chicago Walk4Hearing please click http://hlaa.convio.net/site/TR?fr_id=2562&pg=entry



Also, at the July meeting we heard from John and Elaine McCaffrey, attendees at the June annual HLAA Convention in Rochester, New York, the site of the first convention 40 years ago.



Elaine and John McCaffrey donning their Super Hero Capes and Sun Glasses from the Convention's Walk4Hearing, gave the audience a summary of the activities from the HLAA Convention in Rochester New York. Elaine began by explaining how upon debarkation at the Rochester airport we discovered that the airport was looped. Every announcement was heard through our t-coil and every information station had the Hearing Loop symbol. Traveling to the Hotel in the Airport shuttle, John explained the Otter App to a fellow attendee who tried it out on the shuttle and watched the conversations among our fellow passengers appear on his cell phone. This was our first Otter experience for the Convention, but before it was over we saw many people using Otter to aid their conversations between sessions. Elaine described the Opening Session and the Keynote Speaker, Rebecca Alexander, who learned as a teenager that by the age of 30 she would be blind and deaf due to a rare genetic disorder called Usher syndrome. Rebecca described how this diagnosis motivated her not to simply survive but to thrive in the face of this unimaginable loss. Rebecca shared her personal journey of loss, resilience, perseverance, and hope that has led her to a life filled with tremendous meaning, hard work, intimacy, fulfillment and self-acceptance. Hers was a moving and emotional presentation.

John described many of the sessions in the Advocacy track and the Hearing Assistive Technology track that he followed. Both the wireless industry and the FCC had sessions covering the latest efforts with Closed Captioning, Bluetooth, and Hearing Assistive Technology. Real Time Texting and Microsoft Translate were also explained and demonstrated.

Elaine also described the Research Symposium: The Latest on Genetics and Hearing Loss. Four renowned Genetics researchers presented the latest research on hearing loss that occurs later in life, and what can be done for families who have inherited hearing loss genes. The experts explained that they have identified 146 genes that are related to hearing loss and they suspect there may be up to 800 genes that could be related to hearing loss. They also discussed benefits of genetic testing and continuing research in the genetics of hearing loss.

The HLAA Convention is not all work; there was plenty of social time with the Get Acquainted Party on Thursday and the Night at the Museum, a visit to the George Eastman Mansion. George Eastman was the founder of the Eastman Kodak Company. The Saturday night HLAA 40th Year Anniversary Celebration and Awards Dinner concluded the festivities for the HLAA 2019 Convention.



That's Entertainment

The **League of Chicago Theaters** provides a full schedule of accessible live performances in the Chicago area at www.chicagoplays.com/access

For captioned movies and venues please check out CAPTIONFISH at www.captionfish.com

CHICAGOPLAYS ACCESS is a monthly communication service to promote accessible performances for people with disabilities. A number of theaters and other venues, time, date and special accommodations are listed on their website at theatre@loctcontact.ccsend.com.

The **BROADWAY IN CHICAGO** series usually includes at least one Open-Captioned performance in the run. Please check their website for details. www.broadwayinchicago.com/tickets/accessible-information/

A **good source** for information on all looped venues, such as libraries and other public facilities is www.loopfinder.com, which includes national as well as local installations.

Open-Caption movies are shown every Saturday at AMC Streets of Woodfield 601 N. Martingale Road, Schaumburg.

From the Executive Committee HLAA Chicago Lincoln Park Chapter

Are you passionate about dogs? Are you looking for a way to give back to the community? Then, consider this great opportunity to be a Board member for a great organization that trains service dogs for people who are deaf or hard of hearing!

Dogs on the Go is a local non-profit organization that is looking for Board members. The meetings are held in Crystal Lake, but if you can't come out to Crystal Lake, you can Skype into the meeting! Sign-language interpreters will be available for the meetings. The meetings are 2 hours long, and there are 4 meetings per year. Board members also need to commit to helping out at the fundraisers, which occur about 3-4 times per year. If you are interested in joining their Board or volunteering in other capacities, please contact Anna Evans at info@dogsonthego.us

Check out their website that features the cute and talented dogs that they are training to make a difference in the lives of people who are deaf or hard of hearing!
<https://www.dogsonthego.us/>



The **Illinois Cochlear Implant Chapter** is a not-for-profit chapter of the national **Hearing Loss Association of America**.

They meet six times a year on Saturdays in La Grange from 2–4 pm

Plymouth Place
315 N La Grange Road
La Grange Park, IL 60526
(708) 354-0340

Meetings will be held in Dole Hall on the main floor of Plymouth Place, which is looped and also has CART. For further information about upcoming meetings, please refer to <http://www.illinoisci.com>

Hey, Cochlear America’s Recipients

The Chicago Cochlear team is seeking a bimodal (Nucleus 7 & ReSound hearing aid) recipient that LOVES their Android! They have an exciting opportunity! If interested, please email Megan McKenna (Cochlear Engagement Manager) at mmckenna@cochlear.com.

HLAA News

Joint Statement of Support for the Medicare Audiologist Access and Services Act of 2019

July 25, 2019 Government Relations News

On July 25, 2019, U.S. Representatives Tom Rice (R-SC), Matt Cartwright (D-PA), Mark Meadows (R-NC), Ralph Norman (R-SC), Mike Kelly (R-PA), Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), Brad Schneider (D-IL), Ann Kuster (D-NH), Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), and Lisa Blunt-Rochester (D-DE) introduced the Medicare Audiologist Access and Services Act of 2019 ([H.R. 4056](#)).

This legislation will enhance the Medicare benefit by providing beneficiaries critical direct access to both diagnostic and therapeutic services of audiologists. The bill is endorsed by the American Academy of Audiology (AAA), the Academy of Doctors of Audiology (ADA), the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), and the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA). Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Rand Paul (R-KY) plan to introduce imminently a Senate companion bill.

The Medicare Audiologist Access and Services Act of 2019 ([H.R. 4056](#)) will remove unnecessary barriers, allowing patients to receive appropriate, timely, and cost-effective audiologic care. This legislation can improve outcomes for beneficiaries by allowing direct access to audiologic services and streamlining Medicare coverage policies so that audiologists can provide the full range of Medicare-covered diagnostic and treatment services that correspond to their scope of practice.

The legislation would also reclassify audiologists as practitioners, which is consistent with the way Medicare recognizes other non-physician providers, such as clinical psychologists, clinical social workers, and advanced practice registered nurses.

Earlier this year, AAA, ADA, and ASHA agreed to join forces to develop legislation that expands access to and coverage of audiology services under Medicare and recognized the importance of agreeing on a unified approach. For Medicare beneficiaries who need hearing and balance health care services, it is critical that audiology services be positioned to support evidence-based care and for the full scope of practice for audiologists be appropriately recognized.

Editors’ note: We frequently publish website links to further information related to newsletter articles. If you have a problem with a link, please let us know and we will attempt to provide a printed copy of the reference.

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