



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



Chicago North Shore Chapter Newsletter



Fifth Annual Panel Discussion on Hospital Safety for People with Hearing Loss.

Those with hearing problems, as well as their friends, family, and caregivers, are invited to this panel discussion composed of expert representatives from seven area hospitals, who will explain the accommodations their hospitals provide for people with hearing loss. Our HLAA members will help you learn how to advocate for yourself in challenging medical settings, as well as how the use of technology and assistive listening devices can

make your hospital experience easier and safer. This program is free and will be presented in the Kohn Auditorium of the North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, IL 60096. The auditorium is equipped with a hearing loop and will have live captioning. Please join us.

Greetings HLAA friends,

This is a quick additional invitation to the **Fifth Annual Panel Discussion on Hospital Safety for People with Hearing Loss**. This is an important event for our chapter, both for our members and for the hospital representatives that come to participate. They want to hear from us as much as we want to hear from them.

Even if you have attended our hospital panel discussion in previous years, please do plan to attend. *We encourage you to invite friends, and especially to bring anyone who might accompany you if you have to go to the hospital, either as moral support or to be an advocate for you as needed.* This is a unique opportunity to educate family members and friends to give them tools to help you when you are vulnerable as a patient in the hospital.

We are excited to see how this grows and deepens each year. You can participate in this program and help us communicate to the hospitals how important this issue is to those of us with hearing loss.

Hope to see you Monday!
Liz Hupp, Past Chapter President

CALENDAR – Programs begin at 10:00

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
Liz T. 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
Suzanne Katz

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.

Recapping the September 9 Meeting

Safety Advice from the Experts

A year or so ago, we introduced our audience to Northfield's fire chief and to an officer from the local Police Department. On September 9, we had an "encore" performance: Matt Aniolowski, a Northfield police officer, and Fire Chief Tom Burke spoke to us about keeping ourselves safe at home and in the car, to enthusiastic and a from our obviously interested audience.

Officer Aniolowski handed out an illustrated card that can be kept in our glove boxes to enhance our understanding in case of being pulled over or in an accident. He emphasized that the J88 notice for hard-of-hearing or deaf people must be requested, or it will not appear on our driver's licenses. Because modern cars can be so silent, the driver may not be able to hear an approaching siren. The officer's suggestion: urge car makers to add a dashboard flasher when a siren blares. Sounds very practical to me! If you do hear a siren, pull over to the right if you can and stop until the vehicle passes.

The hands-free cell phone rule is still in effect. Even if you're stopped, if you use your hands to operate one and are ticketed (which you might be) it's a moving violation—and you don't get more than three of those before losing your license for a good long time!

Fire Chief Burke was all about protecting us: red flags appear on their phones that identify local hard-of-hearing residents who call with emergencies, so they can be prepared when they go to help. Though it may seem like much longer, they are almost always able to be at your door within a very few minutes from your call—they've perfected this. Chief Burke emphasized the need for self-advocacy; don't hesitate to tell the EMTs to talk louder or slower—or even faster, if that's the need!

Make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are fully functioning! The new smoke alarms last 10 years and get replaced then, without requiring new batteries. And some have strobe lights! Home fire extinguishers are okay, but because people rarely know how to use them properly—it's better not to rely on them.

Finally, if you get rid of your landline phone, be sure your cell is set up to compensate, for example, when it comes to 911. Options include an ID that gives your home address. Not all cell phones are the same; check with your phone provider to make sure you've done it right.

Bindy Bitterman

An enhancement to the J88 program, which Officer Aniolowski introduced to us at his last presentation, allows a system connection to be made between your “J88” driver’s license and the car’s license plate. This would allow the officer at a traffic stop to anticipate that he would be dealing with a HOH driver even before asking to see your driver’s license. This connection activation requires a visit to an Illinois Driver’s License facility.



Chicago Walk4Hearing Update

Although results of the 2019 Chicago Walk4Hearing are not yet final, below are some of the comments and photos of this year’s Walk.

Thank you [Chicago Walk4Hearing!](#)

That’s a wrap on a great Walk, so take a moment to congratulate yourself for a job well done. We welcomed 300 walkers, were joined by 63 amazing teams and thanks to you and all your supporters and donors, we raised over \$56,000!

Walk Photos

Photos from Walk day has been posted on the [Chicago Walk4Hearing Facebook](#) page, there’s more to come, be sure to follow us!

If you made a big splash with your team t-shirts, got creative with your signs, or struck a victory pose, share your photos with us at walk4hearing@hearingloss.org. Be sure to check back for more photos!

Cheers to Many More Years!

Ronnie Adler
National Walk4Hearing Manager

From Our Team Leader – Christine Rudolph
Good Afternoon Team,

Hope you have all recovered from the damp and chilly day which continued today. Although the weather did not cooperate, I definitely felt the positive energy throughout and we made it to #1!! We raised \$4,912 online with a few hundred more on its way which means we exceeded our goal of \$5,000.

Thank you all for your fundraising efforts prior to the walk and all the hard work on site. This event is a big team effort with Ronnie rallying the troops, she and others securing our sponsors and the gazillion details by the walk committee that make the walk a success.



The Sound Off team.



Lucky winner of our 2019 raffle donation (coincidentally, he also won our prize last year, who is this kid?)



Caught taking a breather.



Elaine talking up Public Act 101-0393.

related services in the amount of \$2,500 per hearing instrument every 24 months.

John, Elaine, Sharon and others are working to see what will really be covered and to assess legislation for loopholes and short comings.

More of their findings will be available in weeks to come. Our chapter is fortunate to have such talented advocates working with and for us.



Legislative Updates and Advocacy Related to Hearing Loss

Members of our HLAA Chapter are working hard to interpret new Illinois legislation to ensure it will really benefit the senior citizen heard-of-hearing community.

Public Act 101-0393 amends the Illinois Insurance Code to require that any individual or group policy of accident and health insurance or managed care plan that is amended after the effective date of the Act (January 1, 2020) shall offer, for an additional premium, optional coverage or optional reimbursement for hearing instruments and related services for all individuals when a hearing professional prescribes a hearing instrument to augment communication. The coverage is subject to limits for the cost of a hearing instrument and

Save-the-Date for HLAA2020 Convention in New Orleans! New Orleans Marriott June 18 - 21, 2020



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

**HLAA Chicago Northshore Chapter's very own
Toby Nicholson's original production of**

A Christmas Carol

**Saturday, December 7 at 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm
Sunday, December 8 at 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm**

**Tickets available at
www.mycommunityhouse.org
or See Toby for more information**

The **Goodman Theatre** will now have "open captions" or "subtitles" for every play. The schedule will be:

Final Saturday matinee for the Albert

Final Sunday matinee for the Owen

Both theaters are also set up with the T-Loop system but when queried further we were told "just try them both."

ACCESS

Upcoming accessible performances at Chicago area theatres



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.

October Open-Captioned Performances

Wed. 10/17, 1-3 pm and 7:30-9:30 pm – *The King's Speech*, Shakespeare Theatre

Sat. 10/19, 10:30 am - *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, Chicago Children's Theatre

Sat. 10/19, 2 pm – *Bernhardt/Hamlet*, Goodman Theatre

Sat. 10/19, 3 pm – *The Great Leap*, Steppenwolf Theatre

Sun. 10/20, 2 pm – Luisa Miller, Lyric Opera

Sat. 11/2, 3 pm – *A Doll's House*, Writer's Theatre

Sun. 11/3, 3 pm – *Sundown, Yellow Moon*, Raven Theatre

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.

The movies for October 2019 are shown at 10:30.
October 12 - *The Addams Family*
October 19 - *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil*
October 2 - TBA



Other Groups Want You to Know



HLAA Chicago Lincoln Park Chapter

Chapter meetings are usually held on the first Saturday of each month. As always, CART captioning and FM systems will be available for your use. Our next meeting is Saturday, November 2nd, 2019. Please visit our web site at <http://hearinglosschicagolp.org> for further information.

The Second City
230 W North Ave, 2nd floor, Room 208
Chicago IL 60610

The Chapter would like us to be aware of efforts by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) and The Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD) in soliciting input via a series of meetings. The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) and The Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD) are committed to addressing equity and accessibility across City of Chicago facilities and programs—including Millennium Park, the Chicago Cultural Center, and Taste of Chicago. To further this effort, we want to pay attention to the experiences of individuals with disabilities who frequently attend cultural events and venues such as museums, theatres, music venues, art galleries, festivals and movie theaters.

DCASE and MOPD will be holding a series of input sessions for the disability community to help guide future event planning and improve accessibility for our residents and visitors with disabilities. Each session is tailored for a general disability-type in order to provide time for feedback and the identification of barriers and best practices.

This event is public and open to all. However, if you do not identify as a person with a disability, please defer your reservation until the week of the event. This will allow the majority of the seats at the table to be dedicated to those people who have a disability.

All sessions will be held at the Chicago Cultural Center—78 East Washington Street, 5th floor. The accessible entrance is located on the Randolph Street side of the building. Sign language interpreters and CART will be provided at the Friday, October 25 session (Deaf/Hard of Hearing). Other accommodation needs should be requested at least one week in advance of the session by contacting Zhenesse.Heinemann@cityofchicago.org.

Please RSVP for the session that is applicable to your interest by clicking on its link below (also attached):

Blind/Low Vision

Thurs, October 10 - 4-6 pm -- Washington Room <http://bit.ly/2MbnW1I>

Deaf/Hard of Hearing

Friday, October 25 - 2-4 pm -- Millennium Park Room <https://bit.ly/2Lcms6z>

Physical accessibility

Thurs, Nov 7 - 4-6 pm -- Washington Room <https://bit.ly/2L3tw6U>

Cognitive/Intellectual—Autism

Thurs, Nov 21 - 4-6pm -- Washington Room <https://bit.ly/2zpv5oW>



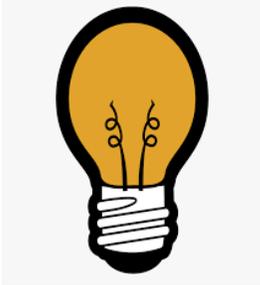
The **Illinois Cochlear Implant Chapter** is a not-for-profit chapter of the national **Hearing Loss Association of America**.

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>

Technology Corner



Innovations

A wristband in the style of a fit-bit could help people with impaired-hearing experience sound through vibrations. The device works (in testing) by picking up sound waves via microphone before an embedded chip breaks the frequencies into 128 bands. Four small motors then stimulate the wrist in distinct patterns for pronounced localize sensations that stick out in a user’s perception, such as oncoming vehicles, barking dogs, or guitar music.

The Week

Medical devices and consumer electronics are converging to create a new generation of hearing aids. Phone-based apps are becoming hearing-aid control centers with controls to customize settings for different situations. They do more than amplify voices and reduce background noise. They also take phone calls, stream music, track physical activity, and will even turn on a Bluetooth-connected coffee pot.

The Wall Street Journal

Of course, much of this is not news to a number of us and apparently there are oversights in a series of articles appearing in the Wall Street Journal. The HLAA expert on hearing loops commented on one such an omission in the following:

“A telecoil connects hearing aids wirelessly to induction hearing loops that transmit sound from public-address systems, stages, church pulpits and lecture halls as mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

As a consumer advocate and audiologist, I feel compelled to write regarding [“Hearing Aids Get Smarter.”](#) (Journal Report, Sept. 16). Experienced consumers will tell you that, besides Bluetooth technology, a telecoil should be on any list of must-have features. This inexpensive copper coil is available in even the most advanced instruments by the big six hearing-aid companies. A telecoil connects hearing aids wirelessly to induction hearing loops that transmit sound from public-address systems, stages, church pulpits and lecture halls as mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act and will overcome the shortcomings of tiny hearing-aid microphones. No pairing or linking is required, telecoils don’t drain tiny hearing-aid batteries and, best of all, they work the same the world over—from the Sydney Opera House to the Gershwin Theatre in New York and the London taxi cabs.’

Juliette Sterkens

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.

Mike Wehman wehmans@comcast.net
Liz Hupp Liz@Hupp.com