



Heard In Fort Worth

Hearing Loss Association of America - Fort Worth Chapter
January - February, 2020

HAAA Meetings: Monthly on Second Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

Snacks and socializing at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting at Southside Church of Christ, 2101 Hemphill St., Fort Worth, TX 76110
South parking lot entrance

We offer listening systems and live captioning for communication access.

Saturday, January 11

HearVU

***A New Tool for Audiologists,
Patients, and Families***

**Presented by Robin Carson, Au.D
Owner, Carson Hearing Care**

Dr. Robin Carson will give us a sneak preview of a new audiology tool that is coming soon. This eye-opening tool is called HearVU. It teaches patients about the audiogram and allows for simulation of a hearing loss for friends and family. It enables them finally to understand and gain empathy for the person with a hearing loss. HearVU will be launched this spring and will become available to hearing healthcare providers.

For years Dr. Carson had the idea to create a tool that would teach and make the audiogram friendly. She feels a big disconnect in the industry is that patients don't truly understand the results of the hearing test. She created HearVU as an opportunity to make the audiogram something that is easily understood and which allows for people to take action and move forward with a hearing healthcare decision.

Having been an audiologist for nearly 25 years, Robin has had her own audiology practice for the past seven. She has a hearing loss herself, which has allowed for her to have a

great firsthand understanding of the entire process. Her emphasis is on the patient journey and providing exceptional patient care.

She completed her undergraduate work at Niagara University and her master's degree in speech and hearing sciences at the University of New Mexico. Her doctorate degree was completed at A.T. Still University's Arizona School of Health Sciences.

Saturday, February 8

**What Else Changes
When Your Hearing Changes?**

By Judy Oetting, M.S.

Judy promises an illuminating and humorous presentation on other effects of loss of hearing – social, emotional, physical, psychological, and safety. Understanding these aspects can enable us to live more effectively with hearing loss.

Judy is one of the founders of our chapter and one of our most effective speakers and discussion leaders. She has a B.S. degree in speech pathology from Northwestern University and her M.S. from TCU. She has taught lip reading and adaptive strategies for 35 years, following techniques developed by Dr. Sam Trychin.

Photo Credit: The photograph of The Fort Worth Herd on our **Heard In Fort Worth** banner is used by permission of The Fort Worth Herd and its sponsor, the City of Fort Worth Parks and Community Services Department.



Cary's Corner

2020 is here! A lot has happened in 2019 and time never stands still. Take some time to think about what things happened during this past year. How did your hearing journey improve? What is one thing you learned? Who do you know who is struggling? What new technology lies ahead? Are you excited about the new year? I hope you are! HLAA can help with each of these questions and countless others. Make the most of this new year and don't let time pass you by. Be heard! I look forward to seeing you.

Cary Terry, Chapter President

2020 Hearing Wellness Expo, Saturday, March 28

We have a fantastic lineup of engaging speakers offering the latest hearing loss information and resources. Please save the date and plan now to attend.

The planned Tarrant County College location did not work out for us, so we will continue holding the event at the Tarrant County Medical Society auditorium on Hemphill and Pennsylvania Streets in Fort Worth.

Our target is people of all ages and types of hearing loss and their family and friends. It can be a life changing event. Please invite others and help us spread the news of this exciting event. **More details will follow soon.**



<https://www.facebook.com/HLAAFortWorth/posts/1426272860842356>

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Hearing Loss Association of America - Fort Worth Chapter

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<http://www.hearinglossfortworth.org>

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The Hearing Loss Association America (HLAA), founded in 1979 by Rocky Stone, opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, advocacy, and support. HLAA publishes the bimonthly *Hearing Life* magazine, holds annual conventions, produces *Walk4Hearing®* events, hosts online learning, and more. HLAA has an extensive network of chapters and state organizations. Further information can be found at www.hearingloss.org. The national headquarters is located at 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814. Telephone: 301-657-2248

Christmas Party Photos



Everyone had a great time at our Christmas Holiday Party. Thanks to LaNeta Terryn and Jill DeMoss for organizing the event. Thanks to all who brought food and participated in the activities and conversations. LaNeta provided the questions to generate discussion of holiday memories and hopes. Thanks to entertainer Carla Fay White, who led the group in singing seasonal songs. Thanks to Maribel Arrendondo for captioning the proceedings and displaying the song lyrics. The food was great, and so was the group fellowship.

Audiology and the VA

Highlights of the November meeting, edited and summarized by Darlene Liesner from the meeting transcript by Maribel Arredondo, CSR

Allison Lane, Au.D., has been a staff audiologist with the Department of Veterans Affairs for thirty-two years. She will retire in 2020. She is the Assistant Chief for the Audiology & Speech Pathology Service, which comprises four campuses: Dallas, Fort Worth, Bonham, and Tyler. At the November 9 meeting, Dr. Lane discussed current audiology services available at these four campuses and explained how the MISSION Act benefits veterans and their family members.

The VA fits all types of hearing aids. They do not perform cochlear implants, but send patients out to U.T. Southwestern. UTSW performs the implant surgery at no cost to the patient. Most VA audiology patients are Viet Nam vets. The VA serves some Desert Storm and Iraq War veterans as well.

Any primary V.A. clinic can clean ears. The VA refers veterans interested in lip reading or compensatory strategies to the University of Texas at Dallas. Hearing aids purchased through the VA carry a three-year loss and damage warranty and a four-year general warranty. Veterans pay no deductible for a replacement hearing aid. The VA covers the cost of batteries, accessories, assistive listening devices, and captioned phones. Follow up visits and programming adjustments are free.

Audiology is the number one requested service by veterans. Tinnitus is number two. The North Texas VA system is the second largest in the country. Nearly 1,000,000 veterans live in north Texas. New patients needing a hearing test and hearing aids may wait up to 60 days for an appointment.

To be referred to an outside provider, veterans must meet certain criteria. If the wait for a hearing test is greater than 28 days, if the veteran lives more than 40 miles from a VA audiology clinic, or if the veteran has medical conditions that prevent them from visiting a VA clinic are some of the qualifications. Unfortunately, because of the limited number of approved outside providers, getting an appointment in the private sector may take as long as getting into a VA audiologist.

The VA offers a two-hour tinnitus class twice a month. In the class, veterans learn coping strategies and get tools to help them cope. They receive devices like tinnitus maskers and sound maskers. A psychologist who specializes in tinnitus is available.

Veterans are eligible for hearing aids even if they did not lose their hearing in the service. The VA includes families in counseling.

Dr. Lane brought hand-outs explaining the VA MISSION Act of 2018. On June 6, 2018, the Act became law. MISSION stands for Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks. Over the next several years, the VA needs to:

- Streamline and Improve Community Care,
- Establish a new Urgent Care benefit,
- Expand Caregivers Eligibility,
- Strengthen VA's workforce,
- Strengthen VA's Infrastructure.

The Caregiver Program is for veterans with family members as their caregivers. Currently only veterans injured on or after September 11, 2001 are eligible for the Caregiver Program. The MISSION Act will open the program to injured veterans and their caregivers from all eras. The Act will improve recruiting and retaining high quality staff by:

- Expanding the education debt reduction program,
- Improving flexibility for recruitment bonuses,
- Allowing for relocation and retention pay,
- Providing scholarships for veterans to receive medical training in return for serving in a VA hospital or clinic for four years.

Many VA buildings are nearly 60 years old. Half were built before 1920. The MISSION Act offers reviews and plans for technology changes and building improvements. The Act empowers the VA to provide telehealth in veterans’ private homes, in a VA facility, or in the community. It also benefits staff by creating “Anywhere to Anywhere” telehealth which links veterans with their care teams across state lines.

Read the full text and find out more about the MISSION Act at:
<https://www.va.gov/oei/missionAct/index.asp>

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We’ll acknowledge your donations in each issue of the newsletter. These are the 2019 gifts.

Platinum = \$400+; **Gold** = \$200 to \$399; **Silver** = \$100 to \$199; **Bronze** = \$50 to \$99; **Friends** = Up to \$49

Gold: Johnnie Carter, Lanny & Jill DeMoss, Patricia Key. **Silver:** LaNeta & Fred Terryn, Patricia Hindman.
Bronze: Joan Curran/Craig Stevenson, **Friend:** Oliver Jones.

**The Fort Worth Chapter is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization.
 All contributions are tax-deductible.**

Hearing Loss Association of America - Fort Worth Chapter 2020 CHAPTER DONATION FORM

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