HLAA Monthly Meeting
Saturday, March 12, 10:00 a.m.
Snacks and socializing at 9:30 a.m.
Goodrich Center, 2500 Lipscomb St., Fort Worth

Our State of Texas Hearing Loss Services:
Hearing Loss Resource Specialist (HLRS) and Specialized Telecommunications Assistance Program (STAP)

Presented by
Gema de la O, HLRS, and Leslie Seggelink, STAP Specialist

Learn all about the various services for improving the quality of life for people with hearing loss and their families and associates available from the state’s HLRS program from our new specialist Gema.

Learn about the telephone-related devices from STAP Specialist Leslie. You may be amazed at some of the technology and services available at no cost.

Guests are always welcome at Fort Worth Chapter meetings. Join us!

February meeting photo by Thomas Hindman. Poster presented to our chapter by Al Henderson, Fort Worth ADA Coordinator.

Disaster Emergency Services for People with Hearing Loss
Spring weather often brings strong winds, tornadoes, and hail. Local and regional government emergency management offices offer help for people with hearing loss and other disabilities. Other disaster and emergency events such as toxic spills or terrorist attacks are also covered.

Receive local emergency and community notices on your cell phone or other devices. Sign up at Nixle.com.

Special Needs Assistance Program (SNAP) is an emergency preparedness database available to any resident of North Central Texas, adult or child, who may have an access or functional need that would require assistance before, during, or after an emergency or local disaster. Participation in this program is voluntary.

This is not a government evacuation or food stamps program. All information gathered in this database will be used by emergency management personnel and first responders such as law enforcement, fire and ambulance to help plan for local hazards such as severe weather, man-made disasters or an act of terrorism. All data will be kept confidential as allowed by law and will be accessed only by the participating public entities and any other organization to which you give permission to access it. Local first responders will make every effort to locate participants as quickly as possible after a disaster.

Individuals may register at www.snapforyou.org or contact their local Office of Emergency Management. The Emergency Management Office prepares for, mitigates against, responds to, and assists in the recovery from natural and man-made disasters.

Source: http://fortworthtexas.gov/emo/ and linked sites}

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 Fort Worth Parks and Community Services Department.
This summer on June 23-26, at the Washington Hilton in Washington, DC, the national Hearing Loss Association of America will hold its annual convention in partnership with the National Federation of Hard of Hearing People Congress. It will be the largest educational program and trade show for people with hearing loss in the country, with more than fifty workshops and product demos; research symposium; exhibit hall with the latest products and services for people with hearing loss; social and off-site events, and more!

The HLAA 2016 keynote speaker is Jenny Lay-Flurrie, senior director at Microsoft, leading the Trusted Experiences Team (TExT). The Trusted Experiences Team, which focuses on accessibility, privacy, and online safety, is at the forefront of creating positive experiences that apply technology to make a difference in the world and the lives of individuals. Lay-Flurrie has a passion to see people of all abilities reach their full potential. In mid-October, Jenny was honored by the White House as a Disability Employment Champion of Change. Jenny will deliver her keynote address during the Opening Session on Thursday, June 23, 2016.

The Research Symposium on Friday, June 24, 2016, will be moderated by Dr. Frank Lin, MD, PhD., Associate Professor of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Geriatric Medicine, Mental Health, and Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins. His clinical practice is dedicated to the medical and surgical management of otologic conditions, and he studies research questions that lie at the interface of hearing loss, gerontology, and public health.

The symposium will be a mix of research in the basic science/hair cell area as well as novel ideas in the area of service delivery.

The conference has a large exhibit hall to showcase products and services as the nation’s premier consumer trade show for consumers with hearing loss. There will probably be well over a thousand attendees, composed of those with hearing loss, family members, and hearing professionals. Typically the majority of attendees are between 51 and 70 years old, along with an increasing number of veterans, young adults, and parents of children with hearing loss.

Several of our members have attended this convention in the past and have found it a very educational and rewarding experience. There is so very much going on in the research of hearing technology that you will learn more than you could ever imagine. I highly recommend that you investigate attending this convention and turn it into an educational vacation that you will never be able to replicate. Make sure you visit the web site: http://www.hearingloss.org/content/convention and plan to join my wife Sharon and me in Washington, DC, this June.

As all of you know, there is so much to see and enjoy in Washington, DC, and your time there will truly be a fun and educational one. I found this a rewarding experience that provided time to network and socialize with others who had similar needs to learn from each other.

See you in Washington, DC, this summer!

David Edmondson, Chapter President
The Americans with Disabilities Act in the City of Fort Worth

Al Henderson has had a lifetime of personal, family, and professional experience with people with disabilities and is a military veteran with a disability. He now serves as the City of Fort Worth ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) and FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act) Coordinator. “To join the disability community is just a heartbeat away. It could happen to anyone,” Mr. Henderson quoted.

As ADA coordinator, he is “responsible for every aspect of disability in the city,” from hiring and firing to accommodations, research, ADA grievance procedures, and the ADA transition plan.

The City of Fort Worth disability policy is non-discrimination and reasonable accommodations in employment and accessibility in city services. All city-sponsored events are accessible to the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. All City Council and Pre-Council meetings are captioned, and assistive listening devices are available. People with disabilities can request accommodations to be provided at any city committee meetings by contacting the Fort Worth ADA office in advance.

Communication devices and services are being updated. All sign language interpreters and CART writers for city functions are certified. Some city employees are also ASL certified and can assist in certain situations, such as at the Water Department.

The city website is being made more accessible for people who are blind or visually impaired. Captioning is provided for videos on the website.

The ADA grievance procedure. People with ADA-related complaints or grievances should contact Mr. Henderson’s office. A new grievance form has just been issued. He will reply to grievances within days. His decision can be appealed to his director and on up to the city manager.

The ADA Transition Plan is mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act. It requires cities to have a plan to ensure they are accommodating not only their employees but the city at large. Accessibility is key. All of the 24 departments must make a self-evaluation of what parts of their facilities and programs are not accessible for the disability community, including the deaf and hearing impaired.

“As the ADA transition plan comes out, it is going for review to the Mayor’s Committee on People with Disabilities. You may want to take interest because it’s going to involve tax money. That’s your money.

Paulette and I talked about when she was at the city she could not find funding for certain things. The ADA transition plan is a plan that says, okay we’re going to address that. It may take three years. It has to be a reasonable amount of time. You know, for your situation, that should have been taken care of within a week or so.”

Citizen voice. “We’re going to need your input on what we need to do as a city to better serve you. One of the citizen voices I encourage you to take advantage of is the Mayor’s Committee on Persons with Disabilities. [It’s your] best chance to being more proactive and reaching out to the disability community. Best way also to plug in and help others in the community. I would encourage you to at least have one person from this group to attend their meetings and find out what’s going on. I advise you to stay connected with that group. The reason is that they are our access to the citizens, and they review our ADA plan. In other words, they review city policies having to do with ADA, to include the hearing, deaf, and hard of hearing community. So we route through them first.”

Employment. “One of the things my office does, and I ask you to do, is review our disability programs and employment practices policies to make sure to maximize the opportunity for the deaf and hearing impaired community and the disability community. Let me know when something is a barrier.”

The office of emergency management. “I encourage everyone to enroll in SNAP now – the Special Needs Assistance Program. They will send an alert to your cell phone to let you know that an emergency condition is coming, and you will be aware of what is going on. The office of emergency management gets grant money to serve you, so make sure you take advantage of that program. You would be surprised what goes on down there, what resources are available for your group. It’s like a military operation center, and that’s where the Mayor and city leaders would go to strategize about what we’re going to do in case of an emergency. I would encourage your group to go down there. Take a group tour.”

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Henderson presented our chapter with a beautiful poster from last October’s statewide disability conference. The National Disability Employment Awareness Month poster was signed by the artist Astrid Wienkin and by Texas Governor Greg Abbot. Both have disabilities.
SIARC 2016 is a unique opportunity for adults with hearing impairment and their communication partners to experience the benefits of cooperative learning in a social environment.

Throughout the conference and planned social activities, participants will be able to try digital and programmable hearing aids and use various assistive listening devices that work with hearing aids or cochlear implants. Personnel from the Advanced Hearing Research Center at the Callier Center will present innovations in hearing research and opportunities for research involvement.

Hearing loss affects a person’s communication with others. That’s why SIARC is designed for a participant with hearing loss and his/her communication partner. The communication partner may be a spouse, family member, friend, or coworker. Individuals are also welcome to attend.

SIARC will have special evening activities to utilize the skills learned throughout the week and to experience some of the assistive listening devices in real life situations.

Conference Highlights • Special Guest Lecture • Personal hearing aid check • Complete audiological evaluation • Technology update and trials • Strategies for listening • Auditory training activities • Hearing assistive technology (HAT) • Real world practice with HATs • Strategies for repair of communication breakdowns • Cultural events: plays, tours or concerts • Coordination with your current hearing health provider • Cutting edge research reviews

Registration Fee: The registration fee includes all classes, assessments, activities and meals. To insure the highest quality of service and educational experience, registration is limited to ten couples. Submit registration prior to March 1st with $20 deposit per person to reserve a place. If paid in full by May 1, 2016 registration fee is only $350 per couple or $175 per individual. Deposits will be applied to registration fees. After May 1st registration fee is $400 per couple and $200 per individual.

Scholarships: Tuition scholarships may be available. Mail registration form by May 1, 2016 for scholarship consideration.

When: May 16 -20, 2016
Where: Callier Center Richardson
811 Synergy Park Blvd., Richardson, TX 75080
Registration deadline: May 10, 2016
Additional information:
Dr. Linda Thibodeau, Professor, Au.D. Program
214-905-3108
thib@utdallas.edu  www.utdallas.edu/~thib
www.utdallas.edu/calliercenter
When You Go to the Hospital...

One of our chapter members had a recent stay in a local hospital. He reached out to other members for help. Here are some suggestions he received.

Inform hospital personnel of your hearing difficulties. They should have a patient care representative who can help you.

Be sure to have a full page HEARING LOSS notice posted above your bed, on the cover of your medical chart, and possibly on your door. Have a notice posted at the nurses’ station by the light that comes on when you press the call button.

Inform the staff of what they need to do to communicate with you. E.g., get your attention, face you so you can read lips, don’t stand in front of the window, but have the light on their faces, etc.

Have them use a note pad, white board and marker, or something like that to write notes to you.

Have them put all instructions and important information in writing.

Ask if they have a PocketTalker or other amplified personal listening device if that can help you.

Look online for hearing loss hospital tips. You should find several listings. Some chapters offer hospital kits.

Help with Our Senior Synergy Expo Booth

Senior Synergy Expo will be held on Thursday, May 5, at the Will Rogers Memorial Center. It a great outreach opportunity for our chapter. Volunteers are needed in two-hour shifts to help staff our booth. Contact Chapter President David Edmondson (david_edmondson@att.net) if you’re willing and able.

Share the Gift of Better Hearing

The HLAA Fort Worth Chapter is offering raffle tickets for a pair of top quality Siemens Binax hearing aids donated by Dr. Richard Navarro. The raffle is to be held in May for “Better Hearing and Speech Month” as a fundraiser for the chapter. Tickets are being sold for $15. Members are asked to take a block of tickets to sell between now and then. Please help!

Support your Fort Worth chapter and newsletter.

We’ll acknowledge your donations in the newsletter each month.

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

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

Hearing Loss Association of America - Fort Worth Chapter

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION & CHAPTER DONATION FORM

Make checks payable to: HLAA - Fort Worth Chapter
Mail to HLAA – Fort Worth, 2500 Lipscomb St., Fort Worth, TX 76110-2625

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________ City: __________ Zip: __________
Email address: ____________________________________

Annual Chapter Newsletter Subscription ($15) $__________
Donation to Fort Worth Chapter $__________
TOTAL $__________
Hearing Evaluations * Hearing Devices

Advanced Hearing Aid Center

J. Thomas Roth, Au.D. CCC-A, FAAA
Doctor of Audiology

Phone 817-332-8817
Fax 817-332-8827
904 W. Pennsylvania
Ft. Worth, TX 76104

Marsha McClean, CCC-A
Audiology/Hearing Aids

Allergy, Ear, Nose & Throat
Associates of Texas

Doctors Surgery Center
12001 S. Freeway
Suite 201
Euless, TX 76039

Tariq Yunus, MD
www.allergyent.net

Anthony Hearing Aids

Physician-Based Hearing Solutions
Phillip F. Anthony, M.D., Otologist
Sandra Clarkson, MA, CCC-A, FAAA, Lead Audiologist
Julie Mistic, Au.D, CCC-A, FAAA, Audiologist
901 Hemphill, Fort Worth, Texas 76104
817/338-HEAR

Fonner Hearing Aid Center

315 Randol Mill Road, Arlington 76011
Call 817-277-8121  Fax — 817-277-8191
6647 Boulevard 26, Fort Worth 76180
Call 817-284-8584  Fax — 817-284-3253

www.Fonnerhearing.com

Hearing Care Center

“Helping patients and families hear a difference”
Kurt Chappell, BBA
4736 Bryant Irvin Road, Suite 702
Fort Worth, TX 76132
(817) 263-1971
www.chappell-hearing-aids.com

Diane Blaising, Au.D., FAAA, ADA
Doctor of Audiology
Board-Certified in Audiology

Cityview Audiology & Hearing Aids, Inc.
7801 Oakmont Blvd, Ste 109
Fort Worth, TX 76132
PH 817.263.1800
FAX 817.263.1802

DrBlaising@CityviewHearing.com
www.CityviewHearing.com

2-WEEK FREE TRIAL

Try the latest hearing aids at home FREE for 2-weeks!
Also, at Connect Hearing you automatically get personal, ongoing support for the lifetime of your hearing aid with Connect Advantage including:
• Connect Hearing Price Match Guarantee
• 3 years of free batteries
• 2-week free trial

1.888.454.4215 • connecthearing.com
11 area locations to serve you – call to find your nearest center.

1-888-416-5910

*Restrictions apply. See website for details.

Krown Communications

CompuTurn

Products for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

CL60 Amplified Cordless Telephone
RA05 Amplified Telephone Ringer with Reg. Strobe

VibeAlert 2.0
Alarm Clock with Bed Shaker and USB Charger

Serving local residents since 1986
3408 Indale Road, Fort Worth TX 76116
Voice: (817) 738-2485, VP: (682) 200-1331, Fax: (817) 738-1970
E-mail: info@krownmtg.com, Web site: www.krownmtg.com

* STAP Vouchers accepted *
NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

We are extremely grateful for the financial support we receive for our newsletter from our sponsors. Mention of goods and services does not imply HLAA endorsement, nor should omission suggest disapproval. Advertising rates are $150 per year or $12.50 per month for a business card size ad.

HEALTHFIRST MEDICAL GROUP
SCOTT O’LEARY, M.S., CCC-A
AUDIOLIGHT
Audiology/Hearing Aids
George Kostohryz, Jr. M.D.
Otolaryngology/ENT
4625 Boat Club Road, #257 Phone 817-346-6464
Fort Worth, Texas 76135 Fax 817-238-0054

Audiology Associates of Arlington
Elizabeth Johnson, Au.D., AAA
Comprehensive Audiological Evaluations
Hearing Aids and Assistive Devices
3132 MATLOCK RD., STE 303 817-472-7720
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76014 817-417-7280 FAX

Marylyn Koble, M.S., CCC-A, Audiologist
(817) 504-3644 koblehearing@gmail.com
Call for an in-home consultation

Texas Ear Clinic
Ricardo Cristobal, M.D., Ph.D.
Otolaryngology & Skull Base Surgery
Board Certified in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
Board Certified in Neurology
923 Pennsylvania Avenue, Ste 200 - Fort Worth, TX 76104
Phone: 817.920.0484 - Fax: 817.920.0389
www.texasearclinic.com

GET BACK WHAT YOU’VE BEEN MISSING
Cochlear® Hybrid Hearing is a unique combination of proven technology brought together in one device that enhances the low-frequency hearing you have through amplification and gives you access to the high-frequency hearing you’re missing through a cochlear implant. It’s designed to give you a more complete and talking hearing experience so you can enjoy a richer, more life.

“IT’S NOT JUST ABOUT HEARING AIDS.
IT’S ABOUT HEARING HEALTHCARE.”
Robin Carson, Au.D., Doctor of Audiology

Call 817-737-4327 and schedule your complimentary consultation today.
carsonhearing.com
Stay in Touch with HLAA

The national HLAA website is a treasure trove of helpful resources. Go to www.hearingloss.org.

*This Week in Bethesda (TWIB)* is a weekly report from the HLAA national office. It’s online at www.hearingloss.org/content/this-week-in-bethesda.

Also sign up for the free, online *HLAA e-News* (www.hearingloss.org/content/e-news-sign). It is published twice a month, with one issue focusing on HLAA advocacy work (“HLAA in Action”) and one on general news.

You will also find invaluable news and information in *Hearing Loss Magazine* (a benefit of joining HLAA).

Find additional resources and links at our chapter website, www.hearinglossfortworth.org. Click on the Facebook icon there for up-to-date content.