



Heard In Fort Worth

Hearing Loss Association of America – Fort Worth Chapter

June, 2020

Fort Worth HLAA Virtual Meeting this Saturday

Saturday, June 13, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Presentation: Assistive Technology and Tips during COVID-19

By Julie Maher, Hearing Technology Specialist with Deaf Action Center in Dallas

Presentation will cover video conferencing and speech-to-text applications, tips for visiting COVID testing sites, and wearing masks with hearing aids or cochlear implants.

To join the meeting, you will need an Internet connection. Around 9:50 or earlier, get set up by going to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2146809295>.

Follow the Zoom prompts to connect by both video and audio. Use your computer speakers for sound. Read along with the captions for anything you do not hear clearly.

The Fort Worth Chapter of HLAA, the Hearing Loss Association of America, will conduct our first online meeting this Saturday, June 13, at 10:00 a.m. We will use the Zoom meeting platform, and the meeting will be captioned.

With the spread of the COVID-19 corona virus, *online* medical appointments, business meetings, church classes, and webinars have become common. How do we use these tools most effectively – especially with a hearing loss? How well do you communicate in person while practicing social distancing and wearing a mask - and others are wearing masks? What happens if you go for a virus test? If you wonder about these things, this program is for you.

Julie Maher is an Information Technology industry veteran whose 32 year career spanned time at Electronic Data Systems (EDS) and Hewlett Packard (HP). In August of 2019, she joined the Deaf Action Center in Dallas as the STAP Outreach and Training Specialist. In February 2020, she accepted the role of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Technology Specialist serving the Dallas metroplex and surrounding counties. Julie was born with a moderately severe hearing loss and has worn hearing aids since the age of four. She has replaced Esther Kelly, who worked at DAC for decades and recently retired.

This online meeting takes the place of our monthly in-person meeting normally held on the second Saturday of each month at the Southside Church of Christ in Fort Worth. Those meetings have been suspended since March due to the COVID-19 corona virus. If it proves effective, we will continue with future monthly online meetings until it is safe to resume meeting in person.

Chapter President Cary Terry will convene and moderate the meeting. Some interaction among participants is expected to be allowed. You may be visible to others if you are selected to ask a question or comment. You may also have a chance to type your question or comment, depending on how the meeting is run.

NATIONAL WEBINAR Today, Friday, June 12, 1:00 - 2:00 PM.

See page 3 for details.

The 2020 HLAA National Convention in New Orleans has been cancelled.

BUT You Can **EXPERIENCE HLAA!**

Join remotely on your devices on Thursday, June 18 and Friday, June 19.

HLAA is excited about the opportunity to present highlights from HLAA2020 Convention in a new online format. While we will miss the networking, personal connections, and sense of support we gain from attending an HLAA Convention, by joining us on your devices remotely on Thursday, June 18 and Friday, June 19, we can attend HLAA2020 and be together virtually, learning about the latest in research, technologies, and services to assist people to live well with hearing loss.

For **details** and **registration**, please go to <https://www.experiencehlaa.org/> and click the **Register Now** button. Once you register, you are signed up for every session! This allows you unlimited access to our unique Experience HLAA! event.

Here are the major program topics:

The Potential for Regenerative Medicine to Restore Hearing Loss

WORKPLACE GAIN: A Discussion on Self-Advocacy, Marketing and Navigating the Workplace with Hearing Loss

RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM: The Latest on Tinnitus Research

HEARING LOSS AND THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM: A Call to Action



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

LIKE and SHARE information about our virtual meeting!

2020 Chapter Board of Directors

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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



Access, Accommodations, Advocating, Captions, Communication, Coping, Coronavirus, COVID-19, Health care, Hearing Loss, Isolation, Webinars

NATIONAL WEBINAR:

Advocacy During the Pandemic: Tips and Resources for People with Hearing Loss

Friday, June 12, 2020, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Central Time

The coronavirus pandemic has changed the landscape of the country and made those of us with hearing loss acutely aware of new barriers to everyday communication. Working from home or attending school over the internet, confronting Plexiglas barriers and face masks in the grocery store and a trip to an overwhelmed hospital ER all challenge the old ways of accommodating our hearing loss.

When the pandemic hit and shutdowns across the country began, HLAA immediately pivoted from our day to day advocacy to working on providing information and education about how to survive the pandemic with a hearing loss. In this webinar, we will talk about what HLAA is seeing and hearing across the country and will provide tips and resources to help you advocate for access during and after the coronavirus pandemic.

Presenter: Lise Hamlin, Director of Public Policy, HLAA

Lise Hamlin joined the Hearing Loss Association of America's (HLAA) national staff as director of public policy in April 2008. Ms. Hamlin, who has a hearing loss herself, has worked as an advocate for people with hearing loss for 25 years. She currently represents HLAA on federal advisory committees such as the FCC's Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) and TSA's Disability and Multicultural Coalition, industry advisory groups, including AT&T's Advisory Panel on Access and Aging (AAPAA) and LG's Accessibility Advisory Board, and is co-chair of the Hearing Aid Compatibility Task Force.

TO JOIN THE WEBINAR, GO TO:

<https://www.hearingloss.org/webinars/advocacy-during-pandemic/> and click on the JOIN link.



Who We Are

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) is the nation's leading organization representing consumers with hearing loss. The programs and events we offer are designed to focus on you—the **person**. HLAA strives to give people the tools they need to live more successfully with hearing loss and to show them **they do not have to face hearing loss alone**.

Our Mission

The mission of HLAA is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support and advocacy.

Information and Education

Our primary purpose is to educate ourselves, our families, friends, coworkers, teachers, hearing health care providers, industry, government, and others about hearing loss. HLAA provides adults and children with tools for self help; sensitizes the general population about the special needs of people who have hearing loss; and promotes understanding of the nature, causes, complications, and remedies of hearing loss.

- We provide information on many aspects of hearing loss, from technological and medical advances to coping and parenting strategies.
- We want to help you become an informed consumer on what options are available to you to help you make the best decisions on how to deal with hearing loss.

Support

Support comes in many forms as it means something different to each one. HLAA offers a wide range of local and national programs, events, and resources that offer something for everyone. See our website programs and events page for more information on our support tools, including our national network of chapters and state organizations, *Hearing Life* magazine and *Hearing Life e-News*, the annual HLAA Convention, the Walk4Hearing, and monthly webinars.

Advocacy

HLAA is a leading voice in improving communication access for people with hearing loss. Our advocacy efforts range from the grassroots, local level all the way up to Capitol Hill. In fact, some of the most powerful and effective advocacy efforts begin with you – the person with hearing loss.

We advocate for communication access in the workplace, hotels, schools, court systems, medical, and entertainment facilities. HLAA promotes new technology, medical research, and legislation that will alleviate the effects of hearing loss, and we encourage and participate in research to improve hearing aids, assistive listening devices, and other technology needs of consumers with hearing loss.

HLAA also promotes and encourages self-advocacy. Speak up, whether it's at school, work, social activities or even at home. Let people know you have a hearing loss and tell them what you need to best communicate.

HLAA seeks to enable people with hearing loss to live life fully and without compromise. Success will be achieved when:

- Stigma withers away. Hearing loss is no longer considered shameful.
- People take action. Effective, affordable, and easy-to-use hearing devices are routinely worn by people with hearing loss.
- Costs come down. Medicare and all other insurance plans cover a full range of hearing technology and aural rehabilitation programs.
- More public spaces are communication accessible. High-quality assistive listening devices and captions are available in theaters, transportation, government buildings, and houses of worship.
- Consumers have know-how. People understand how to successfully cope with their hearing loss, and how to obtain and use the technology and therapies they require.
- Providers follow best practices. Clinicians offer a wide spectrum of devices and treatments, know how they work, and base care on an assessment of each person's hearing and lifestyle needs.

- Technology works seamlessly. Audio devices, including mobile phones, easily connect to one another without glitches, incompatibilities, or additional devices like streamers.
 - Hearing loss is recognized as a key public health issue. Healthy hearing is deemed essential to human physical and psychosocial health so that screening for hearing loss occurs routinely in primary care.
 - Hearing loss prevention is routine. School children are taught how and why to protect their hearing. Laws limiting noise levels in public spaces are enforced.
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Support your Fort Worth chapter

We'll acknowledge your donations in each issue of the newsletter. These are the 2020 gifts to date.

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

Gold: Johnnie Carter **Bronze:** Joyce Parlin

**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**

Make checks payable to: **HLAA - Fort Worth Chapter**

Bring to the monthly meeting or mail to: HLAA – Fort Worth, PO Box 1310, Euless TX 76039.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Email address: _____

Donation to Fort Worth Chapter \$ _____

HLAA MEMBERSHIP is through the national Hearing Loss Association office. Go to www.hearingloss.org and click on "Membership" to join. A portion of your national dues is remitted to the chapter. Membership is required to vote and hold positions in the local chapter.
