

 **Hearing Loss
Association
of America**
Fort Worth Chapter
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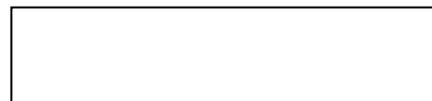
Heard In Fort Worth

HEARING LOSS NEWS ITEMS

July 2017

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HLAA Monthly Meeting

Saturday, July 8, 10:00 a.m.

Snacks and socializing at 9:30 a.m.

**Meeting at Southside Church of Christ
2101 Hemphill St., Fort Worth 76110
Use entrance at south parking lot**

2017 HLAA Convention Reports Salt Lake City, Utah

Presenters:

*Leslie Seggelink, STAP Specialist, and
Gema De La O, Hearing Loss Resource Specialist
Deaf Action Center, Fort Worth Office*

HLAA conventions offer an amazing array of helpful resources, informational workshops, general sessions by leading experts, the very latest in hearing and communication technology, and hundreds of helpful new friends who will be glad to share their experiences. Join us!

No Official Newsletter the Month

I've been preparing for and leading a church mission trip to the Navajo reservation in Arizona, plus dealing with family health issues and other matters. I'm sorry, but I simply ran out of time to produce a full newsletter.

So – here is meeting information and David's July column. Next month, I'll plan to offer additional pages to make up for what's missing this month.

I do want to encourage you to attend the July 8 meeting to hear from Leslie and Gema about the national HLAA convention. That's this Saturday.

Leslie and Gema are state-funded specialists. Both have expertise that many of our members and others have found beneficial and even life-changing. Please come and hear them.

All the best!

Dan White, editor
Heard In Fort Worth



David's Discussion

Hearing Loop Technology

Have you ever wondered what hearing loop technology is and why it allows you to hear better? We have in our meeting room at Southside Church of Christ a hearing loop that most all our members have experienced. The sound is crisp, and you can hear the sound system as if it is inside your ear! No background noise is in competition with the sound system that is broadcasting out speakers inside the room.

What is the technology behind this system that allows those with hearing aids or cochlear implants to understand so much more clearly than they do without this technology?

A hearing loop is a wire that circles a room and is connected to a sound system. The loop transmits the sound electromagnetically. The electromagnetic signal is then picked up by the telecoil in the hearing aid or cochlear implant processor.

To use a hearing loop, you flip on the t-coil switch on the hearing aid or cochlear implant to activate the telecoil. Usually, no additional receiver or equipment is needed. Using a telecoil and hearing loop together is seamless, cost-effective, unobtrusive, and you don't have to seek additional equipment.

Hearing loops are also called audio-induction loops, audio loops, or loops. If your hearing aid doesn't have a telecoil, you will need a headset plugged into a loop receiver to achieve the same effect.

Seventy-two percent of the hearing aids on the market have telecoils built into the product, along with 100% of all cochlear implants. In a recent survey by HLAA, more than 85% of the HLAA membership have telecoils in the hearing assistive technology that they use. It gets even better. For those who do not have a telecoil in their hearing aids, a hearing loop receiver is available that brings the sound into a headphone set. Hearing loops are effective for everyone who wears a hearing aid or cochlear implant.

Today's digital hearing aids and cochlear implants effectively enhance hearing in conversational settings. Yet, for many people with hearing loss, the sound becomes inaudible and unclear when live speakers or recorded broadcasts are at a distance, when there is room noise, and when room acoustics cause reverberation of sound. A hearing loop electromagnetically transfers sound signals directly to hearing aids and cochlear implants equipped with a telecoil (t-coil) receiver. This loop is like "binoculars for the ears."

A hearing aid or cochlear implant compatible loop system delivers sound that is customized to individual listener needs. Listeners with features in their hearing aids or cochlear implants, properly programmed and activated by the audiologist, will enjoy two ways of listening with the loop: **Telecoil (T) Only** position or **Microphone plus Telecoil (M+T)**. The *Telecoil Only* position is desired when the listener wants to hear only what is coming through the loop, and not the outside world. *M+T* becomes important when the listener wants to hear his or her companions or other important sounds such as a doorbell or a phone ringing. It also allows the listener to hear and monitor his or her own voice. This is especially important for people with more severe hearing loss. The main advantage to using a hearing loop system is that all the listener needs to do is activate the telecoil.

There is no extra equipment required for the user of the hearing loop or for the provider either. In the long term, it is also cheaper on the organization that installs the loop than any other technology currently available. Our chapter has a partnership with Southern Star Technologies, a certified installer of hearing loop technology that provides a percentage of every project installation cost as a donation from any member who provides a lead that ends up in an installation.

Please help our hearing loss community and our chapter by telling potential providers about this incredible technology and what it would do for your ability to hear. We have already benefited from this partnership, with several churches in the area contracting with Southern Star Technologies and having a loop system installed. The DFW metroplex is growing in the number of loops provided, but is still very limited in most of our public services organizations. Other states have moved ahead of Texas with this technology, so there are plenty of opportunities out there for us.

Be proactive. Let's get LOOPED!

David Edmondson, President

Quilt Raffle Ends in September

Please do your part to help make this fund-raising project a success for our chapter. Get tickets and a photo of the raffle quilt at our July meeting and ask friends and acquaintances to buy tickets to support our chapter's future activities. Or contact Jill DeMoss at demotr@charter.net or 817-444-6047.