

DelHoH Quarterly Update

January-March 2012

Announcing A New Publication

Welcome to what we hope will be a quarterly update to all past and current members of HLA-Delaware County—formerly known as DelHoH.

The purpose of the update is to keep you aware of what is going on in our chapter and local happenings. We also hope to reconnect with you folks who no longer come out to meetings. We really miss seeing your shiny faces and special smiles and would like you to “come on back.”

We could really use some extra ideas for meetings—and some help to keep our chapter vibrant.

In response to a lot of requests, we have moved our meeting day to Saturday afternoons because we know

that many folks attend religious services or simply find Sunday a family (or sports) day. Time remains the same however: 2-4PM.

We still meet at Friendship Circle Senior Center (don't be afraid of that name—but the Center very kindly opens its doors to our group to meet without any cost). Friendship is located on the campus of Fitzgerald Mercy Hospital (in St. Bernard's Hall) on the Wycombe Avenue side diagonal to Manor Care Rehab and opposite Holy Cross Cemetery.

We also have a facebook page and The Hearing Discovery Center which hosts these meetings appears on the SCS website (www.scs-

delco.org). Our email address is dschumacher@scs-delco.org. So you can read and find out about us in multiple ways.

Check out the meeting dates and make it a new year resolution to attend.



First Meeting of the New Year—Saturday, February 4

We hope that this first meeting will be helpful to all those who are the family, friends, loved ones or co-workers of those with hearing loss. It is as difficult to understand and communicate with those who do not hear well as it is for those with hearing loss to

function in the hearing environment.

Tolerance and understanding is a must for all parties to communicate effectively. But if you don't understand what the issues are that create barriers, frustration and withdrawal can quickly make situations and relationships

deteriorate. Join us on Saturday February 4th and learn how to deal with these issues. This is a “support” group so bring anyone that is in your “circle within circles” and we'll all learn together.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

- FEBRUARY 4 (SNOW DATE OF FEBRUARY 11)
- MARCH 3 (SNOW DATE OF MARCH 10)
- APRIL 14
- MAY 5
- JUNE 3 (CLOSING)

**ALL MEETINGS START AT 2PM

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So What Have You Missed?

Past meetings this year have given us the opportunity to learn about the effort to “Loop America” so that those with hearing loss can hear better in environments such as meetings, transportation directions, attend cultural events, etc. We have learned about movie captioning—where are the theaters, what films are captioned, how to access Netflix for better enjoyment. Are you looking into updating your hearing aids, or are newly entering the world of hearing loss and can’t figure out one hearing aid from another—we’ve had a program on that. See what you’ve been missing!

But it’s not to late—technology changes almost daily and we intend to keep our chapter members up to date on all this and more.

DelHoH Receives Walk4Hearing Funds

I am pleased to let your know that even though this chapter was not well represented at the actual walk this year, we have been recognized with funds from the walk to help us keep our chapter going. An anonymous donor kindly designated their donation to us and we gratefully acknowledge and thank them.

So “Who” is “WE?”

Our Chapter is in flux and “we” need your help. Right now 3 individuals currently help keep it alive.

I would like to introduce:

Alan Kutner from Havertown who stepped in to help out as Treasurer and has done an awesome job in keeping our chapter in good financial order.

Antoinette Maguire—from Clifton Heights who comes in to make phone calls, send out mailings and generally keeps things neat as well as helps set up the meeting room.

Last, there is me—**Donna Schumacher**. I am the program coordinator for the center as well as the “curator” of the Hearing Discovery Center. Right now I am the person responsible for organizing the meetings and their content, contacting speakers and now starting this update.

Both Alan and I are also on the HLA-PA Advisory Board where we serve on multiple committees to advocate for the rights of those with hearing loss in many ways.

A small be mighty group but we sure could use some help and most of all—we want our chapter to grow with members.



Captioning Update by Alan Kutner

As many of you know I am very interested in providing captioning for movie theaters for those of us that are hard of hearing. I am pleased to advise that under the new amendment to the "Americans with Disabilities Act", there is clear Progress ahead. We Have received notices from the four major motion picture theaters in the United States Including AMC, Regal Theaters, Cinemark Theaters and Carmike Theaters that they intend to install closed captioning for most of their other movie screens within the next 1 to 2 years. This is already happening in New Jersey and Wilmington where Cinemark theaters is now showing 10 to 12 captioned movie screens in some theaters. Pennsylvania has not been as fortunate, but we expect the major motion picture chains to be providing movie captioning in Pennsylvania in the very near future.

On a related subject, captioning is becoming more common on Netflix through the advance of "Phlixie" and through the use of their streaming capabilities. This means that you can get captioned movies not only on DVDs, but also streamed directly to your television from Phlixie/Netflix.

If anyone has any questions about these changing developments please feel free to contact me at: Alan@alankutner.com.