

May is Better Speech & Hearing Month!



**Remember to support our hearing loss chapter with your dues so that we may continue to support our members for years to come.
(see page 9)**

NEXT MEETING

Location:

DePaul School for Hearing and Speech
6202 Alder Street, Pittsburgh

Date:

Saturday May 15, 2010

Time:

10:00 Coffee & Refreshments
10:30 Meeting Starts

RSVP/Contact:

nellanst@aol.com

412-767-9769 voice or tty

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PRESIDENT'S POST

Back in 1987, Pittsburgh area citizens with hearing loss and those interested formed SHHH Chapter # 1, the name Self Help for Hard of Hearing being changed a few years ago to Hearing Loss Association. They wanted support and understanding from each other. They wanted to learn about hearing assistive technology, coping tips, and community resources. And they wanted to raise public awareness, advocating for better technology and access to services, programs, and events.

Those goals are still important! Now we are needed more than ever because: 1) There's an increasing older population where over a third of those over age 65 need help for hearing loss. 2) All combat soldiers (currently about 58 thou-

(Continued on page 4)

REGULAR MEETINGS

Hearing Loss Association of Pittsburgh meetings are usually held at DePaul School for Hearing and Speech in Shadyside on the third Saturday of each month except June, July, August, and December. Light refreshments and a mini hearing aid clinic are available at 10:00 a.m.; the meeting starts at 10:30 a.m. The meetings are free and everyone is welcomed so please bring your family and friends.



All meetings are captioned and the meeting room is equipped with an infrared surround sound amplification system. Contact Teresa Nellans, NellansT@aol.com, 412-767-9769 v/tty, with requests for additional accommodations.

The next scheduled meeting will be May 15, 2010 .



DePaul School for Hearing and Speech
6202 Alder Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15206-4389
412) 924-1012 (Voice & TTY)

Directions To DePaul School for Hearing and Speech

Located in the Shadyside area of Pittsburgh, DePaul is easily accessible from four directions:
From the West: Follow 376 (Parkway) East to Homestead-Squirrel Hill Exit; left of the exit onto Forward; remain on Forward, crossing Murray and bearing right up the hill; left onto Shady; follow Shady across Fifth Avenue; left onto Alder.

From the East: Follow 376 (Parkway) West to Homestead-Squirrel Hill Exit; left off the exit onto Forward; remain on Forward, crossing Murray and bearing right up the hill; left onto Shady; follow Shady across Fifth Avenue; left onto Alder.

From the South: Proceed North through the Liberty Tunnels and across the Liberty Bridge; follow signs to Bigelow Boulevard; proceed on Bigelow to Baum Boulevard; left onto Baum; right onto S. Highland; left onto Alder.

From the North: Proceed South on 279; cross the Veteran's Bridge; follow signs to 376 (Parkway) East; proceed to Homestead-Squirrel Hill Exit; left off of the exit onto Forward; remain on Forward, crossing Murray and bearing right up the hill; left onto Shady; follow Shady across Fifth Avenue; left onto Alder.

OR if you live east of 279 (like Glenshaw, Allison Park, etc) cross the Allegheny River via the Highland Park Bridge, bear right on Allegheny Blvd to the stop light. Turn left, go up the hill past the zoo, through the stop sign and take a left at the next intersection. This will take you to Highland Avenue. Go right and follow Highland through Highland Park and East Liberty to Alder St. and turn left. School is on your right.

Bus Routes: Take either 71C or 500 buses to Highland Ave. & Alder St. Walk right on Alder St. for 3 blocks, crossing Carron St., Yardley Way, and Emerson St. DePaul should be on right immediately after crossing Emerson. The 71C can be caught downtown, on the Hill, or in Oakland. The 500 comes from Westview through downtown and Oakland to Shadyside & Highland Park. The 71C can be caught in opposite direction from Wilksburg.

To learn more about DePaul, visit the website at <http://www.speakmiracles.org>.

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF PITTSBURGH MEETING**SATURDAY, May 15, 2010**

HEARING AID MINI-CLINIC: During the half hour social starting at ten am, Audiologist and HLA board member, Dr. Suzanne Yoder will provide a hearing aid clinic. This free clinic is only for HLA members. Dr. Yoder will set up an area where you can talk to her about any issues you have with your hearing aids. She will check the hearing aids and do minor cleanings. For issues that require in-office repairs she will recommend returning to your audiologist or other clinic.

Brian Heywood from the Allegheny County Area Agency On Aging is scheduled to speak about aging services and the Aging Waiver Program and how they may apply to hard of hearing and deaf individuals.

The presentation will be from ten thirty to eleven thirty and then questions and at 11 45 they will go to separate rooms so individuals can discuss private matters or details with a representative.

Pittsburgh Chapter News:

A modification of our ByLaws has been requested by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Revenue, Bureau of Business Trust Fund Taxes, Exemption Unit. Therefore, it is proposed that Hearing Loss Association Pittsburgh Bylaws ARTICLE XI - FINANCIAL Item B be modified as follows: Proposed changes are in **bold** and quotes.

“In the event that this organization dissolves and ceases to function, the remaining funds **“and assets”** shall be given in total to the parent organization **“, Hearing Loss Association America, Inc., 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814, 301-657-2248 www.hearingloss.org** or to a similar nonprofit organization addressing the needs of hard of hearing people.

Please be prepared to vote at our next meeting as all attendees and members will vote on this modification at our May 15th 2010 meeting.



sand) in our two ongoing wars have damaged hearing from the noise, pressure, or injury of IEDs. 3) More of our youths' hearing is impaired from excessive exposure to loudness in rock concerts, computer games, earphones on mobile devices, and cell phones.

Furthermore, there remains a social stigma against admitting and getting help for hearing loss. This deters someone who acquires hearing loss later in life from getting help. An individual's reticence is reinforced by reluctant and ignorant public/private entities who fail to provide accommodations to make programs, events, cultural venues, and meetings accessible. Yes, hearing loss, hearing impairment, is a functional disability. It's a reduction or loss of a physical sense that is covered under the ADA, a civil rights act intended to bring disabled individuals into the mainstream of our society.

Look around when you are at an event or meeting and notice the absence of captioning, interpreters, or assistive listening devices. Rarely, do you see people with hearing aids or cochlear implants in attendance. Then you may realize that the over 400,000 people with hearing loss (not including those in nursing homes or institutions) in South west PA region are alienated. Pittsburgh is (continued from page 1) not the only city unwelcoming to people with hearing loss. However, the prized label "Most Livable City" should apply to all citizens in the area - not solely the hearing.

When a society includes those with hearing loss or other disabilities, it shows respect for people who while different are still able to give, work, buy, create, and enjoy living. Yes, we are entitled to be part of our society. A twenty year old civil rights act says so. We educate and train ourselves to be responsible and contributory. Remember, we are you, your family, neighbors, and coworkers who will also age, go to war, be injured, or experience unhealthy noise in ears.

Teresa Nellans, MA MBA
President, Hearing Loss Association Pittsburgh
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PRESIDENT NELLAN'S TIDBITS PAGE

National News

The Maryland Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (ODHH) introduced a bill in the MD State Legislature to require places of public accommodations to turn on television captions on request. The bill has passed. A refusal to turn captions on imposes a possible fine under the State Civil Rights Laws. HLAA provided letters of support for the bill and has been invited to attend the signing ceremony.

HLAA supported legislation in California, Assembly Bill AB 2072, to provide parents with a range of options when their child is diagnosed with hearing loss. The National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM) has prepared a brochure, titled *Communicate with Your Child*, to be used for this purpose. It has been translated into six languages and has an insert sheet with resources for each state. It is available free of charge to anyone who wants to use it. So far, it has been offered to 35 states and California is the only state that has refused to approve the state insert or to require that it be included in packets given to parents. Here is the link to the brochure: http://www.communicatewithyourchild.org/brochures/cwyc_english.pdf

Tidbits continued...

The California State Department of Education Deaf and Hard of Hearing consultant, the coordinator of the Newborn Hearing Screening Program, and the Deaf community, are opposing this bill, claiming that parents should not be given options; i.e., that all deaf and hard of hearing children have a birthright to a visual language, and that the referral system is biased in favor of auditory-oral education. Nothing could be further from the truth. Last year, the California Legislature passed the Torrico bill requiring parents to be informed about the state residential schools at every IEP meeting, but no mention of various communication options. Here is the link to the Torrico bill for the state schools:

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a20/press/20080714AD20PR01.htm>

HLLA, NAD (National Association for the Deaf), TDI (Telecommunications for the Deaf), and NVRC (Northern Virginia Resource Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons) representatives met with a representative from Google working on universal captioning of YouTube videos. In November 2009, Google released a way to provide automated time code for transcripts as another way to make captioning more available on YouTube. In March, they opened up auto-captioning to all users and have reported a surge in captioned videos since then. They are looking for more ways to get the word out and feedback. See: <http://www.youtube.com/t/captions> about Google also unveiled the new android system that supports closed captioning. Watch for upcoming announcements about that.

Local Events

Disability Awareness Celebration

Friday June 4, 2010, the Pirates will be hosting the Disability Awareness Celebration and Resource Fair at PNC Park.

This fun and fantastic event will include:

- a.. Resource Fair - over 30 community and regional vendors
- b.. Discounted Group Tickets/Group seating together
- c.. Organization recognition on the Color LED Scoreboard
- d.. Disability Awareness T-Shirt (First 800 people to purchase through the program)
- e.. Pirates Batting Practice Cap

If you are interested in purchasing tickets for Disability Awareness Celebration at PNC Park, please email chaz.kellem@pirates.com.

Research Study

Catherine Palmer, Ph.D. and Reem Mulla are conducting a research study for adults age 18-80 years old with mild to moderate sensorineural hearing loss in both ears who are full time hearing aid users of at least 2 months. In appreciation for your participation you will receive a three month supply of batteries. If you are interested or would like to learn more about the research study, please contact Reem Mulla at rem50@pitt.edu or 412-726-9396

***President Nellans is recovering from a severe illness please
send your well wishes to her email address: nellanst@aol.com***

WAYNE'S WORD

There is an assumption often that if you have a hearing loss, all you need is a hearing aid and presto! Your hearing ability is restored!! Those of us with a hearing loss know that it isn't quite that simple. Hearing aids do help, but their effectiveness varies with the individual and the situation where one is seeking to hear. As a result, we find ourselves seeking additional help. Some read lips very well to augment their hearing results. I would venture that everyone "reads" lips to some extent, not to the exclusion of aids but as a supplement to the aids. We use our eyes to help assess a situation, but seeing is not enough. Enter the use of assistive listening devices. I was fortunate that when I first got serious about hearing better, my audiologist sent me to Elaine Morner and the assistive technology work at the University of Pittsburgh. That was a real eye-opener (or is that an "ear-opener"?) for me. I learned about personal assistive listening systems, such as those produced by Williams Sound. (pocket-talker, transmitter and receiver combinations) and others. It meant using my t-coils, not only for the telephone, but with assistive listening systems, personal and large areas audio-loops, such has been used at HLA meetings and some meeting places (churches, etc.) The passage of the ADA has meant a great deal of difference in the last 20 years. One of the highlights of going to the national HLA convention is browsing through all the gadgets in the exhibition hall available to help us.

A HLA friend was determined to make use of all of these means and carried a large bag of such gadgets. She became affectionately known as the "gadget lady"! I encourage you to be aware and make use of some of the gadgets!

Yours for every means to help us deal with hearing loss,

Wayne

awbenson32@gmail.com

DEAR READERS: HERE IS AN ARTICLE THAT MAY INTEREST YOU. SUZANNE YODER, AUD EDITOR
HLAP.NEWS@GMAIL.COM 412 271 3002

Hearing Loss Law
by John Waldo**Court Rules ADA Requires Closed-Captioned Movies**

As we predicted and hoped, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled today that the Americans with Disabilities Act requires movie theaters to show closed-captioned movies unless doing so would constitute an "undue burden."

The ruling came in a case that the Arizona Attorney General's Office filed against the Harkins theater chain. The federal district court ruled that the ADA does not regulate the content of the goods and services offered by businesses, and that the theaters are in the business of showing non-captioned movies. That case was appealed.

The [Ninth Circuit opinion](#) said that while ADA does not generally regulate the content of goods and services, ADA does require businesses to provide "auxiliary aids and services," which are defined as including open and closed captioning. That specific provision applies to movie theaters, and controls over the general rule that ADA does not regulate content.

The court noted that when ADA was passed, a statement of purpose from the House of Representatives stated that ADA does not require theaters to show open-captioned movies. That interpretation has been adopted consistently by the federal Department of Justice, which is empowered to interpret ADA. The court said that while DOJ may change its interpretation, the theaters are entitled to rely on it until it is changed. Therefore, theaters are not required to

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 15, 2010----- Special Olympics—Allegheny Co. (details page 8)

June 4, 2010 ----- Disability Awareness Celebration—PNC Park (details page 5)

June 17-20, 2010----- HLAA Annual Convention 2010 in Milwaukee

Hearing Law Continued ...

show open-captioned movies. The Arizona district court ruled that there was no basis for treating closed-captioned movies any differently. The Ninth Circuit disagreed. It said that open-captioning, in which captions are visible to the entire audience, may fundamentally alter the movie-going experience for others. But closed-captioning displays captions only to people who want to see them. "The difference between open and closed captioning is more than linguistic," the opinion states.

The case now goes back to the Arizona district court, where the theaters will be able to argue that closed captioning poses an "undue burden." Because closed captioning is readily available through the Rear Windows Captioning system, the "undue burden" issue is economic only -- how much can the theaters afford?

The theaters can ask for a rehearing, but because the decision was unanimous and issued very quickly, the judges likely regarded this as pretty much of a "slam-dunk" case, and are very unlikely to grant a rehearing. An appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court is always a possibility, and is somewhat worrisome given that court's general hostility to ADA cases. But the U.S. Supreme Court picks the cases it wants to consider, and the odds are against appealing parties -- only one out of every hundred petitions for review are granted.

Assuming the opinion stands, it will become the law in the Ninth Circuit states of Arizona, California, Nevada, Idaho, Montana, Washington, Oregon, Alaska and Hawaii, and may be persuasive in the rest of the country.

Our Washington case is currently under advisement. We brought that case under Washington law only, because our state law avoided some of the arguments made under ADA. However, the decision can't do anything but help our case.

Law Office of John F. Waldo • 151 Finch Pl. SW, Ste. C • Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
Phone: (206) 842-4106 • Fax: (206) 842-4891

<http://www.hearinglosslaw.com/2010/04/articles/washcap-1/public-facilities/court-rules-ada-requires-closedcaptioned-movies/index.html>



**Special Olympics Allegheny County
Hosts 2010 Summer Games
on Saturday, May 15th
at Baldwin High School**



SOAC will host our annual Summer Games on Saturday, May 15, 2010 at Baldwin High School.

Nearly 500 athletes from more than 18 training sites in Allegheny County, will compete in athletics (track & field), bocce, golf putting, power lifting, MAPS and wheelchair events.

Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. and Opening Ceremonies will commence at 8:45 a.m. with competition beginning at 9:30 a.m. Awards will take place throughout the day.

If you would like to volunteer at Summer Games, please click on the following link for more information!

[2010 SOAC Summer Games Volunteer Information](#)

**Parkvale Bank is Proud Sponsor of the Fun Fest area
and EPI, Inc. is Proud Sponsor of the Athletics Venue!**

Come on out and cheer-on our athletes!

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA MEMBERSHIP

Hearing Loss Association of Pittsburgh is an affiliate of [Hearing Loss Association of America](http://www.hearingloss.org) (HLAA formerly SHHH) the largest national consumer advocate for persons with hearing loss, their families and friends. National dues, payable annually in the month of joining, are \$35 per year and include a subscription to the bimonthly journal, *Hearing Loss*. To join Hearing Loss Association of America, send your check to HLAA, 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814 or log on to www.hearingloss.org. While strongly encouraged, national membership is not required to participate in our local chapter.

CHAPTER SUPPORT OF \$12.00/YEAR IS DUE IN JANUARY

Make check payable to "Hearing Loss Association of Pittsburgh" and mail to"

ERICH KOST, TREASURER, HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF PITTSBURGH
826 Wheatland Circle, Bridgeville, PA, 15017

Name:	Date:	
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Phone :	FAX:	
E-mail:		
Do you prefer to receive our Newsletter by:	<input type="checkbox"/> Email	<input type="checkbox"/> US Postal Mail
Please indicate if you need a receipt	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Chapter Support	\$
Jim Stoltz Memorial Captioning Fund	\$
TOTAL ENCLOSED <i>(tax deductible)</i>	\$

Hearing Loss Association of Pittsburgh shares your information with the Pennsylvania State Hearing Loss Association for distribution of the state quarterly newsletter HearSay. If you do not want your information shared with the state organization or to receive their quarterly newsletter, please check here. ____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF PITTSBURGH OFFICERS

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Hearing Loss Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter is published ten times a year (not in July or August) and distributed to all members of HLA of Pittsburgh, as well as to hearing loss professionals and others. The Newsletter can also be accessed on the web at www.hla-pa.org/chapters/Pittsburgh.html. To submit articles for publication or for information regarding the newsletter, please e-mail HLAP.News@gmail.com .

Opinions expressed in articles appearing in this newsletter are those of the author. Mention of goods or services in articles does not mean HLA endorsement, nor should exclusion suggest disapproval.



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