

# HEARSAY

The Official Newsletter of Hearing Loss Association of PA

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## Message from Nancy

At this year's Walk4Hearing, I had the opportunity to experience a recent technological advance--remote captioning to Smartphone. HLAA streamed the pre-Walk speeches via CART (live captioning) that could be accessed by anyone at the Walk who had a web-enabled Smartphone (I Phone, Droid, or Blackberry OS version 4.6 or higher). The process was simple--all that had to be done was to go to [www.quickcaption.com](http://www.quickcaption.com) and click on the large purple Walk4Hearing icon. A list of upcoming Walks then appeared, and when the "CC" icon next to a particular Walk location was clicked, the live captioning was displayed.

To make this magic happen, Walk organizers

needed a cell phone with good reception at the Walk location and a microphone that was either Bluetooth or wired and plugged into the earphone jack. Someone was also assigned to make sure the cell phone and microphone were passed from speaker to speaker.

This technology has possibilities for other uses. Imagine attending events with speakers and accessing CART on your Smartphone as a backup for whatever you were unable to understand. (However, this method wouldn't be suitable for visual productions like movies or plays.) It's likely that you'll be hearing more about this technological advance in the future.

*Nancy Kingsley*

*HLA-PA State Co-Director ([director@hla-pa.org](mailto:director@hla-pa.org))*

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**STATE HAPPENINGS****THE DIANA BENDER HLAA NATIONAL CONVENTION SCHOLARSHIP AWARD:**

It is with great pleasure that we announce "The Diana Bender HLAA National Convention Scholarship Award" as a tribute to Diana Bender upon her retirement as Director of HLA-PA at the end of 2011. The scholarship requirements for the application **are on page 5 and will also** be posted on the state website, [www.hla-pa.org](http://www.hla-pa.org). The recipient will receive the award at the annual HLA-PA banquet in the spring. We honor Diana for her tireless devotion to our state organization as well as for her commitment to all those with hearing loss.

**OUTREACH:****TWO COCHLEAR IMPLANT COMPANIES SPONSORED HEARING HEALTH EXPOS**

HLA-PA was asked to exhibit at 2 Expos to **educate those present on the services and support provided by HLAA and the local chapters to individuals with hearing loss; we do not recommend or endorse any particular brand. Through these presentations, we hope to encourage membership in our chapters. CART was provided at both events.**

*October 4: King of Prussia, PA* MED-EL sponsored an educational event, "HEAR LIFE EXPO" at the Dolce Hotel. Patty Cortez and Russ Green attended to represent HLAA.

November 5: Mt. Laurel, NJ Carolyn and Joe Meyer exhibited for HLA-PA at the "HEARING HEALTH SEMINAR" sponsored by Cochlear Americas. **Jefferson Hospital, Children's Hospital (Philadelphia), Nemours/Alfred I. DuPont Hospital (Wilmington), and the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania provided information to potential cochlear implant candidates.**

*October 19: JOURNEY'S WAY COMMUNITY CENTER HEALTH FAIR, Roxborough, PA.* : Alice Dungan and Carolyn Meyer exhibited for HLA-PA.

*October 29: THE PENNSYLVANIA CAPTIONED TELEPHONE RELAY SERVICE PICNIC* included a celebration of the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hamilton Relay. Members of the Pittsburgh chapter participated. It provided an opportunity for relay users and families to come together.

November 2: Diana Bender participated in the kickoff session of the Department of Aging's strategic planning process required to fulfill a federal requirement from the US Administration on Aging to develop comprehensive and coordinated systems of long-term support for older Americans, persons with disabilities and their families. Focus groups and some hearings will be scheduled from January through March 2012 to obtain input from citizens of the Commonwealth.

*November 3: Harrisburg Disability Advocacy Networking Fair.* Steve Schultz attended the Disability Advocacy Networking Fair sponsored by the Disability Rights Network under the terms of a funding grant from the PA Developmental Disability Council (PADDC). Karen Snider, former Secretary of the Department of Public Welfare, spoke on the topic of "Networking & Coalitions". There was a panel discussion on the topic of "Budget Advocacy" followed by a coalition building exercise entitled "How Can We Work Together". The consensus was that, in this climate of deficit budgets and restricted funding, the advocates for separate disabilities would be better served to form a single coalition of all disabilities and work together to request at least level funding, **eliminating the need to decide which organization was worthy of more funding.**

*January 7-14, 2012 THE PENNSYLVANIA FARM SHOW IN HARRISBURG.* Members of HLA-PA and their families will once again staff an Information

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Booth at the Pennsylvania Farm Show complex. We can only staff our booth during the busiest hours from 9 AM through 5 PM each day when the more than 400,000 anticipated visitors will visit our booth, seeking information for themselves, a relative or friend with a hearing loss. Steve Schultz has coordinated this effort for us once again this year.

*Submitted by Carolyn Meyer*

### **New Pennsylvania Program Guides Parents of Young Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children**

Hands & Voices Guide by Your Side (GBYS) of Pennsylvania is a new program for parents of deaf and hard of hearing children. Hands & Voices is a national nonprofit parent-run organization that supports families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing, without a bias toward any particular communication method. The Pennsylvania GBYS program serves children from birth to age three and is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

A GBYS Parent Guide training session was provided at PaTTAN Harrisburg on November 4-5 (with downlinked satellites at PaTTAN sites in King of Prussia and Pittsburgh). The morning overview on November 4, which I attended, was open to all. Lisa Kovacs, the national GBYS director, discussed the nature of the program, and Candace Lindow-Davies explained its concept of unbiased support. Parent Guides help parents determine the appropriate options for their children rather than telling parents what they "should" do. GBYS informs parents about local and national resources and is an alliance partner of HLAA's Walk4Hearing.

If you are the parent of a deaf or hard of hearing child and would like to be a GBYS Parent Guide, or if you would like to be a resource for parents as a hard of hearing adult, contact Anne Gaspich, Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side of Pennsylvania Program Coordinator at [agaspich@pattan.net](mailto:agaspich@pattan.net). Hands & Voices also has helpful information for parents on

its website, [www.handsandvoices.org](http://www.handsandvoices.org). To send a brief article about your experiences with hearing loss for this website, contact [parentadvocate@handsandvoices.org](mailto:parentadvocate@handsandvoices.org).

*Submitted by Nancy Kingsley*

### **Congratulations, Pennsylvania, on a Successful Walk4Hearing on September 25, 2011**

Approximately 850 people walked in Ridley Creek State Park in Newtown Square, PA on Sunday, September 25, 2011 to raise awareness about hearing loss in the 2011 PA Walk4Hearing. With abundant sunshine, the weather was warm, in spite of earlier threats of rain. A total of 56 teams participated, raising almost \$110,000 to support HLAA, HLA-PA, nine Pennsylvania HLAA chapters and 13 cooperating non-profit alliance groups.

Next year's PA Walk4Hearing will take place on Sunday, September 23, 2012, so be sure to mark your calendars now. If you would like to volunteer to work on the Walk planning committee, please contact Ronnie Adler at [radler@hearingloss.org](mailto:radler@hearingloss.org) or by phone at 610-644-3154.

### **SAVE THE DATE**

Black & White Masquerade Ball  
hosted by the GenX and Bucks County  
Chapters of HLAA  
Saturday, March 24, 2012, 7:00 PM  
King of Prussia Fire Company Social Hall  
King of Prussia, PA  
Dinner, Drinks and Dancing  
Black and/or White Semi-Formal Attire  
*Masks will be provided*

For more information, contact  
Debra Cannon at [dtcannon5@msn.com](mailto:dtcannon5@msn.com)



**New HLA-PA Chapter – Lycoming County**

HLA-PA is thrilled to announce the formation of our new Lycoming County chapter! The chapter's current officers are Kay Tyberg, President, Leslie Haggerty, Vice President, and Annette Clark, Treasurer. The secretary's position and other committee positions will be filled as more people join the chapter.

The chapter is being proactive in advertising, utilizing their local newspaper, radio station and the internet. The president and vice president participated in Ken Sawyer's Radio Talk show in October. One woman heard the show and immediately drove to the radio station to meet them! They are meeting with nursing homes, senior citizen centers, health care facilities, veterans' clinics and veteran organizations to tell them about HLA-PA and what it has to offer the hearing loss community. They are also working on a website, Facebook page and other social networking opportunities.

An important goal for the chapter is to apply for grants and sponsor events geared towards raising funds for operating expenses. The funds will go toward offering CART and sign language interpreters at all of their meetings. They plan to also purchase a computer, projector and inductive loop system with a microphone.

The chapter is seeking board members to help them continue on the path to success. They have already received a great deal of help from Dale Long, HLA-PA's Central Pennsylvania's Chapter Coordinator, which has been much appreciated!

The Lycoming County chapter meets on the second Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at CILNCP/Reads to Freedom at 24 E. Third Street in Williamsport. If you're interested in starting your own chapter, please contact the chapter coordinator for your area (see page 6)

*Submitted by A. Kay Tyberg, [tybergkay7376@yahoo.com](mailto:tybergkay7376@yahoo.com).*

**Assistive-Listening Centennial Tour of Please Touch Museum's Memorial Hall**

On Saturday, October 22, 2011, several members of local HLAA chapters attended the Art-Reach and Please Touch Museum's first ever assistive-listening tour! This adults-only tour gave hard of hearing and deaf visitors a behind-the-scenes look at Memorial Hall. It is the museum's National Historic Landmark building in Fairmount Park that was built for the 1876 Centennial Exhibition.

Diana Bender, Alice Dungan, Donald Groff, Patricia Cortez, Carolyn and Joe Meyer, Marianne and Martin Lock, Bill and Grace Pfeifer, Alan Kutner, Sonia Loigman, Lee McIlhenny and many others enjoyed learning about the history of Memorial Hall from 1876 to the present. We were provided with assistive listening devices along with headsets and neck loops. An ASL interpreter was also present. We were able to hear everything the tour guide had to tell us - what a pleasure that was! We were able to ride the recently restored and renovated Dentzel Carousel. What a thrill for all of us "kids", I mean, adults! Philadelphia's public television station, WHYY, photographed and videotaped a portion of the event. Joining us on the tour were Art-Reach Executive Director, Michael Norris, who has recently been recognized as one of the region's Creative Connectors, and Laura Foster, President and CEO of the Please Touch Museum, who is being honored for her commitment to cultural access.

*Submitted by Patricia Cortez*

**Save the Date: January 7, 2012 - "The Sound of Music"**

In a joint initiative called Independence Starts Here, Art-Reach and VSA Pennsylvania once again will co-host a one-day-only, fully accessible performance of "The Sound of Music" at 2:00 PM at the Media Theatre, 104 East State Street, Media, PA 19063. Assistive listening devices, an

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ASL interpreter, and open captioning will be available for patrons who are deaf or hard of hearing. A pre-show touch tour of costumes and props will allow a first-hand connection for those who are blind or have low vision. Audio description, Braille, and large-print programs will be available as well. The tickets will cost \$29 for anyone from HLAA calling to ask for open captioning and other accessible accommodations. Please mention you are a member of HLAA to get this special reduced price offer. Tickets may be purchased at the Media Theatre's website at [www.mediatheatre.org](http://www.mediatheatre.org) or by calling the box office at 610-891-0100.

Attendees are invited to a touch tour at 12:30 pm followed by the performance at 2:00 PM with a dessert reception at the conclusion. When ordering tickets, please inform the Box Office that you would like to participate in all the events to ensure space is reserved for you. For further information, call Art-Reach at 215-568-2115, Ext # 3 or email [sborton@art-reach.org](mailto:sborton@art-reach.org). Check [www.hla-pa.org](http://www.hla-pa.org) for more details.

Submitted by Stephanie Borton, Associate Director, Art-Reach and Carolyn Meyer

**2011 Marcia Finisdore Award for Advocacy  
Nominations due March 15, 2012**

The Marcia Finisdore Award for Advocacy was established by Hearing Loss Association of Pennsylvania in 2004. This award is presented to an individual in recognition of excellence in improving communication access for hard of hearing people.

The criteria for selection are:

- A positive vision for the hard of hearing community and a continuing commitment to leadership
- A demonstrated record of advocacy work for the rights and needs of hard of hearing people in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Nominations should include a written statement about the nominee and why this individual deserves the award. Please include contact information for yourself, as well as for the nominee.

Nominations should be sent to

Ms. Iris Boshes, Director  
Deaf Hearing Communication Centre  
630 Fairview Road, Suite 100  
Swarthmore, PA 19081

**Diana Bender HLAA National Convention Scholarship**

Application Form for 2012 Convention

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the expiration date of your HLAA membership? (See your *Hearing Loss Magazine* label)

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe the reasons why you should be selected (necessary for consideration) on a separate sheet of paper. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Application must be received by March 15, 2012. Email form to Russ Green, HLA-PA Scholarship Committee Chair, at [scholarship@hla-pa.org](mailto:scholarship@hla-pa.org) or mail to him at 106 Mountainview Dr., Chesterbrook, PA 19087-5532 (email preferred).

To receive HearSay, the HLA-PA newsletter, complete and mail this form to the address below. Subscriptions are free; however, HLA-PA is a not-for-profit organization run exclusively by volunteers, so we are grateful for donations. Donations are tax-deductible.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my tax-deductible, contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to support HearSay.

I would like to remain anonymous.

I cannot donate but would like to receive HearSay.

Mail to: Marcia Finisdore  
4 State Road, #109  
Media, PA 19063

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Assist the HLA-PA State Director by serving on the Advisory Council or one of its committees. The Council meets periodically in Manheim, PA (1 hour from King of Prussia) but committees conduct most of their business by e-mail and occasionally meet in various parts of the state. If you think you would like to serve on the council or any of its committees, please contact one of the state leaders listed here:

### State Co-Directors:

Diana Bender (bender@hla-pa.org)  
Nancy Kingsley (kingsley@hla-pa.org)

### Communication:

Donna Schumacher (schumacher@hla-pa.org)  
Pam Reiher, Editor of Hearsay (reiher@hla-pa.org)  
Don Groff, HLA-PA web site (groff@hla-pa.org)

### Advocacy:

Nancy Kingsley, Chair (kingsley@hla-pa.org)

### Government Affairs:

Steve Schultz, Chair (schultz@hla-pa.org)  
Diana Bender (bender@hla-pa.org)

### Outreach:

Carolyn Meyer, Chair (meyer@hla-pa.org)  
Diana Bender (bender@hla-pa.org)

### Chapter Coordinators:

Debra Cannon, Eastern PA (cannon@hla-pa.org)  
Dale Long, Central PA (long@hla-pa.org)  
Teresa Nellans, Western PA (nellans@hla-pa.org)

## Commitment to Cultural Access Award for HLA-PA



Each year Art-Reach, a non-profit organization that works to provide access to cultural events for traditionally underserved audiences in

Philadelphia, honors individuals and/or organizations that have demonstrated exemplary commitment to increasing access to arts and culture for underserved audiences. On Sunday, November 6, 2011, HLA-PA received the organizational Commitment to Cultural Access Award from Art-Reach in the Grand Ballroom of the Hyatt at the Bellevue Hotel in Philadelphia. Diana Bender, HLA-PA State Co-Director, accepted the award on behalf of HLA-PA at Art-Reach's 25th Anniversary Jazz Brunch. Laura Foster, President and CEO of the Please Touch Museum, received the individual award at the brunch. .

**Pictured above from left to right: Diana Bender, Mayor Michael Nutter, Michael Norris, Art Reach Executive Director**

**Pictured to the side, from left to right: Diana Bender, Marianne Locke, Carolyn Meyer**



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