



August 2020 Volume 21, Issue 6

Due to the increase in infections in Oklahoma, the Ice Cream Social is Cancelled.

Please check for updates and news from your Central Oklahoma Chapter of HLAA. View the website: OklahomaHearingLoss.org or visit the Facebook page: [Facebook.com/HLAA CentralOklahomaChapter](https://www.facebook.com/HLAACentralOklahomaChapter)

A Change for the Hearing Helpers

For over twenty years, the Hearing Helpers Room was located in an office generously provided by an arm of the Integris organization, Integris Community Wellness.

In that office the Hearing Helpers volunteers were able to welcome many people over the years - people who wanted assistance in dealing with their hearing loss.

The Hearing Helpers will no longer reside in the Integris office. We are currently looking for an organization willing to give us the space that will allow us to continue our work for the hearing loss community.

If you or anyone you know would like assistance with hearing loss, please call (405) 537-4907.

Any personal news, articles, etc., to be included in the newsletter are due by the 15th of the month!

Email the editor, Elaine: elains@cox.net



OUR MISSION

The Mission of the Oklahoma City Hearing Loss Association is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support and advocacy.

Volunteer: a person who performs a service willingly and without pay.

Good friends are like stars. You don't always see them, but you know they're always there.

Want to volunteer? Contact Venice Meade at vmegade1@cox.net, (405) 537-4907. We welcome you to join us!

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who has given me tips, advice, material and suggestions for the newsletter. The newsletter is very much a team project!

HLA Board Members

Ana Covey, okhearingloss@gmail.com, Board Chairperson

Pat Fennell, pbreilh@att.net

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Elaine Lains, elains@cox.net, Editor

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Bob Quatro, quatror@cox.net

No June birthdays are on the Birthday list.

July Birthdays:

Michael Bellis
Marvin Blue
Cal Bryant
Bob Cowles
Wanda Evans
Ron Hendricks
Bob Quatro
Marion Thompson

August Birthdays

Pati Burns
Leo Cross
Don Keel
Bim Wood

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Please tell us your birthday month so we can celebrate in that month's newsletter.

Letter from Ron Hendricks, Treasurer and Board Member of the Hearing Loss Association of America, Central Oklahoma Chapter

Dear Members and Friends of HLAA,

I am sorry to announce the loss of our beloved Hearing Helpers Demonstration Room. It was closed as of the first of June 2020.

After 22 years, Integris decided to discontinue our association for a variety of reasons, including budget concerns and COVID19. The HHR was filled with important hearing assistive technology to help those of us with hearing loss live better at home and work. Countless people visited through the years and our volunteers helped each one.

We are now looking for another major benefactor. If you know of such a possible sponsor, a beneficent corporation or individual please let us know. In the meantime we have moved all the furniture and supplies into storage. We hope it will be very short term but the monthly fee is unexpected. The monthly storage cost is \$40. If you are able, won't you step up and sponsor a month or two? Send your check, in increments of \$40, to our Post Office Box 42801, OKC 73123.

We hope to restart monthly meetings in September so please stay tuned.

In other news your HLAA COC is still working to assist Oklahomans with hearing loss to live successfully in a hearing world. Our scholarship program is still in full swing. For the fifth year in a row we have awarded scholarships to Oklahoma students with hearing loss. This year we awarded three scholarships for \$1,500 each. We hope to do the same next year.

If you can support our scholarship program, or simply contribute to the organization I encourage you to do so. We are very grateful for your support and anything helps!

The drive to equip public gathering spaces with Hearing Loops is still on-going.

If you are receiving the newsletter by mail, please help us cover mailing & handling costs with your annual \$10 subscription contribution (\$15 for families). Remember that we are an all volunteer run 501 C(3) organization with no paid officers.

Check out our Facebook page at HLAA CentralOklahomaChapter (Note, there is a space between the words HLAA & Central, and no other spaces. The current page is the one with a green state of Oklahoma logo) and visit our website:OklahomaHearingLoss.org.

Feel free to contact me, or any board member, if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions regarding the operation of the Hearing Loss Association of America Central Oklahoma Chapter.

Sincerely,

Ron Hendricks

405/550-3224

Quote of the Month

There is nothing better than a friend, unless it is a friend with chocolate.

Linda Grayson

Tips for Pet Owners with Hearing Aids

from LIFE'S Vintage Magazine April 2020

Article sent in by Ralph Wilsack

To keep your hearing aids safe from pets, make sure to follow the helpful tips below:

Hearing aids emit very high frequency sounds. These are higher than what humans can hear. Cats and dogs, however, can hear it and go into "search and destroy" mode.

Make sure you remove the batteries at night.

Pets can also see hearing aids as a tasty treat or fun toy and can chew right through the device, causing permanent damage.

Make sure you store them inside a hard case or closed drawer.



The mask shown above has fabric around the edges and can be made using page protectors or vinyl shower curtains as the clear portion over the mouth.

Doctor hands out free clear masks to help her hearing-impaired patients, By Mallory Hughes, CNN Updated 9:14 AM ET, Tue May 5, 2020

The need to wear facemasks in public during the coronavirus pandemic established a new normal for people around the world. But it also created a new challenge for the hearing impaired.

During curbside treatments, Dr. Sheri Mello, an audiologist in Raleigh, North Carolina, discovered that her patients were really struggling to hear because of street noise and the face coverings of her staff.

"The covered masks cut down the volume level by 10 decibels," Mello told CNN. "And that's a lot. You're cutting a quarter of the volume."

After seeing a pattern for a face covering with a clear portion around the mouth posted in a nationwide Facebook group, Mello reached out to her clientele at Raleigh Hearing and Tinnitus Center and asked if anybody knew how to sew.

"I got 10 responses from the email blast and in just a few days I got dropped off about 30 masks," she said. "I was so impressed with that." (See complete article: www.cnn.com/2020/05/05/us/clear-face-masks-hearing-impaired-trnd/index.html)

Change of Address - Mail or Email

Please let us know, so you can continue to receive the newsletter and other publications from the HLA Central Oklahoma Chapter. See page 2 for people to contact.

The **Hearing Loss Association of America Central Oklahoma Chapter (HLAA-COC)** newsletter is published monthly by the Central Oklahoma Chapter. The views and ideas expressed herein are those of the editor and staff of the Hearing Loss Association of Central Oklahoma and may not always reflect those of Hearing Loss Association of America. For further information: Write to our chapter address: PO Box 42801, OKC, OK 73123.



HLAA Local Website and Forum

Visit www.okchearingloss.org to view maps and schedules for our local chapter meetings and special events. Read about the services offered by the *Faye Donalson Hearing Helpers Room*. Visit http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OKC_HLAA for the OKC-HLAA forum. Sharon Hendricks is our webmaster. We welcome your feedback and comments on our websites. For the Facebook page, search in the Facebook search box for HLA CentralOklahomaChapter

Hearing Loss Association of America

If you are not yet a member of National HLAA, you are encouraged to join and take advantage of their services. The bimonthly Hearing Loss Magazine is full of treasures for anyone with hearing loss or the family and friends of such.

Founded in 1979, the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), is the nation's foremost advocacy organization for people with hearing loss. It opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, advocacy and support.

Information can be found at www.hearingloss.org. The national headquarters WAS located at 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814.

The new address is: 6116 Executive Blvd, Suite 320, Rockville, MD 20852.

!! THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS !!

Our thanks to these sponsors for supporting the Hearing Loss Association - Central Oklahoma Chapter. Your support of our organization and its programs is greatly treasured.

PLATINUM

Cochlear Americas, Dee Ann Dolan, GN Resound Hearing Aids, Hearts for Hearing, OG&E Energy Corp, Oklahoma ABLE Tech, Pro Hearing, Ramona Virgin, Widex USA, Inc.

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BRONZE

Van Bielstein, Advanced Bionics, Harold Simons

**Mail your support of an annual tax deductible donation to:
*Hearing Loss Association of Central Oklahoma, Chapter Treasurer, PO Box 42801,
Oklahoma City, OK 73123.***

Platinum Level: \$500

Gold Level: \$250-\$499

Silver Level: \$100-\$249

Bronze Level: \$50-\$99

New Membership or Renewal: Bring to a chapter meeting or mail to:
Hearing Loss Association of America Central Oklahoma Chapter
PO Box 42801, Oklahoma City, OK 73123

Please Print Clearly:

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Birthday Month _____ Phone _____

E-mail address _____

New to Hearing Loss Association – Central Oklahoma Chapter

Preference for your newsletter delivery:

email Postal Mail

Are you a member of HLAA – National? Yes No

Annual chapter dues: \$10.00 per individual or \$15.00 per family.

Contributions are tax deductible. Amount of donation \$ _____

Membership is based on the calendar year: January through December.

JOIN TODAY!