



## **November 2020 Volume 21, Issue 9**



**When:** November 19th at 12 noon

**How:** Via Zoom

**Topic:** Hearing Loops in Oklahoma

"Oklahoma Churches are adding Hearing Loops!"

Join Zoom Meeting by using this link:

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82968027392?pwd=cEJJUFM4WC9kQytwR1dKb2dqTXV5UT09>**

Or, if you have Zoom already installed:

**Meeting ID: 829 6802 7392**

**Passcode: 442229**

This month please join us! Our meeting will be informative and fun. It's so nice to "see" our members in this way since we are unable to meet in person at this time. Ask a friend to join also.

Plan now to attend our meeting!



## **Opportunity to Buy Useful Office Storage and Desk!**

Dear HLA Members & Friends,

As you know, the Hearing Helpers Room was forced to close in the Spring (2020). By the end of June we had placed all the office furniture in storage. The storage fee is \$40 per month (and will increase by \$5 in December), and that figure is just not in the budget.

Your board has made the hard decision to sell it all. So, once again we are coming to you with high expectations. Below is a list of the pieces available and some photos. To submit your offer, please contact me directly. My email is ron-gmi@swbell.net, my cell phone is 405-550-3224. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Ron Hendricks

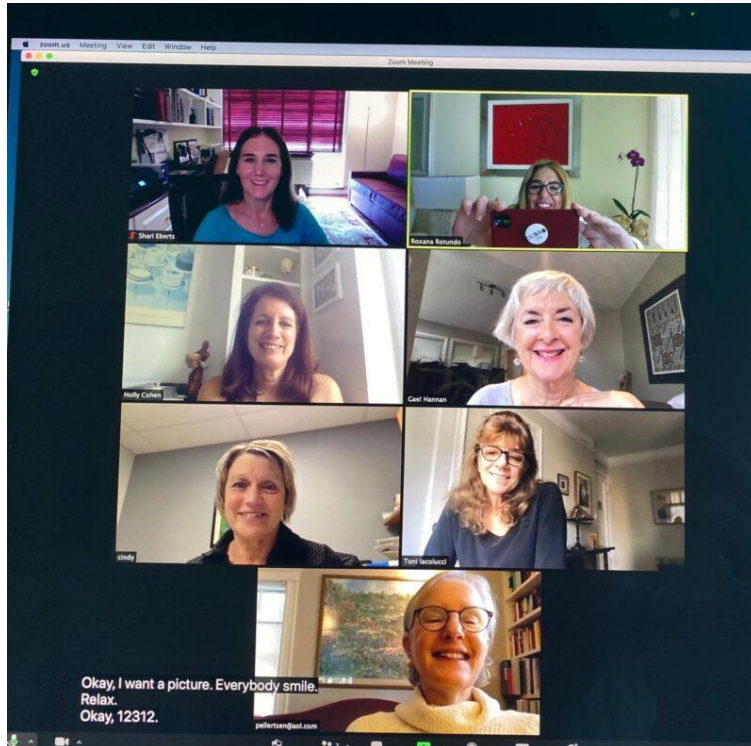
- White modular units
- Anderson Hickey 4 drawer filing cabinet
- Hayworth 5 drawer Lateral File Cabinet
- 3 drawer cubes
- 6 pocket cubbie
- 2 drawer cubes
- 9 drawer cube
- Shelf/drawer cubes
- White Bookcase
- Black Sandusky Industrial Metal Storage Cabinet
- 60" Executive desk





To ask about prices and where to pick up the items, email or call Ron Hendricks: [ron-gmi@swbell.net](mailto:ron-gmi@swbell.net), cell phone is 405-550-3224.

This is a great opportunity to acquire some useful office or home storage, and help out your local HLAA chapter!



Virtual meetings – the pandemic’s go-to communication lifesavers! Can we even *remember* a life before Zoom or Google Meets? FaceTime seems so long ago... But Zoom only works as well as the people on the call – and for people with hearing loss that’s not always very well.

*“Everyone talks at once, I can’t follow the conversation!”*

*“People’s faces are in the dark, so lip-reading is tough.”*

*“The captions are odd or they don’t keep up.”*

*“There is no captioning.”*

*“When a lot of people are on the call, their faces are like thumbnails, making it difficult to read their faces.”*

*“I don’t participate much, because when I do go to speak, sometimes I don’t realize that someone is already speaking, and I talk over them. It’s embarrassing.”*

*“I’m not very good at asking other people on the call to adjust their lighting or to mute their microphones.”*

*“I don’t feel comfortable saying that I have hearing loss.”*

## **Necessities of Life For a HoH:**

- \*Good lighting. (We don't *do* dark. We need to lipread.)
- \*No background noise. (Noise interferes with speech understanding)
- \*One person speaks at a time. (Our brains can't decipher simultaneous speakers.)
- \*Text interpretation: (**Captions**, delivered by any means possible, fill in our blanks.)
- \*Connective technology of all sorts: (Brings the sound in our 'ears'.)
- \*The ability to advocate for ourselves: (What we need, communication-wise.)

## **Making Your Zoom Call Accessible**

- Most important tip, ever! Before the call, or during the call: let people know that you have hearing loss and let them know what works best for you. You deserve to hear and be heard.
- Think ahead. Anticipate what will you need to help you understand what's being said in the meeting.
- If captions aren't available in any form, you can use a speech to text app on your cellphone by holding it near your computer's speakers.
- Use technology that connects you in the best possible way – bringing the sound into your ears while blocking background noise, such as headphones.
- Be assertive (that's very different than being aggressive) in expressing your needs on the call. Make them known in advance or during a meeting. You can send your requests to the moderator using the chat box at any time during the call.
- Use the right 'view'. Speaker View offers the best mode for speechreading because it shows only the speaker, whose face becomes up close and personal. Gallery View shows all participants; this still allows good speechreading for small groups.
- Ask for people to light themselves better, important when you are in Gallery View. Poor lighting can obscure facial expressions, which we depend on for visual information when we can't hear.
- Ask that people 'mute' themselves when they're not speaking. Otherwise we hear paper rustling, dogs in the background, planes overhead, etc.
- Ask people not to talk over each other. A moderator, if there is one, can help keep the conversation on track by identifying who can speak next. Even in personal zoom meetings with my friends on the other side of the country, a raised hand indicates the desire to speak next and good friends will, theoretically, respect that. Or not.
- Finally, if you didn't hear something, ask for it to be repeated. Either out loud, or through the Chat box.

So, my friends, let's zoom away!



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Diane Capps

Sylvia Frank

Vernice Meade

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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**Oklahoma is Hearing the Word of God Again**

Raise your hand if you have ever struggled to understand the words in church, or picked the perfect seat so you can read the minister's lips, when a tall person sits right in front of you. Or argued with a spouse about going to church at all, since you can't understand any of the words?!

This is the meeting for you!

I believe that one day, churches will again be filled to capacity, but in the meantime, many churches have taken advantage of the empty spaces by installing incredible and easy hearing technology to help their members enjoy church again - without straining to hear.

Join us for a special zoom meeting on November 19 from 12-1pm. We will be discussing the HEARING LOOP SYSTEMS sweeping Oklahoma churches.

We will be joined by National Hearing Loop advocate Juliëtte Sterkens, who will be zooming with us all the way from the Netherlands, where she is currently with her family. She will be explaining the importance of "activating your Telecoils" to experience and enjoy the hearing loop!

We will also be joined by the Pastor of the Church of the Servant in Oklahoma City, the latest church in the state to install a hearing loop.

Finally, we will be joined by Erin Nichols, Hearing Loop installation expert and owner of Assist2Hear Inc. who has installed a majority of the hearing loops in the state, in Oklahoma City, Norman, Tulsa and more.

Oklahoma is installing Hearing Loops, which is extremely good news. And Oklahoma can use some Good News; 2020 has been a shocker to all of us. October was no exception with a surprise ice storm that knocked hundreds of thousands of Oklahomans out of power. Some have been out for more than two weeks! Just envision a massive pile of broken tree limbs on the curb of every single house! Please reach out if we can help, and please continue to stay safe and wear a mask!

But we pray you don't miss THIS meeting!

Ana Covey, Chair,  
Hearing Loss Association of America  
Central OK Chapter  
[oklahomahearingloss.org](http://oklahomahearingloss.org)

**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](mailto:elains@cox.net)

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## 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.

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*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](mailto:vmegade1@cox.net), (405) 537-4907.** We welcome you to join us!

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# 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!

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### HLA Board Members

Ana Covey, [okhearingloss@gmail.com](mailto:okhearingloss@gmail.com), Board Chairperson

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## 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.

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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.

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### *HLAA Local Website and Forum*

Visit [www.okhearingloss.org](http://www.okhearingloss.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](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.

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## 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](http://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.

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**!! 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.**

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**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!**