



October 2021 Volume 22, Issue 9



November Meeting - In Person!

Date: Thursday, November 18

Time: Meeting from 11:30am - 1pm

Location: Will Rogers Gardens Exhibition Center,
3400 N.W. 36th St., Oklahoma City

Speakers: Tony and Sharon Howard, long time members, will share their hearing loss journey for this special pre-Thanksgiving meeting.

We are encouraging everyone to bring their own brown bag lunch, and we will provide individual packages of chips and/or cookies, along with bottled water.

Feel free to share this invitation with your audiologist, as well as anyone you know.

The meeting will have live captions and friends who understand life with hearing loss.



Please join us for future meetings

Monthly Meeting Schedule:

We are planning in-person meetings!

For the remaining meetings, listed below, we are letting everyone bring their own brown bag lunch, while we provide small individual bags of chips and bottled water.

Nov. 18, 2021 11:30 AM – 1PM, Tony and Sharon Howard will share their hearing loss journey for this special Pre-Thanksgiving meeting.

Dec. 16, 2021 11:30 AM – 1PM, Christmas Party. Be prepared for a jolly old time and lots of Christmas treats!

This year, we plan to have a Cookie Exchange for our **December** meeting. The "rules" are listed below, but in essence you will take home a variety of some favorite cookie recipes from other members. You'll be ready for your family or any guests in your home during the holidays. Join the fun!! Plan now to take part in our Holiday Cookie Exchange!

Cookie Exchange Instructions:

1. Everyone bakes 3 dozen cookies.
2. Prepare 18 packages of 2 cookies each in a festive cellophane wrap or baggie. Label each package with the kind of cookie you brought.
3. Make at least 19 copies of your recipe, unless you bring store bought cookies.
4. Bring the cookies to our Christmas party. Place them on a festive tray with the recipe underneath the tray so people can take a copy as they go down the cookie line.
5. Each member will take some cookies home.
6. If you are a family, you can only have 1 family member go through the line unless each member brings their own set of cookies.

BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER

Diane Capps

Sylvia Frank

Vernice Meade

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Our Chapter has been awarding scholarships for the past six years. We want to be a part of helping students with hearing loss further their educational pursuits.

In the September newsletter we featured one of our three scholarship winners for 2021, Esteli Barrera. In the October newsletter we featured Daniel Knowsley. Our third winner featured here is Ashley Gayle Haws.

Ashley, the daughter of Tina Haws, cannot recall a time without hearing loss. Although she realized she could not hear people speaking to her, it was several years before she was officially diagnosed with a hearing loss. Fortunately, she had an empathetic first grade teacher who helped in the process of getting hearing aids. Ashley found she was able to hear so much better with hearing aids.

There were many challenges during her school years: adjusting to wearing hearing aids, learning to be responsible to wear her hearing aids, and always having to sit near the teachers. She faced challenges with her first job, as she was unable to wear her hearing aids with her required headset. Eventually Ashley was able to update her hearing aids, and the new aids were Bluetooth compatible, which made hearing in her classes and on the phone amazing. Then in 2020 there was the challenge of having a school year with distance learning and people wearing masks - all very frustrating.

Ashley's future plans are to work in the medical field. She will start in the college of nursing, and her goal is to save someone's life from a bad accident and help them recover. Although she has had her share of life challenges, she just wants to work hard and help others.





Grapevine News

Pati Burns: Berklee Kay Burns entered our world 9/1/2021. She weighed 7 lbs.13 oz. and was 21 inches. She is such a good baby and, to her mom's dismay and my delight, she looks just like our son! We are also relieved because she passed her newborn hearing screening!! With our family history of hearing loss (mine and my son's - her daddy), we will have her retested at 6 months.

Also, Pati participated in the Memorial Marathon in early October on the Hearts for Hearing team. Here are her comments:

“One of the Hearts for Hearing audiologists, Sara Neumann is with me in the photo. We walked the 5K and I am planning on running the 5K in April. I have never run in my life, and it is something I don’t like, but I decided to challenge myself and go for it. If I can run it in under 40 minutes I will be happy and probably never run again! HAHAAH”



More Grapevine News

Ron and Sharon Hendricks recently traveled on a short trip to Georgia to explore the travels of John and Charles Wesley. We visited Jekyll Island, Fort Frederica National Monument on Saint Simons Island. This is the place the Wesley's landed in the new world to begin their ministry to the native Americans. In addition we explored Savannah by trolley and riverboat. Savannah is a town of many historical squares, too many to see in one short visit, so we hope to return for another visit one day, when we have more time to explore.

Charles Chastain: I have a 6th great grandchild, born just about a month ago, and my granddaughter and her husband have named him Lincoln. They don't follow O.U. football (they are living in Missouri). So when I thanked them for naming him after the O.U. football coach, they just didn't get it!!

Sylvia Frank performed Tap Dance with 2 other Tap Dancers with the Senior Cabaret group at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum Saturday, October 16.

Quote of the Month

Painting is easy when you don't know how, but very difficult when you do.

Edgar Degas

Informative speaker at the October Meeting

Lezley Bell, our speaker at the October meeting, has been with CaptionCall for nine years as an account manager. The subject of Lezley's talk at the meeting was the caption phones available to people with hearing loss, and a caption app for cell phones. She was born with hearing loss and had struggled with the hearing aids that were available when she was younger.

Here is a summary of the information Lezley shared:

"Hearing Loss is the third most chronic condition behind hypertension and arthritis in America. It's a huge problem, but today's technology can help make life easier for many people with hearing loss. The company, CaptionCall, provides a captioning phone at no cost, because it is federally funded.

There is a small tax every month on your phone bill that goes into a huge fund that is governed by the FCC, the Federal Communications Commission. That fund helps provide caption phone service for people with hearing loss.

My role as a CaptionCall account manager includes reaching people who can't afford hearing aids. We bring the phone to the person, install it, get everything hooked up, and teach the person how to use it.

Again, captioning telephone services fall under the Americans with Disabilities Act, which is why we have the small tax on telephone bills started in 1990 – the year the ADA came into effect.

We also have an app for cell phones. With my cell phone app, I don't have to drive and take notes with my phone call. I can just save my phone call and go back later and read everything that the person was saying.

The captioning process works with software and a captioning agent. So if the voice recognition software makes a mistake, the captioning agent changes it to what they heard. Some people talk really fast and mumble. So we do have a live captioning agent on each call. If I called Pati, the captioning agent has no idea who I am calling, or where I am calling from. There is no caller ID. Even if there is an emergency, we can't do anything about it, because of the privacy laws.

The features of the caption phones have changed recently. You used to have to have a landline and the Internet. Then you didn't need a landline. Now you don't need Internet. Also, when my cell phone rings and I am at home, my CaptionCall phone will ring. So you don't have to give out a separate number. You don't have to call a separate number. So when your cell phone rings, your CaptionCall phone will ring.

You do not have to have a severe hearing loss to be able to have this phone. It works for mild, moderate, severe, and profound hearing loss. So even if someone is deaf and they still speak, they can still use this phone because all they have to do is read what is being said and respond into the speaker or the handset,. Also the phone has an extra-large font for people that have a hard time seeing.

We have a speakerphone, so you can listen with both ears or you can listen with just one ear with the handset like a normal phone.

Also, the screen flashes. You can set it so the screen flashes when the phone rings. But the installer will do all of that for you.

We show how to use the phone, and we show how to add names and numbers into the phone. The phone can store 600 phone numbers, and it can store 300 contacts.

The phone also has a built in answering machine as well. So not only will you hear your voicemail, it will caption it as well, so you can read it later.

We have a lifetime guarantee on the phone, so if the phone breaks, we don't ask questions; we just take the order to replace it at no cost.

You can get the phone and the app or just the phone or just the app. The app works like any other app. You can download it. When you get the app for your android or iPhone, it has a separate number. And if you need help, our trainers will come out and do it for you.”

Lezley's talk, describing caption phones and the cell phone captioning app, gave us a good view of how much today's technology can improve communication for people with hearing loss.



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.

With our mission in mind, we want to thank you for continuing to receive and read our Hearing Loss newsletter. We are hoping to be able to increase awareness and make a real difference for hearing impaired people. If you are one of the many who like to earmark end of the year donations, we would love it if you would consider our organization, and give some thought to becoming actively involved through attending our meetings. We exist to give a voice to the hearing impaired and are anxious to increase our footprint in the greater Oklahoma City area.

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 vmeade1@cox.net, (405) 537-4907.** We welcome you to join us!

HLA Board Members

Pati Burns, pati.burns@heartsforhearing.org, Member At Large

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Bob Quatro, quatrora@cox.net, Member At Large

Change of Address - Mail or Email

Please let us know, so you can continue to receive the newsletter and other publications from the HLAA Central Oklahoma Chapter. See the list of board members above 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 board 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.oklahomahearingloss.org to view schedules for our local chapter meetings and special events. 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 HLAA 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 go to these sponsors for supporting the Hearing Loss Association - Central Oklahoma Chapter. Your support of our organization and its programs is greatly treasured.

PLATINUM

David and Robin Croninger, OG&E Energy Corp, Hearts for Hearing, Dennis & Joan Kelley

GOLD

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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

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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 _____

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New to Hearing Loss Association – Central Oklahoma Chapter

Preference for your newsletter delivery:

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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!