



## October 2022 Volume 23, Issue 8



### **October Meeting - In Person and Zoom!**

**Date:** Thursday, October 20

**Time:** Meeting from 11:30am - 1pm

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

**Speaker:** Shelley Gladden, Program Manager, Oklahoma Able Tech, Oklahoma State University, Dept. of Wellness. **Topic:** Useful Technology for Those with Hearing Loss

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

**By Zoom:** See next page for easy instructions

**Brown Bag Lunch:** 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.

We work very hard to have interesting and knowledgeable speakers. Our meetings are also educational seminars.

If you know of a person you would like to hear, or a subject that you would want to learn more about, please let me know (Ron Hendricks, program chair, ron-gmi@swbell.net).

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

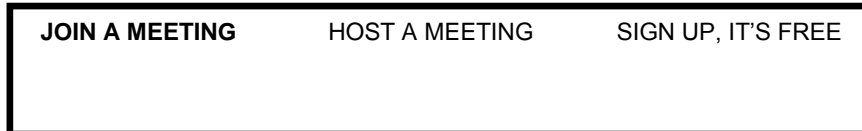
**The meeting will have live captions and friends who understand life with hearing loss.**



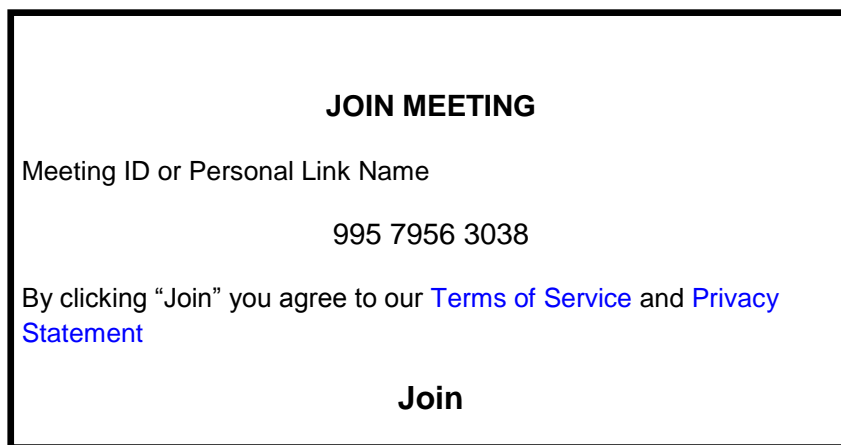
## To Join HLAA Central Oklahoma Chapter Monthly Meetings via Zoom:

From your computer, tablet or phone: You don't have to have the app downloaded. You can simply follow these instructions:

1. Go to the internet and type in the web address: **www.zoom.us**
2. On the top of the page, you will have a choice to: Join a meeting, Host a meeting or Sign in. Choose JOIN A MEETING by clicking on the words.



3. Now you will see a screen that asks you to enter the Meeting ID as seen here:



4. Enter the Meeting ID as follows: 995 7956 3038
5. Enter the password: **HLAA** (UPPER case)
6. Now you are streaming into the meeting!

**Editor's Note:** We have fellow board member, Shelley Gladden, to thank for these clear and easy instructions.

**Scheduled Speakers for the HLAA Central Oklahoma Chapter 2022 Meetings**  
Below is a list of speakers at our meetings at Will Rogers Gardens Exhibition Center, 3400 N.W. 36th St., Oklahoma City, 11:30am - 1pm

**All are welcome at our board meetings also. The board meetings are held at Hearts for Hearing at 5pm.**

**October 20, 2022:** Shelley Gladden, Useful Technology for Those With Hearing Loss

**Board meeting:** 10-27 at Hearts for Hearing at 5pm

**November 17, 2022:** Dr. Kopke, Hough Ear Institute, current research

**December 15, 2022:** Christmas Party

**January 19, 2023:** Ashleigh Robinson, Miss Oklahoma 2021

**February 16, 2023:** Audiologists from Audio Recovery, Hearing in noise

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



Barbara Goodman, Sylvia Frank, and Pati Burns, giving out information and answering questions

Representing our local chapter of the HLAA at the State Fair on Senior Day, September 21.

**Join the fun and volunteer with us at our many activities that inform and support people with hearing loss.**



More photos from the State Fair  
Elaine Lains, Richard and Anna Ross



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*Quote for this Month*

I am fond of pigs. Dogs look up to us. Cats look down on us. Pigs treat us as equals.

*Winston Churchill*

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## October Birthdays

Charles Chastain  
Connie Felactu  
Weldon Ferguson  
Barb Goodman  
Donn Mason  
Laurene Powers  
James Spencer  
Gerald McCall  
Diane Satterlee  
Mary Sykora  
Judy Sullivan  
Debbie Wallace

## Happy Birthday!

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### Our Chapter announces Scholarship Recipients

We introduced our Scholarship Recipients for 2022 at our annual Ice Cream Social, which was held on August 7, 2022. Our recipients this year are Charles Brady IV from Ardmore, OK; Josie Burns from Bennington, OK; and Boyd Robertson from Bethany, OK. We want you to "get to know" our recipients, so we will feature one recipient's bio each month.

We have sponsored the Scholarship program for the past seven years and have helped 17 hearing impaired students in pursuing their goals for the future. We have invested \$17,500 in scholarships. If you agree with us that this is a worthwhile program, please donate to keep reaching out into the community by helping these students get a start.

Any amount is appreciated.

### Charles Brady IV



Charles will attend the University of Oklahoma this fall. Penni and Charles Brady are proud parents of this scholar. In Oklahoma all newborn babies are screened for hearing loss. For some reason the medical personnel did not inform Charles' parents of the fact that he failed the screening. He was mis-diagnosed several times before he was school age. His mother spent a lot of time reading

to Charles and teaching him how to talk. She did such a good job that school speech evaluator was surprised that he had no speech delays. Charles' hearing loss became more obvious when he learned lip reading & took visual clues from his little sister. At age 5 Charles received his first hearing aids and learned that not only big things make noise, small things do too. Hearing aids gave Charles confidence. He joined band and developed his leadership skills. Charles was the Drum Major of the Ardmore HS band for two years and plans to try out for that position at OU! Charles plans to pursue a career in audiology. Hopefully he will be able to help others learn that small things make sounds

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### **Looking at My Hearing Loss with New Eyes**

*September 6, 2022, Gael Hannan*

<https://hearinghealthmatters.org/betterhearingconsumer/2022/looking-at-my-hearing-loss-with-new-eyes/>

As a teenager with hearing loss, I often wondered “Why me?”

It's tough enough being a teenager, let alone one with a communication challenge. My friends didn't need to sit at the front of the class. They could whisper secrets. I felt left out, even embarrassed at my difference. But over a long period of time (we're talking decades here), I realized that often there's no good answer to the question, except “Why not you?”

The human body is organic and, part by amazing part, it eventually breaks down. As an adult, I developed a better perspective: everybody has to deal with some health or social issue. Mine just started early. This awareness helped, but I still looked at my hearing loss as a burden, as a shame so deep that I kept it from myself – and certainly from the people in my life.

Living with hearing loss every day of your life doesn't necessarily mean you become good at it. People with hearing loss can ignore our own needs, devise ways to hide our condition and put up with inaccessible conditions simply because we don't know how to make it otherwise. To move forward, we can start by looking in the mirror and taking back control: “Okay, this is my life now. What am I going to do about it?”


But it took a long time to get to that point in my life, and it happened only because I was concerned about the safety of the baby I was about to have.

I reached out for some ideas, perhaps a little support or good advice. What I got was life-changing.

Hearing loss is not a solo dance. It's more like a tango for two or a folk dance for many. It impacts everyone in our communication circles, all of whom are potential members of the hearing loss support teams we need to build. Learning how to build those teams and navigate the hearing loss life with confidence is part of progress to skillful living.

My epiphany happened at a conference for people with hearing loss, my first. A woman with a six-month old baby in her arms sat down and talked with me. I felt as if we were on a cloud because with each word she said, my life changed. My fears calmed. My shame disappeared. My hopes brightened. My baby was safer.

That was the day I started looking at my hearing loss with new eyes. I met other people like me, who understand me because they have the same issues. They support and help me. The powerful realization of a support I'd never known could exist almost brought me to my knees.

Even today, wherever I am, I feel their collective, invisible hands holding mine on our shared hearing loss journeys. 

**Editor's Note:** Gael Hannan's article (above) puts me in mind of John Donne's famous poem:

No man is an island,  
Entire of itself,  
Every man is a piece of the continent,  
A part of the main.  
If a clod be washed away by the sea,  
Europe is the less.  
As well as if a promontory were.  
As well as if a manor of thy friend's  
Or of thine own were:  
Any man's death diminishes me,  
Because I am involved in mankind,  
And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls;  
It tolls for thee.



John Donne, January 1572 – March 1631



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## Continuing the Mission

As you can see by our mission statement below, every year we try to make sure the Central Oklahoma Chapter of the HLAA brings value to all our members and friends.

- Informative and engaging speakers at the meetings
- Advocacy in the community to ensure equal access to information and entertainment
- Support, some of which is in the form of captioning for our meetings, and scholarships for young people with hearing loss

These are all part of the endeavor to fulfill our mission.

Please help us to continue our work. Continue to be, or become a valued member with a donation (membership) of \$15 for individuals and \$20 for a couple or family membership. You can mail your membership donation to HLAA-Central Oklahoma Chapter, PO Box 42801, Oklahoma City, OK 73123. Please accept a big thank you from all your fellow members!



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

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### HLA Board Members

Pati Burns, [pati.burns@heartsforhearing.org](mailto:pati.burns@heartsforhearing.org), Member At Large

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

Shelley Gladden, [shelley.gladden@okstate.edu](mailto:shelley.gladden@okstate.edu), Vice Chair

Barbara Goodman, [barbbgoodman@gmail.com](mailto:barbbgoodman@gmail.com), Secretary



Ron Hendricks, ron-gmi@swbell.net, Treasurer

Sharon Hendricks, sharonok@swbell.net, Chairperson

Elaine Lains, elains@cox.net, Newsletter Editor

Nancy Landrum, nanlan@cox.net, Member At Large

Rebecca Plunkett, rebecca.lederman@gmail.com, Website

Bob Quatro, [quatora@cox.net](mailto:quatora@cox.net), Member At Large

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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 HLAA Central Oklahoma Chapter. See the list of board members above for people to contact.



HLAA Local Website, Forum and Facebook page

Visit the website: [www.oklahomahearingloss.org](http://www.oklahomahearingloss.org) to view schedules for our local chapter meetings and special events. Visit

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OKC\\_HLAA](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OKC_HLAA) for the OKC-HLAA forum Rebecca Plunkett is our webmaster. We welcome your feedback and comments on our websites. For the **Facebook** page, search in the Facebook search box for HLAA Central Oklahoma Chapter.

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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 quarterly 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.

The **Hearing Loss Association of America Central Oklahoma Chapter (HLAA-COC)** newsletter is published quarterly 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.

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**!! 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.**

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Van Bielstein, Freddy's Forzen Custard, Shelley Gladden, Sharon & Ron Hendricks, Leon Nelson, Sam's Club-NW Expressway, Peggy Scarbrough, Crystal Schwab, Young Reporting Services – Becky Young

**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: \$15.00 per individual or \$20.00 per family.

Contributions are tax deductible. Amount of donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

**JOIN TODAY!**