



October 2023 Volume 24, Issue 8

Date: Thursday October 19

Time: Meeting from 11:30 am – 1pm

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

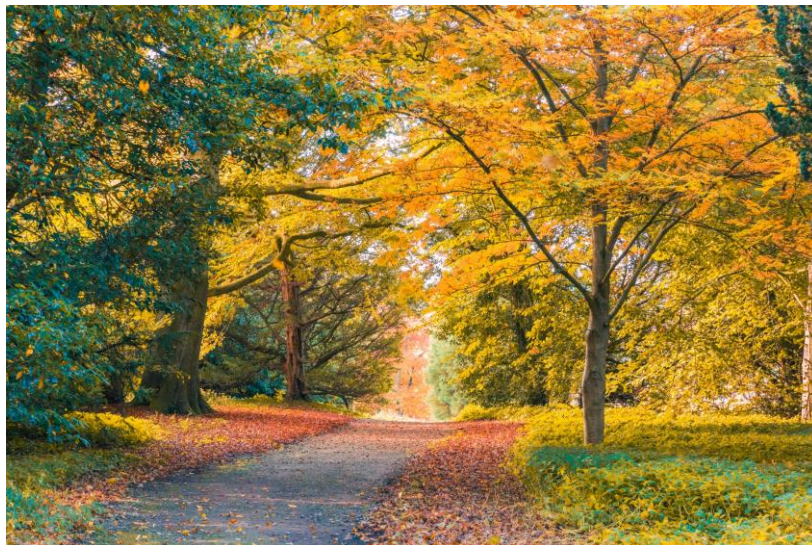
Join the round table discussion: How can our HLAA Central Oklahoma Chapter better serve you and our hearing loss community?

Lunch at the October meeting will be provided by VIP Care, thanks to Ana Covey

Zoom: For Zoom instructions see the next page – page 2

If you know of a person you would like to hear speak at a meeting, 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 captions and friends who understand life with hearing loss.



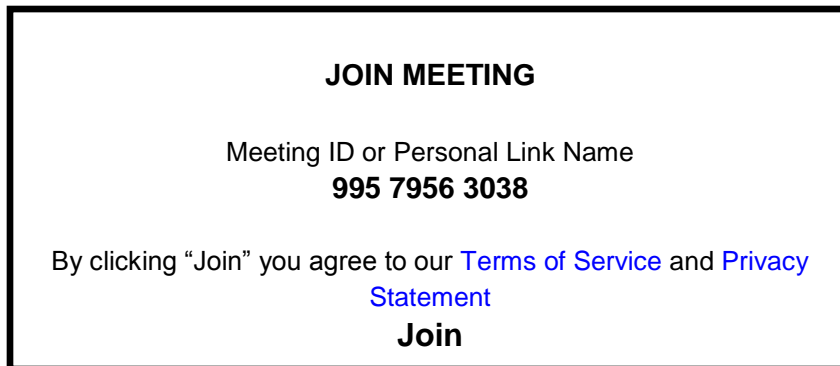
Join HLAA Central Oklahoma Chapter Monthly Meetings via Zoom:

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.

Looking Forward

- Second Half Expo, Everything for the 50+ Generation, Saturday, October 21, 2023, 8am -1pm, at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum
- November 16 Meeting: Our very own Rebecca Plunkett, SLP, will be talking to us about communication tips to be more effective communicators.
- December Meeting: Our Annual Holiday Social! Stay tuned for more details.

During each monthly meeting, we will do a quick report from the HLAA COC Board committees so everyone is in the know of current activities. We will have a report from:

- Treasury Chair
- Scholarship Chair
- Fundraiser/Activity/Outreach Chair
- Website Chair
- HLAA National Updates

Open discussion for additional contribution

Every Month for a year the newsletter will include one item of useful information about smart giving.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can transfer your house or other personal property to a charity, like the HLAA - Central Oklahoma Chapter, without changing your will or trust.

By using a transfer on death deed, you may record (file) the deed with the local land records office before your death, but you are free to change your mind and revoke the deed at any time during your life. Upon death it will go to charity.

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 hope to increase awareness and make a real difference for people with hearing loss.

Thanks to the support from you, our members and friends, our chapter, over this past year, has been able to continue to offer support to many people living with hearing loss. As we move forward, we need your support more than ever. Please consider including the Hearing Loss Association of America - Central Oklahoma Chapter in your plans. Thank you!

Editor's Note: We would like to thank and acknowledge our long time member, Vernice Meade. She is a wonderful example of fulfilling our mission by taking calls from all over Oklahoma from people that need help with a hearing problem. At her request, and with our gratitude, she is allowing us to share her email and phone number.

meadevernice@gmail.com, 405-537-4907

Quotes for October

Don't brood. Get on with living and loving. You don't have forever. Leo Buscaglia

The other night I ate at a real nice family restaurant. Every table had an argument going. George Carlin

Our Chapter Welcomes Scholarship Applicants

We announced three scholarship recipients at the 2023 Ice Cream Social.

For the past seven years we have helped 17 students with hearing loss 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 help students get a start in **2024!** Any amount is appreciated.

Mail your support of an annual tax deductible donation to:

**Hearing Loss Association of Central Oklahoma, Ron Hendricks, Chapter Treasurer, PO
Box 42801
Oklahoma City, OK 73123**

Below we have our three 2023 HLAA-COC scholarship recipients. Their stories are interesting and inspiring.



Addie McLemore of Duncan, Oklahoma, is one of the recipients of the 2023 Hearing Loss Association of America Central Oklahoma Chapter (HLAA COC) scholarship.

During her sophomore year at Durant High School Addie discovered that her hearing was only functioning at 50%. This shocked her and her parents, Kyle and Toni McLemore. In response, they swiftly provided her with bilateral hearing aids, opening up a world of previously unheard sounds, from the bounce of a basketball to the hum of air conditioning. This led to a remarkable improvement in her academic performance. Addie has earned a partial basketball scholarship to Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

One of Addie's life goals is to share her journey and empower young girls to strive for their full potential. Addie intends to earn a bachelor's degree in Health & Exercise Science, ultimately becoming a Registered Nurse specializing in Labor & Delivery.



Braden Brashears, the son of Derek and Stacey Brashears, of Talala, Oklahoma has received one of the Hearing Loss Association of America Central Oklahoma Chapter (HLAA COC) scholarships.

Braden's journey began at birth when he failed the newborn hearing test. In response, his parents began to learn sign language in order to communicate with their son. Braden even developed some unique signs of his own. At twenty months of age, Braden received his first cochlear implant, with a second following a year later. He began weekly auditory and verbal speech therapy. Braden credits his use of sign language with hastening his ability to speak. School brought many new challenges; the constant background noise of the school bus, cafeterias, and gym posed

significant hurdles. Compounded by low vision issues, Braden faced a double challenge. Undeterred, he tackled these obstacles head-on. He recently graduated from Northeast Tech, achieving a certificate in the Foundations of Construction program. Currently enrolled at Connors State College, he aspires to pursue a degree in Agriculture with a focus in Equine studies. Braden is excited about college. He has always been a hard worker and doesn't give up when faced with new challenges.



Twine Palmer, McAlester, Oklahoma, is one of the 2023 Hearing Loss Association of America Central Oklahoma Chapter (HLAA COC) scholarship recipients.

Twine's remarkable journey began with a life-altering incident at the age of two when he was kicked by a horse resulting in numerous life-threatening injuries.

One "invisible" injury proved to be particularly challenging – he lost his hearing entirely in one ear and 75% in the other. He received hearing aids that allowed him to adapt to the world of sounds around him. Twine adapted so well in fact that upon graduation from Kiowa High School he had maintained an impressive 4.0 GPA throughout his entire school career. He even found a unique advantage in sports.

He occasionally plays through a referee's penalty whistle or the "trash talk" of the opposing players. In the fall of 2023 Twine will attend Connors State College in Warner, Oklahoma. He has a baseball scholarship too. Twine plans to major in Sports Management or Agri-business.

Editor's Note: We all admire our strong, resilient scholarship recipients, and cheer them on to their bright futures!

October Birthdays

Charles Chastain,

Connie Felactu,

Barb Goodman,

Don Mason,

Gerald McCall,
Laurene Powers,
James Spencer,
Diane Satterlee,
Judy Sullivan,
Mary Sykora,
Debbie Wallace

Happy Birthday!

<https://www.assistedliving.org/>

Website Compares Hearing Aid Brands: Cost, Reputation, Programming, Service

With hearing loss being so common in seniors, one might expect that hearing aids would be widespread as well. Surprisingly, only 30% of those who would benefit from using hearing aids have ever even tried them. Perhaps the largest factor preventing seniors from getting hearing aids is **cost**. The purchase can seem out of reach for those who don't know how to find a good deal or get financial help.

Ultimately, most people can overcome the barriers to getting a hearing aid through education. By learning about the variety of options on the market, seniors can feel confident enough to find the help they need.

This guide on our website: <https://www.assistedliving.org> for both seniors and caregivers explains industry terms and introduces ten of the best brands on the market. It also includes sections on navigating the buying process and finding financial help.

Buying hearing aids from a reputable company is vital so that you can avoid cheaply made devices. Although finding companies with a reputation for quality at an audiologist's office is easy, choosing companies online is more complicated. We were careful only to include brands that have received significant positive press or attention from industry experts. Additionally, we avoided all relatively new brands with little to no user reviews.

The information on the website is displayed in an easy to read table in which each brand and its characteristics and cost are listed separately. Hopefully this information will allow all of us to get the best value for our money.

About the Device Reutilization Program

We want to give gently-used Durable Medical Equipment (DME) a second life.

ABLE Tech staff retrieves donated equipment; sanitizes and refurbishes devices; works with vendors to repair the equipment if needed; and reassigns DME devices to the best-matched Oklahoman.

Any Oklahoman who is in need of medical equipment or devices, regardless of income, is eligible for the program.

Visit the Oklahoma ABLE Tech Device Reutilization Program webpage to learn more.

<https://oklahomaabletech.cmail20.com/t/y-l-pddikdt-divjukldy-j/>

About the Smart Home Demonstration Sites

Smart homes may include enabling technologies, assistive technologies, and durable medical equipment (DME). All of these provide individuals with disabilities the opportunity to be more independent in their homes and/or receive remote support from family members or caregivers.

Our demonstration site in OKC allows individuals to get a first-hand experience with how smart home technology may help them regain or achieve independence.

Visit the Oklahoma ABLE Tech Smart Home webpage to learn more.

<https://oklahomaabletech.cmail20.com/t/y-l-pddikdt-divjukldy-t/>

Oklahoma ABLE Tech

1514 W. Hall of Fame

Stillwater, OK 74078

abletech@okstate.edu | 1-800-257-1705 (toll-free & v/tty)

HLA Board Members

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

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Shelley Gladden, shelley.gladden@okstate.edu, Vice Chair

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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

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 to view schedules for our local chapter meetings and special events. Visit 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.

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. 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.

!! 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

Assist2Hear, Cochlear Americas, John & DeeAnn Dolan, David and Robin Croninger, Hearts for Hearing, Dennis & Joan Kelley, OG&E Energy Corp, VIP Care

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BRONZE

Kent Billingsley, Dr. Pam Matthews, Ben & Sandy Ratzliff, Peggy Scarbrough, St. Anthony's Volunteer Dept., Ralph Wilsack

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!