



Monthly Newsletter

December 2023 Volume 24, Issue 12

Monthly Chapter Meetings

3rd Thursday of each month

11:30 – 1:00

Will Rogers Gardens

3400 NW 36th St.

Oklahoma City, OK

Meetings are held in the large auditorium. Accessibility accommodations include:

- Closed Captions available
- Looped meeting room
- Zoom options available for guests unable to join in person

Upcoming meeting details:

December 21st

HOLIDAY PARTY

Wear your most festive Christmas attire!

Join us for lunch, Christmas games, trivia,
and enjoy each other's company.

This holiday season, we would like to give to another organization.
Please come with a donation to support Pivot Youth Services

(www.pivotok.org)



Items requested include new (never worn):

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Winter Coats | • Lotion | • Underwear (all sizes & genders) |
| • Hand warmers | • Socks | |
| • Chap stick | • Sweatpants (all sizes & genders) | |



Looking for specific topics?

If you have a topic or speaker you would like to recommend, please let us know! Email us at: okhearingloss@gmail.com

Thank you to our lunch sponsors!



Can't join in person?

You can join in person or via Zoom.

To join via Zoom, click this link:

[MEETING ZOOM LINK](#)



Scholarship Applications Open For 2024!

Our chapter is once again offering Scholarships for the fall semester of 2024. We have given 20 Scholarships in the past 8 years and a total of \$22,000. For a full set of the scholarship rules, and application process, please visit the COC HLAA web page here:

[HLAA COC Scholarship Page](#)

We are proud to be able to help hearing impaired students who wish to further their education. Of course, we can't do this alone. We need your support. If you support the Scholarship program, please consider a donation to help fund the project.

Any amount is appreciated! Mail your support of an annual tax-deductible donation to:

**HLAA Central Oklahoma Chapter
Attn: Treasurer, PO Box 42801, Oklahoma City, OK 73123**

[CLICK THIS LINK TO BE DIRECTED TO THE WEBSITE DONATION PAGE](#)

Resources You Can Use



The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) presented the first of four planned OTC 101 – Ask the Experts Webinars in a series providing information about over-the-counter hearing aids, a new class of products available directly to consumers since October 2022. Executive Director Barbara Kelley moderated a panel of experts and audiologists from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) responding to audience questions on November 1, 2023. You can watch the recorded series!

For more details, visit hearingloss.org/OTC to find a link to the recorded webinar, as well as much more, including a requested survey, regarding OTC hearing aids.

The HLAA OTC 101 – Ask the Experts Webinar Series is funded by a grant from the Consumer Technology Association (CTA) Foundation in support of its mission to strategically support programs that improve the lives of seniors and people with disabilities.

VIEW THE RECORDING

Hearing Loss Association of America

If you are not 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.

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.

Assistive Technology Tip of the Month

This content is provided by Shelley Gladden, Oklahoma ABLE Tech

What is Assistive Technology?

Assistive technology, often referred to as "AT", for people with hearing loss, refers to various devices and systems that can help people with hearing loss to communicate and function better in different settings. Some examples of assistive technology are alerting devices, apps, assistive listening devices, captioning, hearing aids, cochlear implants, and telephone devices. Assistive technology can eliminate the effects of distance, background noise, and reverberation by sending sound directly to users' ears. Some common types of assistive listening devices are FM systems, infrared systems, audio induction loop systems, and accessories that connect hearing aids to

media. Assistive technology can be personalized and tailored to the specific needs and goals of each individual with hearing loss. There are specialized centers that provide evaluation and recommendation of assistive technology for hearing impaired.

Central Oklahoma Chapter monthly meetings include AT regularly, including captions, where you can see and read what is being said, it is looped to receive sound from the microphone directly into your ear, by using the Telecoil feature in the listeners hearing aids. Come to the next meeting to see what it's all about - we would love to show you how to use these features!

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.
Contact: meadevernice@gmail.com, 405-537-4907

Thank You to our Sponsors!

PLATINUM

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

GOLD

Richard & Anna Ross, Nancy Landrum

SILVER

Calvin & Linda Bryant, Charles & Carolyn Chastain, Wanda Evans, Sylvia Frank, Mike & Elaine Frizzell, Shelley Gladden,
Sharon & Ron Hendricks, Tony & Sharon Howard, Don & Joyce Keel, Elaine Lains, Betty Jo Large,
Terry Mock, Suzanne Parker,
Rebecca Plunkett, Marion Thompson

BRONZE

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

Platinum Level: \$500

Gold Level: \$250-\$499

Silver Level: \$100-\$249

Bronze Level: \$50-\$99

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

Board Members of HLAA - Central Oklahoma Chapter



Pictured Above from left to right:

Shelley Gladden, shelley.gladden@okstate.edu, Chair
Ana Covey, okhearingloss@gmail.com, Vice Chairperson
Judy Hughey, jahughey55@gmail.com, Secretary
Ron Hendricks, ron-gmi@swbell.net, Treasurer
Rebecca Plunkett, rebecca.lederman@gmail.com, Website
Pati Burns, pati.burns@heartsforhearing.org, Member At Large
Nancy Landrum, nanlan@cox.net, Member At Large
Not pictures: Sharon Hendricks, sharonok@swbell.net, Past Chair

Looking to volunteer? We have the following open positions:

Newsletter Editor - create/develop content and distribute monthly
Meeting set up / break down - help with monthly meeting chairs and tables
Phone Tree - call and remind individuals and welcome new members
Have another skill? Let's talk!

A note from the board:

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 financial plans. Thank you!

Quote of the month:

*"You cannot be depressed when you show up everyday to bring hope to people in despair.
You cannot feel lack when you give everyday to the poor.
You cannot feel alone when you truly seek to meet people's needs.
You cannot feel unworthy when you show others how precious they are."*

*You cannot feel ugly when you truly see how beautiful all people are.
You cannot feel you don't matter when you see that everyone truly matters.
You cannot feel unloved when you love others. Love is something you do.
What you don't give, you lose. If you don't have it, give it away to somebody today. Protect and keep the things you value by giving them.”*
— Dragos Bratanu

New Membership or Renewals

Have you joined our organization or need to renew? We would appreciate your financial support!
Any amount is welcome.

To join or renew your membership, bring the information below to a chapter meeting or mail to:
Hearing Loss Association of America Central Oklahoma Chapter PO Box 42801,
Oklahoma City, OK 73123

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Birthday Month: _____ Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

_____ New to Hearing Loss Association – Central Oklahoma Chapter

Preference for your newsletter delivery: _____ Email or _____ Postal Mail

Are you a member of HLAA – National? _____ Yes _____ No

(This is not a requirement, but a valuable resource)

Annual chapter dues are considered a donation:
\$15.00 per individual or \$20.00 per family.

All contributions are tax deductible.

Total Amount Being Paid: _____

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.

Connect with us!

Visit the website: www.oklahomahearingloss.org to view schedules for our local chapter meetings and special events. We welcome your feedback and comments on our websites. For the Facebook page, search in the Facebook search box for HLAA Central Oklahoma Chapter

Join the Central Oklahoma HLAA!

There is no HLAA without you!

Hearing Loss Association of America Central Oklahoma Chapter (HLAA COC) offers access, training, and hope for those Oklahomans with hearing loss. Your generosity allows HLAA COC to continue to offer scholarships, self-advocacy, and access.

We thank you for choosing to invest in HLAA COC. Annual dues, only \$15, or \$20 per family, are due now. A membership application is available below. Other contributions are also welcome, and you will be listed prominently in the newsletter and on the HLAA COC website.

Your attendance at our monthly educational seminars is so important. Each month we provide a place where it is OK if you don't hear well. A place to meet others just like you. A place where you can find support, education, social interaction and the opportunity to share your story and learn strategies to live better with hearing loss. Our organization is growing in strength, and we need you! This year, please also consider using your talents to be a bigger part of HLAA by volunteering your time in committees such as membership, fundraising, scholarship, marketing or as a Board member.

New opportunities are coming this year.

- Speakers who are knowledgeable and presenting relevant and interesting subjects.
- Continuing our work to encourage installation of hearing loops in areas where the public gathers.
- Contacting our State Legislators regarding a bill pending to eliminate sales tax on the purchase of hearing aids and cochlear implants.
- Assisting those in need to access reduce cost hearing instruments.

We have work to do and need your help. Won't you join us? Hearing Loss Association of America Central Oklahoma Chapter is an all-volunteer organization — there are no paid positions.

Your membership and contribution mean the world to us. HLAA COC is a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization. All contributions are tax deductible. You can make a donation by check, credit card or by clicking the green "Donate" button above.

We look forward to HEARING from you!



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You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website or annual membership request form.

Our mailing address is:
Hearing Loss Association - Central Oklahoma Chapter PO Box 42801 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73123 USA

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