

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

[View this email in your browser](#)



April 2024 Newsletter

Volume 24, Issue 4

Welcome to HLAA Central Oklahoma Chapter monthly newsletter! Here we provide local chapter, state, and national resources for individuals with hearing loss, or those that support individuals with hearing loss. We are a group of individuals who understand that coping with hearing loss is difficult. Our members work together to improve communication by sharing experiences, learning new strategies and staying up-to-date with available hearing technology, as well as other assistive devices. Our chapter has worked for years to create a real support and fun monthly meetings which encourage a feeling of community and friendship.

If you haven't been to a monthly meeting, we hope you'll give us a try!

Monthly Chapter Meeting Details:

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

Looking ahead to future meetings - Mark your calendar now!

- **April 18th: Over the Counter Hearing Aids**

Speaker: Elizabeth Nabavi with American Hearing Aid Center will be talking to us about everything we wanted to know about Over the Counter (OTC) Hearing Aids

More upcoming events:

- May 16th - Dr. Dennis, VIP Care
- June 20th - BINGO!
- July - Movie at Rodeo Cinema!
- August 3rd - Annual Ice Cream Social

<p>Looking for specific topics?</p> <p>If you have a topic or speaker you would like to recommend, please let us know! Email us at: okhearingloss@gmail.com</p>	<p>Thank you to our lunch sponsors!</p> 	<p>Can't join in person? You can join in person or via Zoom.</p> <p>To join via Zoom, click this link: MEETING ZOOM LINK</p>
---	---	---

Chapter News



2024 Scholarship Applications Open!

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**](#)

HEARING LOSS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
CENTRAL OK CHAPTER

**Hearing Aid
RAFFLE**

1 Ticket : \$10.00

On Sale March 2024 - July 2024
Generously Sponsored by Starkey Hearing Aids &
Dr. Pam Matthews of Pro Hearing

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

All proceeds from the raffle will be directed towards the HLAA scholarship fund. The HLAA scholarship fund plays a crucial role in supporting higher education for individuals with hearing loss.
The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) of Central Oklahoma is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing support, resources, and advocacy for individuals with hearing loss.

More Info Visit : www.OKLAHOMAHEARINGLOSS.ORG

Upcoming Events You Can Find Us!

April 26, 2024
Resource Fair at Orval Towers
4613 Tinker Diagonal Street, Del City, OK 73115

Save the Date: May 9, 2024

Kendra Scott Shopping to Support Our Chapter!

On May 9, 2024, Kendra Scott Kendra Gives Back will be hosting a shopping event, where a 20% of the proceeds from a designated time frame is donated to a charitable cause or organization. During the hours of 4pm - 6pm, 20% of proceeds will go towards our organization!

When we host a Kendra Gives Back event, a special atmosphere is created in their store, inviting customers to shop with purpose and enjoy an elevated shopping experience. It's an opportunity for our organization to engage with Kendra's loyal customer base and raise awareness about our mission.

We hope to see you there shopping for those graduates and special mothers for Mother's Day!



Everyone Welcome!

Spring cleaning is underway, and it's the perfect time to declutter your space! In an effort to help you securely dispose of your outdated documents, we are thrilled to announce our upcoming **Free Shred Events** hosted at our Norman and OKC Branches.

Mark your calendars!

- **Norman Branch:** Friday, April 19th | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- **OKC Branch:** Friday, April 26th | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

State Level Resources

**Do you need help purchasing assistive Technology?
Oklahoma ABLE Tech can provide assistance!**



While Oklahoma ABLÉ Tech serves all Oklahomans, our non-profit lending partner, the OkAT Foundation, has received special qualifying funds for home modification loans less than **\$10,000** or loans for AT and DME less than **\$3,000**, specifically for Oklahomans with low income.

Previously Funded AT:

- Vision equipment and glasses
- Hearing equipment
- Mobility devices
- Lift chairs
- Smart Home technology

Home Modification examples:

- Roll-in showers
- Permanent ramps
- Door widening

To learn more about the Financial Loan Program, scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/496gfmo



National Headlines:

Justice Department to Publish Final Rule to Strengthen Web and Mobile App Access for People with Disabilities

Attorney General Merrick B. Garland today signed a final rule under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to ensure the accessibility of web content and mobile applications (apps) for people with disabilities. This final rule clarifies the obligations of state and local governments to make their websites and mobile applications accessible. Every day, people across the country use the web and mobile apps to access public programs and services, including emergency information, courts, healthcare providers, schools, voting information, parking, permit applications, tax payments, and transit updates. If these technologies are not accessible, it can be difficult or impossible for people with disabilities to access critical services. Consequently, individuals with disabilities may be excluded from accessing public services that other people routinely use.

“This final rule marks the Justice Department’s latest effort to ensure that no person is denied access to government services, programs, or activities because of a disability,” said Attorney General Merrick B. Garland. “By issuing clear and consistent accessibility standards for state and local governments’ digital content, this rule

advances the ADA's promise of equal participation in society for people with disabilities. I want to thank the many public servants across the Department, led by the Civil Rights Division, for their tremendous work on this rule.”

“This rule affirms the Justice Department’s unwavering commitment to achieving the promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act — ensuring that people with disabilities can fully and equally participate in our society,” said Acting Associate Attorney General Benjamin C. Mizer. “The rule, which clarifies the standards for making mobile apps and websites accessible, is vital to people’s ability to use and benefit from public programs and services.”

“This rule is truly historic and long overdue as it will help break down barriers that have kept people with disabilities from fully participating in American life,” said Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke of the Civil Rights Division. “The rule will help ensure that people with disabilities have equal access to a full range of government services including critical activities like voting, taking online courses, applying for public benefits, filing taxes and more. For far too long, people with disabilities have been left behind as we've witnessed more services and government activity increasingly move online. This rule is helping to usher us into a new era by bringing an end to the discrimination faced by millions of Americans with vision, hearing, cognitive and manual dexterity disabilities across our country.”

The rule will provide much-needed standards for addressing a wide variety of barriers. For example, the rule will help ensure blind individuals can access information about public transportation on a city’s mobile app or website, enable people who are deaf or hard of hearing to participate in university lectures online and allow individuals with manual disabilities affecting their ability to use a mouse to access web information about voter registration. Ensuring that people with disabilities can access web content and mobile apps and fully participate in public programs and services will improve the day-to-day lives of individuals with disabilities in communities throughout the country.

The final rule mandates technical standards for state and local governments to help ensure the accessibility of their programs and services provided through the web and mobile apps. By providing clarity on how to make sure these platforms are accessible for people with disabilities, this final rule advances the ADA’s promise of a more inclusive society. The final rule will soon be available for review on the Federal Register’s website at www.federalregister.gov. A fact sheet detailing information about the final rule is [available here](#).

For further information on the Civil Rights Division, please visit the department's website at www.justice.gov/crt. For inquiries regarding the ADA, please contact the department's toll-free ADA Information Line at 800-514-0301 (voice) or 833-610-1264 (TTY) or visit the ADA website at www.ada.gov.

[View ASL translation here.](#)

Updated April 8, 2024

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

National Level Resources

Read the latest edition of Hearing Life, a quarterly publication produced by HLAA. (Click on the hearing life magazine image to be taken directly to the table of contents).

[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.



Early Bird Registration is Now Open for the HLAA 2024 Convention!

Join us in Phoenix! Central Oklahoma will be represented at the national HLAA 2024 convention. We would LOVE it if you could join us!

Check it out on the HLAA National page.

SPOILER ALERT: HLAA CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CHAPTER WILL BE RECEIVING THREE AWARDS!



**HLAA Support Leads to Broader Hearing Aid Coverage in Washington State!
New law and lawsuit settlement could spark nationwide change.**

A new law in Washington now requires certain large group health plans to cover the cost of hearing aids and services.

These efforts received strong support by our local HLAA community of grassroots

advocates and may influence similar progress in other states.

[READ OUR BLOG](#)



Thank You to our Sponsors!

Have you HEARD the news? Hearing loss awareness and access is growing throughout our state and the Hearing Loss Association of America Central Oklahoma Chapter is leading the charge. Every year, our chapter of the HLAA achieves our goals with the help of our amazing members and valued sponsors like you.

Platinum Level: \$500

Gold Level: \$250-\$499

Silver Level: \$100-\$249

Bronze Level: \$50-\$99

PLATINUM

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

GOLD

Richard & Anna Ross, Nancy Landrum

SILVER

Charles & Carolyn Chastain, Wanda Evans, Pat Fennell, Sylvia Frank, Mike & Elaine

Frizzell, Shelley Gladden, KR & Lois Hornbrook, Tony & Sharon Howard, Elaine Lains, Betty Jo Large, Terry Mock, Dr. Pam Matthews, Rebecca Plunkett, Crystal Schwab, Marion Thompson

BRONZE

Leon Nelson, 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**

* **BOLD** names indicate **NEW** donors - Thank **YOU!**

Endowment Tip #4

You could avoid paying income tax on your required minimum distribution from your traditional individual retirement account! How, you ask? By making a qualified charitable donation from your IRA to a charitable organization endowment! By doing so, you can contribute to charity, avoid taxation on the withdrawal from the IRA, and satisfy your RMD requirements.

Consider donating to HLAA Central Oklahoma Chapter (your favorite non-profit) when following this plan!

Board Members of HLAA - Central Oklahoma Chapter

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!



Pictured Above from left to right:

Shelley Gladden, shelley.gladden@okstate.edu, Chairperson

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!

JOIN THE CENTRAL OKLAHOMA HLAA

How do you want to receive your newsletter? Click [HERE](#) to let us know!

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



Copyright (C) 2024 Hearing Loss Association - Central Oklahoma Chapter. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)

