



# February 2024 Newsletter

Volume 24, Issue 2

## 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:

## February 15: Relationships and Hearing Loss

Speaker: Carrie Neff, Hearts for Hearing's Patient Care Therapist

Details: Learn from the experts on the dynamic of hearing loss, how it impacts relationships, and how to navigate!



### 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](mailto: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](#)

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**Looking ahead to future meetings -  
Mark your calendar now!**

- **March 21st: Equipment Exchange Program**

Speaker: Renate Neal, with DRS School for the Deaf

Details: Oklahoma has an equipment exchange program that assists individuals in obtaining equipment and assistive technology to assist in their everyday life. Learn about how to qualify, how to apply and what equipment is available!

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

Speaker: Elizabeth Nabavi with American Hearing Aid Center

Details: Everything we wanted to know about OTC Hearing Aids!

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**New Vocational/Trade School HLAA Scholarship Opportunity!**

The HLAA OKC Chapter is excited to announce a new scholarship opportunity for students in 2024!

Do you know of someone who is graduating from high school, but a four-year degree program at a university might not be the right fit for them? Maybe you know someone who wants to learn welding, practical nursing, commercial truck driving, plumbing, HVAC, etc.? There are hundreds of trades out there that don't require a four-year college commitment, and the loads of debt that typically come with college. In 2024, the HLAA Central Oklahoma Chapter is seeking to expand our scholarship outreach and provide a new scholarship specifically for students looking to enter a trade/vocational school instead of a traditional four-year university.

The new HLAA COC Trade/Vocational School Scholarship will provide \$2,000 in funds to a student who is seeking to enter a vocational and/or trade school. As a bonus, if a scholarship recipient completes their first year of school with a 3.0 grade point average or better, they are eligible for another \$2,000 award to assist them in further completing their trade school education.

The HLAA OKC Chapter is partnering with Assist2Hear, a national installer of induction loop technology (aka "hearing loops"), to offer this scholarship. Through Assist2Hear, the chapter has secured funding for both the initial scholarship and its potential additional second year funds, for the next three years.

Applicants must be full-time high school students who will graduate in the current academic year from a high school in the state of Oklahoma. Applicants should display good character and may enroll in any career or technical education program, as long as it is not part of a four-year degree program. All recipients must be enrolled as full-time students in their respective career or technical programs.

To apply, visit:

[2024 Scholarship Rules – Application – OKC HLAA \(oklahomahearingloss.org\)](https://oklahomahearingloss.org)

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

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# PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AWARENESS DAY

## Questions?

Email [CMartin@okdrs.gov](mailto:CMartin@okdrs.gov)  
if you have any questions.

## When?

Tuesday,  
March 5, 2024  
from  
noon to 4 p.m.

## Where?

Oklahoma History  
Center, 800 Nazih  
Zuhdi Drive, Okla.  
City, OK 73105



**OKLAHOMA**  
Rehabilitation Services

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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](mailto:meadevernice@gmail.com), 405-537-4907

# Resources You Can Use

Hearing Loss and Anxiety



The HLAA COC Board recently shared with each other a valuable article published by HuffPost. The article was written by Katie Grant.

“As it turns out, there’s a very real connection between our hearing and our mental health”, says Katie Grant in her article.

Here is a link to the article that was published on Feb. 1, 2024

Click the image below to link to the HuffPost article below.  
[How Hearing Aids Improved My Mental Health | HuffPost Voices](#)

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## Shawnee Little Theater Installs a Hearing Loop

We're thrilled to share some exciting news with you - the Shawnee Little Theater (SLT), located at 1829 Airport Drive in Shawnee, is kicking off its season on February 16, 2024, with the uproarious whodunnit comedy “The Play That Goes Wrong” and.....a brand-new hearing loop installed in the theater!

The new hearing loop covers the entirety of the theater’s seating and ensures that attendees with hearing loss can fully enjoy the performance and hear every word of the play! To use the hearing loop, turn your hearing aid to the telecoil program or request to use a loop receiver.

Loop receivers are available at the box office for those without a telecoil enabled hearing device.

We hope that you will show your support for the Shawnee Little Theater’s efforts toward inclusivity by attending this play or another one during the season. For more information on the upcoming production, which runs February 16-24, other fun offerings this season, and/or to purchase tickets, please visit <https://www.shawneelittletheatre.org/>.

If you do get the chance to enjoy a production at the Shawnee Little Theatre, please be sure and let them know if you enjoy using the new hearing loop. It is incredibly important that venues hear your feedback when they invest in assistive listening technology! You can do this via are view on Google or by simply sending a thank you email. With your support, we can continue to work to get more theaters in Oklahoma to be hearing-friendly!

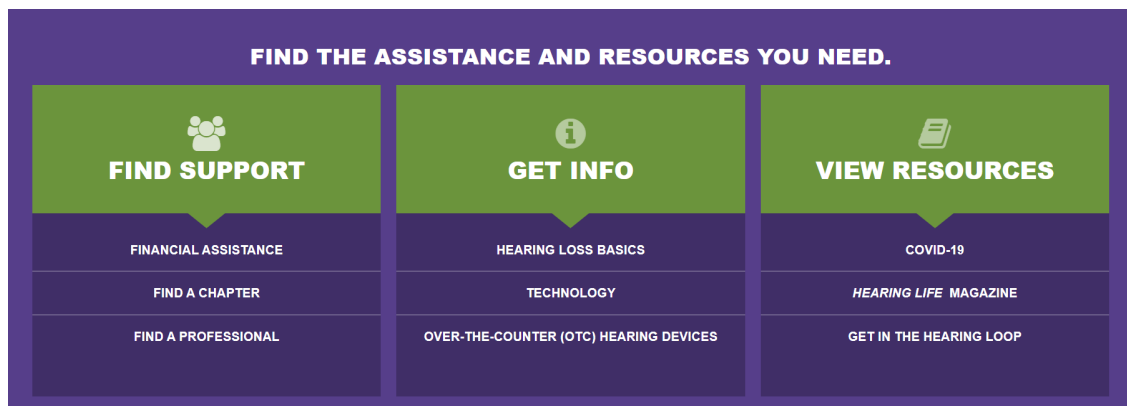
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Looking for more resources? Check out the national hearing loss organization:

## **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.



## Thank You to our Sponsors!

### **PLATINUM**

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

### **GOLD**

Richard & Anna Ross, Linda and Cal Bryant, 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, 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**

**Platinum Level: \$500**  
**Gold Level: \$250-\$499**  
**Silver Level: \$100-\$249**

Bronze Level: \$50-\$99

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

Did you know?

You can leave a bequest to charity without changing your will or trust by making a beneficiary form change on any retirement plan including an IRA, annuity, 401k, 403b or life insurance policy.

Just list your favorite charity(s) as primary beneficiaries and what amount or percentage you are interested in gifting. You can also list a charity(s) as a contingent "beneficiary" in the event that none of your primary beneficiaries are living at time of your death.



# New Membership or Renewals

Have you joined our organization or need to renew?

We appreciate your financial support!

**ANNUAL DUES: \$15 INDIVIDUAL OR \$20 FAMILY**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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 Box42801, Oklahoma  
City, OK 73123

## 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](http://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