



June 2024 Newsletter

Volume 24, Issue 6

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

Upcoming Meeting Featured Speakers and Activities:



Join Us for a Day of Fun and Games at the HLAA Annual Bingo Social!
June 20th 11:30 - 1:00

Get ready to shout "Bingo!" and win exciting prizes at our much-anticipated Annual Bingo Social happening on June 20th. This year, we're making it more special with a delightful lunch provided for all our attendees. It's the perfect opportunity to socialize, enjoy delicious food, and indulge in the thrill of the game.

What's in Store?

- **A Variety of Bingo Games:** From traditional patterns to fun variations, there's something for everyone.
- **Delicious Complimentary Lunch:** Savor a spread of tasty dishes as you mingle with fellow members.
- **Prize Galore:** Every game is a new chance to win! But here's the twist – we need your help to stock the prize pool!
- **Bring a Prize, Be a Star!** This year, we're asking each participant to contribute to the excitement by bringing a prize to be won. Your contribution can be anything from gift cards, books, gadgets, to homemade crafts – anything that you think would make a fellow member's day. Let's fill our prize table with surprises that will bring joy and cheers!

Don't miss out on the fun.

We can't wait to see you there, and remember – the more prizes we have, the more winners there will be. So, bring your lucky charms, and let's make this Bingo Social the best one yet!



The Central Oklahoma Hearing Loss Association Chapter has several amazing events coming up that you can participate in!

2nd Annual Movie Outing - July 18th at 1:00

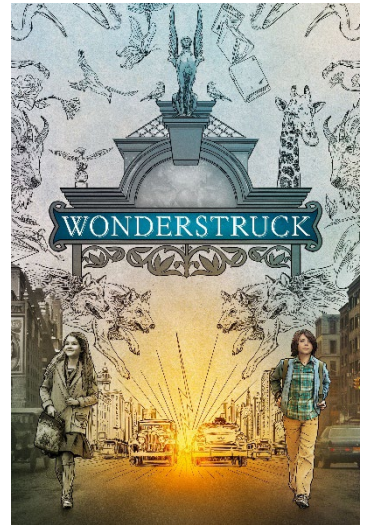
Join us for our 2nd Annual Day at the Movies! The Rodeo Cinema is inviting us back where you can view movies in the most accessible way possible! Where wheelchair accessibility and listening technology is always available - including closed captioning and assistive listening devices available for all - so you never miss a scene!

The movie showing will be **Wonder Struck**.

Premise of the movie: The film interlaces two stories set 50 years apart, switching frequently between them, with the older story filmed in black and white. Each tells the story of a child's quest. In 1927, young, deaf girl Rose runs away from her father's New Jersey home to find her mother/idol, the actress Lillian Mayhew. In 1977, recently orphaned Ben, made deaf by a freak accident, runs away from his Minnesota home in search of his father.

Cost of the movie: \$6.75 (discounted rate)

If you are interested, come early at 11:30 and grab lunch with the group! We will meet at the front of Rodeo Cinema at 11:30 for those who want to eat lunch. Movie begins at 1:00 pm.



Celebrate the Future: Meet Our 2024 Scholarship Recipients!

August 3, 2024, at our Annual Ice Cream Social

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. While recipients have been chosen, donations are still welcome to support the future of this program.

Mark your calendars for August 3, 2024, as we host our delightful Annual Ice Cream Social! This year's event is extra special as we introduce the bright and talented recipients of our 2024 scholarships. These exceptional individuals have demonstrated remarkable academic achievement and community involvement, and we're thrilled to honor their hard work.

A Sweet Introduction Join us in celebrating their success with a scoop of joy and a sprinkle of community spirit. We invite you to bring your favorite ice cream or baked good to share as we gather to recognize and support our scholars' future endeavors.

An Afternoon of Indulgence and Inspiration

- **Meet the Scholars:** Hear their stories and aspirations as they prepare to embark on their educational journeys.
- **Enjoy Homemade Delights: Bring your favorite!** From classic vanilla to exotic flavors, taste the variety of ice creams and baked goods brought by our members.
- **Share Your Recipes:** Got a secret recipe that everyone raves about? Bring it along and let's make this social a recipe exchange bonanza!

Let's Scoop Up Support: Our scholarship program is made possible through the generosity of our community. Your participation in events like the Ice Cream Social helps us continue to provide these opportunities to deserving students.

We can't wait to see you there, sharing in the sweetness of success and the joy of giving back.



Scholarship Fundraiser!

Don't Miss Your Chance: One Month Left to Enter the Hearing Aid Raffle!

Time is ticking, and the opportunity to win a brand-new hearing aid is getting closer! You have only one month left to participate in our exclusive raffle. This is your chance to not only possibly enhance your hearing experience but also support our community.

Get Your Tickets Now! Join us at our next meeting to purchase your raffle tickets. Each ticket brings you one step closer to being the lucky winner of a high-quality hearing aid.

Become a Ticket Ambassador! Want to increase your chances or help out? You can also sell tickets! It's a great way to contribute to our cause and spread the word.

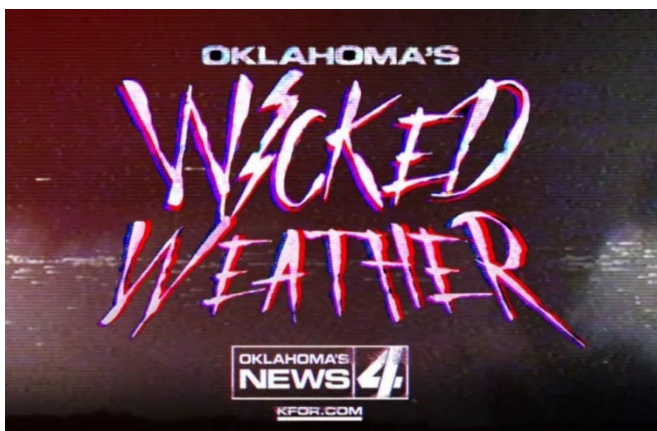
Ticket Details For ticket prices and more information, please see any board member at the meeting or contact us beforehand. They'll provide you with all the details you need to buy or sell tickets. Remember, the draw is just around the corner. So, let's make it count – buy your tickets, sell some more, and keep your fingers crossed.
Good luck to all our participants!



State Level Resources

What's happening in your city? Report from Cal and Linda who are participating in the OKC Mayor's Committee on Disability Concerns. To see a full report, you can visit the website at: <https://okc-mcdc.org>

- There is a car show put on by organization of Disabled Veterans, in Mustang on June 8, 2024. If HLA wants to have a booth there, the charge is \$25.00 which includes lunch.
- During the recent tornado outbreaks channel 4 had a sign language interpreter on the weather. Did you see our very own HLA Chair? (link to video is below)
- Accessibility for the Festival of The Arts, worked, as Keith Wilkinson, who works with OKC Accessibility had worked out some problems for that event.
- Improvements for accessibility for Paseo District were recently reviewed with a pleasant outcome that it is a place where mobility challenged can access virtually every business there now.
- Embark - where there were some bus lanes, bike lanes and pedestrian lanes that overlapped and had to be sorted out to flow more friendly to accommodate the disabled.



Oklahoma's Wicked Weather 2024 Special

by: [Kari King / KFOR](#)

Posted: May 3, 2024 / 06:35 PM CDT

Updated: May 3, 2024 / 03:14 PM CDT

OKLAHOMA CITY (KFOR) — Oklahoma is known for “the wind comes sweepin’ down the plain”, as the Oscar Hammerstein II / Richard Rodgers song lyrics go.

Oklahoma is also known for the wind turning into something more ominous, destructive, and dangerous.

Tornadoes are part of life in the Sooner State.

[WATCH THE SPECIAL STORY HERE](#)

Listen Up: Apple Announces Preliminary Insights on Tinnitus from Its Hearing Study

Hearing health, and how technology can hurt and help it, is one of three long-term studies Apple is running.

Written by: Jessica Rendall on May 31, 2024 for CNET

If you ever get a ringing in your ears, you're far from alone, according to preliminary insights Apple announced this week from its ongoing hearing health study. It confirmed that tinnitus -- a disruptive condition stemming from an often-persistent persistent noise that only the person experiencing it can hear -- is something that many people manage, and in some cases,

To it may disrupt hearing.

The new report found that about 15% of people surveyed experience tinnitus daily. Ten percent say that their tinnitus has "moderately or entirely interfered with their ability to hear clearly." Most participants (almost 78%) have experienced it in their life, and older adults were more likely to report experiencing it.

Apple's findings included details on what people say their tinnitus sounds like -- whether it's a "pure tone," if it whistles like a tea kettle or if it's more like white noise.

Findings were based on a survey of more than 160,000 participants and was conducted by University of Michigan researchers. They're part of ongoing research into hearing health Apple launched in 2019 with the University of Michigan and the World Health Organization. It works through the Research App, where Apple users can enroll and share data and information, should they choose.

Apple's findings on tinnitus weren't necessarily new. For example, it found older adults were much more likely to report tinnitus, which is in line with what we know about the relationship between aging, hearing loss and tinnitus. (Tinnitus is often the first sign of hearing loss, as tinnitus is most commonly caused by noise-induced damage to the cells in the cochlea.)

But Apple's continued research into hearing and tinnitus reflects a growing demand for hearing-health solutions for more and more people -- many of them young and experiencing tinnitus or hearing loss from noise exposure through headphone, earbud use and other technology. (Yes, that includes Apple's AirPods too.)

Read more: [**Beyond Hearing Loss, Noise Is an Unspoken Health Threat**](#)

"The trends that we're learning through the Apple Hearing Study about people's experience with tinnitus can help us better understand the groups most at risk, which can in turn help guide efforts to reduce the impacts associated with it," Rick Neitzel, University of Michigan School of Public Health's professor of environmental health sciences, said in Apple's press release.

The study, Neitzel continued, "gives us an opportunity that was not possible before to improve our understanding of tinnitus across demographics, aiding current scientific knowledge that can ultimately improve management of tinnitus."

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!



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

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 (\$500 or more)

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, Dr. Pam Matthews, Pro Hearing

(sponsors cont'd)

GOLD (\$250-\$499)

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SILVER (\$100-\$249)

Charles & Carolyn Chastain, Wanda Evans, Pat Fennell, Mike & Elaine Frizzell, Shelley Gladden, KR & Lois Hornbrook, Tony & Sharon Howard, Elaine Lains, Betty Jo Large, Terry Mock, Rebecca Plunkett, Crystal Schwab, Marion Thompson

BRONZE (\$50-\$99)

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 #6: Did You Know?

You can name the HLAA Central Oklahoma Chapter as a partial or full beneficiary on any of your retirement funds or life insurance policies? It's as simple as requesting a beneficiary designation change form from your financial institution, including the Community Foundation as a beneficiary alongside any other heirs and returning the form to the financial firm for processing before your death, but you are free to change your mind and revoke the designation at any time during your life. Upon death it will go to charity.

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!

In an effort in fulfilling our mission, an HLAA COC member is available to visit with anyone from Oklahoma that need help with finding hearing loss solutions. We share this support with various HLAA COC members. You can reach out to Shelley Gladden at 405-744-9863, or email at shelley.gladden@okstate.edu

Looking for more? Did you know there is a national resource through the Hearing Loss Association of America? Check out ICAAT link on the HLAA National Website: www.hearingloss.org