



March 2024 Newsletter

Volume 24, Issue 1

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

Next meeting details:



OKLAHOMA
Rehabilitation Services



Oklahoma School for the Deaf

March 21st: Oklahoma Telecommunication Distribution Program

Speaker: Renate Neal

Details: Renate is with the Oklahoma School for the Deaf and oversees the Oklahoma Telecommunication Distribution Program.

Did you know you can apply to receive FREE assistive technology? Come have a free lunch and learn all about it!

**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

Looking for a specific topic? If you have a topic or speaker recommendation, please let us know! Email us at okhearingloss@gmail.com

Can't join in person? Visit the website for our ZOOM link! OklahomaHearingLoss.org

Thank you to our lunch sponsors:

- * **VIP Care: GetVIPCare.com**
- * **Assist2Hear: Assist2hear.com**

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 at:

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

Scholarship Fundraiser! Hearing Aid Raffle!

\$10 per ticket

Tickets sold by participating HLAA COC

Members!

Want to buy or sell tickets? Let us know



Local Events



Your Local HLAA Central Oklahoma Chapter has been busy! Several of our members helped with some community outreach. We were able to spread information about hearing loss and our chapter resources. If you attended People with Disabilities Awareness Day, you know it was great outreach and many new friends were made!



Upcoming Events You Can Find Us!



Local Headlines: The Justice Department Reaches A Settlement

The Justice Department reached a settlement agreement with Service Oklahoma today to resolve its findings that the state agency violated the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by maintaining a mobile application that is in accessible to individuals with vision disabilities.

Under the agreement, Service Oklahoma will ensure that any mobile app that it creates, administers, or maintains is accessible to individuals with disabilities and conforms to accessibility guidelines Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), Version 2.1, Level AA. Service Oklahoma will take other corrective actions, including soliciting accessibility feedback and requests from the public, retaining an ADA coordinator, providing ADA training to employees, and reporting to the department. To learn more, please read our press release and settlement agreement.

This agreement is part of the Civil Rights Division's Tech Equity Initiative to combat disability discrimination that occurs through technology, such as websites and mobile apps. For more information on the ADA, please call the department's toll-free ADA information line at 800-514-0301 (TTY 833-610-1264) or visit ada.gov.

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



While Oklahoma ABLTEch 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 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.



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.

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 Level: \$500

Gold Level: \$250-\$499

Silver Level: \$100-\$249

Bronze Level: \$50-\$99

PLATINUM

Assist2Hear, Cochlear Americas, 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, 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, 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 #3

You can transfer your house or other personal property to charity 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.

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 pictured: 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!

Change of Address – Mail or Email? Please let us know, so you can continue to receive the newsletter and other publications from our chapter. See the list of board members above for people to contact.

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

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 this page to a chapter meeting or mail to:
Hearing Loss Association of America Central Oklahoma Chapter
PO Box42801, Oklahoma City, OK 73123