

News from the Chapter



Julia Pershica is one of the 2024 HLAA Central Oklahoma Chapter's \$2,000 scholarship recipients. Julia is the daughter of Mr & Mrs Joshua Pershica, Del City, Oklahoma. She was born with Moebius Syndrome, which causes hearing loss and facial paralysis. Julia started wearing hearing aids at age 6 months. As a result of her hearing loss her formal education started at age two. Julia was mainstreamed into elementary school and because of her early start was way ahead. Then Middle School! This age is difficult for many but if your teachers are not supportive it is even more difficult. Julia was actually happy to have COVID come along so she could hide behind a mask and finish with virtual learning. Julia decided to just hurry through high school "with my head down" until she met that special teacher. She was the school Leadership teacher and she encouraged Julia to try out for a part in the

freshman school play. With her confidence bolstered and supported by a teacher who taught life Lessons and leadership skills Julia joined the drama department and participated in eleven plays thru high school. Julia discovered that her disability didn't matter. What is important in life is personality and life skills. Julia loves theater and while it is stressful she has learned good time management, how to work under pressure, and improved her people skills. All which will help her as she continues her education in college. She is no longer that timid middle schooler but a strong, confident young woman willing to take what the world throws at her.

Julia has been in several Advanced Placement classes in high school. She has been busy with theater, leadership and activities but she has maintained a 4.0 GPA and is a member of the National Honor Society!

Julia says that growing up wearing hearing aids is no fun but is now amazed at how far the technology has come. She knows now that her disability is not a setback but a push forward to become her best self.

Julia will attend the University of Central Oklahoma and study Funeral Science.

Happenings From Around the State



OK Let's Talk!

On August 2nd, The Oklahoma Statewide Independent Living Council and the Oklahoma City Mayor's Committee on Disability Concerns brought to Oklahoma City an event called, "OK, Let's Talk!". It was a great turnout to listen to experts share life experiences and best practices. Also: They provided a looped section for individuals to listen in through their hearing devices! It was exciting to see such an accessible event in our own city! We look forward to many more like it.

Sept. 8th is Senior Day at the Ballgame!

HAAA COC is participating in the Senior Day at the Ballgame! Our chapter has about 30 tickets available for you to attend the game.

Please let **Ana Covey** know if you will be attending and how many guests you would like to bring! You can catch her at the next meeting, or, email her at

okhearingloss@gmail.com

OKC
BASEBALL CLUB

SENIOR DAY
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH
AT 2:05PM
\$16 PER PERSON

OKC BASEBALL HATS

SENIOR ACTIVITIES IN-GAME

LOWER LEVEL FIELD SEATS: LOCATED ON THE THIRD BASE SIDE OF THE BALLPARK UNDER THE OVERHANG

TO PURCHASE TICKETS CONTACT:
Ryan Smith | 405-218-2110
ryan.smith@okcbaseball.com

Surveying Oklahoma's Performing Arts Venues

Ever wondered what a snapshot looks like of Oklahoma's performing arts* facilities regarding their assistive listening systems, as required by the ADA?

Now in partnership with the Center for Hearing Access, we will systematically list, review, summarize, and share information. This project will be similar to Loop Oregon. [A survey of 50 of Oregon's largest meeting facilities about their provision of assistive listening systems as required by the ADA.](#) (4 pages, pdf)

We're looking for 2-3 volunteers who are comfortable searching on websites; can use spreadsheets; knowledgeable about hearing loops, FM, and infrared systems; and are detail oriented. A volunteer job description is in development with more details.

Interested? Questions? Please email Wynne (Colorado) info@hearingloop.org or info@oklahomahearingloss.org

*Could be performing arts, museums, and other cultural centers with live shows and events.



Take a look at the National HLAA Hearing Life eNews for great tips and what is happening nationally in the hearing loss community.

Featured articles include parenting with hearing loss, chapter conferences, finding a walk4hearing community, and much more!

Monthly Chapter Meetings

3rd Thursday of each month from September - June

11:30 – 1:00

Will Rogers Gardens

3400 NW 36th St.

Oklahoma City, OK

Educational topics and socialization with peers are the primary focus.

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

*Closed Captions

*Looped meeting room

*Zoom options for guests unable to join in person

SPECIAL NOTE: BYOL (Bring Your Own Lunch)

A few snacks and water will be available, but primary meal will be on your own!
If your organization is interested in sponsoring a meeting and providing lunch, please reach out to
shelley.gladden@okstate.edu

ZOOM LINK TO JOIN MEETING VIRTUALLY

Upcoming Chapter Meetings, Speakers and Topics

Get ready for an engaging chapter meeting with captivating topics on the agenda!

- September 19th: Oklahoma Newborn Hearing Screening Project
- October 17th: Dr. Pam Matthews, topic: Auracast and how it is the “New Telecoil Technology”
- November: TBD
- December: Annual Holiday Party and Donation Drive



We were so excited to celebrate not only our scholarship recipients, but we also celebrated our group!

- Nancy was honored for her years of service on the board with our chapter.
- Pam Matthews drew the name for the hearing aid raffle. The winner was Sarah, another audiologist who will be donating the hearing aids to a family member. **We are SO GREATFUL for Dr. Pam's generosity**, along with Starkey Hearing. Over \$1,500 was raised with the hearing aid raffle.

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.

Current Sponsors:

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

GOLD (\$250-\$499)

Richard & Anna Ross, Nancy Landrum, Sylvia Frank

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, Suzanne Parker, Rebecca Plunkett, Crystal Schwab, Marion Thompson

BRONZE (\$50-\$99)

Leon Nelson, Peggy Scarbrough, St. Anthony's Volunteer Dept., Ralph Wilsack



Congress passed the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act on December 19, 2019.

The SECURE Act includes many provisions designed to facilitate and enhance saving for retirement, but no longer allows non-spouse beneficiaries of IRAs to

take a distribution over their life expectancy. Instead, the new law requires the funds be paid out over a maximum period of 10 years. (Exceptions: minors and individuals who are within 10 years of the age of the IRA owner.) For those interested in providing support beyond the 10-year time frame and seeking to support charitable causes, a charitable remainder trust is the perfect answer. You can stretch the beneficiary payments over the life of the beneficiary and whatever is left in the trust at the end of their life will pass to the Community Foundation.

Board Members of HLAA - Central Oklahoma Chapter

A note from the board:

The board just participated in a semi-annual retreat where we brainstormed ideas and ways to support our mission. Topics covered included future scholarship fundraisers, an annual hearing loss convention/expo, outing the baseball game, after hours, mixers, chapter t-shirts, and much more!

Come to our next monthly chapter meeting to learn more!

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!

Board members include:

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

Ana Covey, okhearingloss@gmail.com, Vice Chairperson and newsletter

Judy Hughey, jahughey55@gmail.com, Chair

Ron Hendricks, ron-gmi@swbell.net, Treasurer

Rebecca Plunkett, rebecca.lederman@gmail.com, Secretary

Pati Burns, pati.burns@heartsforhearing.org, Member At Large

Sharon Hendricks, sharonok@swbell.net, Past Chair

Nora Sekine, Member At Large

Join the Board of Directors!

We need you! Our next Board meeting is Thursday, September 26th via Zoom. Let us know if you can join - we'd love to have you!

Chapter Website

Check out the website for upcoming events, become a member, and see past activities!

Are You a Member Yet?

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 Box 42801, 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 for people to contact.

Connect with us!

Visit the website: www.oklahomahearingloss.org to view schedules of our local chapter meetings and special events. We welcome your feedback and comments.

