

October 2024 Edition

2nd Scholarship Recipient: Harper Orr



Miss Harper Orr is one of the recipients of HLAA Central Oklahoma Chapter's \$2000 scholarship for 2024. Harper's life didn't begin so smoothly, her newborn hearing screening test reported a false positive. As a result, her hearing loss wasn't diagnosed until she was 8 months old. First hearing aids at 10 months and first Cochlear implant at the age of 3.

Parents are involved in the theatre, so Harper grew up surrounded by music and the arts. Harper says that there was always music in her home so singing came naturally to her. Harper's Mom was surprised by her singing and ability to match pitch. Mom made a recording of the three-year old's singing and sent it to their Audiologist, who still refers to them today while talking about positive outcomes with children. Harper, now grown up and headed off to college, teaches musical theatre and dance

to children. She had the lead role in "Cats, the Musical" at Sooner Theater this summer.

Harper doesn't allow hearing loss to define her. In fact, she credits it with who she is today. Miss Orr has a 4.0 grade point in High School and has participated in student government and chaired the school philanthropy program, called SPUD (Students Performing Unselfish Deeds), of over 400 students to raise over \$200,000 and perform 1,823 community service hours!

The University of Oklahoma should be proud to have Harper enrolling this fall. She has not decided upon a major yet because as a youngster she wanted to be a lawyer, a fashion designer or something different almost weekly because she had been taught that she could be anything she wanted. Harper's drive and leadership abilities have landed her in the President's Leadership Class at OU where she will have the opportunity to meet with University and State leaders. Harper has not named a field of study yet but whatever it is; Harper will be helping people and making a difference.

Happenings Around the City



SECOND HALF EXPO 2024

Saturday October 19, 2024
8am - 1pm

The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum
1700 NE 63rd St, Oklahoma City

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WWW.OKC.GOV/PARKS

Steve Brooks, Program Coordinator - 405-297-1811 - Stephen.Brooks@okc.gov



Happenings Around the State

The New Center for Hearing Access (CHA)

A national nonprofit focusing on the benefits of all five Assistive Listening Systems for people with hearing loss, with hearing loops as the gold standard. There are also practical handouts, ADA information, videos, templates, tools, and articles. Assistive listening systems help people with hearing loss hear clearly in performing arts venues, libraries, events, government, etc. They can be life-changing for people and keep them engaged in their communities. Website: www.hearingloop.org

Now if someone wants to know things, all you need to do is send a link:

- [What hearing loops sounds like](#)
- [Equipment to use with FM and infrared system](#)

Or maybe you need to file a complaint because you cannot hear clearly:

- [ADA Complaints](#)
- [Templates for writing inquiries and complaints](#) This webpage is just beginning and continually evolving. If you've written emails and you think others across the country could re-use them, please email Wynne. She will scrub details and make into a template.

When you have a few minutes, explore the website. www.hearingloop.org There are over 80 webpages of information.

OKLAHOMA FAMILY CAREGIVER CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 7, 2024 · 10AM - 3PM

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National HLAA News and Events

More Accessible Captions are On the Way!

A new rule adopted on July 18 by the [Federal Communications Commission](https://www.fcc.gov/) (FCC) requires television and video captioning display settings to be easier to access within two years.

One of the most common hot-button issues we hear within our HLAA community is frustration about how hard it is to find and adjust captioning display settings.

So many of us with hearing loss spend far too much time in trial-and-error mode looking for those elusive settings to help us understand speech, dialog and sound effects, and customize the text size, font, color and other features. It can seem like an endless, exasperating game of hide and seek...and seek...and seek! How often have you missed most of a TV show or news report while clicking on multiple buttons and adjustment settings without success?

“Thankfully, the FCC has finally taken action to ensure that captions are easier to find and program for people who benefit from this technology,” said HLAA Executive Director Barbara Kelley. “This is a huge win on behalf of those we advocate for in the hearing loss community.”

On July 18, the FCC unanimously passed a rule requiring TV manufacturers and multichannel video programming distributors (e.g., cable, satellite) to make caption settings “readily accessible.” That means the Commission will look at the following factors to determine compliance: proximity, discoverability,

preview ability, consistency and persistence. Entities must comply within two years of publication in the Federal Register, which is expected in the coming months.

This new requirement is the result of a multi-year effort by HLAA and other groups to improve access to captions, which are essential to consumers with hearing loss and other disabilities. We collaborated with [NCTA – The Internet and Television Association](#), [National Association of the Deaf \(NAD\)](#), [TDI for Access, Inc.](#) and [Communication Services for the Deaf \(CSD\)](#) to file a proposal and submit comments to move the issue forward.

Advocacy takes time and HLAA is in it for the long game. We are heartened by this FCC rule and appreciate the Commissioners' comments acknowledging our work along with NCTA and the other consumer groups. Fortunately, we won't be playing hide and seek with captions much longer!

- [Read the FCC news release and related statements](#)
- [View recording of the Commission's adoption procedure](#) (starting at approximately 1:43 timestamp):
- [See report in Hearing Health & Technology Matter](#)

By Neil Snyder, public policy director, [Hearing Loss Association of America](#)

Living Well with Hearing Loss

Hearing loss is an invisible disability that affects the way we communicate with people around us. If left untreated, it can lead to isolation, depression, anxiety, and employment issues.

You're not alone

HLAA provides resources and information to empower people with hearing loss to live well. Our community of support includes:

- **Chapters** - Join a local group promoting hearing health. Find an event near you to raise funds and awareness.
- **Conventions** - Connect & learn with hundreds of people with hearing loss from across the nation.
- **Virtual Education Programs** - Learn from webinars and resources on technology and issues.

Social Challenges

One of the biggest challenges for people with hearing loss can be social events, as they often occur in noisy environments, adding to communication difficulty.

[Read this blog](#) by Dr. Alison Freeman, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist and hearing loss specialist, who has helped hundreds of people with hearing loss take control of social gatherings.

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: October has a lunch sponsor!



Upcoming October 17th Chapter Meeting!

October 17th Meeting Includes:

Dr. Pam Matthews, who will be sharing with the chapter on Auracast and how it is the “new Telecoil Technology”. You won’t want to miss this exciting discussion, AND ...

We have a lunch sponsor providing pizza!

See you at the meeting!

Future meetings include:

- **November 21st: Donn Fravel, topic: Medicare changes in 2025**
- **December 19th: Annual Holiday Party and Donation Drive**

(more to come on the organization we will be supporting this year)

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

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

You can gift your house to the HLAA COC while still living there and receive a charitable deduction.



You simply execute a transfer on death deed, giving the HLAA Central Oklahoma Chapter ownership of your house. Once you vacate the property, the organization has the ability to sell the property and use the funds to support an existing endowment or create a new one to benefit your favorite charity(s). The advantage is that you receive an immediate income tax deduction, relieve your heirs from the burden of selling the property and,

for large estates, could eliminate or reduce taxes because the value of the property is removed from the estate. It's called a retained life estate gift. After you and your named beneficiaries no longer have use for the property, the foundation will liquidate and place the funds into a charitable fund.

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, newsletter

Ana Covey, okhearingloss@gmail.com, Vice Chairperson

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.