

Meetings held at the:

Greenburgh Public
Library
300 East Main Street
Elmsford, NY 10523



WESTCHESTER CHAPTER NEWS JANUARY 2016

Inside this issue:

Chapter News	2
Upcoming Chapter Meetings & Events	2
Jeanne Fredriksen to Speak at our 2/6/16 General Meeting	3
HLAA Supports Recommendations in PCAST Report	4
HLAA National Unified Membership Program	5
FCC New Rules on HAC Wireless Phones	5
Membership Application	6

President's Message



Happy New Year Everyone!!

Hope your holidays were splendid and that you had a chance to relax and have fun with friends and family.

The annual holiday party at the San Martino's Ristorante in Yonkers was very nice. There were 50 people that attended and it was wonderful to see all the folks having a good time. The food was delicious. Thanks to Melanie Brand for making the arrangement with the restaurant.

We had great holiday raffles that were organized by Karen Rogers and Lina Razzaio. Special thanks to Karen and Lina for doing a wonderful job with all the prizes which included gift certificates to California Pizza Kitchen, a Vera Bradley bag, wine, handmade scarves and more. Thanks to everyone that came to the holiday party.

We will not have a Chapter meeting in January. The next general meeting will be on **Saturday, Feb 6th** at the **Greenburgh Public Library in Elmsford at 1pm**. Our guest speaker will be Jeanne Fredriksen, Senior Consumer Outreach Manager with Med EL. Topic: "Cochlear Implants Technology Updates & MRI Compatibility".

The **HLAA National Convention 2016** will be held in Washington, DC. The dates are June 23-26, 2016. The early bird registration is open until the end of January, then regular prices will be in effect. Try to take advantage of the early bird registration discount. If you haven't attended a convention this would be a wonderful opportunity to meet folks from other chapters, view the exhibits hall with the different vendors, and attend educational workshops. For more information on the convention, please go to www.hearingloss.org and click on the convention link.

(Continued on Page 3)

Looking for Volunteers!

The Westchester Chapter of HLAA is seeking volunteers to help with our Committees and Programs. We are seeking a **Grant Writer** and a **Loop Technician**. If you have "hidden talents" or skills in these or other areas, and would like to volunteer, please contact Debbie Dolgin Wolfe at deborahdwolfe@gmail.com. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PRESIDENT - *Debbie Dolgin Wolfe*
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PROFESSIONAL ADVISOR - *Jeffrey Shannon, Au.D.*

2016 Chapter Meetings & Events

Saturday, January 9 - Board Meeting, 10:30am.
Greenburgh Library

Saturday, February 6 - General Meeting, 1:00pm.
Speaker: Jeanne Fredriksen, Senior Consumer Outreach Manager, MedEl. Greenburgh Library

Saturday, March 5 - General Meeting, 1:00pm.
Speaker: Justin Golub, Otologist/Neurologist, New York Presbyterian Medical Center. Greenburgh Library

Sunday, April 10 - General Meeting, Time TBA.
Speaker: Dr. Jeff Shannon, Audiologist. Suffern Free Library, Suffern, NY

Saturday, May 7 - General Meeting, 1:00pm.
Speaker: Lina Razzai, Audiologist Assistant, CRM Audiology, PC. Greenburgh Library

Saturday, May 14 - Westchester/Rockland Walk4Hearing

Saturday, June 11 - HLAA Westchester Scholarship Awards/ Election of Officers/Year End Party, Time TBA. Greenburgh Library

* Please note dates may be subject to change.

CONVENTION **2016**

**Hearing Loss Association of America
Hosts the
HLAA Convention 2016 and the
International Federation of Hard of Hearing
People (IFHOH) Congress**



**June 23 - 26
Washington Hilton
1919 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20009 US**

Early-bird Registration is Open!
Discounted registration rates are good through 1/31/16
Please visit www.hearingloss.org/content/convention

In Memory Miriam Koryn Co-Founder HLAA Westchester

We are sad to share the news of the recent passing of Miriam Koryn. Miriam was a long time HLAA member and one of the founders of the Westchester Chapter. Her work and dedication, in establishing this Chapter, has positively impacted many lives.

Miriam focused on solutions for those affected by hearing loss and understood well Rocky Stone's work and the HLAA Mission Statement. She will be remembered with much admiration and we wish to express our condolences to her family.

President's Message (Con't from page 1)

Looking ahead, we are working on our Chapter's spring program. Please check the website for the upcoming events. Also, the plans are underway for the annual HLAA Westchester/Rockland Walk4Hearing. The Walk will be on Saturday, May 14th at the FDR State Park in Yorktown Heights.

Hope you can join us at the February meeting.

Again, I wish all of you a Healthy and Happy New Year and that we have a peaceful 2016.

Regards,
Debbie Dolgin Wolfe

Come To Our Next General Meeting!

Saturday, February 6, 2016, 1:00pm

At the Greenburgh Public Library

Jeanne Fredriksen
Senior Consumer Outreach Manager
MedEI

"Cochlear Implant Technology Updates & MRI Compatibility"

~

Bring your friends and family and spend a delightful afternoon with us.

Refreshments will be served



Meetings Supported by Loop and CART

At our chapter meetings you should not miss a word as we offer two communication access systems. The hearing loop system sends the voice of the speaker from the microphone into one's hearing aid. CART (see right photo) or Communication Access Real-time Translations types every spoken word onto a screen.



HLAA Strongly Supports Recommendations of PCAST Report “Aging America & Hearing Loss: Imperative of Improved Hearing Technologies”

Bethesda, MD (October 28, 2015) – The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), the nation’s leading organization representing people with hearing loss, enthusiastically endorses a new report issued by the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST). The findings of the report, titled “Aging America & Hearing Loss: Imperative of Improved Technologies,” serve to open the market for new innovation in hearing device technologies and also increase choice for consumers of hearing aids, both essential strategies long espoused by HLAA that are necessary to enhance hearing health care.

The PCAST report focuses on the nearly 30 million adults over the age of 60 who have age-related, progressive, mild-to-moderate hearing loss. Only a small percentage of people with hearing loss (according to the report about 15-30 percent) seek treatment. There are several factors contributing to this low number, but the PCAST report points out that two of the driving factors are that the market is characterized by high cost and low innovation, and that the current distribution channels create a barrier to access.

As a result of these findings the Council has made four recommendations in their report to the president:

- FDA [Food and Drug Administration] should approve a distinct class of hearing aids for over-the-counter (OTC) sales, without the current requirement for consultation with a “credentialed dispenser” such as an audiologist, ear, nose and throat specialist, or licensed hearing aid specialist.
- FDA should withdraw its draft guidance on Personal Sound Amplification Products (PSAPs). A PSAP is a wearable consumer electronic device intended for non-hearing impaired people to amplify sounds in certain environments. If effected, the 2013 guidance would forbid PSAP manufacturers from making truthful claims about the functionality of the product in certain situations because those claims could label the device a “hearing aid.”
- FTC [Federal Trade Commission] should require hearing-aid dispensers who perform standard hearing tests and hearing aid fittings to provide the customer with a copy of their results at no additional cost and in a format that can be used by other dispensers and vendors.
- FTC should define a process to authorize hearing aid vendors to obtain a copy of a customer’s hearing test results and programmable audio profile from any audiologist who performs such a test, and do so at no additional cost to the customer.

“The findings of this report are clearly in line with HLAA’s mission – which is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss,” said Anna Gilmore-Hall, HLAA executive director. “The individual and cumulative effects of these recommendations will serve as an important step in raising public awareness around the issues of hearing loss, expanding consumer choice and driving change in the marketplace.”

While HLAA supports this groundbreaking report from PCAST, access to technology or hearing aids by consumers is not a substitute for following good hearing health care practices. We encourage people to see their primary care physician and their hearing health care provider for regular checkups. These recommendations offer people who have a mild-to-moderate, gradual, progressive hearing loss another option to address their needs. They serve to break down barriers and provide greater access to a variety of solutions for people with hearing loss.

These recommendations serve as an important step to bringing about much-needed change in hearing health care. However, in order to be effective they must be implemented. In the interest of the largest group of our constituents – consumers – HLAA looks forward to engaging all stakeholders to ensure everything possible is being done to put the recommendations of the PCAST report into action.

For more information, visit hearingloss.org.

Westchester Chapter and HLAA National Unified Membership Program

HLAA-Westchester Chapter is pleased to announce that we recently joined in the Unified Membership pilot program with HLAA National. This means there will be only **ONE** membership fee that would cover both National and Westchester Chapter.

There are 3 ways you can join, renew or give as a gift. Please specify Westchester Chapter as the one you belong to.

1. Complete the Membership Form, make your check payable to **HLAA** and return it or mail it to: Roberta Seidner - 3419 Irwin Ave. # 1709 Bronx, NY 10463 **OR**
2. Mail or fax the Membership Form with your credit card information to the HLAA office at the address listed on the form **OR**
3. Visit www.hearingloss.org/content/join and use your credit card online.

If you wish to make a personal gift donation to the Westchester Chapter and/or to the Scholarship Fund, make check payable to **HLAA WESTCHESTER CHAPTER** and give this to our Treasurer, Phil Monteleone.

Thank you for your continued support of HLAA.

Regards,
Debbie Dolgin Wolfe
HLAA Westchester Chapter, President
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845-368-0968

FCC Issues Rulemaking on HAC Wireless Phones

December 3, 2015

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has issued their Report and Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on Hearing Aid Compatible Wireless Phones. Posted with the Order are comments from the Commissioners. Chairman Tom Wheeler notes:

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeks comment on a groundbreaking consensus plan developed through collaborative discussion among consumer and industry representatives. Their plan would, for the first time, establish a goal of achieving hearing aid compatibility for one hundred percent of new handsets, and it would also set out a staged roadmap, fixed timeline, and benchmarks to get to that important point. We seek comment on this approach, but we also note that we presumptively support it, and we highlight it in the NPRM as the core proposal.

Expanding the scope to cover new technologies and enlisting stakeholders to make all devices compatible – will result in greater access to wireless technologies for the tens of millions of Americans with hearing loss. We are not forced to choose between innovative technologies in the one hand and devices accessible to people with hearing loss on the other. American innovation can enable – not limit – accessibility for all devices and technology by those with hearing loss.

The Report and Order and NPRM are posted online and open for public comment until January 14, 2016. HLAA intends to file comments in this rulemaking.

Source: www.hearingloss.org, Advocacy, Hearing Aid Compatibility



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Website: www.hearingloss.org



HLAA opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support, and advocacy. HLAA is a 501(c)(3) organization.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

I'd like to: ☐ Become a member of HLAA ☐ Renew my membership ☐ Give a gift membership

My Membership/Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Chapter I belong to: _____

How did you learn about HLAA? _____

Gift Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

	Annual USA Membership Fees	Annual Non-USA Membership Fees
Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35 (1 year) <input type="checkbox"/> \$95 (3 years) <input type="checkbox"/> \$140 (5 years)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45 (1 year)
Couple/Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45 (1 year)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$55 (1 year)
Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60 (1 year)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75 (1 year)
Library/Nonprofit	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 (1 year)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75 (1 year)
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 (1 year)	N/A
Corporate	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300 (1 year)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$325 (1 year)

My membership fee is \$ _____

Plus I'm adding a tax
deductible donation of \$ _____

My total is \$ _____

3 Ways to Join, Renew or Give a Gift Membership

1. Return this form to your chapter with your check made payable to HLAA.
2. Mail or fax this form to the HLAA office at the address above with your credit card information
3. Visit www.hearingloss.org/content/join and use your credit card online. (this is a secure website)

Credit Card Payment Information: ☐ American Express ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Name: _____ (as it appears on card)

Signature: _____ (Include your billing address if different than membership address above.)