

January 1, 2018

## *From the Editor...*

It's the New Year! It is the time for resolutions. It is the time to start thinking of hearing issues for the new year. As a result of reading information on the website, going to KY Home or other HLAA chapter meetings, and talking to members,

*is your hearing/communication world better than in January of 2017?*

**It is? Good!** *Now what are you going to do in 2018?*

**At 6:30 on Monday, Jan. 22**, The Hearing Loss Association of America KY Home Chapter will discuss the role of the KY Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and its free specialized phone program. Did you know that the phone program also includes **free** alerting devices? *While sleeping on your best ear, would you hear your smoke alarm?* Hearing the smoke alarm, the phone and the doorbell are important. Don't miss this meeting. Resolve to learn more.

The meeting, which is free, open to the public and real-time remote captioned, will be held at the Nelson Co. Public Library, 201 Cathedral Manor, Bardstown, KY 40004. HLAA is a self-help organization dedicated to education, advocacy and support for people who do not hear well and those around them.

A New Year is for New things. Our goal is to create more social activities for the KY Home Chapter. Katie Robertson, our chapter chair, is working on big plans for our February meeting. Our webmaster is working diligently on a new website for this Spring. Keep watching! In March, we will be discussing Hearing Assistive Technology.

It is our hope that the following articles will help you to better your hearing/communication world:

**LayPerson's Guide: 'Invisible' No Longer:** Staying current on assistive-listening legislation and hearing-loop installation standards is important for our own personal knowledge as well as HLAA's role to educate and to advocate. What is

done in one state can be done in many states. Let's learn and then advocate for others.

**Point of View: *Pathological Vs. Cultural Point Of View Of Deafness:*** Is deafness a Disability or a Cultural Minority? Hard of hearing people are predominantly unaware of the issues of cultural deafness. In order that we advocate most effectively, we need to understand the various issues.

**Guidance Articles: (1) *Ask About Telecoils For Hearing Aids:*** The telecoil, t-switch, telephone switch is one of the least understood and under-used tools for accessing assistive listening devices. It is an important tool that has been around since the nineteen forties. Many Hearing Professionals do not understand its use or importance so we, as informed consumers, must advocate for ourselves by asking for it.

**(2) *Will You Be Able To Hear For The Holidays?:*** Hearing during the Holidays is very important. Did you ever attend a church service, a school or public concert and couldn't hear? Now is the time to start planning for next year. Learn how a loop can help you and then advocate for next year's program.

**Research: *The Center For Wireless Inclusive Technologies Newsletter:*** The Center for Wireless Inclusive Technologies completed a survey of HLAA /NAD/ and the general population of people with hearing loss. From that information, they made presentations to the FCC. This newsletter gives details of that presentation and encourages you to participate in their ongoing surveys. Get on their mailing list and advocate through participation.

**My Story: *Speaking Up About Hearing Loss – by Sarah Wegley:*** Receiving a diagnosis of hearing loss requires a shift in lifestyle and sometimes of self-identity. Facing hearing loss and sharing the journey of change and new experiences.

**Each month we add a few reminders:**

- Please keep in mind that we collect used hearing aids for the **SHARP** program of KY. This program assists people in purchasing new or refurbished hearing aids at a very discounted price. **Please note: The SHARP program has depleted its budget and is dependent on your financial donations.**

- HLAA KY Home is a Non-Profit 502c3 organization that is dependent on your involvement and donations. You may donate on line at our website, [www.hearinglosskyhome.org](http://www.hearinglosskyhome.org) , click on **DONATE**. You can send a contribution to our address and you can designate Hearing Loss Association of America KY Home as your Kroger charity. We then receive a percentage of nearly everything you purchase at Kroger. It costs you nothing and it is a win win situation.
- **Is your world of communication better because you found HLAA?** If you need help or more information just contact us.

### Kroger



Anyone who has a Kroger Card can join the Kroger Community Rewards Program.

If interested, please go to your Kroger Account and login in. Go to the Community section and learn more about this worthy program. The code for Hearing Loss Assoc. of America KY Home Chapter is 12384.

This will donate to HLAA KY Home a percent of what you spend on your groceries. This does not off set your fuel points. This is an easy way to help our chapter.

Be good to yourself!

Ed Schickel

Editor