

**September 1, 2017**

## *From the editor...*

School has started. Labor Day is upon us. Summer is over and time to look to the fall activities. Advocacy is moving into the forefront. The American Disabilities Act (ADA) has been around since 1990. "The ADA is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public." (<https://adata.org/learn-about-ada>). Because hearing loss is an invisible disability for hearing people, it has become one of the last areas of challenge. People are not aware that some protection and support are available. People are not thinking in terms of disability when they become aware of their own hearing loss unless it impacts their work. Regardless of hearing loss levels, the ADA has supported captions on TV, Assistive Devices in the areas of meetings and entertainment, employment support and much more. That which we thought of as a gift may in fact be a right.

Thus, our Advocacy section on [www.hearinglosskyhome](http://www.hearinglosskyhome) features The KY Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing's Self-Advocacy Video Series. It is important that we understand HLAA is a self-help organization. We need to be aware of our own personal needs and what is allowed under the law. When we bring situations into the forefront, we help not only ourselves, but also other HOH people.

- Check out the "Know your rights" at the HLAA website.

<http://www.hearingloss.org/content/know-your-rights>

- Summaries of all federal disability laws are now available on the ALDA website. As a deaf or hard of hearing person, you have a variety of rights under those federal laws. The information available on the website includes the summaries, the texts or implementing regulations of the laws, the agencies with responsibility to enforce the laws, and citations to the laws.

<https://www.alda.org/disability-laws-regs/>

**21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act**  
**Air Carrier Access Act**  
**Americans with Disabilities Act**  
**Architectural Barriers Act**  
**Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act**  
**Fair Housing Act**  
**Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act**  
**National Voter Registration Act**  
**Rehabilitation Act**  
**Telecommunications Act**  
**Television Circuitry Decoder Act**  
**Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act**

For answers to questions concerning the rights of deaf and hard of hearing persons in a multitude of settings, review the Federal Disability Laws on the ALDA website.

**Be Informed! Check out the Law!**

<https://www.alda.org/disability-laws-regs/>

[http://www.adapacific.org/resources/resources\\_ADACenters.php](http://www.adapacific.org/resources/resources_ADACenters.php)

Finally, “the ADA regs were updated in 2010, with rules coming in to effect in 2012. So, if a venue was built in 2012 or after, or if there has been a renovation that includes the sound system after 2012, the new regs kick in. That means there is no longer the 50-seat requirement: any venue that uses a public-address system must provide an assistive listening system. And there is scoping for a percentage of the seats to have hearing-aid compatible receivers or neckloops, or of course they could be in compliance using an installed audio induction loop system.” (Lise Hamlin HLAA)

<http://www.hearingloss.org/content/dojs-2010-ada-standards-go-effect>

Check out our **Stop Press** section for more information on over the counter hearing aids and Hearing Health Care for Adults.

- At 6:30 on September 25, the University of Louisville Audiology Students will present at our regular meeting. All members of the public are welcome!

We’ve added some new articles to our web site this month. Please check them out.

- ❖ **Advocacy Help:** *Being Nudged by The Importance of Self-Advocacy:* Hard of Hearing (HOH) people often experience great difficulties when making use of airports as part of their routine travel arrangements, because of the difficulty of hearing announcements associated with gate changes and connecting flights. In this article, Ed Schickel (our Editor) highlights the importance for the HOH person to be alert, to ask and to assertively seek information from multiple sources and to self-advocate by contacting airport officials and filing complaints. Expressing our needs and advocating in this way not only helps ourselves but helps others too!
- ❖ **Guidance Articles:** *What Is Tinnitus:* Do you experience Tinnitus? The Hearing Health Foundation has produced an article on "What is Tinnitus." It is divided into sections: Tinnitus Causes and Demographics; Diagnosing Tinnitus; Tinnitus Treatments; Tinnitus Effect on Daily Life. This is an excellent primer on Tinnitus!
- ❖ **Ask The Experts:** *Dr. Severtson Responds:* This month a reader asks the doctor a question about what is removed from the ear during cochlear implant surgery.
- ❖ **Current Research:** *Age-Related Hearing Loss and Communication Breakdown In A Clinical Setting:* It is not uncommon for older adults to report mishearing a physician or nurse in a primary care or hospital setting, according to a study published by JAMA Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery. The prevalence of medical errors is higher among older patients. Failures in clinical communication are considered to be the leading cause of medical errors. A previous study reported that improved communication between the medical teams and families could have prevented 36 percent of medical errors.
- ❖ **Layperson's Guide:** *How Hearing Works:* The Hearing Health Foundation has produced an article on "How Hearing Works." It is a clearly explained introduction and review of hearing loss. It is divided into the following sections: How it works; Types of Hearing Loss; Degrees of Hearing Loss; Causes of Hearing Loss; Recognizing Hearing Loss; Myths and Tips.
- ❖ **My Story:** *What Is a Normal Life With Hearing loss:* Recently I met a man with an obvious hearing loss. He used hearing aids and assistive listening devices, yet he missed parts of what I said. So, I asked him if he'd like to learn about the local chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA). "No," he said. "I'm not interested in giving more energy to my hearing loss than I already do. I would rather live a normal life." I wondered, what is a "normal" life with hearing loss? How much energy dedicated to it is "too much".

Each month we add a few reminders:

### **HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (HLAA)**

headquartered in Bethesda MD, is the nation's largest organization for people with hearing loss. The HLAA exists to open the world of communication for people with hearing loss through information, education, advocacy and support. HLAA is a 501c3 non-profit corporation and offers tax exempt status to all local chapters. Please join HLAA as the one of the first steps to doing something about your hearing loss. Through our advocacy work at the federal level, we represent 48 million people with hearing loss in the United States. <http://www.hearingloss.org/>

### **WANT TO JOIN HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (HLAA)**

Annual national membership dues are: \$35 individual, \$45 family, \$20 student, \$60 professional, \$50 non-profit and \$300 corporate. Individual membership can also be three years (\$95) or five years (\$140). Please join at the HLAA website <http://www.hearingloss.org/content/join> or get a HLAA brochure at a chapter meeting to mail membership form to HLAA.

### **TAP**

**Do you have trouble hearing on the phone?** If so, TAP may be for you!!

The Kentucky Commission of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Telecommunications Access Program is here to serve you if you have a hearing loss. KCDHH provides specialized telephone equipment at no cost to you and other resources to assist with your hearing loss. To learn more click here: <https://www.kcdhh.ky.gov/ifyky/>

- 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.
- We are 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 or 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 for us. **Is your world of communication better because you found HLAA?** If you need help or more information just contact us.

- **Please note: Each year in Kroger asks that we update our Community Rewards Program. Please make sure HLAA KY Home is your recipient of Kroger donations.**

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#### 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.

Kroger 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 donate money and help our chapter.

Finally, may you find that this Year is a Communication Opportunity waiting for your participation.

Be Good to Yourself!

**Ed Schickel**

editor