

My Story... by Doug Hubbard



Doug Hubbard is the current Chairperson for Hearing Loss Association of America KY Home Chapter.

I noticed I was starting to have trouble hearing probably 15-20 years ago. The problem got gradually worse and about 12 years ago I realized that I was always turning my head so my left ear was closer to the speaker.

I got past the cosmetic concerns, consulted with a family member and was referred to Avada. I visited their Louisville office, had a MRI of my head and was fitted with behind the ear aids for both ears. I went through the normal concerns ow wondering where the little white filters disappeared to, losing an aid at times, lengthy repairs time, and excessive ear wax, inadequate control of background noise and batteries that only seemed to last 3 or 4 days. Finally I was so disgusted that I just quit wearing the aids for about several months.

About two years ago, I was involved in mediation with a former Judge as the mediator, which involved lengthy periods of waiting while the other side consulted with their client. During these periods, the mediator was kind enough to share with me his experiences with hearing aids and the whole process that he was involved in. While I thought the process had promise, it took several months before I would consider the cost and inquire into the product.

There were several places where I could investigate the product and after making some inquiries I chose to try the Heuser Hearing Institute in downtown Louisville. I found them to be very helpful, willing to answer my questions and to give me plenty of time to test the product before renting the aids to me.

What I was inquiring about was the Lyric aids which fit in the ear canal very close to the ear drum. After going through the initial testing program, the seemingly inevitable blister problems with the sizing and fitting process, and what I consider to be the high cost of the product, I finally signed on about 18 months ago and happily renewed the yearly rental contract 6 months ago.

The Lyric has disadvantages which include an inability to swim, the inability to remove and reinstall the aid yourself, and going to Louisville for battery replacement every couple of months. However, I have found that they eliminate the ear wax problem, the filter problem, and the battery problem. They are excellent for hearing in small group situations and fair for background noise situations. JUST FAIR! I have yet to try or even hear of any that are great with background noise.

I am out of state several times a year and Heuser has given me the necessary information and contacts to replace the aid or battery when I am out of town. With offices both downtown and DuPont "Square, I find them to be easily accessible from Bardstown.

Doug Hubbard