

## ***Here is what's new in our January 2018 Edition:***

**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.

**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 with others is a truly courageous thing.