



# Sound News

January 2013

Volume 26 no 1

## Affordable Hearing Aids Now Available to U.S. Veterans

HealthInnovations, a UnitedHealth Group (NYSE: UNH) company and Optum business, has launched a new program to make hearing aids more affordable for U.S. veterans and their spouses. The new program offers veterans and their spouses high-quality, custom-programmed digital hearing aids for as little as \$649 to \$849 each, depending on the model chosen. That compares to some hearing aids that retail for as much as \$4,000 each. Hearing loss is a growing health concern for some veterans, in part because of their history of noise exposure experienced during their time of service. Hearing loss is the second most common health condition among veterans, affecting more than 670,000 members of the armed forces nationwide, according to The Hearing Journal. To access the discount program, veterans work with a health professional, such as an audiologist, hearing aid dispenser or primary care physician, to get their hearing tested.

<http://tinyurl.com/b5sgu9a>

## Alternative Therapies: Building Better Treatments for Hearing Loss

What if hearing healthcare professionals could do more than fit hearing aids or warn patients about damaging noise levels? What if there were other, even better, ways to protect and restore a person's hearing, such as pills, injections, lasers, or a little "hair of the dog"? That day is coming. Scientists in the United States and abroad are exploring approaches to help more than 275 million people globally who have hearing loss, from members of the military who sustain auditory injury in combat to ordinary citizens who lose their hearing as a consequence of aging, noise, disease, or ototoxic drug exposure. Treatments are in the works for decreasing the relentless clamor of tinnitus, rescuing hearing after noise exposure, reversing congenital deafness, and staving off age-related hearing loss. Some alternative therapies have already found a place in clinical care and may one day become the standard of care.

<http://tinyurl.com/a2asc4r>

## American Girl Dolls to Come With Hearing Aids

When American Girl Dolls hit the market in 1986, the focus was on American History and how little girls lived during various eras of our nation's development. But over the years, the company has expanded the types of dolls it manufactures. In the 1990s, a customizable American Girl was created, and it was a hit: Little girls want dolls they can relate to, that look like them. And the customization is getting more specific:

Years ago parents had a tough time finding dolls with brown skin tone; black dolls came in one shade: dark-skinned.

The new American Girl catalog has a page called "Special Sparkle," featuring accessories for dolls: The usual fare you might find for Barbie, like boots and sunglasses, but also a wheelchair. A hearing aid. An allergy-free lunch with a medical bracelet and EpiPen.

<http://tinyurl.com/culv36m>

***Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us.***

*Hal Borland*

## Leone's Lines



Another fresh new year is here .

..

Another year to live!

To banish worry, doubt, and  
fear,

To love and laugh and give!

This bright new year is given  
me

To live each day with zest . . .

To daily grow and try to be  
My highest and my best!

I have the opportunity

Once more to right some  
wrongs,

To pray for peace, to plant a  
tree,

And sing more joyful songs!

*William Arthur Ward*

**A very Happy New  
year to one and all.**

## Does Your Child Have a Hearing Loss?

the following guidelines from the American Hearing Health Foundation can help parents detect a possible acquired hearing loss.

- Your child seems to hear fine some of the time and then not respond at other times
- Your child wants the TV volume louder than other members of the family
- Your child says "what?" more often.
- Your child moves one ear forward when listening, or he complains that he can only hear out of his "good ear".
- Your child's grades fall or their teacher notes that they do not seem to hear or respond as well in the classroom as other children.
- Your child says that they didn't hear you. This may seem obvious, but many parents assume that their children are not paying attention when in fact there may be an unidentified hearing loss.
- It seems as though your child is just not paying attention.
- Your child starts to speak more loudly than previously.
- If your child looks at you intensely when you speak to them, as if concentrating, they may be depending more on visual cues for interpreting speech.
- You just have a feeling, but you can't put your finger on what your concern is. Don't let that stop you. Ask your doctor for a referral to ease your mind.

If you suspect that your child has a hearing loss, you should contact your family doctor/GP. Source: <http://www.hsuoracle.com>

Members: if you have changed your e-mail address please notify Karin Smith of the change [karinsm@efn.org](mailto:karinsm@efn.org)

Hearing Loss Assoc.-Lane County, Oregon Information calls are taken by Linda Diaz 790-1290

HLA A is published monthly for members of Hearing Loss Association of Lane County.

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### Article Deadline: Second Thursday each month

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**Typesetting & Design** Leone Miller 744-2994

**Place an ad** Karen Swezey [kswezey@efn.org](mailto:kswezey@efn.org)

**National website:** [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)

**Oregon website:** [www.hearinglossOR.org](http://www.hearinglossOR.org)

## Soundbite Hearing Aid

There's a new device that could help the millions of people who have lost their hearing in one ear and don't benefit from traditional hearing aids.

Doctors at a Boston hospital are now fitting patients with a new device that transmits the sound through a patient's skull. The new hearing device is called the Soundbite. The bad ear is fitted with an earpiece with a tiny microphone. It transmits the sound to a special device which is placed on the jaw and carries the sound vibrations through the skull bones to the good ear.

Dr. Kenneth Grundfast, the director of the Otolaryngology Dept. at Boston Medical Center explains, "The sound goes from the bone, up into the skull to where the ear is located and vibrates the inner ear hair cells on the side where the hearing is good."

BMC senior audiologist Susan Kelleher explains, "Patients say it's amazing they can sit in a restaurant and hear a conversation." Unlike conventional hearing aids which usually aren't covered by insurance, some companies may pay for the new SoundBite because it's considered a prosthetic device and not a hearing aid.

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Sound News is a publication of HLA Lane Co and is published monthly.  
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New Survivor's Manuals –FREE to Anyone. Donations appreciated. Cost to mail copies is \$4 each or 20 for \$35. Send a check made out to HLA, PO Box

## Keeping Your Batteries Charged



### Information You Can Use

If you think only senior citizens need hearing aids, you're wrong: The fastest-growing group of people with hearing loss is under 65.

Researchers recommend that newborns delivered by caesarean section should not be given the otherwise routine hearing screening in the first few days after delivery. This will reduce the number of failed hearing tests.

A hearing aid that slots on to the back teeth could help people who are deaf in one ear. The system, being tested in Britain, works by re-routing sounds from the deaf ear to the working one. Around one in ten adults suffer from some degree of single-sided hearing loss, with around 10,000 new cases of complete deafness in one ear diagnosed each year. / *Daily Mail Oxford, England*

When using headphones, personal music players can subject listeners to noise levels similar to those of jet engines. Noise levels exceeding 110dB are known to cause hearing problems such as temporary hearing loss and tinnitus (ringing in the ears). But for the first time the underlying cell damage has been observed.

Turning the volume up too high on your headphones can damage the coating of the ears' nerve cells, leading to temporary hearing loss.



## Hearing and Young Children

- By 3 months, your baby recognizes your voice and makes cooing noises. Sudden, loud noises should startle your baby.
- By 6 months, your baby recognizes speech sounds and familiar noises. Interesting noises make your baby turn their head, and your baby plays with their own voice and laughs. Your baby also uses their voice to indicate pleasure and discomfort.
- By 9 months, your baby understands simple words like 'mommy' and 'daddy', 'no', 'bye-bye' and their own name.
- By 12 months, your toddler can speak one or more real, recognizable word.
- By 18 months, your toddler understands simple phrases and retrieves familiar objects on command and speaks between 20 to 50 words and short phrases and your toddler learns new words each week.
- By 24 months, your toddler's spoken vocabulary should be 200 to 300 words and simple sentences can be spoken. Adults who are not around the child on a daily basis can understand your child's speech. A toddler at this age should also be able to sit and listen while being read books.

A good life is when you smile often, dream big, laugh a lot and realize how blessed you are for what you have.

## Need Help Paying Your Monthly Phone Bill? OTAP

Oregon Telephone Assistance Program (OTAP) may provide a reduction in the monthly telephone bill for Oregonians who receive qualifying benefits.

E-MAIL: [puc.otap@state.or.us](mailto:puc.otap@state.or.us)

### PHONE:

**(800) 848-4442 - Voice**

**(800) 648-3458 - TTY**

**(877) 567-1977 - Fax**

**(971) 239-5845 - Videophone**

**Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

## Having Trouble Or Unable To Communicate By Telephone? TDAP

Telecommunication Devices Access Program (TDAP) loans adaptive telephone equipment at no cost and with no income restrictions to eligible Oregonians who are hearing, cognitive, vision, speech or mobility impaired.

E-MAIL: [puc.tdap@state.or.us](mailto:puc.tdap@state.or.us)



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HLAA, 7910 Woodmont Ave., Ste. 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814; 301-657-2248 (Voice); 301-657-224 (TTY); 301-913-9413 (Fax) or [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org). Get the latest e-news: <http://www.hearingloss.org/membership/>

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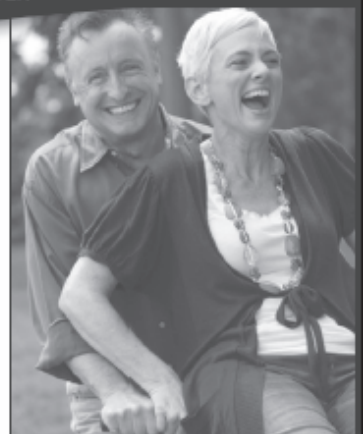
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## Hearing Loss Assoc. of Lane County Chapter Fee and National Membership Form

Please fill out this form /survey & mail to HLA - Lane Co., PO Box 22501, Eugene, OR 97402.

Additional contributions to either the national organization or our local chapter are always welcome and are tax deductible. We need your support! Please pay your dues today!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate (month/day) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ Prefer: TTY/TDD? Voice? Either ?

Please include the above information in the chapter participants directory.

I am a National HLA member: Yes No

I have enclosed: \$10.00 Chapter fees \$35.00 National dues

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Retired

Hobbies \_\_\_\_\_

Cause and type of hearing loss \_\_\_\_\_

How serious do you consider your hearing loss?

Mild Moderate Severer Profound Other

How did you learn about HLA? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to volunteer: on a regular occasional basis?

Ideas for future newsletter articles, meeting topics or speakers

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**Inside this issue:**

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If the month & year on your mailing label have already passed, it's time to renew your membership! Please use the form on page 6 to pay your dues today!

# January 10th Meeting

2580 Hilyard  
Hilyard Center  
7-9 pm

**Kraig Bohot, OHLA Public Information Officer,**  
will highlight the new requirements and provide a refresher on  
existing protections for hearing aid consumers.  
Kraig has served as OHLA communications point person since 2003,  
promoting the agency's work with multiple health and related  
professional boards to protect the health , safety and rights of  
Oregon consumers.

## Calendar

Board Meeting :  
Hilyard Community Ctr.  
2580 Hilyard St  
Eugene

Membership meetings are the 2nd  
Thursday of the month. They are  
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