

Sound News

September 2016

Volume 29 number 9

FCC Adopts Landmark Agreement to Improve Access to Hearing Aid Compatible Cell Phones and Wireless Devices

HLAA National Office

On August 4, 2016, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted new rules to ensure people with hearing loss have full access to wireless devices. As the FCC noted, the action taken “will modernize existing hearing aid compatibility (HAC) rules while maintaining the balance between fostering accessibility and promoting innovation and investment.”

Upon the adoption of the rules, FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler said in his statement, “One area where the Commission has made significant progress in making sure accessibility is baked into new technology is hearing aid compatibility for new mobile devices. Today we take another step toward the day when Americans with hearing loss can access the same range of wireless handsets as anyone else.”



The new rules will require manufacturers and service providers to make more HAC phones available to consumers:

- 66 percent of offered handset models must be compliant within two years for manufacturers of handsets, with additional time for service providers.
- 85 percent of handsets must be compliant within five years for manufacturers, again with additional time for service providers.

The FCC reported that it “reconfirms its commitment to pursuing 100 percent compatibility within eight years.” Chairman Wheeler stated, “To be clear, we expect to require 100 percent compliance.”

FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn noted, “I know I am in good company in saying that I look forward to the day when all Americans who use hearing aids have the same options as everyone else when purchasing a mobile phone.”

HLAA was intimately involved in the collaborative effort that led to the groundbreaking [consensus letter](#) signed by industry representatives: CTIA, the Competitive Carriers Association (CCA), the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), and consumer organizations: HLAA, Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. (TDI), and the National Association of the Deaf (NAD).

HLAA would like to thank all the parties to the consensus proposal for their willingness to compromise and their commitment to finding a way to reach the goal of 100 percent HAC phones. We are thrilled to see our hard work codified into rules.

HLAA is also grateful for the efforts of FCC Commission staff, Chairman Wheeler and all the Commissioners in taking the consensus proposal from an idea to reality by drafting and adopting these updated HAC rules.

FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel said in her remarks supporting the new rules, “Hearing loss is a big deal.” All of us at HLAA – members, staff and board alike, know only too well how true those words are. These new rules will give those of us with hearing loss greater access to mainstream products and services, thus giving us more tools to live well with hearing loss.

Press Release August 10, 2016 by HLAA National

Editors' Notes

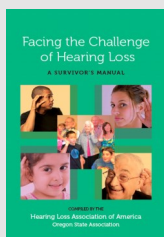
This month we are focusing on how to improve our chapter. There was a special meeting on August 15 for ideas. We would also like to hear from you!



We are running a one-time special Oregon PUC sponsorship because it was incorrect in a past issue. Also the instructions to make a badge on page 5 are in the gray box. Lesley and Tim

Available at the Eugene Public Library!

New Survivor's Manuals



FREE to Anyone

They keep 2 copies to check out on the second floor. We supply the free ones. Donations appreciated.

Cost to mail copies is \$4 each or 20 for \$35
PO Box 22501, Eugene, OR 97402

Special Chapter Meeting—August 15, 2016

A special meeting was held on Monday, August 15 to discuss issues related to keeping the chapter going. Primary concerns were the lack of attendance at general meetings, the burn-out felt by many long-time leaders, and the lack of volunteers to help with events and activities.

Main points from the meeting:

- Do publicity/ads in local newspapers and weeklies using chapter funds.
- Get a Facebook page for the chapter and link it to website.
- Get acrylic holders for the survivor's manuals and place them around town.
- Develop a workshop and publicize it using the five point approach.
- The board should investigate changing the general meeting time (like to 5 to 7 pm).
- Make contact with local hearing aid dispensers to promote chapter.
- Contact various agencies and organizations (VR, Willamalane, Campbell Center, community organizations, VA, etc.) about publicizing the chapter.
- Emphasize social gatherings.
- Ask people one-on-one to volunteer and help with specific tasks.

Key Issue – all of these need volunteers/people to help do them.



Speak up! - It will help the next person with hearing loss get the accommodations we all need.

Members: if you have changed your e-mail address please notify Karin Smith of the change at: karinsm@efn.org

Hearing Loss Assoc.-Lane County Oregon information calls are taken by Linda Diaz, 541-790-1290

Sound News is published monthly for members of Hearing Loss Association of America Lane County Oregon Chapter. Annual chapter fee of \$10.00 can be mailed to HLAA-LC, PO Box 22501, Eugene, OR 97402.

Officers

President	vacant
Vice President	vacant
Treasurer	Clark Anderson
Secretary	Tim Bergquist
Meetings/Program	Donna (on sabbatical '2017) Andrea
Meeting Room Setup	Arnie Goodman
Database	Karen Swezey
Hospitality	Brenda Holman
Publicity	Roseana Perry
Community Outreach	
Newsletter Mailing	Pat Reilly
Past President	Andrea Cabral

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Andrea Cabral	541-345-9432(V/TTY/Fax)	angora@comcast.net
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Article Deadline: Second Thursday each month
Newsletter Editors Lesley & Tim Bergquist
Typesetting & Design Lesley & Tim Bergquist

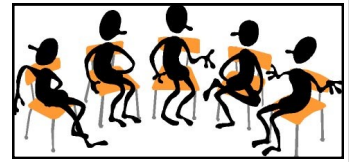
National website: www.hearingloss.org
Oregon website: www.hearinglossOR.org
Chapter website: www.hearinglosslane.org

Is It Time for a Chapter Tune-up?

HCAA National Office (Graphics not in original article.)

Signs the chapter may need a tune-up:

- Meeting attendance is low, declining, or static.
- The same people serve as leaders year after year.
- There is little interaction, enthusiasm and participation during meetings.



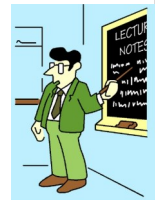
Signs the chapter tune-up worked:

- There is a turnover in leadership, every few years.
- Members are involved on committees or in some other activity.
- Membership is growing steadily and there are many inquiries about the organization.
- There is something educational and fun at every meeting.
- People generally feel pleased to attend meetings and feel they get something from the programs and peer support.



A Common Concern. The single most common concern all chapters have is gaining and keeping new members and leaders. Engaging in outreach and publicity is the best way to increase membership. The most important committee to have, even if there are no others, is a Publicity/ Outreach Committee or a Community Awareness Committee. Below are some strategies you might implement:

1. Recruit all members to be part of a Community Awareness Committee or Publicity/ Outreach Committee.
2. Distribute meeting and/or special event announcements. Ask organizations that print community or service directories to include HCAA.
3. Prepare details about meetings for local papers and small community papers.
4. Ask hearing health professionals (audiologists, hearing instrument specialists, otologists, otolaryngologists, speech-language therapists, etc.) to help.
5. Use the Internet.
6. Encourage people to attend HCAA Webinars.
7. Seize opportunities to participate in community health fairs, farmer's markets, and similar local events.
8. Give professional memberships.
9. Public Speaking.
10. Special Events.
11. Hearing Screenings.
12. Use a list of HCAA members in your area.
13. Form an Outreach Committee.
14. Create a Buddy System.
15. Contact Newcomers one or two days after a meeting to ask them how they liked the meeting.
16. Consider having social gatherings outside of regular meetings every few months.
17. Periodically evaluate whether the chapter needs a tune-up.



**ALL
ARE
WELCOME**



Full Article at:

http://www.hearingloss.org/sites/default/files/docs/Is_It_Time_for_a_Chapter_Tune_up_v2.pdf

Oregon Relay...

Everyone deserves to
communicate by telephone
Just dial 7-1-1



Oregon Relay is a free service that allows individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, or who has a speech disability to place and receive calls through specially trained relay operators. There are several forms of Oregon Relay services, depending on the needs of the user and telephone equipment.

For more information:

www.oregonrelay.com

SprintTRSCustServ@sprint.com (Email)

800-676-3777 (TTY / Voice)

877-877-3291 (Fax)

877-787-1989 (Speech-disabled)

866-931-9027 (Voice Carry-Over)

800-676-4290 (español)



Oregon Relay is a service provided
by the Oregon Public Utility Commission.

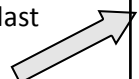


Out and About

On August 3, **Linda Diaz, Lesley Bergquist, and Tim Bergquist** checked out the new loop system for the ticket booth at the John G. Shedd Institute for the Arts.

On August 22, **Andrea Cabral** met with staff from the University of Oregon Theater to discuss assistive listening systems in their facilities.

The text below was inadvertently deleted when the newsletter was printed last month. Here it is again.



Hard
Of
Hearing

**PLEASE
FACE ME**



Hearing
Loss

**PLEASE
FACE ME**

Make your own badge by cutting out these graphics, purchase for \$1 at our general meeting or go online to:

[http://hearinglosslane.org/resources/How to make your own hospital kit](http://hearinglosslane.org/resources/How%20to%20make%20your%20own%20hospital%20kit)

– **“Face Me” Badge:** There are 8 badges on each sheet. Using regular paper, it is easier to print the pages separately (not double-sided). Cut out along outside edges. *They are designed to fit in a vertical badge holder (insert size 2.5 x 3.5) available at office supply stores.* A different style can be used on each side of the badge. They can be fastened to you with an I.D. strap clip or a large safety pin. These are also very helpful when traveling.

Why join National? - Who do you think *advocates for us* on a national level so we are included in plans for education, health benefits, phone, TV access and the right to have access to other information?

Annual membership in HLAA is \$20 student, \$35 individuals, \$45 couple/family, \$60 professional. It includes the award-winning bi-monthly magazine, *Hearing Loss*. Write HLAA, 7910 Woodmont Ave., Ste. 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814; 301-657-2248 (Voice); 301-913-9413 (Fax) or www.hearingloss.org. Get the latest e-news: www.hearingloss.org/content/e-news-sign.



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

Please fill out this form /survey and turn in at the general meeting or mail to HLAA - Lane Co., PO Box 22501, Eugene, OR 97402.

I have enclosed: **Chapter fee** _____ \$10.00 per person,

Chapter Donation of \$ _____

National dues _____ \$35.00 (regular), _____ \$20 student, _____ \$45 couple,
_____ \$60 professional*

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Preferred phone: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Occupation (*former occupation if retired*): _____

Why are you joining us? _____

What most interests/puzzles you about hearing or hearing devices?

Are you interested in volunteering? What would you like to do?

How did you learn about us _____?

Would you like to be on our e-mail news list: _____ Yes _____ No

*Donations to either the national organization or our local chapter are always welcome and are tax deductible. (We do not share our information lists with anyone else. Receipts will gladly be provided.)

Memorial/Honorarium or Special Donations

I enclose a donation of:

___\$10 ___\$20 ___\$50 \$____

This gift is In Memory of: _____

In Honor of _____

___ Birthday

___ Anniversary ___ Holidays

___ Marriage

___ Survivors' Manual ___ Other

Please send notification of this gift to:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

This gift is from:

Name _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____


ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

This copy is free -
please feel free
to take it.

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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 5 to pay your dues today!

 **Hearing Loss Association of America**
Lane County Oregon Chapter
2580 Hilyard St., Eugene, OR

**HLAA-LC
General Meeting!
7 pm**

September 8, 2016

The Future of the Chapter:

This will be a rap session led by
Andrea Cabral and you!

What do you want from your chapter?

What are your favorite things? What do you like least?

Speakers, written information, rap sessions, social activities, food, location, meeting time, movies, etc?

Please bring written questions and ideas to share.

Family and friends are welcome. We will have fun!



If you do not attend the general meetings - why not? What would encourage you to come? If you cannot come to this meeting, please send your ideas so we have your input by mail to our PO Box return address, web site or e-mail listed below.

Accessible for all degrees of hearing loss - Amplification, Loop Assistive listening system and Real Time Captioning provided.
For more information, contact: lesleyb@earthlink.net.
Please put "HLAA-LC Meeting" in the subject line.
Website: www.hearinglosslane.org

Hear here!



Calendar

General membership meetings are the 2nd Thursday of the month except July and August. They are accessible for all degrees of hearing loss by amplification - loop assistive listening systems.

Real time captioning by CC Reporting
(Debby, Chris, Jan and welcome Sara)

Board Meeting

August 30, 3:30 to 5 pm
Members Welcome
Hilyard Community Ctr.
2580 Hilyard St Eugene