

	<p>HEAR THIS ! <i>(It's Personal)</i></p>	<p>PROGRAMS</p>
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President's Corner – Marilyn Weinhouse



First things first. Thank you Bonnie for serving as President for over two years. And thanks to Bill for his work as Treasurer. We will miss you both but are thrilled you are fulfilling your dreams with your new "horse ranch" in Riverside County! Thanks to Rhod Resella for stepping up to Treasurer.

We are thrilled to once again to have Dawna Mills from House Ear Institute talk to us today about Cochlear Implants.

HLAA-SD Steering Committee Officers:

- President: Marilyn Weinhouse
- Vice President: Char Sivertson
- Treasurer: Rhod Resella
- Secretary: Larry Sivertson

Board Members: Dolli Cutler, Joan Padilla
Christy Stolzer

If you are not an HLAA member, you can sign up any time. Membership is good for one year from date you join.

How much does membership cost?

Yearly dues are \$35 individual or \$45 couple. Make checks out to "Hearing Loss Association of America" and notate on the check *for San Diego Chapter.* Checks will be collected and we will send them to National, which will then send us \$10 back for each membership.

HLAA Web Sites:

<http://hearinglosssandiego.org/home>

<http://www.hearingloss.org/>

Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/34x87dq>

Member News

Julia Marsh, who is currently undergoing treatment for cancer, very much appreciated our get-well card and concern. She is resting from her 2nd chemo treatment and making the best of it.

Please send your newsletter news to:
Char Sivertson csivertson@juno.com



Member Spotlight

Since one of the great things about this group is knowing each other, we showcase members in our newsletter. This month it is:

Char Sivertson

1. Tell us about yourself.
I was born and grew up in South Dakota. It is amazing that I have lived longer here in San Diego, for 30 years. I have worked for Northrop Grumman, a defense contractor, for over 28 years. I am currently Publications Manager there. Everyone knows I am married to Larry, my high school sweetheart. Let's see....that is 38 years. (I am not going to tell you my age – you can probably figure it out anyway.) We have two sons, two wonderful daughters-in-law, two fabulous granddaughters, and a pretty cool little dog named Scruffy.



2. Tell us about your hearing loss.

My progressive hearing loss started when I was 15 years old. I "progressed" over the years to a CI in one ear and an old analog hearing aid in the other. I am doing very well now, but I can say hearing loss pretty much ruled my life till I got a CI.

3. How has hearing loss affected your life?

Since I tried to hide my hearing loss for most of my life, I did not cope well and found life to be a struggle. I felt very sorry for myself. Dealing with school, work and relationships was very difficult and tiring. I blamed my hearing loss for not allowing me to reach my potential.

4. How did you become involved in HLAA?

I can't recall how I heard about hearing loss support groups, but one day I found myself at my first meeting of the Association of Late Deafened Adults and that changed my life. Shortly after that I went to my first hearing loss conference and it was amazing to meet all these people who shared the same problems because of hearing loss. I was so inspired and came out of hiding. Another blessing was that Larry also became very involved and ALDA/HLAA is something we do together. We meet the most wonderful people through these organizations. Hearing loss no longer defines me, it is just part of who I am.

HLAA San Diego 2011 Meetings (subject to change):

January 15. Our own Larry Sivertson talks about speech reading, formerly known as lipreading. Fun and games!

February 19. Roberta Smith from Deaf & Disabled Telecommunications Program (DDTP) will be talking about all the great phones available through the California Telecommunications Access Program (CTAP), which provides phones at **no cost** to Californians with hearing loss.

March 19. Audiologist Linda Oliver will be discussing the latest in hearing aid technologies, what we can expect in the near future, and how to get the most out of your hearing aids.

April 16. Dawna Mills from the House Ear Institute will discuss the latest in Cochlear Implant technology, who is a CI candidate, and what to expect as you go through the process.



May 21. Our own Marilyn Weinhouse presents on assistive technology, a field changing so fast it's hard to keep up!

June 18. Joe Pelatt, Awareness Network Manager for Cochlear in the Southwest, will be presenting to our group on June 18, 2011. Don't miss this; it's going to be fantastic. Joe suffered sudden unexplained deafness in both ears, 22 years apart. He was implanted in April 1998. Read about Joe's story here: <http://www.cochlearcommunity.com/JoePelatt> Joe is located in Phoenix and will be coming to San Diego just for us.

July 16. We'll have an ice cream social at our July meeting. This is a great opportunity to chat with folks and get to know each other a little better.

August 20. No meeting in August

September 17. Annual picnic with indoor and outdoor activities.

October 15. Jennifer Raulie, a Bionic Ear Association Manager, will tell us about the Advanced Bionic device as well as the new 'Clear Voice' technology.

November 19. We'll have a discussion of how people with hearing loss and their families can cope with the holidays.

December 17. Holiday Brunch and White Elephant Gift Exchange! Our holiday brunch is always amazing.

News from Elizabeth LeBarron, HLAA National

For information about the HLAA Convention, go to www.hearingloss.org. For more information about HLAA's Walk4Hearing, go to Walk4Hearing.org.

The online *HLAA American Academy of Hearing Loss Support Specialists*[®] course is being revised. The course will be broken into smaller segments of four courses rather than one large one.

To ensure the future of HLAA we are promoting planned giving and encouraging people to join the HLAA Legacy Circle. A new brochure is being printed and will be available to anyone who wants to know more about planned giving with HLAA in mind. Since the fall 2010 when this became a focus of HLAA development, eight new planned gifts have been committed.

HLAA is preparing the 2010 report to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in response to their notice to assess the status of hearing-aid-compatible phones. In order to prepare the HLAA comments and ensure that we were expressing consumer feedback, we ran a survey on www.hearingloss.org. More than 750 people responded. We learned that there is still a lot of education to do as people did not know the immunity of their hearing aids, nor were they sure about what the ratings of the cell phones meant. We are currently doing a more in-depth analysis of the results and will send a summary to the FCC when that is finished.

HLAA submitted comments to the Department of Justice (DOJ) regarding captioning of movies. HLAA's position on movie captioning is that movies should be made accessible to people with hearing loss through either open or closed captioning. Consumers should be able to see any movie, any day, any time with the undue burden defense provided for small theaters that cannot afford to make the movies accessible. Thank you and congratulations to our grassroots supporters who sent in their comments. To date close to 1,000 comments have been sent to the DOJ.

HLAA signed on to a petition to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requesting universal TV captioning. This means consumers are asking that all the exceptions to the captioning rules such as advertisements, trailers, and late night TV be eliminated.

United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan notified HLAA Executive Director Brenda Battat officially of her appointment to serve on the National Advisory Group for the National Technical Institute for the Deaf. Her term of office runs from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2014.

Congratulations to new HLAA board member, researcher Meg Wallhagen, professor in the Department of Physiological Nursing, University of California at San Francisco School of Nursing. Meg has been successful in getting funding from National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) for her proposal to develop a cost-effective, hearing-screening tool for physicians to use when taking a patient's history. These grants are highly competitive and go through a rigorous review process.

HLAA attended a meeting at the Office of Personnel Management to discuss the Federal Employees Benefit Plan that is the health plan for Federal employees. The reason for the meeting was to:

- Educate the participants about bone-anchored implantable hearing devices and distinguish them from hearing aids.
- Discuss the fact that there is no option for individuals who need this surgery.
- Review outcomes and relevant research.
- Note that Medicare, Medicaid, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, UnitedHealth Care, Aetna, and several Blue Cross plans cover bone-anchored hearing devices as a prosthetic device.
- Gain full coverage as a prosthetic including coverage of Softband for children not old enough to have the surgery.

Executive Director Brenda Battat was invited to attend the March seminar of the Ida Institute on Living Well with Hearing Loss in Copenhagen, Denmark. The Ida Institute (www.idainstitute.com) was funded by Oticon to better understand approaches to treatment for people with hearing loss. Most of the participants will be audiologists from all over the world. Brenda will bring the consumer perspective. Sam Trychin, Ph.D., and HLAA Board of Trustee Dr. Joe Montano, are frequent presenters at the Ida Institute.

HLAA is a member of the steering committee of the "National Disability Leadership Alliance - Nothing About us Without Us." In preparation for the upcoming election, and to ensure that barriers stopping people with disabilities from voting will be removed, HLAA signed on to a letter to President Obama urging him to fill the election commission's vacant seats.
