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From the President Melissa O’Neill:

"Come on everyone, show your spirit! Come to meetings, suggest speaker topics, volunteer your time, walk4hearing, help plan the holiday party, plan to attend the 2016 convention and help make a picnic plan!"

We certainly have a lively board this year :).

The Mission of HLAA is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support and advocacy.

Please look at our website. There are a lot of updates coming up in near future.

Please let Carrie or Melissa know if you would like to join with us.

Our email is missyhla@gmail.com or CMNHLAA@outlook.com

http://www.hearinglossbaltimore.org/
Hello HLAA GBC,

Hello everyone. How did your summer go so far? Time does fly by. Last Saturday, Sept 12th, 2015, I was invited speak at the DCWalk4Hearing kick off at Maggiano's Little Italy restaurant in the DC area.

This is a transcript of my speech,

My name is Carrie Nicholsen and I am Vice President at HLAA Greater Baltimore area… I was born deaf and grew up with hearing aids. When I was in my 20’s I decided to get cochlear implants (Advanced Bionics) because I wanted to hear more sounds.

I have a dog that is a black labrador named Lily, Lily is my hearing/service dog. She has an important job. She alerts me when someone rings the doorbell, when the phone rings or someone calls my name and she picks my keys or credit card when I drop them. Also, she will alert me if someone is behind me in the parking lot.

I am involved with the DC Walk because I wanted to build up our HLAA chapter again and help others with their hearing loss. I enjoy supporting them to help them get the devices they want. We donate money to help people who have hearing loss. It is also a great way to meet new people who have hearing loss or are deaf. No matter whom we meet, it is a great way to get to know people and learn while we walk for hearing.

I am so glad I got involved with HLAA because of this. I meet new people and learn how they cope with life with their hearing loss. There, a lot of people are familiar with my work for HLAA Greater Baltimore Chapter. I work on the website, make flyers, and host the chapter’s FB page. We all work together to reach our goals and we learn new things everyday with our hearing loss.

I wanted to say thanks to many people who support me and understand where we stand with our hearing loss and we can do it! Yes we can!

Thank you everyone....
July 12, 2015

Melissa O’Neill selected for Hamilton Relay 2015 Better Hearing and Speech Month Recognition Award for the State of Maryland

Melissa O’Neill has been selected as the Hamilton Relay 2015 Better Hearing and Speech Month Recognition Award recipient for the state of Maryland. She is an enthusiastic leader and volunteer, and is dedicated to improving the lives of individuals who are hard of hearing.

Melissa is currently serving as the president of the Greater Baltimore Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA). In addition to providing support and information to people with hearing loss, she is actively involved in organizing social activities for the chapter, including the summer picnic and holiday party.

Melissa is committed to bettering her community and for the past several years has helped raise money for the Salvation Army of Columbia, Maryland. She has also held internship positions at University of Maryland, Paul’s Place and the National Student Partnership in Baltimore all of which were aimed at improving the lives of individuals in the community. Through these positions, she was able to assist in a number of ways, including finding housing and employment for clients, helping with an afterschool program and leading a reading club for young girls.

We commend Melissa for her leadership and advocacy on behalf of individuals who are hard of hearing and are proud to present her with the Hamilton Relay 2015 Better Hearing and Speech Month Recognition Award for the state of Maryland.

This leadership recognition has been brought to you by Hamilton Relay.

About Hamilton Relay
Hamilton Relay provides contracted Traditional Relay and/or Captioned Telephone services to 18 states, the District of Columbia and the Island of Saipan, and is a provider of Internet-based Captioned Telephone services nationwide. More information is available at [www.hamiltonrelay.com](http://www.hamiltonrelay.com).
Story about Bob Leepa

WHY I APPRECIATE HLAA:

After retiring as an Engineering Manager at Westinghouse in 1994, I found myself involved in more discussions at home and other casual places. Saying "What?" became all too familiar and eventually led to hearing tests, Hearing Aids and a Cochlear Implant (CI) in 1999. The implant has made a significant improvement in listening and I am thrilled with it. The upgrade in external parts in 2005 provided a much better T-Coil and opened up the world of loops to me.

My connection with HLAA, (then SHHH) started in 1998 when at a CI Hospital based Support Group meeting, I asked a meeting neighbor where he found out about all those CI accessories. His answer was: join an SHHH group-they check out various aids and techniques. I joined SHHH and soon found the local Baltimore area chapter. They were a friendly group that met in a church Hall once a month in the evenings; I was hooked. Since then I became active in the Chapter and have been an officer or board member ever since. My wife and I have both participated in meetings, training sessions and conventions. I was also active in rehabbing houses in the city, some travel and in hiking and biking. In this period I had two major accidents (one a car-bike accident in 2003) that caused to back out of chapter action but which later gave the basis for a chapter hospital-kit-program which others joined. Overall HLAA has done a lot for me.

The National HLAA Office is awesome in what it does especially in advocacy, conventions and the magazine Hearing Loss, and, the local chapter is friendly and educational. I urge any one with in interest in Hearing Loss to join the HLAA and come to the local chapter meetings.
Story about Amy Bopp:

Amy Bopp is a 1977 graduate of the Rochester Institute of Technology's Social Work program. Amy served on the Advisory Board for CIRS - Centralized Interpreter Referral Service in 1987, taught classes for CIRS from 1988-1992 and has been the Sign Language Program Coordinator at The Hearing and Speech Agency since 1992. She has also taught sign language classes at Towson University, Catonsville Community College, People Encouraging People, and has substituted as a teacher in the Baltimore City schools as well as taught sign classes for the Baltimore County Adult Continuing Education Program.

She has worked in Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia and Baltimore. Her jobs have included the Educational Program Coordinator for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Legal Services for the Deaf, Independent Living Skills instructor for the Houston Center for Independent Living, psychosocial counselor for the Chicago Center on Deafness, Sign Language Instructor for the Chicago Hearing Society and psycho-social mental health counselor for People Encouraging People. Amy grew up in Pennsylvania, first in New Castle, PA, then along the Main Line, Philadelphia (Berwyn, Ardmore, Radnor, Bryn Mawr). One sister lives in Fort Washington, PA. The other sister lives in Richmond, VA. Since 1982, Amy has resided in Baltimore, Maryland. Her three grownup hearing children use sign language or fingerspelling to communicate.

Amy is a longtime member of the American Sign Language Teachers Association, the National Association of the Deaf and the Hearing Loss Association of America, including the local Baltimore chapter. In 2015, Amy finished a long term serving on the Maryland Governor's Advisory Council for the Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing since 2009. She is a current and longstanding member and past president of the Hearing Loss Association of America-Greater Baltimore Chapter.

She was the 2008 recipient of the Hamilton Relay Leadership Award. She also serves on the Board of Directors for LIFT - Learning is For Tomorrow. Amy has also been a longtime member of the American Sign Language Teachers Association dating back to the days when it was called S.I.G.N. Sign Language Instructors Guidance Network. Amy volunteers annually as a SSP Support Service Provider at the West River Deaf/Blind Camp in Maryland. In 2008, Hamilton Relay recognized Amy Bopp as the 2008 Deaf/Hard of Hearing leader for the State of Maryland.

Personal Life

Born September 20, 1954, Amy's current hometown is Baltimore, but she was born in Medina, Ohio and grew up in Pennsylvania. She wore a hearing aid growing up and has bilateral cochlear implants.

Amy was mainstreamed in public school (Radnor Junior and Senior High School ’72 in Radnor, PA) before the event of sign language interpreters, note takers and captioning. Not being able to hear, she read ahead in her textbooks propped under her desk while the teacher lectured. Hence her nickname: “The Bookworm”. Here’s a family story: “My two older sisters and I were named after the characters in my mother's favorite book, “Little Women”, Meg, Beth and Amy. My mother was pregnant with her fourth child when she died of leukemia. The fourth child would have been named Joseph if a boy, or Josephine if a girl.

Amy couldn’t hear the whistle to play basketball, couldn’t hear the music to be a cheerleader, couldn't participate in Spelling Bees and couldn’t get excused from Social Study class to study in the library when an educational film was shown in class without captions or a narrator to speech read. When Amy requested to study in the library, the teacher said, “Good try” in a sarcastic tone instead of acknowledging Amy’s deafness. When classes were based on hearing ability, such as French class, Amy could not hear to learn the French pronunciations. Every day after school, Amy spent an hour with the teacher endlessly trying to learn to pronounce French words from class. A trip to Europe gave Amy a chance to practice French in real life! “Je suis sourd!”

Amy only saw sign language twice in her growing up years, once by her Vocational Rehabilitation counselor, and once a couple of friends signing rapid-fire back and forth to each other on a subway in Philly. Amy thought “Cool… I can SEE that, I can learn that!” Finally, Amy learned sign language in college at the Rochester Institute of Technology '77/NTID in Rochester New York, and has never looked back.
http://www.hearinglossbaltimore.org/

The Hearing Loss Association of Greater Baltimore is a chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America. The national organization was founded by Rocky Stone as Self Help for Hard of Hearing People in 1979; the name was changed in 2006. Our local chapter was founded by a group of Baltimore area residents .... Originally meeting in ..., the meetings were moved to the Hearing and Speech Agency in ....

People join our chapter when they find they have a hearing loss and decide to do something about it above and beyond visiting the audiologist. They come to learn how hearing loss affects people, how to compensate for a hearing loss, how to deal with personal, family, school, work, and social situations where hearing loss has an impact; to help others with hearing loss; to advocate on the local and national level for access via captioning, interpretation, technology; and to advocate for protection for folks with hearing loss, and to fulfill a desire for camaraderie with other folks who understand what it is to have a hearing loss.

Come visit! Our meetings are free to all.

There is a website for Walk4Hearing.

http://hlaa.convio.net/site/TR/Teamraiser/WashingtonDCWalk?team_id=39389&pg=team&fr_id=2297

http://hlaa.convio.net/site/TR/Teamraiser/WashingtonDCWalk?px=1538017&pg=personal&fr_id=2297

If you would like to know more information about Walk4Hearing. Please contact me at CMNHAA@outlook.com. And it is on the Baltimore website too.

Thank you!! Your team leader Carrie Nielsen-Vice President of Greater Baltimore Chapter!!!
Howard E. “Rocky” Stone

Founder of Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH)

Read Rocky’s book: An Invisible Condition: The Human Side of Hearing Loss

Biographical Information

Howard E. “Rocky” Stone was born in 1925 in Cincinnati, Ohio. He began working at an early age to help support his mother and two sisters during the Depression. During World War II military service at age 19, a nearby explosion resulted in a bilateral hearing loss. Following military discharge, he attended the University of Southern California, where in 1949 he earned a degree in International Affairs. He then won a scholarship to the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, but did not complete the program because his hearing loss precluded him from taking the oral exams.

Recruited by the Central Intelligence Agency, he spent 25 years in federal service with assignments to half a dozen Near and Far East countries. On retirement in 1975, he received the agency’s highest award, the Distinguished Intelligence Medal.

Because there were no services for hard of hearing people, Rocky founded SHHH in 1979, serving as its volunteer executive director until 1993. Having overcome the challenge of childhood poverty and a profound hearing loss, Rocky believed in the ability of individuals to help themselves; “I established SHHH as a membership organization run by people with hearing loss. We provide information necessary for them to make choices, but emphasize the choice must be theirs. The challenge is to develop togetherness within diversity.”

The growth of SHHH was phenomenal. Within four years, the membership grew to almost 6000. By the end of 1984, there were 122 SHHH chapters. Today, SHHH is the premier consumer organization for people with hearing loss. The SHHH mission is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss through education, advocacy and support.

Mr. Stone served as founding member, volunteer, consultant and elected chair of various national organizations and committees dedicated to meeting the needs of people with disabilities, particularly hearing loss. In 1988, he was appointed by President Reagan to serve on the Architectural and Transportation barriers Compliance Board (“Access Board”), which drafted the accessibility guidelines for the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. In 1990, he was appointed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to the advisory council of the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders at the National Institutes of Health. He was awarded an honorary doctorate degree form Gallaudet University where he served on the board of the Gallaudet Research Institute.

Following retirement in 1993 as SHHH’s first executive director, macular degeneration greatly impaired his sight. A cochlear implant in 1994 gave him better hearing. He liked to say, “I have only lost my sight, not my vision.” Despite his disabilities, he served four years as president of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People, was a member of the board of directors of Hearing International, and the Cochlear Implant Club International, and founded the organization Teamwork, Inc., to promote cochlear implantation.

Rocky Stone whose love of and compassion for people knew no bounds died on August 13, 2004 of complications from pneumonia.
“The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 spells OPPORTUNITY. It gives us the opportunity to achieve what we have sought for years – communication accessibility.”

--Rocky Stone

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) prohibits discrimination and ensures equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in employment, state and local government services, public accommodations, commercial facilities, and transportation. It also mandates the establishment of TDD/telephone relay services. The current text of the ADA includes changes made by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-325), which became effective on January 1, 2009. The ADA was originally enacted in public law format and later rearranged and published in the United States Code.

Rocky Stone who founded HLAA under the name of Self Help for Hard of Hearing People advocated for the landmark legislation. One outcome of the ADA was that communication access guidelines in public places were created both for people who are deaf and for those who are hard of hearing. The law requires “reasonable accommodation” and that can mean different things depending on the person and the situation. It provides for technology options in addition to sign language interpreters.

Stone was appointed by President Reagan to the Access Board who wrote the regulations for the ADA. If it weren’t for Rocky Stone and SHHH members at the time who gave critical input, there would be nothing in the law other than sign language and captioning. The law puts people with hearing loss on equal footing with others in the workplace and public places.
Nearly 1 in 12 Children Ages 3–17 Has a Disorder Related to Voice, Speech, Language, or Swallowing

About 1 in 12 children has a disorder related to voice, speech, language, or swallowing

June 9, 2015

Nearly 1 in 12 children ages 3–17 has had a disorder related to voice, speech, language, or swallowing in the past 12 months, according to results of the first nationally representative survey of these disorders among children in the United States. Data from a supplement to the 2012 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) also reveal that more than half of children with a communication or swallowing disorder receive intervention services. The findings are published in a data brief released June 9 by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).

The analysis was done by researchers from NCHS and from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), part of the National Institutes of Health, which collaborated on the development of the supplemental questions regarding children’s communications disorders and co-funded the study.

Among the 7.7 percent of children with a communication or swallowing disorder, speech problems are most prevalent (5.0 percent), followed by language problems (3.3 percent), voice problems (1.4 percent), and swallowing problems (0.9 percent). More than one-third (34 percent) of children ages 3–10 have multiple voice, speech, language, or swallowing disorders, while about one-quarter (25.4 percent) of children ages 11-17 have more than one of these disorders.

To determine the prevalence of communication disorders among children, researchers analyzed information about a child randomly selected from each family participating in the NHIS; the data were collected from a parent or other adult living in the household. The NHIS is a nationally representative survey conducted annually and using personal household interviews to gather information about a range of health topics. Questions were asked about the child’s experience in the past year. Based on the analysis, researchers found that young children ages 3–6, boys, and non-Hispanic black children are more likely than other children to have one of these communication or swallowing disorders.
Early diagnosis and intervention services have shown to be effective in treating communication and swallowing disorders, leading to better quality of life, and in some cases, better academic success. Of the children who were reported to have had a communication or swallowing disorder, more than half (55.2 percent) had received treatment in the past year. Treatments include, for example, speech-language therapy or other intervention services. According to the data brief, children who have speech problems or language problems are more likely to receive intervention services, 67.6 percent and 66.8 percent respectively, compared to those who have voice disorder (22.8 percent) or swallowing problems (12.7 percent).

The data brief also highlights demographic differences among children with communication and swallowing disorders.

- Boys are more likely than girls to have a communication disorder, 9.6 percent compared to 5.7 percent.
- The prevalence of communication disorders is highest among children ages 3–6 (11.0 percent), compared to 9.3 percent of children ages 7–10, and 4.9 percent of children ages 11–17.
- Nearly one in 10 (9.6 percent) of black children has a communication disorder, compared to 7.8 percent of white children, and 6.9 percent of Hispanic children.

The researchers also reported demographic differences among children who had received services to improve their communication or swallowing disorders.

- White children with communication or swallowing disorders are more likely to receive intervention services, compared to Hispanic and black children, at 60.1 percent, 47.3 percent, and 45.8 percent respectively.
- Boys are more likely than girls to receive intervention services, at 59.4 percent and 47.8 percent, respectively.

"While it is encouraging that more than half of children with communication and swallowing disorders have received some form of intervention services, increasing the number of children, particularly black and Hispanic children, who receive intervention services is critical to helping children reach their full potential," said Howard J. Hoffman, M.A., co-author of the data brief and NIDCD director of epidemiology and statistics.
**Membership**

Welcome to the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), the country’s leading membership and advocacy organization for people with hearing loss. As a member of HLAA you are part of an organization with a mission to provide information, support and advocacy to people with hearing loss. Through our advocacy work at the federal level, we represent 48 million people with hearing loss in the United States. See the video HLAA – Teamwork for Hearing Loss Awareness for information about HLAA. If you prefer to mail-in or fax your membership form, please [download the membership form](#) for your convenience.

Complimentary HLAA Membership for Veterans (New Members ONLY)

HLAA is honored to offer two types of membership for United States veterans (both include the other benefits of individual membership):

- Digital Membership (lifetime) – this complimentary membership includes our award-winning *Hearing Loss Magazine* in digital format only; or
- Non-Digital Membership (1st year is free) – *Hearing Loss Magazine* will be delivered right to your mailbox; complimentary for one year, renewal at $35/year.

*Hearing Loss Magazine*, a helpful resource on the latest in technology, medical issues, legislation, personal stories, and more. If you are a veteran and are interested in joining HLAA please complete Veteran Membership form and mail it, fax it or email it in.

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HASA is on the left side, a red brick building with blue window trim. A white sign in front says, “The Hearing and Speech Agency”. Free parking is available in both the front and rear parking lots and on the streets (read the signs). HASA is fully wheelchair accessible.

Public Transportation:
Subway Stations at Reisterstown Plaza Station and Rogers Avenue Station
Closest Bus Stops: Bus M or Bus #27

Inclement Weather Closing:
The Hearing and Speech Agency follows Baltimore City School closing.

Mail to:

Meetings held at
The Hearing and Speech Agency
5900 Metro Drive
Baltimore MD 21215
410-318-6780
www.hasa.org

MORNING MEETINGS SCHEDULE:
Tuesdays 10:30 AM to 12 NOON
- October 20, 2015
- May 17, 2016

EVENING MEETINGS SCHEDULE
Thursdays 6:30 to 8:00 PM
- September 17, 2015
- March 24, 2016
- April 28, 2016
- June 9, 2016

If City Schools are closed due to inclement weather, HASA is closed for both daytime and evening programs. If you have questions about weather related closing, please call The Hearing and Speech Agency at 410-318-6780 or visit the HASA website at: www.hasa.org.

http://www.hearinglossbaltimore.org

*A 501 (c)(3) Non-Profit Organization
Donations Welcomed.