



ABOUT THE HLAA AWARDS

Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) Conventions are a stimulating time of sharing, learning and fellowship and a time to honor our organizations and members with well-deserved awards. HLAA members, Chapters and State Organizations and others find unique and special ways to serve member needs as they reach out and make an impact. HLAA acknowledges these achievements and contributions. This is a synopsis of the awards; for more information, criteria and eligibility of each award, please read the nomination packet that is posted on our website in the fall of each year with a submissions deadline the first week in December; notification to recipient is sent in mid-January. Not every award is presented each year.

Advocacy Hall of Fame Award

This award is given to honor an individual, group or organization that through their advocacy efforts that significantly impacts awareness for, and/or implementation of **the HLAA Public Policy and Advocacy and Agenda** which benefits people with hearing loss and furthers the mission of the Hearing Loss Association of America. The nominee must demonstrate significant achievement which has resulted in national impact and greater awareness around the issues of hearing loss. This award is given to people and organizations that have worked diligently over a long period of time to improve the lives and circumstances of people with hearing loss. The outcome of their work must have enduring and meaningful impact.

Alice Marie Stone Family Involvement Award

This award is intended to recognize dedicated family members and their contribution to the growth and development of HLAA. The award is named after Alice ("Ahme") Marie Stone, wife of Founder Rocky Stone and the first recipient of this award.

Board Chair Award

This award, established in 1986, is given to persons who have worked diligently over a long period of time to improve the lives and circumstances of people with hearing loss.

Community Service Award

The Community Outreach Award was established in 1986. The recipients of Community Outreach Awards have planted a seed of hope for people with hearing loss, followed through on the project, and have had the opportunity to watch the project grow to fruition. Any publicity generated by this activity will have had a positive impact on the goals of HLAA, as well as on the lives of people with hearing loss in the community. In 1989 the **Community Outreach Award** was amended to include **Community Awareness and Communication Access**.

Get in the Hearing Loop Campaign Award

In June 2010, the Hearing Loss Association of America on behalf of people with hearing loss and the American Academy of Audiology, on behalf of audiologists, announced a collaborative public education campaign, "Get in the Hearing Loop." The campaign was designed to enlighten and excite hearing aid users, as well as audiologists and other professionals who dispense hearing aids, about telecoils and hearing loops and their unique benefits. Today, in the spirit of this historic campaign, the award



recognizes excellence in communicating the benefits of loop technology to a broad audience and success in getting loop technology accepted and installed in local communities.

Howard E. “Rocky” Stone Humanitarian Award (not open for public nomination)

Established in 1990 by the Board of Trustees, this prestigious award honors an outgoing or past trustee for his or her extraordinary contributions toward the furtherance of the objectives and personal exemplification of the philosophy envisioned by Howard E. Stone, founder.

James B. Snow, Jr., M.D. Award (not open for public nomination)

This award was created in 1997 to honor the contributions of James B. Snow, Jr., M.D., toward furthering scientific research in the field of hearing loss. Dr. Snow was the first director of the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, NIDCD of the National Institutes of Health, which was created in 1988 and has served to focus and advance scientific endeavors relating to communication disorders in unprecedented ways.

Keystone Award

The Keystone Award was established in 1986. The Keystone Award is a special honor awarded to persons for outstanding achievement and/or contribution to the establishment, advancement and continued success of HLAA. The names of the recipients are inscribed on a plaque in the national office.

Marcia Dugan Advocacy Award

Each year HLAA members, Chapters and State Organizations spend a great deal of time advocating locally and statewide for issues affecting people with hearing loss. The Marcia Dugan Advocacy Award recognizes the outstanding efforts of an HLAA Chapter or State organization, an individual HLAA member or a team or committee of members who serve(s) as advocates with decision makers and others about laws and other crucial issues affecting people with hearing loss. This award is presented to an individual or individuals, a chapter or a state organization in recognition of their outstanding advocacy accomplishment. The Advocacy Award was renamed in late 2010 to honor the late Marcia Dugan of Penn Yan, New York, a former national HLAA Board of Trustees president, Rochester Chapter leader and long-time community volunteer, writer, speaker, and advocate for issues related to hearing loss. Dugan’s volunteerism stretched beyond her work of helping people with hearing loss.

National Access Award

The National Access Award honors those whose work significantly impacts communication access for people with hearing loss on a national scale.

Nancy Wessner Outstanding State Chapter Coordinator Award

The Nancy Wessner Award recognizes a state chapter coordinator (“state coordinators”) whose work has significantly furthered the HLAA mission in their state. This award memorializes Nancy Wessner from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for her leadership and outstanding service as the first state coordinator for the organization known then as SHHH. Founder Rocky Stone hand-picked Nancy for the position and her dedication to supporting chapter leaders across the state personified the role of the state chapter



coordinator. She also served on the HLAA Board of Trustees from 1986 to 1994 during which time she held offices as secretary and vice-president. Her life was dedicated to the organization.

Newsletter Award – Chapter/State (individually)

Newsletters are excellent educational tools as well as outreach vehicles. Chapter/State Organizations that publish a regular newsletter monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly are eligible for this popular category.

Although a newsletter is frequently a joint project, usually one individual, the editor, is responsible for its publication. Where possible, the award will be presented to the editor.

Outstanding Employer Award

The Outstanding Employer Award is awarded to those who have provided or significantly improved communication access for people in the workplace. In selecting a recipient, HLAA looks at contributions made to further attitudinal change and to improve the quality of the work environment for people with hearing loss.

Outstanding HLAA Chapter on a Mission Award

The HLAA mission is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support and advocacy. Chapters deliver this mission by educating and supporting their members and local people with hearing loss on how to improve their listening and communications skills to lead more fulfilled lifestyles. Effective HLAA Chapters also promote self-advocacy and greater communication access in their local communities. Chapters becoming respected members of the community at large. This award recognizes a chapter that best administers HLAA's standard of education, support and advocacy on a local community level.

Outstanding Young Adult Award

HLAA created this award in 1995 to recognize HLAA Members 18 to 30 years of age who have contributed significant time and effort to advancing the HLAA Mission. A characteristic of this award includes helping to increase the number of fellow young adult HLAA Members whose enthusiasm grows as they bond with, sustain and support each other. These dedicated members represent the future of HLAA.

Parent Involvement Award

When parents learn that their child has a hearing loss, the diagnosis can be devastating. This award recognizes parents of children with hearing loss who have involved themselves in HLAA activities to help secure a brighter future for all children with hearing loss.

Phoenix Award

In Egyptian mythology, the Phoenix was a large sacred mystical bird that lived for years, then consumed itself by fire only to arise reborn from the ashes.

Like the Phoenix, there are HLAA Chapters and State Organizations that found themselves on the verge of extinction then remarkably rose again. This requires vision, resolve, dedication and a major



commitment. It requires earnest outreach to the broader community for advice, resources and participation. Often, great amounts of time and hard work are involved. For HLAA Chapters or State Organizations that have been successful in this effort, the Phoenix Award honors this achievement.

Professional Advisor Award

HLAA values the role that professional support can lend to our mission. HLAA strongly recommends that each HLAA Chapter and State Organization establishes a professional advisory committee. HLAA Chapters and State Organizations that call upon professionals in the community or state know how helpful these people can be with publicity, awareness, and involvement in special events, referring people with hearing loss to HLAA, and more.

Service Award

The Service Award is presented to individual members or state or chapter organizations who have completed a service that directly benefits Hearing Loss Association of America, its members and its national presence as well as HLAA state and chapter affiliates. This award acknowledges contributions made to fill a void created by a lack of funds, time or personnel. One outcome of the service would be to move HLAA closer to recognition of HLAA as a household name when people seek information about hearing loss. Simply stated, the award is for service that is a step forward for the mission of HLAA. Examples of service might be the development and dissemination of a public service announcement or any form of mass media, development of training materials available to all, volunteering for a project the national office could use help with, financial donations earmarked for a specific need to benefit all of HLAA.

Social Media

The Social Media Award is presented to the chapter or state organization that best employs social media to build community awareness for the HLAA mission and the information, education, support and advocacy benefits offered by the chapter.

Social media offers an effective and efficient means for a chapter or state organization to build awareness and educate their membership and the community-at-large. Importantly, these mediums allow for a chapter or state organization to present themselves as a supportive, caring and fun resource for people with hearing loss, their families and friends.

Spirit of HLAA Award

The Spirit of SHHH Award was first presented in 1988, and is now known as the "Spirit of HLAA" Award. Repeatedly office staff heard about or was in touch with exceptional members. These members seemed to be amazing people not because they achieved more or did something better, but because they possessed a special quality, a rare gift, that set them apart from others. HLAA looks for caring, dedicated people who are not only actively involved in HLAA but who also set an example for others as positive role models of the self-help philosophy and who also embody the attitude that "it's not the difference we have, it's the difference we make." This award is given to the recipient(s) who radiates the hopes and dreams of others, thinking selflessly, acting always out of love and appreciation for the joys and sorrows of all human beings.



State Association or State Office Award

HLAA State Associations and State Offices (both known as state organizations) were introduced into the HLAA structure by the Board of Trustees in 1992 and 2002, respectively. State organizations function as extensions of HLAA National and have the same mission and purpose, focusing on providing information, education, support and advocacy to people with hearing loss within their state. Any state leader or a leader of an affiliated state agency or another organization involving people with hearing loss can nominate an HLAA state organization.

Up and Coming Chapter Award

The Up and Coming Chapter Award is presented to a new chapter (less than two years old at the time of nomination), which most effectively delivers the HLAA mission for its members and the community. This award recognizes chapters for their overall programs that have opened the world of communication for local people with hearing loss through information, education, support and advocacy.

Walter T. Ridder Award

This award was established in 1984 and named after Walter Ridder whose newspaper career spanned 50 years. Knight-Ridder Inc., communication group, of which Mr. Ridder helped create, grew to include newspapers, radio and television stations. He was the national editor of the Knight-Ridder publishing empire, headed the Washington, D.C. bureau, and served on the Knight-Ridder Board until 1989, a year before he died. Mr. Ridder was also a founding member of Self Help for Hard of Hearing People in 1979, now Hearing Loss Association of America.

Website Awards – Chapter/State (individually)

HLAA Chapter/State websites are an enormous source of pride. While all of them are useful, many of these websites exhibit true excellence. HLAA honors Chapters/States with this award and is presented to the webmaster.

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