

APRIL 1, 2016

This is a weekly report from the HLAA national office in Bethesda, Maryland. Please also sign up for the [HLAA e-News](#) where even more news is published.

CONVENTION 2016

But Who is Counting?

No fooling, we now have attendees and exhibitors coming from 16 countries!

Have You Booked Your Hotel Room?

Don't wait until the last minute, book today by going to the [Hotel/Travel page](#). Follow the link for the secure reservation page for the Washington Hilton.

Keep Up on Convention News

On Twitter? Follow @HLAA and @nmacklin and use #HLAA2016 for Convention-related tweets. Be sure to "like" the [HLAA page on Facebook](#) and be a frequent visitor to the [Convention page](#).

Capital Banquet

Seating for *Capital*, the Saturday evening banquet, will be open for all attendees starting this Monday, April 4. See the [Convention page](#) for details about selecting your table starting Monday.

CHAPTERS

State/Chapter Development Track at Convention 2016

The State/Chapter Development Track has been finalized. We've planned an exciting lineup of workshops and panels about managing effective chapter meetings and events, growing and promoting your chapter, recruiting and retaining chapter members, and instituting advocacy programs. We have also set aside time for informal discussions.

Here's a partial listing of what's in store for State and Chapter Leaders at the Convention:

All Leaders Chapter Building Workshop Panel

Moderator: JoAnne DeVries

Panelists: Patricia Widman, Holly Cohen, Valerie Stafford-Mallis

State Chapter Coordinators Workshop

Valerie Stafford-Mallis



State Associations and State Offices Workshop
Lise Hamlin

Strategies and Tips for a Successful Chapter Leadership Workshop at the State Level
Liz Kobylak and Ann Liming

Growing and Promoting Your Chapter
John Kinstler

Starting a Healthcare Advocacy Program
Margaret Widner-Kolberg

Advocacy Tools and Topics for Chapter Leaders
Deborah Berndtson, Au.D.

Tell Your Story and Recruit New Members at the Same Time!
Jeff Bonnell

Reaching Out to Community Groups
Lon Rosenman and Russell Misheloff

Building a Strong Chapter One Step at a Time
Pat Dobbs

Leaders of Tomorrow
Bowen Tang

The only thing missing is YOU! Please make your plans to join us at Convention 2016. For more information on dates and times for these exciting workshops, see the [Workshop Schedule](#).

CHAPTER CHALLENGE

HLAA Montgomery County (MD) Chapter Issues a Challenge!

The HLAA Montgomery County (MD) Chapter is issuing a challenge to all chapters and state organizations to help bring more people to HLAA Convention 2016.

If you have been to an HLAA Convention before, you know it's an event not to be missed. Yet, there are people who really do want to go, but just need a little support to help them get there. For the eighth year, the HLAA Montgomery County (MD) Chapter is issuing a challenge to chapters and state organizations to send donations (increments of



\$500) to the HLAA Chapter Challenge Fund to help send as many people to Convention 2016 as possible! We have awarded six scholarships so far and have another **six** scholarship requests from HLAA members who really want to attend. Let's see what we can do to send all of them to Convention 2016!

For the past seven years the HLAA Montgomery County (MD) Chapter has used proceeds from the Washington, D.C. Walk4Hearing for a scholarship, and when we issued the challenge, the idea caught on! Everyone who applied for a scholarship received one! Maybe your local chapter or state association has money from a Walk or other fundraiser. Please consider making one or more \$500 donations to the HLAA Chapter Challenge Fund.

For each scholarship recipient, HLAA will award a Full-activity Registration Package. Please let us know if you can fund a scholarship by April 29, 2016.

Contact [Lise Hamlin](#) or [Hollace Goodman](#) for more information.

N-CHATT TRAINING

HLAA is holding our train-the-trainer program, N-CHATT (Network of Consumer Hearing Assistive Technology Trainers) April 1-3 at the HLAA national office in Bethesda, MD. We expect a full weekend of learning about, and working with, hearing assistive technology (HAT) and how to provide training to consumers with hearing loss to help expand their knowledge of HAT.

This is the second year of a five-year grant that was awarded to Gallaudet University from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR). HLAA is a subcontractor on the N-CHATT grant. With our partners, Gallaudet University's Hearing Technology Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (RERC) on Improving the Accessibility, Usability, and Performance of Technology for Individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing as well as Hands and Voices and American Institutes on Research (AIR).

PRODUCT SHOWCASE WEBINARS

Mark your calendar for the third Wednesday of each month when we offer free, captioned educational webinars. See the [Schedule page](#) for upcoming presenters. There is also a step-by-step guide for accessing Blackboard Collaborate posted there.



PERSONNEL

Barbara Kelley Named Executive Director of HLAA

The great news has been spread far and wide, and we have received an avalanche of good tidings for Barbara! The news went out via an HLAA News Release to all of our constituents, posted on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter, and sent out by Business Wire. The wire generated more than 13,100 headline impressions worldwide in print and online media.

