

APRIL 8, 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.

ADVOCACY

Barbara Kelley, executive director, and Lise Hamlin, director of public policy, met with Michael Stecker of Purple Communications for a wide-ranging discussion of captioned phones. Purple Communications provides access to captioning via the [ClearCaptions Ensemble Phone](#). Of particular interest was the need for captioned phones in places such as hospitals, where someone who normally has access to a captioned phone will not bring their own, but might need access to one during their stay. HLAA reached out to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on this topic, and was given assurance that they will look into the issue and provide guidance in the near term.

CONVENTION 2016

Convention 2016 Starts in 75 Days!

It might be a little too early to start packing, but do be sure that you have:

- Registered for the [Convention](#)
- Reserved your room at the [Washington Hilton](#)
- Figured out how you are getting from the [airport to the hotel](#)
- Taken a look at the [preliminary schedule-at-a-glance and workshop schedules](#)
- Liked HLAA on [Facebook](#) and followed [@nmacklin](#) and [@HLAA](#) on Twitter (#HLAA2016)

EDUCATIONAL WEBINAR

[April Webinar](#): April 20, 2016, 8 p.m. – 9 p.m. (Eastern) *Successful Management of Hearing Loss Depends on Patient-Centered Care*

Presenter: **Kathleen M Cienkowski, Ph.D., associate professor of audiology, University of Connecticut**

The patient has always been the central element in hearing health care. In the past, the dialogue between patient and provider regarding communication strategies and options was often the only treatment, especially when technology was limited. However, with rapid advances in hearing aids and cochlear implants, the model of care shifted away from patient-centered care to a medical model approach whereby the provider “prescribed devices” and did little else. Patients were viewed as a “hearing loss” rather than as individuals, and were alienated from the decision-making process. This



presentation will focus on how to put the “patient” back at the center of patient-centeredness with an emphasis on empowering the patient to become actively involved in determining the management strategy most consistent with their preferences and values.

This educational webinar is free to attend and is captioned. It will be recorded for playback on our website. For a tutorial about how to access Blackboard Collaborate, see [step-by-step instructions](#).

CHAPTERS

IRS Filing Due Date is Only Five Weeks Away!

Chapters and state organizations must file IRS Form 990 each year. The IRS filing due date is May 16, 2016.

In order to file, the chapter or state organization must have an [Employee Identification Number](#) (EIN) and a [letter from HLAA](#) stating that they are included under HLAA’s group 501(c)(3) tax-exempt umbrella. Existing chapters and state organizations who have successfully filed a Form 990 in the past should already have this information.

Tax-exempt organizations with annual [gross receipts](#) of \$50,000 or less are required to electronically submit Form 990-N, also known as the *e-Postcard*. They may choose to file a complete Form 990 or Form 990-EZ instead. The *e-Postcard* must be submitted by the May 16 filing date.

Completing the *e-Postcard* requires:

- The EIN, also known as a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)
- Tax year
- Legal name and mailing address of the organization
- Any other names the organization uses
- Name and address of a principal officer
- Website address if the organization has one
- Confirmation that the organization’s annual gross receipts are \$50,000 or less
- If applicable, a statement that the organization has terminated or is terminating (going out of business)

If you do not file your chapter or state organization’s *e-Postcard* on time, there is no penalty assessed. Organizations that fail to file the required *e-Postcards* (or Forms 990 or 990-EZ) for three consecutive years will automatically have their tax-exempt status revoked. Revocation means that contributors cannot deduct donations made to the chapter or state organization on their income tax returns. This includes Walk4Hearing contributions. Revocation could significantly impact the chapter or state organization’s



ability to raise funds or solicit donations. It is not something you want to happen!

Many chapter and state organization leaders are wisely turning their attention to completing the required tax-exempt filings. It is GREAT that leaders are getting this very important task taken care of now rather than waiting until closer to the May 16 deadline.

You can find more information about IRS Form 990 [here](#).

As always, we are here to assist in any way we can. Contact [Valerie Stafford-Mallis](#), director of chapter development, if you need further information.

PUBLICITY

Read the article "[How Your Child's Love for Music May be Destroying Their Hearing](#)" where HLAA Executive Director Barbara Kelley is quoted and HLAA is hyperlinked.

You can follow Barbara Kelley on Twitter [@Bkelley_HLAA](#)

