

AUGUST 26, 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.

CHAPTERS

Why Not Consider Holding a Regional Chapter Building Workshop?

The four HLAA Colorado Chapters recently sponsored a Chapter Building Workshop to help them grow stronger and more vibrant. The workshop was facilitated by HLAA Director of Chapter Development Valerie Stafford-Mallis and organized by State Chapter Coordinator Debbie Mohny with assistance from other Colorado Chapter leaders. It was held at a local public library in a conference room that was looped and with CART provided. Everyone in attendance came away with numerous ideas they could use to get people more involved with their chapters.

The Chapter Building Workshop is an all-day, on-site educational workshop that is available to all chapters. The goal is to provide information that will help chapters increase attendance, membership and improve the overall leadership and chapter performance. The workshop agenda can be customized to the leaders' individual and chapter needs.

The session works best when the current and prospective leaders from three or more chapters, plus the state coordinator, attend. Chapter leaders from neighboring states can also participate. It is held on a day that is most convenient for all, usually a Saturday. HLAA asks that sponsoring organizations assist with the presenter's travel and lodging expenses. Topics covered in a typical workshop include:

- Advocacy
- Attracting younger members
- Audiologist collaboration
- Awareness building
- Fundraising
- Leader development
- Leader support tools
- Membership building
- Mentoring
- Outreach
- Overall chapter strategic planning, information, and education
- Social involvement
- Special events
- State coordinator support
- Strategic partnerships
- Volunteer recruitment

If you would like to explore hosting a Chapter Building Workshop in your region, please contact Valerie Stafford-Mallis at chapters@hearingloss.org.

Attention Chapter Leaders – Do You Have Questions?

The [Leader Support page](#) of the HLAA website contains a wealth of information. In fact, you can probably find answers to most any question you have. But with so much information maybe you need a little help navigating the site.

Join us September 1, 2016 from 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. (EDT) for a webinar that will take you on a real-time walkthrough of the Leader Support page. You will learn where to find answers, templates, and other helpful resources to help you do your role as an HLAA Chapter or State Association leader. We will be exploring the following sections of the site:

- Annual Requirements
- Leader Training
- Start a Chapter
- Unified Membership
- Run a Strong Chapter
- Legal/Governance
- Financial
- Publicity/Promotion
- Outreach/Service
- Meetings
- Members/Leaders
- Coordinators
- State Organizations
- Additional Resources

Please join us for this interesting and informative webinar on the topics you deal with every day. To join, visit our [webinar page](#) for directions on how to access Blackboard Collaborate.

WALK4HEARING

August has rolled around and summer is almost over. School has already started in some areas and it's just about time to put away the sandals and break out the walking shoes! With 14 Walks taking place around the country this fall, we hope you will join us to help raise awareness of hearing loss in both your local community and nationwide. Make a difference by registering today for the [Walk4Hearing](#) in a city near you.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

Educational Webinars

September 21, 8 p.m. – 9 p.m.

The Patient's Guide to Tinnitus: 2016

Presenter: Douglas L. Beck, Au.D.

Summary:

Taming tinnitus begins with a complete history and audiologic evaluation, and might involve multiple health care professionals depending on the findings. In this webinar we'll detail the types of tests that are useful for diagnosing and managing tinnitus patients (audiometric tests as well as questionnaires, medical consultations, radiographic studies and more), tinnitus classifications (subjective versus objective findings), treatments (medical, audiologic, psychological and more), and the vast multitude of wallet-biopsies, scams, snake-oil and "take the money and run" approaches found in newspapers, airline magazines, food stores and pharmacies.

Product/Service Showcase Webinar

September 8, 2016

Company: [Ditto](#)

Presenter: Neal Pecchenino, Director of Product and Operations

Come learn about the "anti-gadget" – Ditto is something to free people from worrying about their smartphones and to be more present in life. Ditto is tiny and elegant. No buttons, switches, lights, displays, or cables. See more at simplematters.com/how-it-works.

Products/Service Showcase webinars are in no way to be construed as an endorsement by HLAA.

COOL INDUSTRY HAPPENINGS

Attendees of Convention 2016 were introduced to [Pretty Smart Homes](#) in the Exhibit Hall. Their product, the [Pretty Smart Lamp](#), visually notifies you of everything happening on your smartphone such as text messages, calls, alarm clock, calendar and weather alerts, and even helps you find your phone.

Pretty Smart Homes has proposed a panel discussion at [SXSW 2017](#) called "IoT's [Internet of Things] Opportunity for Accessibility" in which current technology to help people with disabilities will be discussed. Speakers for the panel include:



- Antonio Rodriguez, [Pretty Smart Homes](#)
- HLAA Board of Trustee Member Patrick Holkins, Esq.,
[U.S. Department of Justice - Civil Rights Division](#)
- Zuby Onwuta, [ThinkAndZoom](#)

You can vote for the panel [here](#).

NOTE: This Week in Bethesda will not be published on September 2. It will return on September 9.