

DECEMBER 2, 2016

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

NAS REPORT

Public Meeting on December 7

The NAS will be holding a public dissemination meeting on Wednesday, December 7 to discuss the report. Topics that will be discussed include:

- Improving Access and Affordability
- Expanding Technology Options
- Improving Consumer Information and Public Awareness

The meeting will be held at 9 a.m. (EST) in Room 100 at the Keck Center of the NAS, 500 5th Street NW, Washington, DC 20001. You can attend in person or join remotely via WebEx. For those attending in person the room will be equipped with a hearing loop and CART will be provided. You can [register today](#). Members of the HLAA staff and Board of Trustees will be attending the meeting.

HLAA2017 CONVENTION

Call for Papers Deadline Extended to December 9!

If you are interested in presenting an educational workshop at the HLAA2017 Convention, please complete a [Call for Papers form](#) and submit it to Niaz Siasi at nsiasi@hearingloss.org by **December 9, 2016**. If you'd like to present in the State/Chapter Development Room, please use the [State/Chapter Call for Papers form](#).

Early-Bird Registration is OPEN

As the holiday season quickly approaches, so does the stress of buying presents. Need a gift for someone who has everything? How about a prepaid registration to the HLAA2017 Convention in gorgeous Salt Lake City? Get your holiday shopping out of the way now and register [here](#).

2017 HLAA AWARDS

Deadline Extended to December 16!

HLAA will honor outstanding individuals, HLAA Chapters and State Organizations, companies, and organizations at the HLAA2017 Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, on Friday evening, June 23, at the *HLAA Stars Come Out Awards Ceremony and Talent Show*, sponsored by CapTel Captioned Telephone. You can find more information and instructions for submitting an award in the [Award Nomination Package](#). Nominations must be received by **December 16, 2016**.

If you have any questions about the submission process, please send them to awards@hearingloss.org.



CHAPTERS

HLAA Welcomes New Chapters and Membership Assistant

Please join us in welcoming Erin Mirante who joined the HLAA staff on Monday, November 28 as the chapters and membership assistant. Erin will be working with both HLAA Director of Chapter Development Valerie Stafford-Mallis and Membership Coordinator Gaelin Bryant.

The chapter administration and membership roles were combined into one position as they overlap considerably. Erin will be working with HLAA's donor and membership database to ensure information is accurate and up to date. She will also be assisting with membership services for HLAA's vast network of members, chapters, and state organizations across the country. Erin will play a key role as ambassador for HLAA when interacting with our members and chapters.

Erin is a recent graduate of the University of Maryland and is excited about working for HLAA to support people with hearing loss. Many qualified candidates expressed an interest in this position but both Gaelin and Valerie agreed her customer service focus, warmth, and enthusiasm made her stand out. We know you are going to enjoy working with Erin. Please take a moment to send her a warm HLAA welcome; she can be reached at emirante@hearingloss.org.

DEVELOPMENT

Please Consider HLAA in Your End-of-Year Giving

HLAA, like many nonprofit organizations, holds a year-end appeal. The money raised from the appeal goes toward funding the work you have come to depend on from HLAA. All donations, no matter how small or large, make a difference. We truly appreciate all of you who have supported HLAA over the years with both your time and money. You might have received a letter in the mail about our year-end appeal or [you can read it here and donate online](#). Thank you!

Attention Combined Federal Campaign Participants

Celebrate with the Hearing Loss Association of America! Your support helps us:

- advocate for Medicare coverage for hearing aids
- provide solutions to veterans and others with hearing loss
- fight to end discrimination in the workplace
- safeguard your rights with insurance carriers
- make your voice heard with state and federal regulators

Your support is critical in our service to you. We make your issues and positions known. We are your vocal and visible presence ensuring that your rights and needs are met. **Designate #11376**—Hearing Loss Association of America as your charity of choice this campaign season, which runs until **December 15**.

Your gift makes a difference in the lives of people with hearing loss every day.

