

JULY 15, 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

Convention 2016 Wrap-up

A huge **thank you** to all who attended HLAA Convention 2016 and Congress of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH). If you have not completed the Convention survey, please do so [here](#).

We are continuing to work on wrapping up Convention 2016 – hundreds of photos are being organized for posting on the website, on-site registration paperwork has been reconciled and is being entered into our database...the list goes on and on. Stay tuned!

HLAA Convention 2016 Overview in *Hearing Journal* Article

The Hearing Journal [published an article](#) spotlighting last month's HLAA Convention. The article focuses on the [recent report](#) released by the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine as well as the [report](#) issued last fall by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST). HLAA Executive Director Barbara Kelley is also quoted in the article.

Convention 2017 – June 22-25, 2017

We are already excited about Convention 2017 in beautiful Salt Lake City! If you've never been there, it's a must! Magnificent shopping, restaurants and bars (no, Utah is NOT dry!), and plenty of things to do. You will not be disappointed! Stay tuned for details.

ADVOCACY

HLAA Director of Public Policy Lise Hamlin recently attended the third plenary meeting of the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT's) [Advisory Committee on Accessible Air Transportation](#) (ACCESS Advisory Committee). The ACCESS Advisory Committee was established to negotiate and develop a proposed rule concerning accommodations for air travelers with disabilities that addresses in-flight communications, accessible lavatories on single-aisle aircraft, and service animals. (HLAA sits on the in-flight communications committee.) At the meeting, disability advocates stated their expectations of how airlines can make in-flight entertainment more accessible. We expect to continue discussions on this issue in future meetings.

In addition, the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) is conducting a [survey](#) of people with disabilities regarding accessible lavatories. The purpose of this survey is to help the ACCESS Advisory Committee in their efforts to develop specific regulations regarding

whether the DOT should require an accessible lavatory on a single-aisle aircraft. Please consider taking the survey if you have a mobility disability or are a caregiver of someone with a mobility disability. In addition, if you know someone who has a mobility disability, please feel free to pass it along to them. Preliminary results are due back to the ACCESS Advisory Committee on July 22, however the survey will be open until August 1, and all respondents will be counted. You can find the survey [here](#). Thank you in advance for your participation.

CHAPTERS

The wait is over! At HLAA Convention 2016 we announced that open enrollment in the [Unified Membership Program](#) (UMP) is now extended to any chapter in good standing. A chapter is considered to be in good standing if it has submitted all of its [Annual Requirements](#) for the calendar year. The UMP is a way to offer chapter members all the [benefits of membership in HLAA](#) for one low membership fee of \$35. Additionally, anyone who joins HLAA automatically becomes a member of a chapter if they live within a zip code assigned to that chapter – even if you don't know them yet! There are [many reasons to join HLAA](#) and [many reasons to join a chapter!](#)

The UMP enrollment process includes three forms that a chapter must complete if it wishes to participate. You can find more information on the program, including instructions on how to join, on the [UMP page](#) of the HLAA website.

If you have any questions contact Valerie Stafford-Mallis at chapters@hearingloss.org. Thank you for sharing your time and talents with HLAA. You are appreciated!

WALK4HEARING

Thank You Thursday is here!

Thank You Thursday is our way to recognize, thank, and spotlight all those who have made the Walk4Hearing such a success. Every Thursday on the Walk4Hearing [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) ([#ThankYouThursday](#)) pages we will feature sponsors, volunteers, or anyone who has gone above and beyond for the Walk4Hearing. The support and dedication we receive from the community is second-to-none; our achievements are yours. If you know of someone who is deserving of such recognition for their hard work and dedication, please email [Ann Rancourt](#), the national Walk4Hearing coordinator.

DEVELOPMENT

Rate HLAA as a Top Nonprofit

[Great Nonprofits](#) runs "Stories that Make a Difference." Help us keep HLAA as one of the top nonprofits in the U.S. In a few words, [write a review](#) telling the world why HLAA means so much to you. Thank you for taking the time.



UPCOMING WEBINARS

July 20, 8 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Improving Speech Perception in Realistic Situations

Presenter: Geoff Plant, president, Hearing Rehabilitation Foundation

August 17, 8 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Wait – There's a Student with Hearing Loss Coming into My Class?

Presenter: Kym Meyer, M.S., CCC-A, certified teacher and educational audiologist; director, Public School Partnerships for The Learning Center for the Deaf, Framingham, Massachusetts

Children with hearing loss often do not have a professional in their school who understands hearing loss. If you are a teacher or speech pathologist with a new student who has hearing loss, this webinar will address the issues that will be important for you to understand to allow your student to access communication and learning. Parents, please join us (you might learn something new), and share this webinar with your child's teacher!

IN THE NEWS

HLAA Executive Director Barbara Kelley Featured Guest on Military Radio Network Podcast

On July 12, HLAA Executive Director Barbara Kelley was a featured guest on the [Military Radio Network](#) for the podcast *Hearing Loss & Tinnitus – #1 Veteran Injury*. The podcast has already been downloaded more than 10,000 times! A link to the podcast can be found [here](#).