

JUNE 10, 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

The **Convention 2016 Program & Exhibit Guide**, sponsored by CapTel Captioned Telephone, will be posted on the [Convention page](#) by Monday, June 13. A printed copy will be in your registration bag when you arrive on-site.

[Convention Webinar](#) – June 15, 8 p.m. – 9 p.m.

This month's webinar is *All Things Convention* with former HLAA Board of Trustee member Joan Haber presenting. We will review the *Program & Exhibit Guide*, the Mobile Convention App, and answer your questions. See the [Webinar page](#) for details about how to join the webinar.

ADVOCACY

HLAA to Co-Sponsor Meeting on Wireless Standards for Hearing Assistive Devices

Connectivity between hearing aids and other devices is a hot topic. HLAA is already active in this area, promoting standards to ensure that telephones and hearing aids are compatible.

But there's more to be done. Wireless connectivity (such as Bluetooth) could further enhance communication for people with hearing loss. That connectivity should be reliable and simple, and everyone should have access. These challenges will be the focus of a workshop to be held on June 20, 2016 in New York City, co-sponsored by HLAA and the [Simons Foundation](#). The meeting will draw together a team of national experts, including sound engineers, computer scientists, neuroscientists, and audiologists.

Interested in Hearing Assistive Technology? Have You Heard About N-CHATT?

The Network of Consumer Hearing Assistive Technology Trainers (N-CHATT) is a volunteer consumer train-the-trainer program. The program's goal is to build a network of consumer trainers with the knowledge and skills necessary to train others impacted by hearing loss. Trainers will assist others in the successful integration of hearing assistive technology to support individual hearing and communication needs at home, work, school, and the community.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer consumer trainer you can get [more information on our website](#).



CHAPTERS

State Requirements Are Different from IRS Requirements

By now, most chapters and state associations should have completed their 990 filing with the IRS. Congratulations and thank you for all your hard work! If not, please do not put it off or hope if you don't do it that it will go away. It needs to be done every year.

Chapters and state associations need to be aware that most states now require 501(c)(3) charitable organizations to register with an agency of the state. This is completely separate from any charitable organization registrations the IRS requires. It is not something HLAA can do as an umbrella organization. Each chapter and state association must register individually.

Even if your chapter or state association does not ask for money it still falls under these requirements. If you publish a newsletter or ask people to join, some states consider that a solicitation. Unlike the IRS annual filings which are due every May 15, each state requires renewal applications to be submitted at different times of the year and to different state agencies. It varies from state to state.

Alert reader Ann Thomas of the HLAA Diablo Valley Chapter (California) recently sent a link to an excellent publication that provides more detail to assist you in understanding state requirements and complying with them. We have posted a link to the document, along with an explanation, in the [Financial Matters section](#) of the Leader Support page. Scroll down to the middle of the page and you will see a section titled State Requirements, which also contains a [link to state requirements for charitable solicitation compliance](#).

If you have any questions or difficulties downloading the information please contact Valerie Stafford-Mallis at chapters@hearingloss.org.

WALK4HEARING

Walk4Hearing extends our thanks to all our spring walkers, volunteers, and sponsors for their dedication and efforts to raising awareness about hearing loss. Without your help, we could not have reached the thousands of people we educated together. Not only did you help us educate others about hearing loss, you contributed your time and energy to provide funds to national and local programs in the hearing loss community. Your contributions mean so much! Thank you!

We are now gearing up for the fall walks, and we hope you have registered! You do not want to miss out on the excitement and the experience of Walk4Hearing! The



Walk4Hearing is a family-friendly event located in various cities across the country. Find a location near you and register online at walk4hearing.org.

PUBLICATIONS

Opening the Market for Lower Cost Hearing Aids: Regulatory Change Can Improve the Health of Older Americans

Hearing loss is a leading cause of disability among older people. Yet only one in seven U.S. adults who could benefit from a hearing aid uses one. A new paper, co-authored by HLAA Board of Trustee member Jan Blustein, M.D., Ph.D., and [published in the *American Journal of Public Health*](#), discusses the potential to reduce disability as well as to improve public health, stakeholder responses to the President's Council on Science and Technology's proposed changes in the regulation of hearing aids, and public health efforts to further mitigate the burden of disability stemming from age-related hearing loss.

IN THE NEWS

Organizations with Differing Agendas Support Making Hearing Loss a National Priority

A [recent post on *Hearing Health & Technology Matters*](#) indicates that several organizations with differing agendas have come out in support of the [June 2 report](#) issued by the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (the Academies), *Hearing Health Care for Adults: Priorities for Improving Access and Affordability*. HLAA's [strong stance](#) in favor of the report is prominently featured in the article.

Hearing Loss: An Important Global Health Concern

The Lancet, one of the world's top medical journals, has [published an article](#) in response to the Academies' report. While the article acknowledges that the report is focused on the U.S., it uses it to bring attention to hearing loss as a global concern.

Are You Keeping Up With the Latest News?

If you haven't visited the [HLAA website](#) recently you really should! The Current News section of the homepage is continually updated with the latest news and information on a wide variety of hearing loss topics, and under HLAA Updates you'll see what's happening within HLAA and some of the things we're working on to support hearing loss. Hearing loss is getting more and more attention in the press, so check back frequently to get the latest! Don't forget to also sign up for the [HLAA e-News](#) where you can get more news delivered right to your inbox!

