

JUNE 3, 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.

BREAKING NEWS

HLAA Strongly Supports Recommendations of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Report – *Hearing Health Care for Adults: Priorities for Improving Access and Affordability*

This groundbreaking new report could change hearing health care as we know it! The report documents the critical nature of hearing loss and provides 12 recommendations that underscore hearing loss as a significant public health concern. Read HLAA's full press release [here](#).

CONVENTION 2016

Convention 2016 is Just 3 Weeks Away!

Washington Hilton Hotel Reservations

The cutoff for reservations has been extended through June 6. [Click here](#) to go to the Hotel and Travel page.

Convention Pre-registration Has Closed

Pre-registration might have closed, but we welcome your registration 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.

CHAPTERS

Attention All Chapter "Loopers" – Come to a Special Convention Meeting

The Get in the Hearing Loop (GITHL) task force is hosting a special get-acquainted meeting at the HLAA Convention on Friday June 24, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. in the Washington Hilton's Dupont Room.

GITHL task force leaders and meeting facilitators Anne Pope, chair of the GITHL task force, Steve Frazier, chair of Loop New Mexico, and Juliette Sterkens, Au.D., cordially invite you to join them for the meeting. The gathering is open to all Convention attendees interested in learning more about GITHL and starting a local hearing loop



campaign.

In addition to meeting and greeting friends old and new, you will be introduced to a toolkit created specifically for HLAA chapters to use in developing their own local looping campaign. Digital copies of the toolkit will be distributed to those who attend. Chapters that already have an active campaign will be given the opportunity to briefly describe their Chapter's campaign and to share samples of any locally produced printed materials they use. The GITHL task force is happy to assist in the formation of additional chapter-sponsored looping campaigns.

For more details about this and other special Convention meetings please consult the [Special Meetings Schedule](#).

Steve created a Google listserv specifically for HLAA looping advocates. If you would like to join this listserv simply email your request to hlaalopers@googlegroups.com and Steve will add you. He can also send you a worksheet listing known hearing loop campaigns along with the campaign leader's names, titles, email addresses and websites.

WALK4HEARING

With only three spring Walks remaining, we are already gearing up for the [many fall Walks](#) taking place across the country. It is shaping up to be a successful year! Gather your family, friends, and co-workers to join you on a mission: to raise awareness about hearing loss and eradicate the stigma associated with it! Register your team for a walk near you at walk4hearing.org.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

HLAA Welcomes Three New Members to the Board of Trustees

HLAA is pleased to announce the addition of Patrick Holkins, Esq., Kristen "KR" Liu, and Kelly Tremblay, Ph.D., to the Board of Trustees.

[Patrick Holkins, Esq.](#)

Patrick Holkins is a trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. He is a graduate of Phillips Academy, Andover (Massachusetts), Harvard University (B.A.), and the University of Arizona (J.D.). Before joining the Department of Justice, Patrick served as a law clerk to Justice John Pelander in the Arizona Supreme Court.



Patrick has had a hearing loss since early childhood. He first



connected with HLAA—then SHHH—in 2004, when he served as a policy intern at the national office. He returned to HLAA in 2008, again as an intern, to spearhead a young adult outreach effort. In 2009, while at Harvard, Patrick co-founded the first HLAA chapter for young adults with hearing loss. Building on that experience, in 2010 Patrick started a nonprofit organization which provided hearing health services to rural communities in South Africa. He lives in Washington, D.C.

[Kristen “KR” Liu](#)

KR Liu is the head of Sales and Marketing Strategy at Doppler Labs, the company behind Here Active Listening. Over the last 18 years, she has worked at both large consumer tech companies and early-stage startups (Speck Products, SOL Republic, Pebble), where she’s held various executive positions leading both marketing and sales strategy. During this time, KR has launched some of the most disruptive hardware lifestyle tech brands on the market, from iPhone cases, portable power, wireless headphones and speakers, smartwatches, and now, augmented audio devices.



Diagnosed with severe hearing loss at the age of three, KR has made it her life's work to be a strong advocate and voice championing new products that enhance the way we hear the world. She has been awarded a U.S. Congressional award; Silicon Valley's Top 40 Under 40; and 2015 Women on the Move by Women's Business Journal for her advocacy work in hearing health and technology.

Beyond her work at Doppler Labs, KR is also actively involved with industry organizations that are working toward tech innovation in hearing accessibility. Currently, she is a member of the Consumer Technology Association’s Standards Committee on PSAPs.

[Kelly Tremblay, Ph.D.](#)

Dr. Kelly Tremblay is a professor at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington. She has a 30-year history of serving and advocating for people with hearing loss. As an audiologist and educator, she teaches graduate students how to prevent, assess and treat hearing loss. As a scientist, she studies the effects of hearing loss and hearing prosthesis on the brain in addition to the public health benefits of intervention for our aging society. Her research is funded by the National Institutes of Health and is published in top-tier medical journals.



As an advocate, her list of activities is long, but some recent



examples include: presenting on hearing loss with the HLAA Washington State Association at the Washington State Joint Legislative Executive Committee on Aging and Disability, and serving on Guideline Development Committees for the World Health Organization.

[Click here](#) for complete information about all the HLAA Board of Trustees members.

