

MAY 13, 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

Convention 2016 Starts in Just 40 Days!

Have you registered? Have you reserved your hotel room? The deadline for both of those is **May 31**. Questions? Email [Nancy Macklin](#).

Help Us Spread the Word

Those of you who have experienced an HLAA Convention know it can be a life-altering event. Where else can you be among so many people AND have something in common? Help us spread the word to those who can benefit from attending and post this 30-second PSA on your website, social media feeds – anywhere you can:

[HLAA_ver6B.mp4](#). Thank you!

EDUCATIONAL WEBINARS

May 18 – [Let's #captiontheworld](#)

Presenter: Lauren E. Storck, Ph.D., founder and president of the [Collaborative for Communication Access via Captioning](#) (CCAC).

Lauren will introduce the CCAC, a nonprofit registered in the U.S. with many global participants. Many CCAC members also belong to long-established and important groups such as HLAA, the Association of Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA), the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH), and more. Together, CCAC says, "Let's #captiontheworld."

June 15 – [All Things Convention](#)

Presenter: Joan Haber, former member of the HLAA Board of Trustees, who will be attending her 18th consecutive Convention this year.

Joan will review the HLAA Convention 2016 *Program and Exhibit Guide* and highlight cool Convention events. Don't miss this opportunity to ask questions of this avid Convention attendee.



CHAPTERS

It is with great pleasure that we announce the appointment of Tanya Williams to the Florida State Association chapter coordinator's position, effective after the HLAA Convention in June.

Tanya has severe-to-profound bilateral hearing loss and uses a hearing aid and a cochlear implant. She overcame many obstacles during her primary school years and with her mother worked very hard to lay the educational foundation that would allow her to eventually earn a master's degree in Business Administration and Health Care Administration.

Tanya is a hearing specialist and family service coordination supervisor of Florida's Early Steps Program. She currently serves on the HLAA Florida State Association's Board of Trustees as the vice president and co-chair of the Nominating Committee, and will remain as a member of the Board in her new role. Tanya is an active member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, where she was recently asked to elevate hearing loss awareness at the national, regional, and local level of the sorority.

Tanya has earned many accolades and awards: *Iota Delta Zeta's Zeta of the Year Award*, *March of Dimes' Outstanding Community Service Award*, *Hometown Hero of the Year*, *AmeriGroup Corporation's Innovative Community Service of Florida*, *Tampa Bay Buccaneers' Community Service of the Year*, and *Epsilon Zeta Blue Indigo Community Service* awards.

There is no doubt Tanya will distinguish herself in her work with Florida's chapters. Please join us in extending a warm HLAA welcome to Tanya. You can reach out to Tanya by [email](#).

DEVELOPMENT

The 2016 Spring Appeal is in the mail to donors and supporters and is also on hearingloss.org. This year's appeal includes a special message from the new executive director, Barbara Kelley, along with an informative report "HLAA – Today and in the Future" about the work of HLAA and how donations are used. There is also a limited-time special to offer to join the Advisory Circle with a \$10,000 or greater donation (take action by May 31). However, no donation is too small.

This spring, HLAA offers an opportunity for donors to have an HLAA Board of Trustees member either call or email them to talk more about the work of HLAA. Many people will receive the appeal and report in the mail, but it is also available [online](#). Thank you to all our members and supporters.



Also new this year with the appeal is a place for people to [join or renew their HLAA membership](#). Membership information expiration dates are provided on the mailing label to make it easy for people.

E-NEWS

The latest issue of *HLAA in Action* just came out this week! *HLAA in Action* is our monthly e-newsletter that brings you the latest on what we are doing for you in the world of advocacy and public policy.

In addition to *HLAA in Action* we also publish a second monthly e-newsletter that keeps you up to date on the latest Convention plans, upcoming webinars, Walk4Hearing and chapter updates, human interest stories on hearing loss, and much more.

Both e-newsletters are free and delivered directly to you by email. All you need to do is [sign up](#) – it takes only a minute!

PERSONNEL

We are excited to announce that Ann Rancourt has joined HLAA as the national Walk4Hearing coordinator. She will be based in the national office in Bethesda. Ann will handle Walk inquiries, mailing of materials, reports, and walk4hearing.org questions and concerns. Ann will be attending HLAA Convention 2016 in June and looks forward to making lots of new friends there!

Prior to joining HLAA, Ann was the development and marketing intern with the Cleveland Hearing & Speech Center. She recently moved from Cleveland and currently resides in Columbia, Maryland. Welcome Ann!

IN THE NEWS

Time for a hearing aid? Don't forget the telecoils!

Most of us do research on what we want and need before we buy high cost items. We all want the most we can get for the money we spend. A single modern digital hearing aid costs between \$1,500 and \$3,500. Most people need two. You will want to be sure what you buy has every option that will help you hear better in all situations. A hearing aid without a telecoil is like a car without air conditioning. While you won't use it all the time, you will be glad it's there when you need it. Today's hearing aids are worth their price, but it pays to do some homework before you buy. Read the full story by Julie Olson [here](#).

Julie is a former president of the HLAA Board of Trustees, a long-time HLAA member, and belongs to the HLAA Fox Valley Chapter in Appleton, Wisconsin.

