

MAY 20, 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.

OUTREACH

HLAA conducted a focused email campaign targeted at 16,000+ audiologists and hearing aid specialists in the United States to educate them about telecoils and hearing loops. There are currently five states that legislate that professionals tell their patients about telecoils when fitting hearing aids. The states with telecoil education laws are Arizona, Florida, New York, Rhode Island and Utah.

A telecoil, or "t-coil", in a hearing aid or cochlear implant can make a dramatic difference in the ability to hear clearly and understand dialogue. The t-coil expands the functionality of a hearing aid or cochlear implant. It functions as a wireless antenna that links into a sound system and delivers customized sound to the listener.

Anecdotal evidence from consumers shows that telecoil education is often missing from their hearing aid fittings. This email campaign was conducted with four email blasts from May 2-May 19, 2016. It also included a brief survey. This effort was funded by the David and Carol Myers Foundation as part of the Consumer Loop grant to HLAA.

As consumers, please ask your audiologist or hearing aid specialist about the telecoil and insist that your fitting includes one. HLAA publishes two handy brochures for more information – one on the [telecoil](#) and one on [assistive listening devices](#). They can be downloaded for free or ordered from the [HLAA online store](#).

HLAA AWARDS: HONORING OUR FINEST DURING CONVENTION 2016

Howard E. "Rocky" Stone Humanitarian Award

Lucille B. Beck, Ph.D., deputy chief Patient Care Services, Rehabilitation and Prosthetic Services, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, HLAA Board member (1989-1993)

James B. Snow, Jr., M.D. Award

Amy Donahue, Ph.D., deputy director, Division of Scientific Programs, National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, National Institutes of Health

Keystone Award

Brenda Battat, former HLAA executive director (2008-2013), national staff member (1989-2013)





This Week in Bethesda

National Access Award

Yahoo Accessibility Team

Innovation Award

Sony Corporation

Outstanding Employer

Ernst & Young, LLP

Marcia Dugan Advocacy Award

Dan Carione, HLAA member and deputy inspector, New York City Police Department

Get in the Hearing Loop Campaign Award

Cheri Perazzoli, HLAA member from Redmond, Washington

In addition to the awards listed here, we will honor outstanding individuals and HLAA Chapters and State Organizations on Sunday, June 26, at the Awards Breakfast and Ceremony sponsored by CapTel® Captioned Telephone. We are pleased to honor those who have worked to further the mission of HLAA as well as on behalf of people with hearing loss.

Along with the awards, recognition is given during the Awards Breakfast to outgoing chapter and state leaders, Walk4Hearing participants for leadership roles and program development from proceeds, Founder's Day, and other timely awards. [See the list of all the 2016 HLAA Award Recipients.](#)

Award nominations open each year in the fall. More information about the HLAA Awards Program can be found on the [HLAA website.](#)

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 donation of \$10,000 or more. Please take action by May 31 so you can be included in a special discussion/reception at the HLAA Convention and later in another meeting via webinar. However, no donation is too small!

This spring, HLAA is offering 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



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people will receive the appeal and report in the mail, but it is also available [online](#).

Thank you to all our members and supporters!

ADVOCACY

HAAA Selected by the U.S. Department of Transportation for Advisory Committee on Accessible Air Transportation

Lise Hamlin, director of public policy, has been selected by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to represent people with hearing loss on the newly chartered Advisory Committee on Accessible Air Transportation (ACCESS Advisory Committee).

The ACCESS Advisory Committee was chartered to enter into a negotiated rulemaking (Reg-Neg) that will help DOT draft a rulemaking on In-Flight Entertainment (IFE) and In-Flight Communication (IFC), service animals, and accessible lavatories. Lise attended the first of their two-day meetings this past week, and is joining the working group for IFE/IFC.

We apparently have our work cut out for us! At the very first meeting representatives of the airline industry challenged the authority of DOT to create a rulemaking on IFC and intimated that at least some members of the airline industry may choose to file comments opposing DOT's final rule, even if it is based on the consensus report issued by the ACCESS Advisory Committee when we complete our work.

We would welcome a change of heart in upcoming meetings. We believe at least some industry members do see the value of providing access to all members of the disability community who travel using these airlines. If you fly this summer and don't get the access you need, please file a complaint and let [Lise Hamlin](#) know about the problem.

HAAA Joins Farewell Gathering for FCC's Disability Rights Office Chief

Lise Hamlin joined members of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Disability Rights Office (DRO) to give a proper sendoff to departing DRO Chief Gregory Hlibok, who is leaving the FCC to join the private sector. Many members of his branch and others at the FCC showered him with praise for his work at the FCC. Suzy Rosen Singleton has been appointed to the post of DRO Chief.

CHAPTERS

Don't Give Up on Filing Your Chapter's 990-N e-Postcard!

Some chapters have not been able to file their IRS 990-N e-Postcards this year due to site errors in the IRS electronic filing system. The IRS Form 990-N online filing system (e-Postcard) moved from the Urban Institute to irs.gov in February 2016. Some chapters



have received site error messages while registering to file the form or when attempting to file the actual form. If this happens to you, the IRS offers this advice:

- Review the steps listed on [How to File Form 990-N](#). Pay particular attention to the "text character" restrictions.
- Review the Form 990-N (e-Postcard) [User Guide](#). It will explain each step in the filing process.
- If you are still unable to file due to site errors, call the IRS's Tax Exempt/Government Entities (TEGE) Customer Account Services (CAS) at 877.829.5500. A representative will gather your Form 990-N information for filing on your chapter's behalf. You should continue your efforts to file your chapter's Form 990-N even if you are late. You will not be penalized for being late but your chapter will have its Employee Identification Number (EIN) revoked if it goes three years without filing a Form 990-N e-Postcard.
- For more information on filing Form 990-N, see the [Form 990-N page](#) on irs.gov.

WALK4HEARING

Take Off With jetBlue!

Have your fundraising efforts prepared you for takeoff? You can take to the skies with a chance to win two round-trip tickets to any destination in the United States where jetBlue flies – a prize valued at \$800!

On December 8 we will have a random drawing for one lucky winner from the top 30 fundraisers of the 2016 Walk4Hearing. *You* could be the winner! Visit the [Walk4Hearing website](#) for more info.

We Want You to Step Up for People with Hearing Loss and Communication Access!

The theme for the 2016 Walk4Hearing is "Step Up for People with Hearing Loss and Communication Access!" With this we are issuing a Call to Action for people to step up and advocate for better communication access for themselves. Taking a few simple steps can go a long way toward creating awareness, reducing the stigma of hearing loss, and ultimately improving your quality of life.

We want to SEE you in action! Post a picture of yourself taking action on [Facebook](#) or Twitter [@Walk4hearing](#) using [#CommAccess](#). Don't have a Facebook or Twitter account but still want to share your photo, ideas and success stories? No worries – send them to CalltoActionWalks@hearingloss.org with "Call to Action" in the subject line.

More information on the HLAA Walk4Hearing and the Call to Action can be found at walk4hearing.org or by contacting [Ronnie Adler](#), director of Walk4Hearing.

