

MAY 6, 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.

ADVOCACY

HLAA Advocates for Widely Available, Affordable Hearing Aids

HLAA provided written comments in response to the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) notice reopening the comment period for consideration of the Draft Regulatory Requirements for Hearing Aid Devices and Personal Sound Amplification Products (PSAPs).

Our comments restated and reemphasized our verbal comments presented at the FDA Workshop on April 21, 2016 in support of more affordable and widely available hearing aids. HLAA supported a new class of over-the-counter hearing aids, as long as those hearing aids are accompanied by strong consumer protection regulations, information education for consumers that includes labeling that is clear and what the devices can and cannot do. We also advocated for transparency in sales and pricing that allows a consumer to pay for the cost of an audiogram and other rehabilitation services separately from the cost of the hearing aid to give people with hearing loss the tools they need to be an educated consumer.

HLAA's comments will be posted to hearingloss.org soon. They should also be posted [here](#) next week. If you would like a copy of our comments before they appear online, contact [Lise Hamlin](#), director of public policy.

HEARING LOSS MAGAZINE

THE LATEST ISSUE OF [HEARING LOSS MAGAZINE](#) IS HERE!



Watch your mailbox! The May/June 2016 issue of *Hearing Loss Magazine* is in the mail and should arrive by mid-May. This issue is chock full of great information and stories. You'll find the latest on [Convention 2016](#), the complete list of [Walk4Hearing](#) locations and dates, and of course the inspirational and informative articles you've come to expect.

Can't wait for the mailed copy? No problem. The digital version is available *now* to HLAA members! Just click [here](#) to access it. If you're not an HLAA member you can still preview the issue. But why miss out? Consider [joining](#)! At only \$35 per year you get the award-winning *Hearing Loss Magazine* along with [many other benefits](#).



CONVENTION 2016

Reserve Your Banquet Table Today!

Check this off your to-do list. Just go to the [Banquet Seating page](#) to find the perfect table.

EDUCATIONAL WEBINAR

Mark Your Calendars!

Join us on **May 18, 2016, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. (EDT)** for an [educational webinar](#) called ***Let's #captiontheworld***, presented by Lauren E. Storck, Ph.D.

Dr. Storck is founder and president of the [Collaborative for Communication Access via Captioning](#) (CCAC), a nonprofit organization of volunteer captioning advocates.

Dr. Storck will introduce the CCAC, which attracts many people with hearing loss, as well as many interested in education, literacy, languages, disabilities, technologies, and accessibility. 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."

CHAPTERS

Welcome Toni Barrient, New Southern California Chapter Coordinator

It is with great pleasure that we welcome our newest HLAA Chapter Coordinator, Toni Barrient, for the southern California chapters.

Toni is no stranger to HLAA. She worked in the national office for 10 years in chapter coordination, membership, and office management. She understands our chapters and is uniquely positioned to serve them. Toni has deep professional experience in hearing assistive technology with CaptionCall, Harris Communications, and MED-EL. She has assisted the City of Orange and the Mission Viejo Chapters, as well as a hearing and vision club that serves her retirement community.

Toni will be building upon the foundation laid by Nanci Linke-Ellis, who recently announced her intent to step down from the position after Convention. HLAA thanks Nanci for her many years of dedicated service to the southern California chapters, where she has made a great difference.

[Chapter coordinators](#) work in partnership with the director of chapter development, other chapter coordinators in the state, chapter leaders, and state associations.



Please join me in extending a warm HLAA welcome to Toni. We are looking forward to some exciting things to come in the southern California chapters. You can contact Toni at tbarrient@yahoo.com

IN THE NEWS

An article was recently published on cnhi.com, the website for Community Newspaper Holdings, Inc. (CNHI). The article, in which HLAA is quoted, brings additional awareness and attention to the severity of hearing loss in our country. A link to the article can be found [here](#).

CNHI is one of the leading publishers of local news and information in the United States. Their newspapers, websites and niche publications serve more than 130 communities throughout the U.S.

