

**OCTOBER 7, 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.*

***HLAA holds its members, chapters and all those impacted by Hurricane Matthew close in our thoughts. We are wishing safe passage to everyone affected by this storm.***

## **DEVELOPMENT**

### **Revlon LOVE IS ON Million Dollar Challenge**

Woo-hoo! We are up to more than \$37,000 in donations in the Revlon LOVE IS ON Million Dollar Challenge. Help us keep up the momentum going at [LOVEisONChallenge](#). Through Tuesday, October 11 at 2 p.m., donate at least \$25 and you will be entered to win a \$250 Visa gift card. Every \$25 donated is an additional entry to win.

Thank you in advance for your generous support. Spread the word on Twitter using #RevlonMillion.

## **WALK4HEARING**

### **\$1 Million Has Been Raised!**

The fall Walks are in full swing and your fundraising efforts are paying off – we have just surpassed the \$1 million mark! We are inching closer to the Walk4Hearing goal of \$1.4 million for the year. We truly appreciate all the hard work you're putting into fundraising and how much you are broadening the reach in educating and raising awareness about hearing loss. Thank you!

The Rochester Walk was held last weekend. They enjoyed beautiful weather and great crowds. The Walk raised nearly \$30,000, smashing their fundraising goal of \$25,000! This weekend, Walks are being held in St. Louis, Houston, and Philadelphia. Wish them all best of luck and good weather!

## **CHAPTERS**

### **Chapter Update Forms Now Due**

All HLAA chapters and state associations must complete a Chapter/State Update form by October 1. You can download the form [here](#).

HLAA's Membership Services and Web Technologies Departments use the information on these forms to update your chapter's database record and its listing in the *Find A Chapter* page of the HLAA website. With more than 160 chapters and state associations, working from these forms is the best way for HLAA to process the data and keep your chapter's information up to date.

Many of you have already submitted your forms and your diligence is greatly appreciated. If you are not sure if you have submitted the form we will be happy to check for you. Just email, Valerie Stafford-Mallis, at [chapters@hearingloss.org](mailto:chapters@hearingloss.org).

## **AWARENESS**

### **Hidden Heroes Campaign**

Members of the Elizabeth Dole Foundation will present the October 19 webinar – more details to be posted next week. HLAA is honored to be a resource for military and veteran caregivers as part of [Hidden Heroes](#), an initiative of the Elizabeth Dole Foundation.

## **ADVOCACY**

HLAA has signed onto two documents being filed with federal agencies:

- HLAA joined 40 consumer organizations and supporters in their response to the Department of Justice (DOJ) Supplemental Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (SANPRM) regarding access to state and local government websites, titled *Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability; Accessibility of Web Information and Services of State and Local Government Entities and Public Accommodations*. Drafted by several different consumer organizations working in concert, including the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) and the National Association of the Deaf (NAD), the filing is a comprehensive document long in response to more than 115 questions posed by the DOJ. HLAA is pleased to sign onto this impressive document.
- HLAA is also a member of the Independence Through Enhancement of Medicare and Medicaid (ITEM) and the Habilitation Benefits (HAB) Coalitions. These two coalitions, in concert with the Coalition to Preserve Rehabilitation (CPR), filed comments with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), which HLAA signed onto. The comment letter was in response to the proposed rule issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' 2018 notice of benefit and payment parameters under the Affordable Care Act.

## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

### **Elizabeth Booth of HLAA Sun Lakes Chapter Honored With Oticon Focus On People Award**

Elizabeth Booth of the HLAA Sun Lakes (Arizona) Chapter was among the outstanding individuals with hearing loss honored with a 2016 Oticon Focus on People Award. The Oticon Focus on People Awards is a national competition that celebrates people who are helping to eliminate negative stereotypes of what it means to have a hearing loss. As the first place winner in the Advocacy category, Booth was honored at a special awards ceremony at Oticon's U.S. headquarters in Somerset, New Jersey on September 27.

As part of her award, Booth designated HLAA and the HLAA Sun Lakes Chapter as her choices for a \$1,000 donation from Oticon.

“Outstanding volunteers, like Elizabeth Booth, are opening doors of opportunity for all people with hearing loss,” states Oticon President Peer Lauritsen. “Elizabeth generously shares her time, talent and personal experience with hearing loss to help others with hearing loss live full and productive lives. We are inspired by her optimism, her dedication and her ‘can do’ attitude.”

Elizabeth is a retired reading specialist and still volunteers full time to educate, generously giving her time and talents to better the lives of individuals with hearing loss at the local, state and national levels. As someone who has a cochlear implant and hearing aid, she is a natural teacher and role model for others struggling with the challenges of hearing loss. Elizabeth says, “Life is not always the party we hoped for but while we are here, we should dance. Helping people master the steps is a rewarding and humbling commitment.”

Elizabeth is the co-leader of two HLAA chapters and her popular *Listening with Booth* column appears in several hearing loss-related newsletters. She is a mentor for cochlear implant candidates and recipients and a frequent volunteer for research studies at Arizona State University. In 2012, the governor of Arizona appointed her to a seat on the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing where she also serves on the Hard of Hearing Task Force.

Read the inspirational stories of all 12 winners of the 2016 Oticon Focus on People Awards [here](#).

Along with Elizabeth we congratulate HLAA Members Stephen Frazier of Albuquerque, New Mexico and Dan Carione of Massapequa, New York who won second and third place, respectively, in the Advocacy category. Well done!

## **IN THE NEWS**

HLAA Board of Trustee Member Richard Einhorn was recently interviewed by *San Francisco Classical Voice* to discuss the challenges a musician faces when they have a hearing loss. You can read the full article [here](#).