

JUNE 2, 2017

This is a weekly report from the HLAA national office in Bethesda, Maryland. Please also [sign up](#) for the online HLAA e-News where even more news is published.

OTC HEARING AIDS IN THE NEWS

NBC News: Legislation Pushes for Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids

Not only is the Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act of 2017 [gaining steam](#) in Congress, it is also getting increased attention from the media. Most recently, on May 22 NBC [Nightly News with Lester Holt aired a segment](#) on hearing loss and over-the-counter devices. HLAA Executive Director Barbara Kelley was also interviewed for the story. While her interview got cut from the broadcast due to breaking news, it was [posted on the NBC site](#) as an extended interview. (Please note that the videos on the NBC website are not captioned, however captioned versions are available on YouTube. You can find the segment that aired on the broadcast [here](#) and Barbara's extended interview [here](#).)

In addition to the NBC News story, several other media outlets have published articles on OTC hearing aids (which you can find on the [Current News](#) section of the HLAA website), including an opinion piece that appeared in [The Hill](#) written by HLAA Board of Trustees Members Jan Blustein and Frank Lin. Be sure to check back to our site frequently for the latest on this hot topic!

NAS REPORT UPDATE

NAS to Hold Public Dissemination Meeting

On Friday June 9, 2017, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAS) will host a public dissemination meeting for the report [Hearing Health Care for Adults: Priorities for Improving Access and Affordability](#) at the Keck Center in Washington, DC. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. Eastern Daylight Saving Time and last until approximately 3:30 p.m. CART and hearing loop accessibilities will be provided at this meeting. You can find more information, including links to registration and the agenda for the meeting [here](#).

HLAA AWARDS

Congratulations to the 2017 HLAA Award Recipients

We are pleased to announce the HLAA Award recipients for 2017. HLAA will honor outstanding individuals, HLAA Chapters and State Organizations, and companies at the HLAA2017 Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, on Friday evening, June 23, at the *HLAA Stars Come Out Awards Ceremony and Talent Show*. You can find the complete list of award recipients [on our website](#).





This Week in Bethesda

Congratulations to all award recipients – thank you for your efforts in making a difference in the lives of people with hearing loss!

HLAA2017 CONVENTION & WALK4HEARING

Join us on Thursday, June 22 at 10 a.m. when HLAA2017 Convention and the Walk4Hearing will come together in Salt Lake City to bring you a “mini” Walk4Hearing event. The 1.5 mile Walk begins at Little America Hotel which and will take you on a scenic route along Main Street to Temple Square and ends at the Salt Palace Convention Center, where you can pick up your Convention registration badges, tickets, and more! Walkers will receive a special edition Walk4Hearing t-shirt (limited quantity) and bottled water. Come stretch out your legs and step up for people with hearing loss at this extra special mini-Walk4Hearing!

Mobile captioning will be available for pre-Walk speeches. Visit walk4hearing.org on your mobile device, go to “Walk Day CC” and find “HLAA2017 Convention Walk4Hearing,” then click on “View Captions.”

We want to send a big shout-out to **IntriCon** and **Hearing Help Express**, who “stepped up” to sponsor this event. Thank you – we couldn’t do this without you!

If you have questions or need ADA accommodations contact Ann Rancourt at arancourt@hearingloss.org or call 301.657.2248.

(Note: Convention attendees staying at the Radisson can take the Temple Square TRAX/Light Rail to Courthouse Station to get to Little America Hotel.)

WALK4HEARING

Step up for people with hearing loss and communication access! If you’re in the area, join us at the following walks next weekend, we promise you won’t be disappointed!

June 10 - [Long Beach Walk4Hearing](#)

June 11 - [Colorado Walk4Hearing](#)

You can register your team at walk4hearing.org. In addition to these two June Walks, we have [13 Walks](#) across the country from September through November. All the fall Walks have kickoff information posted on the respective web page for the event. It’s time to save the date and RSVP!





This Week in Bethesda

Fundraising Has Never Been Easier!

We have a new fundraising guide available to registered walkers in [My Walk Center](#). Take advantage of this great resource to help you get creative with your fundraising efforts. And, remember, the more you raise the better the incentives! Walkers who raise \$100 or more will receive a t-shirt, and backpacks are given to walkers who raise \$500 or more.

Are You up for the Challenge?

HLAA is kicking off its [#HearingLossChallenge](#) to increase the visibility of hearing loss. Only people with hearing loss know what it's like to live in a world without sounds. With the [#HearingLossChallenge](#) we are giving people a chance to understand what that world is like.

At upcoming Walk4Hearing events we will be giving out earplugs to people without a hearing loss, allowing them to experience our world firsthand while walking to make a difference. Encourage friends and family at the Walk to take the [#HearingLossChallenge](#)! Earplugs provided by [Cochlear Americas](#) will be handed out at every Walk4Hearing nationwide.

Share your experience on social media with a photo or a video of you taking the challenge! Don't forget to tag [@HLAA](#) [@Walk4Hearing](#) with [#HearingLossChallenge](#)!

