



**Western Colorado Chapter  
Hearing Loss Association of America  
Free Monthly Meeting  
Saturday, January 5, 2019**

**Hearing Loss Video Program!**

There are many on-line video resources available to help people with hearing loss. Topics range from types of hearing loss to devices to coping skills. At this meeting we will review some of the various websites videos, including those found at the national HLAA website: [HearingLoss.org](http://HearingLoss.org). Learning more about your hearing loss is important to help improve your life.

As a group, we will select a video to watch that interests the majority of the people in attendance. We may select a longer video or several short videos.

Any video that is shown will be captioned. If you have a video or web link, please feel free to share. You can research various options at these websites:

[www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)

[www.hearingtracker.com/dr-cliff-aud](http://www.hearingtracker.com/dr-cliff-aud)

Various hearing aid and cochlear implant websites

**People of all ages and all types of hearing loss are welcome!**

All HLAA chapter meetings are free to members and non-members, including family and friends. Meetings are held the first Saturday of the month, 10:30-12:30.

**Saturday, January 5, 2019**

**10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Center for Independence**

**740 Gunnison Avenue**

**Grand Junction, CO 81501**

**For questions or further information contact:**

**Amy Beckett: [HLAAWCO@gmail.com](mailto:HLAAWCO@gmail.com) Or 970-241-2592**

More about the Hearing Loss Association of America: [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)

More about the Center for Independence: [www.cfigj.org](http://www.cfigj.org)



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING HLAA WCO MEETINGS!**  
**People of all ages and all types of hearing loss are welcome!**  
**All meetings are free to members and non-members, including family and friends.**  
Meetings are the first Saturday of the month, 10:30 – 12:30  
(No meeting in June, July or August)  
Center for Independence, 740 Gunnison Avenue, Grand Junction  
Contact Amy Beckett: HLAAWCO@gmail.com or 970-241-2592

**Upcoming Events - Mark your calendar so you don't miss a thing! Dates are listed below.** If you have an idea or request for a program, or if you would like to make a presentation, please contact HLAAWCO@gmail.com.

**February 2, 2019:** Program is under development

**March 2, 2019:** Hearing Aid Update with guest speaker Pamela Kreps from Pinnacle Hearing Aid Center.

**April 6, 2019:** Resiliency and Positive Psychology: This session will be led by a licensed therapist. We also plan to have ASL interpreters for this program.

**May 4, 2019:** Program is under development

#### **Inclement Weather Policy**

Every attempt will be made to hold all meetings. However, if you do not feel safe driving to the meeting please use your best judgement.

#### **Save the date! HLAA2019 National Convention**

The next national convention has been announced. Save the date for June 20 - 23, 2019, in Rochester, New York! The convention hotel and meeting space are the Hyatt Regency Rochester and the Rochester Riverside Convention Center. Registration opens December 1.

If you are interested in attending, consider going as a Chapter Delegate at a discounted rate. Chapters may register up to 4 officers plus 1 Delegate at the early-bird discounted rate of \$125. To receive the discounted rate, use the registration form. The Early-bird registration deadline is March 1. Chapter Delegates attend programs that are geared toward chapter development. Event tickets are an extra charge.

#### **Please consider joining Hearing Loss Association of America:**

Membership in HLAA provides many benefits. In addition to the bi-monthly magazine, discounts on products and services, and on-line webinars and training, you have the knowledge that you are an active participant in a group that is a force for change for people with hearing loss. Please go on-line today! [www.hearingloss.org/content/member-benefits](http://www.hearingloss.org/content/member-benefits)

There are many time-sensitive activities and notices that the National office sends to members via email and posts on their website, including bills that are being considered at the national level that impact people with hearing loss. Other notices are about training on-line classes or requests to participate in surveys.

The best way to get up-to-date information that affects YOU is to become a member! Take an active role in helping yourself by becoming a member!

## **We (That Includes You!) Are Number 6...and That's a Good Thing!**

In 2015, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported on the prevalence of disabilities in the United States. There was one problem with the survey they conducted—they neglected to ask about hearing loss. At the time, we educated them on why hearing loss needed to be included in any studies going forward. If it weren't for HLAA, hearing loss would fall by the wayside again.

On August 17, the CDC came out with their 2018 report, "The Prevalence of Disabilities and Health Care Access by Disability and Status Type among Adults - United States, 2016." This time, hearing loss was included. In all there were six disabilities people were asked about. Hearing loss was added to the original five: cognition, independent living, mobility, self-care, and vision. The CDC said by adding the sixth disability (hearing loss) to the list the number of adults ages 18 and above who have a disability **jumped from one in five to one in four**. The study authors report this as a key finding.

These studies are important because they help shape public policy and services concerning people with disabilities. When you read the report, keep in mind the CDC only asked about being "deaf or having a serious difficulty hearing." Therefore, their findings might seem low to you, as they didn't take into account all levels of hearing loss. People also had to self-report via a telephone survey. Their conclusions align with other scientific surveys.

## **Rural Interpreting Services Project (RISP)**

The RISP Pilot provides \$700,000 over a two-year period to arrange for and provide sign language interpreters in rural areas of Colorado at no cost to consumers or service providers. Rural communities will have access to quality interpreting services for a variety of needs, including: medical, legal, community, or work-related situations. The RISP Pilot will also provide opportunities for initial and advanced sign language interpreter training to increase the availability of interpreting services in rural areas. Also, other types of accommodation for people who are hard of hearing, but do not use sign language, can also apply for services.

**For more information** about the RISP Program, or to request services, contact Trish Leakey, Auxiliary Services Manager, Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind, 1575 Sherman Street, Garden Level, Denver, CO 80203, [trish.leakey@state.co.us](mailto:trish.leakey@state.co.us)  
Phone: 720-949-7483

## **Colorado Sprint Relay Sponsorship for the Western Colorado Newsletter**

Many thanks to Sprint Relay for sponsoring the publication of the Western Colorado HLAA newsletter. Their generous gift of \$2,000 will allow the chapter to expand its reach to people with hearing loss in western Colorado.

One of the services that Sprint Relay Provides is Captioned Telephone Service. This service allows you to answer your calls with confidence and allows you to LISTEN and READ captions of everything your caller says during your phone conversations. Don't miss another word! For most individuals, the phones are provided at no charge.

Another service is Relay Conference Captioning (RCC). This is a free service available for Deaf and Hard of Hearing residents of Colorado, and allows these individuals to participate in meetings (in-person or remote), phone calls, videoconferences and multi-party teleconference calls. All you need is a phone and a connection to a website.

Production of this newsletter is sponsored by Sprint Relay.

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# Relay Conference Captioning (RCC)

A free service for Colorado residents who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing to actively participate in meetings!

To learn more, visit  
[ColoradoRCC.com](http://ColoradoRCC.com)



For more information, check out our website at [www.hearinglossco.org](http://www.hearinglossco.org)

We are also on Facebook!  
<https://www.facebook.com/HLAAWCO/>

Also check out the national website:  
[www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)

Hearing Loss Association of America  
Western Colorado Chapter  
998 Crown Ct  
Grand Junction, CO 81505