



**Western Colorado Chapter
Hearing Loss Association of America
Free Monthly Meeting
Saturday, April 2, 2016**

Tatyana Mezentseva, Sprint Relay Colorado

Sprint Relay Colorado is a free public service that enables people with hearing or speech loss who use an assistive phone device to communicate with standard telephone users. The conversation is relayed between the two parties by a specially trained Relay Colorado Communications Assistant. Relay Colorado provides many other services that are available 24 hours a day 365 days per year.

Tatyana has been hard-of-hearing since she was a toddler. Raised mostly oral, she didn't start learning sign language until she moved to America in 1996. She started working with Sprint Relay in 2013 supporting Relay Program Managers with maintaining compliance with the FCC. She began assisting with the Relay Colorado outreach in 2015. Driven by her passion to help the deaf and hard-of-hearing community, she attends various community events, helps with outreach efforts, and informs the community of the services available to them.

During the lunch portion of our meeting we will ask the attendees to share ideas for improving the Chapter's community outreach and advocacy efforts. The Chapter is forming a Task Force to meet over the summer to develop a plan to implement these ideas. All comments and questions are welcome!

Thanks to a grant from the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, this meeting is captioned. An induction hearing loop is also available. Sprint Relay Colorado is providing lunch for this meeting.

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

**Saturday, April 2, 2016
10:30am - 12:30pm
Center for Independence
740 Gunnison Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81501**

**For questions or further information contact:
Amy Beckett: HLAAWCO@gmail.com Or 970-241-2592**

More about the Hearing Loss Association of America: www.hearingloss.org
More about Relay Colorado: www.relaycolorado.com

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!

May 7, 2016

JoAnne Hirsch, Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program Coordinator, CCDHH
JoAnne provides telecommunications-related equipment, resources and outreach to deaf, hard-of-hearing and deaf-blind Coloradoans, through the Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (TEDP). The TEDP provides free telecommunications equipment and accessories to qualified Colorado residents. This is a service provided through the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH). Joanne will discuss the application process and the various types of equipment provided. Pizza lunch will be provided by the Center for Independence.

Colorado Walk4Hearing is Sunday, June 12, 2016

The annual Colorado Walk4Hearing will be June 12 at Clement Park, 7306 W. Bowles Ave, in Littleton, CO. The walk kickoff meeting is Sunday, April 17, 2016, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, Lone Tree Golf Club & Hotel, 9808 Sunningdale Blvd, Lone Tree, CO 80124. For more information go to the walk website at www.walk4hearing.org. Within the next month, the Western Slopes team will be formed to invite participants and raise funds to benefit the local, state and national HLAA organizations.

Chapter Planning Meeting Summary

On Tuesday, March 15, we held our biannual chapter planning meeting. Many thanks to the participants. One main topic discussed was about improving the chapter's community outreach. We have a lot of ideas, but it is also a lot of work. The committee decided to set up about three task force meetings over the summer to plan, discuss, and do the work for community outreach. The tentative date for the first task force meeting is June 25. More details will be presented in the next newsletter and at the meeting on April 2. Everyone is encouraged to attend and participate! Many thanks to Robin Taber for her years of service on the planning committee. Robin is the co-founder of the chapter and a charter member.

Looking Ahead: Chapter meeting on September 10

The first meeting after the summer break will be on the second Saturday of September. The Outreach Task Force will present its work to the attendees.

February Meeting Summary

Many thanks to Keri Reynolds, from MED-EL, who gave an update on implantable solutions for people with hearing loss. The program focused on the decision-making process that individuals go through when determining if they will get a cochlear implant. She discussed the considerations that are a part of the decision, including advice from the audiologist or surgeon and the impact to the family. Cochlear implant recipients need to have an adequate post-surgery support system to ensure they receive care needed during the adaptation phase. It is important to remember that receiving a cochlear implant is a life-long journey and can require an appropriate level of personal self-motivation.

Updates from the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH)

Changes are underway for the CCDHH. The Commission is now a division of Office of Community Access and Independence. The Commission is also adding Deaf-Blind services and is seeking funding from the state legislature to support these services. As a result, the composition of the Commissioners has changed. The Commissioner representing the public is being replaced with a Commissioner representing the Deaf-Blind community. The Commission is actively seeking volunteers to fill this position as well as other open commission seats. Submit applications for the Commissioner position at <https://www.tfaforms.com/290254>.

For more information on CCDHH, please visit www.ccdhh.com or contact Lisa Weiss, Nominations Committee Chair at weiss.lisa@me.com.

National HLAA Convention, June 23 - 26, Washington DC

Hearing Loss Association of America Hosts the HLAA Convention 2016 and the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH) Congress June 23 - 26, Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. in Washington DC. Registration deadline is May 31, 2016.

In addition to the fully accessible workshops and vendors' exhibits, there are plenty of opportunities to have fun with fellow attendees. On Saturday evening is the convention Banquet, with host Gael Hannan, comedienne, author, and hearing loss advocate and entertainment by Magician/Mentalist Max Major. In addition, there are opportunities to view the sights in our Nation's capital.

Barbara Kelley Is Named Executive Director of the Hearing Loss Association of America

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the appointment of Barbara Kelley as the new executive director of HLAA. Her appointment is effective immediately. Hired by Founder Rocky Stone in 1988, Barbara has been a part of the organization's growth, beginning with editing the first issues of the SHHH Journal until most recently the award-winning Hearing Loss Magazine. She has also helped manage the office team and worked on many of the HLAA programs.

Barbara said, "It has been my life's work to contribute to the mission of the organization through a range of activities. I look forward to using my history and knowledge of the organization to ensure that HLAA remains the valued consumer voice for people with hearing loss in both shaping public policy and helping people live well with hearing loss. I'm energized by our members and supporters whose dedication to HLAA is unwavering. I look forward to working with our members, board, supporters and staff in my role as executive director."

Please consider joining Hearing Loss Association of America

Membership in HLAA provides many benefits. In addition to the bi-monthly Hearing Loss 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

Like us on Facebook!

The Western Colorado Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association is on Facebook! Search for Hearing Loss or type <https://www.facebook.com/HLAAWCO> in your browser. We post information about our chapter as well as information about the hearing loss community in western Colorado. We have over 50 likes! Help us reach our first 100 likes!

The production of this newsletter is sponsored by Sprint Relay



Sprint is the provider of telephone relay service in Colorado.

Relay Colorado is a free public service that enables people with hearing or speech loss who use a teletypewriter (TTY) or other assistive device to communicate with standard telephone users. The conversation is relayed between the two parties by a specially trained Relay Colorado Communications Assistant.

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