



**Western Colorado Chapter
Hearing Loss Association of America
Free Monthly Meeting
Saturday, September 12, 2015**

**Opening Session of the National HLAA Convention
Featuring Executive Director, Anna Gilmore Hall,
Senator Tom Harkin, and Charles Laszlo, Ph.D.**

The national convention of the Hearing Loss Association of America was in June 2015 in St Louis. Over 1400 people attended. At this chapter meeting we will show a video of the Opening Session of the convention featuring Executive Director Anna Gilmore Hall giving an update on HLAA activities. Senator Tom Harkin received the HLAA Advocacy Hall of Fame Award. The audience was captivated as he talked about the ADA, his history with Founder Rocky Stone, his career, and a funny story about captioned glasses. Charles Laszlo, Ph.D., keynote speaker, concluded the evening with a positive view of hearing loss and the work that still needs to be done.

The video is captioned and will allow meeting attendees to experience how interesting and accommodating the national conventions are.

This meeting is captioned. An induction hearing loop is also available.
Refreshments will be served.

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, September 12, 2015
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



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(No meeting in June, July or August)
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Program planning is underway! Mark your calendars for our upcoming events!

September 3: Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Quarterly Meeting
The Colorado Legislature recently approved the CCDHH to continue for another 9 years. While most of us know the CCDHH for its work in providing telephone equipment through the Telephone Equipment Distribution Program (TEDP), the Commission provides many other services and collaborates with other agencies to provide better communication access for people who are deaf and hard of hearing. Come learn more about this state-wide commission. **The Commission Meeting will be Thursday September 3, 2015, 4:00pm - 7:00pm at the Center for Independence.**

October 3: An Update from the Colorado Commission of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Candice Alder, Outreach Consultant for the Hard-of-Hearing Community, CCDHH
Candice is an Outreach Consultant focusing on hard-of-hearing issues and resources. She offers best practice solutions and compliance strategies that provide greater access for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing. In addition to providing training seminars on the ADA, Candice has worked in conjunction with several state, county and city government agencies on providing greater communication access through outreach, consultation and technical assistance efforts.

Fundraiser at the Chapter Meeting on October 3, 2015
The Chapter has received several donations of books, bags, and other items that will be for sale at the meeting in October. Be sure to bring your checkbook to this meeting so you can pick out something special for yourself! All proceeds will go to the chapter treasury.

November 7: Bernadette Mills, AAA Hearing “An Update on Hearing Aid Technology”
Dr. Bernadette Mills received her Masters in Audiology from Colorado State University 1989 and her Doctorate in Audiology from A.T. Still University of Health Sciences at Arizona School of Health Sciences in 2008. She has lived and raised a family in Grand Junction since the early 1990’s. She has practiced Audiology since 1989. Dr. Mills will give an update on hearing aid technology.

December 5: Please join us at our annual holiday luncheon!
This annual tradition is a wonderful way to socialize with other who also have hearing loss!

January 9, 2016: John Klish, Gold Medal Olympian and Sportsman of the Year
The chapter welcomes back John Klish, a western slope native who achieved a gold medal at the Deaflympics in Sofia, Bulgaria in 2013. He was also named the USA Deaf Sports Federation Sportsman-of-the-Year for 2014. He is the Founder and CEO of DEAFlete non-profit. We will get an update on John’s current activities and learn of his inspiring story.

March 5, 2016: Keri Reynolds, Med-El Consumer Outreach Manager
Keri Reynolds will give an update on implantable solutions for people with hearing loss.

HLAA National Convention 2015: June 25 - 28 at the St. Louis Union Station Hotel, St. Louis, MO
Western Colorado Chapter members Jan and Don Gladwell attended the convention this year as first time attendees. Here are their impressions.

The Convention far exceeded our expectations! It was held at the Union Station Hotel which is an old train depot that has been recently renovated. It was so neat! The flavor of the old train station has been preserved and since Jan's dad was a railroad engineer it was a real treat for us. It was not far from the Gateway Arch and Busch Stadium. Don got to see the Cardinals play the Cubs.

We split up and attended probably ten different seminars that covered subjects from new technology to hearing advocacy to finding the right audiologists. The speakers were all very well versed in their fields and we came away with a ton of new information.

Each day there was a vendor's expo in a huge exhibit hall. There must have been fifty or more vendors and the demand for their information was incredible. There were over fourteen hundred attendees and we along with everyone else were on missions to get info on devices and technology that could help us better deal with our hearing loss issues. This part of the convention was also extremely worthwhile.

Things wrapped up with an awards banquet. Former Iowa Senator Tom Harkin was honored and gave a humorous and inspiring speech. We also learned a great deal about the HLAA founder, Rocky Stone. What an amazing individual he was and what a debt of gratitude we all owe him for laying the groundwork for the organization we all enjoy today. And the deaf comedian, Kathy Buckley, who was the entertainment at the Banquet, was a hoot!

All in all, we got far more from the convention than we expected and would recommend attending the next one to any HLAA members that can possibly make it. We would say that it was worth far more than the modest fees they charged and we think anyone with a hearing loss could come away with new information to help deal with their particular situation and renewed inspiration to advocate for our uniquely disabled population.

May 2015 Meeting Notes:

At our May meeting the topic was "What Works for Me!" Many thanks to Jeanne Teige and Trudy Winokur telling us of their inspiring success stories. Thanks also to David Winney from Innocaption. Unfortunately, at the time of the meeting, the captioned phone service had been suspended by the FCC. Mr. Winney instead demonstrated InnoCapTalk, a service to provide captioning on hand held devices. Also unfortunately, this service was suspended by the FCC. This is a disappointing development. Further information can be found on-line.

Colorado Walk4Hearing 2015

Thanks to the many supporters for the Western Slopers Team! The team was in third place, raising a total \$1,276.00! A portion of the funds remain with the chapter with a portion going to support the National and State offices. Overall, the Colorado Walk4Hearing raised \$25,624.00, and there were over 250 participants!

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On August 7, 2015, Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) issued an action alert regarding a recent study, Prevalence of Disability and Disability Types Among Adults conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). That study excluded people with hearing loss. Consumers and professionals alike were aghast at the exclusion of people with hearing loss in a study administered by CDC. CDC itself notes in this study, "Understanding the prevalence of disability is important for public health programs to be able to address the needs of persons with disabilities." HLAA made it clear to CDC that it had received a strong response from the community. It is vital that public health programs have access to data that includes people with hearing loss. CDC heard our message. The door has been opened, thanks to the overwhelming show of support. CDC is listening. HLAA will continue to talk and to listen to CDC as well. We appreciate that CDC has been responsive to our request and has opened up a dialog with us. We know that data regarding the health needs of people with hearing loss is sorely needed. We see this as a first step to ensure that people with hearing loss are counted and their voices heard.

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