



**Western Colorado Chapter  
Hearing Loss Association of America  
Free Monthly Meeting  
Saturday, March 5, 2016**

**Making the Implant Decision**

**Keri Reynolds, Southwest Outreach Manager, MED-EL Corporation**

Keri Reynolds will give an update on implantable solutions for people with hearing loss. The focus of the program will be on the decision-making process that individuals go through when determining if they will get a cochlear implant. In addition to the advice from the audiologist or surgeon, there are decisions related to the family, the individual's support system, the work environment, insurance, and personal self-motivation to consider.

Keri has a degree in education and a Master's degree in Counseling. As a bilateral Cochlear Implant user for over 10 years, she has experienced the impact of hearing loss in the workplace and what it means to enjoy renewed quality of life through the technology of her CIs. She enjoys the opportunity to share her knowledge and experiences as she consults with users, potential users, professionals, support groups and more.

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, March 5, 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](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!**

**April 2, 2016**

**Kristine Shipley and Tatyana Mezentseva, Sprint Relay Colorado**

Sprint is the provider of telephone relay service in Colorado. The attendees will learn about the services that Sprint provides to help deaf and hard of hearing people communicate better over the telephone. There will be demonstrations of the phones and services. Sprint is also providing lunch for this meeting.

**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.

**March 15, Chapter Planning Meeting**

Join us on Tuesday, March 15, for our biannual chapter planning meeting. We will discuss the overall activities of the chapter and plans for outreach and advocacy. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please contact Amy Beckett for the site information if you want to come to this event.

**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.

Since its formation in 2006, Walk4Hearing has raised over \$10 million dollars for programs and services for people with hearing loss, and has grown into the largest awareness and fundraising event for the Hearing Loss Association of America. Walk4Hearing educates the general public about hearing loss while easing the associated stigma. Striving to make hearing loss a public health issue, thousands of people of all ages, races, and backgrounds have come together to display their compassion for the cause and to make hearing loss an issue of national concern.

**February Meeting Summary**

Many thanks to Che Bou-Matar who shared his life's journey as a child with severe-to-profound hearing loss, through his schooling and university life, to a working adult with bilateral cochlear implants. We appreciated his careful and thoughtful review of his life experiences, many of which the attendees had also shared. Of special interest were the videos Che shared of his cochlear implant activation. It was easy to see the improvement from that time to his current level of understanding. Thanks, Che!



### **Internet Captioning Survey: Watch Videos on the Internet? Tell Us About It!**

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) the National Association of the Deaf (NAD), Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Inc (TDI), and Communication Service for the Deaf (CSD) want your feedback! Please answer a few questions to share your experiences while watching videos with closed captions on the Internet. Your responses will help us identify gaps in captioning coverage and identify ways to close those gaps. Thank you for your participation. The survey will be open until March 4, 2016. Thank you for your participation!

Here is a link to our survey: [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/WEDJK](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/WEDJK)

### **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.

The keynote speaker is Jenny Lay-Flurrie, Chair of the Disability Employee Resource Group and Chief Accessibility Officer for Microsoft. During her keynote, Disability as a Strength, Jenny will speak about her role as Chair of the Disability Employee Resource Group and Chief Accessibility Officer, and the tricks she has learned over the years about how to manage her own disability and use those skills to empower others to achieve more. In 2014 the White House recognized Jenny as a Disability Employment Champion of Change.

### **Hearing Loss Association of America Announces Departure of Executive Director Anna Gilmore Hall**

On January 13, 2016, the Board of Trustees of HLAA announced the departure of Executive Director Anna Gilmore Hall. Anna noted, "My husband and I are planning to relocate to Florida and will seek employment there." She commented that she had truly enjoyed her tenure as executive director of the Hearing Loss Association of America, noting that it is a great organization. The HLAA Board of Trustees, thanked Anna for her dedication and service over the past two-and-a-half years. She has effected many positive changes and leaves HLAA poised for future growth.

Effective immediately, Deputy Executive Director Barbara Kelley is acting executive director while a search is conducted for the executive director's position. Barbara has been with the organization for 28 years and has served as deputy executive director for the past eight. This will ensure continuity as HLAA moves forward.

### **ADARA Breakout2016 Colorado - A National Conference Promoting Well-Being for the Deaf Community, Cheyenne Mountain Resort in Colorado Springs, March 16 - 19**

The American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association (ADARA) will host a national conference to provide professional development and networking opportunities for behavioral health professionals, administrators and related professionals serving the deaf, deafened, deaf blind and hard of hearing communities.

Amy Beckett, HLAA WCO Chapter Leader, will be on a panel titled "Hard of Hearing Panel: Between Two Worlds, I Hear Your Voice but I Can't Understand You." Other panelists are Debbie Mohney, HLAA Colorado State Coordinator, Ann Belfiglio, RN, BSN, MSW, HLAA Leader, and Moderator Candice Alder, Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

**Western Colorado Chapter approved for nonprofit mailing rates**

The Western Colorado Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association was recently approved to send the newsletters using nonprofit mailing rates. The lower rate will allow the chapter to expand its outreach to members, potential members, professionals, and organizations. If you know someone who would like to be added to our mailing list please contact HLAAWCO@gmail.com

**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!

**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](http://www.hearingloss.org/content/member-benefits)

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