Advocacy in a New Political Environment
Intermediate
Presenter: John Waldo, Esq.

Summary: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) declares that people with hearing loss are entitled to effective communication, but contains no specifics, so our specific rights are defined by federal agencies and by the courts. For the past eight years, the federal agencies have been powerful and effective allies, but that might not be the case going forward. This workshop will review the current state of accessibility for people with hearing loss, the changes we see or can anticipate under the new administration, and will suggest advocacy strategies that might prove necessary and effective in this new era.

Parenting and Grandparenting When You Have a Hearing Loss
Beginner
Presenter: Eileen McCartin, Ph.D., Literacy and Instructional Technology; M.Ed. Administration and Supervision; M.A., Deaf Education; B.S., Educational Psychology; Deaf/Hard of Hearing Education Specialist, Loudoun County Public Schools

Summary: Hearing loss can be challenging, but it does not prevent individuals from being excellent parents and grandparents to the children in their lives. Research on the positive and negative effects of having a parent with hearing loss affects a child’s life as well as information on assistive devices, apps and strategies for communication. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions regarding their own situations.

This presentation is directed to parents and grandparents who are interested in learning about ways to communicate more fully and meaningfully with their young children and grandchildren. This workshop will include useful and practical tips, low and high-tech aids, and ideas regarding the challenges and rewards of parenting and grandparenting even with a hearing loss.

Overcome Environmental Acoustic Challenges to Ensure a Better Listening Experience
Beginner
Presenter: Steve Thunder, Hearing Loop Sales Engineer, Listen Technologies

Summary: This workshop will highlight and focus on the acoustic factors that make speech difficult to understand in various challenging environments, as well as the methods and advancements in technology that can be used to overcome the challenges and promote inclusivity.

**Tinnitus for Consumers: 2017**
Beginner

Summary: Tinnitus is often described as “ringing in the ear.” Tinnitus is perceived by about ten percent of adults in the USA. For a small minority of these people, their tinnitus is unrelenting. This workshop will include the importance of a proper diagnosis and proven scientifically-based management strategies for the person suffering from tinnitus. Management strategies will include alternative masking sounds, hearing aids, environmental sounds, counseling, cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) and more. A question and answer period will be provided at the end of the session.

**Am I the Only One with Hearing Loss? Have You Done Your Genealogy? Part I**
Beginner
Presenter: Debbe A. Hagner, A.G.

Hearing loss can often be passed from generation to generation. Attendees will learn the basics of conducting a family search in this two-part workshop. Once you get started, you’ll find it hard to stop! This workshop can help identify other family members who might have a hereditary hearing loss. Anyone who is interested in genealogy will be excited to visit Salt Lake City, Utah since it has a major genealogy research center. You will learn how you can find information on people who comprise your family tree. The Family History Library has records from all over the world. Come and join in on a fun genealogy journey.

2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

**Formula for Success – State Commissions**
Intermediate
Moderator: Sherri Collins, Executive Director, Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Panelists:
Marilyn Call, Director, Utah Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Deborah O’Willow, Director, Washington Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Steven Snow, Executive Director, Idaho Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Jan Withers, Director, North Carolina Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Summary: Directors of state agencies serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will share their insights as to how they collaborate with various organizations for positive outcomes. The audience will learn more about their state government’s roles and systems in addressing the needs for those with hearing loss. Their needs range from discrimination, education, health care, to employment and much more. State laws are varied from state to state on common issues, so this workshop aims to provide information to attendees about how they can work with their local state agency to find remedies more effectively.

Not all state agencies have similar structures and statutes; therefore, the audience will gain understanding of the policies and processes as to what and how diverse state agencies would respond. Some state agencies are allowed to pursue legislations while others are not allowed. Some agencies are independent and self-determined and others are not.

Is Sound Personalization the Answer to Listening to Music?
Intermediate
Presenters:
Guido Knook, M.Sc., Strategic Product Design, B.Sc., Industrial Design Engineering, User experience designer, Mimi Hearing Technologies GmbH
Pascal Werner, M.Sc., Biomedical Engineer

Summary: An emerging trend in the music industry is to personalize the playback of audio at the end-point (the listener); meaning to adjust the music based on the individual listener’s hearing ability. This is now possible because more people are starting to use digital streaming services to listen to music, and information is present at the point of playback (e.g., a smartphone or digital media player). Additionally, knowledge and research can now be done on a large scale and applied for individuals.

The opportunities for a better music listening experience for people with hearing loss are numerous. This workshop will show why personalized music listening experiences are going to be the future, how this will affect listening experience, and interactively provide a personalized experience for attendees.

This presentation will cover data-backed learnings from Mimi Hearing Technologies’ in-house research and medical research collaboration project with Berlin’s University Hospital Charité in addition to an overview of the personalized audio and music market including Mimi, Even, uSound, Ameo, Human, and Jacoti.

The Wireless Industry: How to Find Mobile Devices and Features that Work for You
Beginner
Moderator: Matthew Gerst, Director, Regulatory Affairs, CTIA

Panelists:
Sarah Herrlinger, Apple
Vonda Long, AT&T
Summary: Since 2009, *The Wireless Industry: How to Find Mobile Devices and Features that Work for You* has been a highly rated and attended program at the annual HLAA Conventions. This year, CTIA and member company representatives will help attendees learn how wireless services are positively impacting everyday communications and how individuals with a hearing loss can benefit from wireless devices and services. Attendees will learn how to search for innovative mobile devices and features that are fueling the industry and driving today’s workforce. The group will also get tips on how to choose a hearing-aid-compatible (HAC) wireless handset that will work best with hearing aid devices. The panel might feature industry experts, wireless carrier and manufacturer representatives and individuals with a hearing loss who will share their personal wireless experiences.

**Engaging and Empowering Patients to Manage their Hearing Health Care**

Beginner

Presenters:
Elizabeth Thompson, Au.D.
Bill Dickinson, Au.D.

Summary: Both formal research and anecdotal clinical observation suggest there is a knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) gap in the overall successful navigation of a typical consumer seeking and receiving hearing health care. While there is no lack of theoretical knowledge regarding how hearing care should be practiced, the knowledge, attitude and practice gap that often occurs between the consumers and providers in a hearing clinic is known to influence the practicalities of implementing life-enhancing care for people living with hearing loss.

As has been the central theme in multiple recent reports, the presenters consider why there might be a KAP gap, as well as how hearing loss is currently being assessed, treated and managed. Furthermore, this workshop will explore opportunities in which the consumer seeking hearing care can be more informed, engaged and empowered to positively influence their own treatment and outcomes while seeking and receiving hearing health care.

**Am I the Only One with Hearing Loss? Have You Done Your Genealogy? Part II**

Beginner

Presenter: Debbe A. Hagner, A.G.

In this workshop, attendees will continue to learn how to conduct a family search and to identify other family members who might have a hereditary hearing loss.