



Be Part of Honoring HLAA's Finest!
2016 AWARDS NOMINATION PACKAGE
DEADLINE FOR 2016 SUBMISSIONS: DECEMBER 4, 2015

HLAA will honor outstanding individuals, HLAA Chapters and State Organizations, companies, and organizations at the HLAA Convention 2016 in Washington, DC, on Sunday, June 26, at the Awards Breakfast and Ceremony. Some awards are presented at our other convention events, but the main attraction is the Awards Breakfast and Ceremony. In addition to the awards, recognitions are given during the Awards Breakfast to outgoing chapter and state leaders, Walk4Hearing participants for leadership roles/program development from proceeds, Founder's Day, and others when relevant.

Things to Know

- Individuals nominated must be current HLAA Members. There are three exceptions:
 - Alice Marie Stone Family Involvement
 - National Access
 - Outstanding Employer
- Nominations that include information closely matched to the specific award criteria explained herein stand the best chance of being selected.
- A prior year recipient for the same category in subsequent year will not be considered.
- Not all awards are presented each year.
- The awards committee reserves the right to select a recipient for another category than the nominee intended if it better fits other award criteria.
- The executive committee of the Board reserves the right to add an award at any time in addition to what is listed here.

Instructions

- Submit the Award Application Form with each award submitted. For example, if you submit five nominations, you will submit five Award Application Forms – one for each award.
- Awards criteria are found for each award open for nomination on the following pages.
- Please submit nominations by email to awards@hearingloss.org by **December 4, 2015**. **Please note in the subject line: "Awards: Name of the Award."** We appreciate all submissions by email because time and geographical constraints makes dissemination to committee members more efficient. Thank you for your cooperation.
- If you have any questions about the submission process, please send them to awards@hearingloss.org.

Judging

There are various award committees depending on the award categories. These committees consist of, but are not limited to, HLAA Chapter and State leadership, Board of Trustees, national staff, community leaders, hearing health care professionals, etc. The committee for general awards is made of up a cross-section of people who have a strong interest in HLAA and/or people with hearing loss. The Board of Trustees awards are chosen by the executive committee of the Board of Trustees.

There are two awards that are not open for public nomination: the Rocky Stone Humanitarian Award which is given to a former Board member and is chosen by the Board of Trustees from a recommendation from a Board-appointed Rocky Stone Committee; and, the James B. Snow, Jr., M.D., Award which is chosen by the executive committee of the Board from nominations submitted by previous recipients of this award.



Nominations are held confidential and will not be discussed outside of committees.

Notification

Award recipients will be notified by mail in January 2016. If recipients are able to attend the HLAA Convention to receive their award, they are offered the early-bird registration discount which expires January 31, 2016. (A registration form will accompany the award letter.)

Of those who submitted nominations and their nominee was not selected will receive a letter stating so by the end of January 2016. If your candidate was not selected, please consider submitting nominations in subsequent years.

Nominations are Accepted for the Awards Listed Below (listed alphabetically within)

AWARDS FOR CHAPTERS AND STATES NOMINATED BY HLAA MEMBERS

Chapters and states are encouraged to submit awards on their own behalf.

- Nancy Wessner Outstanding State Chapter Coordinator
- Newsletter – Chapter and State (both are separate awards with a separate submission for each)
- Outstanding HLAA Chapter on a Mission
- Phoenix – Chapter and State
- Professional Advisor Support – Chapter and State
- State Association or State Office
- Up and Coming Chapter – (Less than two years old) – **NEW!**
- Website – Chapter and State

AWARDS FOR HLAA MEMBERS NOMINATED BY ANYONE

Some of these awards pertain to chapters and states, please read the descriptions for each.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Alice Marie Stone Family Involvement | Outstanding Young Adult |
| Community Service | Parent Involvement |
| Get in the Hearing Loop Campaign | Social Media – NEW! |
| HLAA Service | Spirit of HLAA |
| Marcia Dugan Advocacy | |

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AWARDS (toward end of package)

These awards generally are open to nomination only by HLAA Chapters and State Organizations, HLAA current members, and staff of the national office. In some cases, people can self-nominate or it's open to all (indicated with the award description). The recipients will be selected by the executive committee of the Board of Trustees.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Advocacy Hall of Fame | Rocky Stone Humanitarian Award (not open) |
| Keystone | James B. Snow, Jr., M.D. (not open) |
| National Access | |
| Outstanding Employer | |
| Walter T. Ridder | |

HLAA Mission

Hearing Loss Association of America opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support and advocacy.



AWARD APPLICATION FORM

(Please include this form with each nomination)

Date of Submission: _____

Please use this cover sheet for each nomination being submitted. Use additional sheets if needed and include other support material as appropriate. Follow the criteria for the award and answer below, the specific questions in each category.

Award Name:

Nominee:

Submitted by:

Name / Title

Company / Organization

Address

City, State, Zip

Email

Daytime phone

Write a narrative of why this person, company or organization should be considered for this award. See criteria for each award on the following pages. We ask that you limit your narratives to approximately 300 words. Please submit via email with subject line of "Awards: Name of the Award" by the December 4, 2015, deadline awards@hearingloss.org. Thank you.



ALICE MARIE STONE FAMILY INVOLVEMENT AWARD

(For HLAA Members Nominated by Anyone)

When one family member loses his or her hearing, everyone in the family is affected. Family members without hearing loss might feel similar hurt and frustration as the member with hearing loss does. HLAA is committed to supporting family members and helping them understand hearing loss. HLAA seeks to involve people with hearing to help them learn how to communicate successfully with their relatives who have a hearing loss, and cope with everyday situations.

This award is intended to recognize dedicated family members and their contribution to the growth and development of HLAA. The award is named after Alice (“Ahme”) Marie Stone, wife of Founder Rocky Stone and the first recipient of this award.

The person nominated for the Alice Marie Stone Family Involvement Award does not have to be an HLAA member but the person with the hearing loss whom they support must be.

Criteria for Judging

Please provide narrative on the following criteria for this award nomination on the application form.

1. Explain how the family member or members (spouse, parent, children, sibling, or significant other) are unusually dedicated to supporting and encouraging their family member(s) with hearing loss.
2. How is the family or family member involved with HLAA? Please explain how the family member(s) have actively contributed to the growth and development of HLAA.



COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
(For HLAA Members Nominated by Anyone)

A Community Service Award is presented to HLAA Chapters, State Organizations, or to an individual who has undertaken significant outreach projects or efforts that serve the community by creating awareness and teaching others about hearing loss and the communication obstacles that it can create.

Examples of service might be educational forums or presentations to employees of hospitals, fire departments, emergency care providers, police forces, recreation and entertainment facilities, businesses, etc. It might also take the form of presentations to students, teachers, scout troops, service club members, houses of worship, and other not-for-profit groups. Professional involvement with this work qualifies for the award as long as the assistance has no connection to any kind of hearing health care product marketing or sales.

The service projects will reach deep into the community, possibly be ongoing and be recognized by the community as useful for all citizens. It will have a lasting effect and be of value to HLAA and to people with hearing loss.

Criteria for Judging

Please provide narrative on the following criteria for this award nomination on the application form.

1. Describe your community service project(s) that have included training in understanding hearing loss and helping people develop sensitivity to people with hearing loss.
2. As a result of the project, how and where have awareness and communication improved in your community? Approximately how many people did you reach with this service project? If the project is ongoing, what is planned for the future?
3. Was/Is the project a team effort? How many members were/are involved? Did you use any professional assistance, paid or pro bono? If so, please explain.
4. What HLAA information or educational resource materials did you use to assist in the community service project? What did you find most useful? What would you have liked to have that was not available?
5. How has this project made your community a better place for people with hearing loss? Please describe the impact on the community.



GET IN THE HEARING LOOP CAMPAIGN AWARD

(For HLAA Members Nominated by Anyone)

The Hearing Loss Association of America on behalf of people with hearing loss and the American Academy of Audiology (the Academy), on behalf of audiologists, announced a collaborative public education campaign, "Get in the Hearing Loop" in June 2010. The campaign was designed to enlighten and excite hearing aid users, as well as audiologists and other professionals who dispense hearing aids, about telecoils and hearing loops and their unique benefits. This award recognizes excellence in communicating the benefits of loop technology to a broad audience and success in getting loop technology accepted and installed in local communities.

Criteria for Judging

Please provide narrative on the following criteria for this award nomination on the application form.

1. Describe the loop project(s) that have included training in understanding hearing loss and helping people develop sensitivity to people with hearing loss.
2. As a result of the project, how and where has communication improved in your community? Approximately how many people did you reach with this service project? If the project is ongoing, what is planned for the future?
3. Was/Is the project a team effort? How many members were/are involved? Did you use any professional (paid) assistance? If so, please explain.
4. What HLAA information or educational resource materials did you use to assist in the community service project? What did you find most useful? What would you have liked to have that was not available?
5. How has this project made your community a better place for people with hearing loss? Please describe the impact on the community.



HLAA SERVICE AWARD

(For HLAA Members Nominated by Anyone)

The HLAA Service Award is presented to HLAA Members, HLAA Chapters or State Organizations, or individuals who have completed a service or project which directly benefits Hearing Loss Association of America, its members, its national presence and its state organizations or chapters.

The award recognizes desired or useful outcomes that help fill a void created by a lack of funds, time or personnel at the HLAA National office. The primary effect of the service would be to move HLAA closer to recognition as a household name when people look for information about hearing loss. Simply stated, the award is for service that helps advance the mission of HLAA.

Examples of service might be: the development and dissemination of a public service announcement (PSA) or any form of mass media; workshops and/or conferences, training and/or development of training materials available to all HLAA leaders; volunteering for a specific project that the national office has requested help with; and/or financial donations earmarked for meeting a specific need outlined by HLAA which would benefit all members.

Criteria for Judging

Please provide narrative on the following criteria for this award nomination on the application form.

1. Describe the HLAA service that has been completed or is ongoing.
2. Does the service benefit HLAA National or HLAA Chapters or State Organizations?
3. Was the service contributed by an HLAA affiliate or a group of members?
4. Explain briefly how the service benefits HLAA.



MARCIA DUGAN ADVOCACY AWARD
(For HLAA Members Nominated by Anyone)

Each year HLAA Members, either individually or in participation with Chapters and State Organizations, spend a great deal of time advocating locally and statewide for issues affecting people with hearing loss. The Marcia Dugan Advocacy Award recognizes the outstanding efforts of an HLAA Member who serves as an advocate with decision makers and others about laws and other crucial issues affecting people with hearing loss. This award memorializes Marcia Dugan, from Penn Yan, New York, a former president of the Board of Trustees, author, Rochester Chapter leader and long-time community volunteer, speaker and staunch advocate for issues related to hearing loss. This award recognizes exceptional work in support of hearing loss advocacy issues.

Criteria for Judging

Please provide narrative on the following criteria for this award nomination on the application form.

1. A demonstrated commitment to advocacy issues affecting people with hearing loss by the development and/or implementation of a program to increase knowledge of an issue or issues affecting persons with hearing loss. This might include work with the Get in the Hearing Loop Campaign, advocacy for state legislation, achieving open captioning in movies and theaters, writing information pieces (letters to the editor or newspaper articles, a PSA) or other activities that increase communication accessibility for people with hearing loss.
2. Has this person worked against active opposition to support hearing loss issues?
3. A demonstrated effectiveness of the advocacy, measured by results, is a plus.



NANCY WESSNER OUTSTANDING STATE CHAPTER COORDINATOR AWARD

(Pertains to Chapters and States)

Anyone can nominate a state chapter coordinator; however, chapter and state leaders are especially encouraged to submit nominations.

The Nancy Wessner Award recognizes a state chapter coordinator (“state coordinators”) whose work has significantly furthered the HLAA mission in their state. This award memorializes Nancy Wessner from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for her leadership and outstanding service as the first state coordinator for the organization known then as SHHH. Founder Rocky Stone hand-picked Nancy for the position and her dedication to supporting chapter leaders across the state personified the role of the state chapter coordinator. She also served on the HLAA Board of Trustees from 1986 to 1994 during which time she held offices as secretary and vice-president. Her life was dedicated to the organization.

An HLAA state chapter coordinator’s priorities are to help the HLAA Chapters under their domain grow and prosper by attracting community involvement and building membership by:

- Counseling chapter leaders on how to ensure their education, support and advocacy programs are consistent with the HLAA Mission and address the major needs of their members, visitors and the local community of people with hearing loss.
- Helping chapter leaders to attract, develop and support successors, other chapter leaders, volunteers, and the financial resources needed to accomplish its mission.
- Providing a direct lifeline to HLAA and the programs, information and overall support it offers chapters.
- Being in communication with the HLAA National office, especially the director of chapter development and acts as a liaison between the national office and chapters concerning development.

Criteria for Judging

1. How did the coordinator help select chapter leaders to improve their chapter’s education, advocacy or support efforts?
2. What did the coordinator offer to help identify, train and support chapter leaders? How did they inspire more volunteers or leaders to come forward at the chapters?
3. This award is not based on achievement only, but also honors a coordinator whose character, concern for others and passion for HLAA and its mission inspired chapter leaders and gave volunteers the confidence to do more for the hearing loss cause. Please consider describing the candidate’s intrapersonal skills and how they connected to others to help us understand not only *what* they accomplished, but *how* they connected person-to-person to facilitate it.



NEWSLETTER AWARDS – CHAPTERS AND STATE ORGANIZATIONS

(Pertains to Chapters and States)

Newsletters are excellent educational tools as well as outreach vehicles. HLAA Chapters and State Organizations that publish a regular newsletter monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly, are eligible for this popular category. Although a newsletter is frequently a joint project, usually one individual, the editor, is responsible for its publication. If possible, the award will be presented to editors.

There are two newsletter awards:

(this covers both and are separate awards with a separate submission for each)

- Best Chapter Newsletter
- Best State Organization Newsletter

Please provide the most recent three issues by email **in PDF Format**. We appreciate all submissions by email because time and geographical constraints makes dissemination to committee members more efficient. Thank you for your cooperation.

Criteria for Judging

Please provide narrative on the following criteria for this award nomination on the application form.

1. Does the newsletter state the what/where/when/who? For example, what you do, where and when, and who you are?
2. Does the content keep members informed of news from and about HLAA National?
3. Does it include hearing loss news from a variety of sources?
4. Does the newsletter report on completed and ongoing chapter or state projects, activities and similar information?
5. Does it promote self help and coping skills?
6. Is the newsletter creative, neat, easy to read and accurate?
7. Does the chapter's or state organization's HLAA logo appear according to the HLAA branding guidelines on the front cover? Does the editor's name and contact information appear in the newsletter?
8. Does it promote HLAA National membership and, if so, does it show the membership categories and dues?
9. How often is it published? How many people, organizations, agencies and/or businesses other than HLAA Members in the chapter or state receive the publication? How many members receive it?



OUTSTANDING HLAA CHAPTER ON A MISSION AWARD

(Pertains to Chapters)

The HLAA mission is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support and advocacy. Chapters deliver this mission by educating and supporting their members and local people with hearing loss on how to improve their listening and communications skills to lead more fulfilled lifestyles. Effective HLAA Chapters also promote self-advocacy and greater communication access in their local communities. Chapters becoming respected members of the community at large. This award recognizes a chapter that best administers HLAA's standard of education, support and advocacy on a local community level.

Examples of outstanding delivery of the HLAA mission might be a comprehensive and balanced education program, special mentoring or support programs, and successful advocacy campaigns for captions, hearing loops, CART, or other assistive technologies in the communities.

Criteria for Judging

Please provide narrative on the following criteria for this award nomination on the application form.

1. Outline the chapter's education, support and advocacy goals and programs. Highlight any major strengths or unique benefits of these programs that significantly improved member results or involvement in learning how to help themselves and turn around and help others.
2. Describe the number of people reached and how they were affected. Attach on one separate piece of paper up to three testimonials from people describing how the chapter's programs affected them.
3. Were/are these programs a team effort? How many members were/are involved in what roles? Did you use any professional assistance, paid or pro bono? If so, please explain.
4. What budget was required to deliver the key programs mentioned? How were these programs funded? Are these programs sustainable?
5. What HLAA information and/or educational resource materials did you use to achieve your goal? What HLAA support did you find most useful? What would you have liked HLAA to provide that was not available?



OUTSTANDING YOUNG ADULT AWARD

(For HLAA Members Nominated by Anyone)

HLAA created this award in 1995 to recognize HLAA Members 18 to 30 years of age who have contributed significant time and effort to advancing the HLAA Mission. A characteristic of this award includes helping to increase the number of fellow young adult HLAA Members whose enthusiasm grows as they bond with, sustain and support each other. These dedicated members represent the future of HLAA.

Criteria for Judging

Please provide narrative on the following criteria for this award nomination on the application form.

Since this award is not based on achievement only, **place more emphasis on distinguishing character traits, citing specific examples that describe the person based on the narrative above.**



PARENT INVOLVEMENT AWARD

(For HLAA Members Nominated by Anyone)

When parents learn that their child has a hearing loss, the diagnosis can be devastating. This award recognizes parents of children with hearing loss who have involved themselves in HLAA activities to help secure a brighter future for all children with hearing loss.

This award is applicable to one parent or both parents.

Criteria for Judging

Please provide narrative on the following criteria for this award nomination on the application form.

1. Explain how the parent or parents learned about their child's hearing loss initially and how they discovered HLAA.
2. How is the parent involved with HLAA? Please explain how the parent has actively contributed to helping children with hearing loss live a higher quality of life through HLAA.



PHOENIX AWARD

(For Outstanding Turnaround by a Chapter or State Organization)

In Egyptian mythology, the Phoenix was a large sacred mystical bird that lived for years, then consumed itself by fire only to arise reborn from the ashes.

Like the Phoenix, there are HLAA Chapters and State Organizations that found themselves on the verge of extinction then remarkably rose again. This requires vision, resolve, dedication and a major commitment. It requires earnest outreach to the broader community for advice, resources and participation. Often, great amounts of time and hard work are involved. For HLAA Chapters or State Organizations that have been successful in this effort, the Phoenix Award honors this achievement.

Criteria for Judging

Please provide narrative on the following criteria for this award nomination on the application form.

1. Outline how the delivery of the chapter or state organization's mission has improved in the past year versus what was being delivered during the lowest or "bottoming out" period.
2. Describe the number of people reached and how they were affected has changed in the last year versus the low period. As an option, include three testimonials from people describing how the chapter's or state organization's programs affected them.
3. Were/are these programs a team effort? How many members were/are involved in what roles? Did you use any professional assistance, paid or pro bono? If so, please explain.
4. What budget was required to deliver the key programs mentioned? How were these programs funded? Are these programs sustainable?
5. What HLAA information, educational resource materials or support did you use to assist in any programs? What HLAA support did you find most useful? What would you have liked HLAA to provide that was not available?



PROFESSIONAL ADVISOR SUPPORT AWARD

(Pertains to Chapters and States)

HLAA values the role that professional support can lend to our mission. HLAA strongly recommends that each HLAA Chapter and State Organization establishes a professional advisory committee. HLAA Chapters and State Organizations that call upon professionals in the community or state know how helpful these people can be with publicity, awareness, and involvement in special events, referring people with hearing loss to HLAA, and more.

The support these professionals give is with charity and benevolence – no strings attached. They help for one paramount reason – because they are caring people who understand the issues people with hearing loss have. The professional uses his or her expertise in an advisory role.

This award is presented to a professional advisor in appreciation for what he or she has done.

Criteria for Judging

Please provide narrative on the following criteria for this award nomination on the application form.

1. The nominee or the facility in which they work must be a current HLAA member.
2. Please describe what the individual has done and, as a result, how this has helped the chapter or state organization progress?



SOCIAL MEDIA

(For HLAA Chapter/State Organization Nominated by Anyone)

The Social Media Award is presented to the chapter or state organization that best employs social media to build community awareness for the HLAA mission and the information, education, advocacy and support benefits offered by the chapter.

According to the *Associated Press Stylebook 2015*, social media refers to tools that allow the sharing of information and content and the formation of communities through online and mobile networks of people. There are many different many manifestations of social media. Social networks like Facebook, Google+, LinkedIn form communities around common interests and share content like news stories, videos, photos and general updates of what's going on in users' lives. Other examples are blogs, Twitter, Wikis, Instagram, YouTube, Flickr, Snapchat, Meetup, online forums, eblasts and others.

Social media offers an effective and efficient means for a chapter or state organization to build awareness and educate their membership and the community-at-large. Importantly, these mediums allow for a chapter or state organization to present themselves as a supportive, caring and fun resource for people with hearing loss, their families and friends.

Criteria for Judging

1. Please provide the following information for each social media page deployed.
 - Social Media Vehicle Name: (Example, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Meetup, etc.)
 - Page Link: (provide web link)
 - Number of Friends/Followers (where applicable).
 - Name(s) of chapter/state member(s) responsible for administering the social media vehicle.
 - Frequency of social media; for example, blogs, Tweets, e-blasts, etc.
2. The social media effort will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
 - Effective communication of the chapter/state brand and HLAA mission
 - Overall content provided in terms of information, education, support and advocacy
 - Engaging photographs that enhance interest in and understanding of the HLAA mission and programs
 - Content and supporting photos that encourage attendance at chapter/state meeting and events
 - Content and supporting photos that reinforce an image of a supportive, caring and fun resource
 - Evidence that social media efforts are connecting with the membership and overall community

Submitted narratives are encouraged to provide details of how the social mediums delivered on the above criteria.



SPIRIT OF HLAA AWARD

(For HLAA Members Nominated by Anyone)

The Spirit Award was first awarded in 1987 because of our exceptional volunteers across the country who work on behalf of people with hearing loss. They are amazing people, not because they achieve more or do something better, but because they possess a special quality, a rare gift, that set them apart from others. In desiring a way to acknowledge these unique people, HLAA created the Spirit of HLAA Award.

HLAA looks for caring, dedicated people who are not only actively involved in HLAA but who also set an example for others as positive role models of the self help philosophy. A Spirit of HLAA recipient gives unceasingly and acts selflessly to help others with hearing loss in the name of HLAA.

Since this award is not based on achievement only, place more emphasis on distinguishing character traits, citing specific examples that describe the person and how he or she embodies the Spirit of HLAA based on the description above.

Criteria for Judging

Please provide narrative on the above criteria for this award nomination on the application form.



STATE ASSOCIATION OR STATE OFFICE AWARD

(Pertains to States)

HLAA State Associations and State Offices (both known as state organizations) were introduced into the HLAA structure by the Board of Trustees in 1992 and 2002, respectively. State organizations function as extensions of HLAA National and have the same mission and purpose, focusing on providing information, education, support and advocacy to people with hearing loss within their state. Any state leader or a leader of an affiliated state agency or another organization involving people with hearing loss can nominate an HLAA state organization.

Although the structure of associations and offices differ somewhat, HLAA State organizations generally have the following goals:

- Increase awareness for HLAA's mission across a state
- Advocate for state legislation or community action that expands communication access
- Provide meaningful information and/or events to educate people on key hearing loss issues
- Improve state services and communications among people with hearing loss through representation on state agencies, boards and commissions and by partnering with other disability organizations as needed
- Nurture a network among HLAA Members and chapters that enhances mutual support, interaction and collaboration on a statewide basis
- Identify, train and develop the leaders needed to accomplish the above mission, while also sourcing the funding needed to sustain all programs

Criteria for Judging

Please provide narrative on the following criteria for this award nomination on the application form.

1. Increased awareness for HLAA's mission in the state, or helped generate support or implementation for a major hearing loss advocacy or educational issue.
2. Was able to help focus HLAA Members and/or other hearing loss organizations at a common hearing loss initiative.
3. Collaborated with other state organizations to achieve common goals.
4. Communicated progress and success stories with the HLAA National office.
5. Has the state association president or state office director been a formidable leader in carrying out the mission of HLAA?



UP AND COMING CHAPTER AWARD

(For Chapter Nominated by Anyone)

The Up and Coming Chapter Award is presented to a new chapter (less than two years old at the time of nomination), which most effectively delivers the HLAA mission for its members and the community. This award recognizes chapters for their overall programs that have opened the world of communication for local people with hearing loss through information, education, support and advocacy.

Criteria for Judging

1. Please provide the following chapter information:
 - Chapter name
 - Chapter lead contact's name and email address
 - Number of HLAA members in chapter
 - Average attendance for chapter meetings
 - Names, dates and attendance of any special events in the past 12 months
 - Links for any websites, social media vehicles or other online resources the chapter provides

2. The chapter's overall efforts will be evaluated the following criteria:
 - Effective awareness building of the chapter brand and HLAA mission
 - Effective communication of the value of HLAA/Chapter membership
 - Overall programs provided for information, education, support and advocacy
 - Impact the chapter programs have had on its membership and the community

Testimonials of no more than 50 words each can be attached to the submission on one page. Will not be counted toward 300-word limit.

Submitted narratives are encouraged to provide details or evidence of how the chapter delivered on the above criteria.



WEBSITE AWARDS – STATE CHAPTERS AND STATE ORGANIZATIONS

(Pertains to Chapters and States)

HLAA Chapter and State Organization websites are an enormous source of pride. While all of them are useful, many of these websites exhibit true excellence. This award will be presented to the webmaster.

There are two website awards:

(this covers both and are separate awards with a separate submission for each)

- Best Chapter Website
- Best State Organization Website

Please provide the link to each nominated website.

Criteria for Judging

Please provide narrative on the following criteria for this award nomination on the application form.

Best Chapter Website

1. This is clearly a website about hearing loss and properly displays the HLAA Chapter or State Organization logo.
2. There is information about, and a link to, the HLAA National website.
3. All information reflects the HLAA Mission statement.
4. There is information about hearing loss and related websites.
5. The website is attractive and easy to navigate.
6. The website is continuously updated.
7. The website shows up-to-date chapter information including contact information, meeting location, meeting dates and times and directions.

Best State Organization website: Criteria 1-7 above plus:

8. The website shows up-to-date information for all chapters within the state, including contact information and, meeting location, dates, times and directions.
9. There is information about area agencies and organizations dealing with hearing loss and the services they provide; a state website will also have HLAA State and HLAA National information and contacts.
10. There are links to hearing loss related sites.



ADVOCACY HALL OF FAME

(Board of Trustees Award)

Open to nomination only by HLAA Chapters and State Organizations, HLAA current members, staff of the national office, or self nominations. The recipients will be selected by the executive committee of the Board of Trustees.

This award is given to honor an individual, group or organization that through their advocacy efforts that significantly impacts awareness for, and/or implementation of **the HLAA Public Policy and Advocacy and Agenda** which benefits people with hearing loss and furthers the mission of the Hearing Loss Association of America. The nominee must demonstrate significant achievement which has resulted in national impact and greater awareness around the issues of hearing loss. This award is given to people and organizations that have worked diligently over a long period of time to improve the lives and circumstances of people with hearing loss. The outcome of their work must have enduring and meaningful impact.

Criteria for Judging

Please provide narrative on the following criteria for this award nomination on the application form.

- An individual, group or organization that has made a significant contribution to advocacy efforts and/or public policy having the potential for national impact

Efforts may have resulted in

- Introduction or enactment of national legislation
- Greater public understanding of the mission of the Hearing Loss Association of America and the HLAA Public Policy and Advocacy Agenda
<http://www.hearingloss.org/content/advocacy-people-hearing-loss>
- Development of administrative rules or regulations which significantly impact hearing loss-related public policy



KEYSTONE AWARD
(Board of Trustees Award)

Open to nomination only by HLAA Chapters and State Organizations, HLAA current members, and the staff of the national office. The recipients will be selected by the executive committee of the Board of Trustees.

The Keystone Award was established in 1986. This award is an honor awarded to persons for outstanding achievement and/or contribution to the establishment, advancement and continued success of HLAA. The names of recipients are inscribed on a plaque in the national office.

Criteria for Judging

Please provide narrative on the following criteria for this award nomination on the application form.

1. List specific achievements this nominee has achieved at the local, state and national levels that furthered the advancement of HLAA while serving or helping people with hearing loss.
2. Note characteristics the nominee has that allow him or her to achieve these goals.
3. How is the nominee a personal example of self-help?



NATIONAL ACCESS AWARD

(Board of Trustees Award)

Open to nomination only by HLAA Chapters and State Organizations, HLAA current members, staff of the national office, or self nominations. The recipients will be selected by the executive committee of the Board of Trustees.

This award honors those whose work significantly impacts communication access for people with hearing loss on a national scale. Nominations can come from any arena or segment of our society. They can be individuals, corporations, government agencies, non-profit organizations and others.

Criteria for Judging

Efforts may have resulted in enactment of national legislation, establishment of rules or regulations that significantly impact people with hearing loss and how they can live well with hearing loss because communication access and technology are advanced by the nominee. The effort can be a one-time event or a sustained effort.



OUTSTANDING EMPLOYER AWARD

(Board of Trustees Award)

Nominations open to anyone.

Open to nomination by HLAA Chapters and State Organizations, HLAA current members, staff of the national office, or self nominations. The recipients will be selected by the executive committee of the Board of Trustees.

This award acknowledges employers who have significantly contributed to the employment practices and opportunities for people with hearing loss. It is anticipated that their example will inspire others and that HLAA's public recognition will encourage employers to **emphasize ability** as the important factor in employment, promotion, and advancement within their companies.

The company, agency or organization should be one who has gone beyond token compliance with ADA specifications to ensure an optimal environment that enables people with hearing loss to function in the workplace at their maximum capability. Employers whose business is hearing health or disability related are not eligible. Employers can self-nominate.

Please include:

- Employer Name
- Contact person / Title
- Address
- City, State, Zip
- Phone
- Email

Criteria for Judging

Please provide narrative on the following criteria for this award nomination on the application form.

1. The award recipient exhibits outstanding achievements in improving employment opportunities for people with hearing loss.
2. The employer will be nominated to represent one of three categories:
 - a. **ADA-exempt** companies or organizations (less than 15 employees)
 - b. **Small** (15 to 25 employees)
 - c. **Medium** (26 to 500 employees)
 - d. **Large** (501 or more employees)
3. An employer may be an individual or firm. The company nominated needs to be a **for-profit business**.

Explain why this employer is outstanding and merits this award. Include information such as:

- Is the company a national or local franchise?
- In what industry is the company operating?
- What does the employer do to support people with hearing loss and in general, people with disabilities?
- Share any personal experiences, either as an employee or an employer.



WALTER T. RIDDER AWARD
(Board of Trustees Award)

Open to nomination only by HLAA Chapters and State Organizations, HLAA current members, or staff of the national office. The recipients will be selected by the executive committee of the Board of Trustees.

This award was established in 1984 and named after Walter Ridder whose newspaper career spanned 50 years. Knight-Ridder Inc., communication group, of which Mr. Ridder helped create, grew to include newspapers, radio and television stations. He was the national editor of the Knight-Ridder publishing empire, headed the Washington, D.C. bureau, and served on the Knight-Ridder Board until 1989, a year before he died. Mr. Ridder was also a founding member of Self Help for Hard of Hearing People in 1979, now Hearing Loss Association of America.

Criteria for Judging

This award recognizes an individual, group or organization that has developed an exemplary public awareness campaign or has communicated through the written word or the media on the national level, resulting in changed attitudes and enhanced perception of the value and contributions of people with hearing loss. While this award has its roots in the published word, the award honors a person, group, or organization for a one-time contribution, media appearance(s), a publication(s), video productions, or for strategic communications sustained in any media format, either short-term or long-term. The outcome of this effort is that both people with hearing loss and the general public have been educated or influenced through the use of strategic communications.

End of Packet