HLAA is the voice for people with hearing loss who want to use technology to stay in the hearing world. The mission is to open the world of communication through information, education, support and advocacy.

HLAA is governed by a board of trustees with a national headquarters office in Bethesda, Maryland with a paid staff. Because of millions of volunteer hours from people working across the country in HLAA Chapters, State Organizations, at the Walk4Hearing, and individually, we fulfill our mission.

SUPPORT

HLAA CHAPTERS
The HLAA mission is fully alive in our chapters across the country.

HLAA Chapters are local organizations offering communication-accessible meetings, programs and support. Leadership training was offered at the HLAA2018 Convention in Minneapolis. Some states have multiple chapters with state organizations in California, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin.

NEW THIS YEAR! FIRST VIRTUAL CHAPTER FOR VETERANS

Left: Young Professionals Group
TECHNOLOGY AND OLDER ADULTS

HLAA received a grant from the CTA Foundation for $30,000 to produce videos on technology for use by older adults with hearing loss in the workplace, health care settings, and retirement life. Videos will debut in 2019.

NEW HLAA COLLATERAL MATERIALS WITH NEW BRANDING

HLAA POSITION PAPERS

The Policy Committee of the Board of Trustees revised the papers. Find these on hearingloss.org/about-hlaa/position-papers/

CONNECTED TV

HLAA partnered with Fexy TV to create co-branded educational content to air on Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, and Roku. As we move closer to having over-the-counter hearing devices on the market, additional video content will address these products with solid consumer information. This project aligns with Recommendation #11 of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine report—“Improve Publicly Available Information on Hearing Loss.”
EDUCATION

N-CHAT
(Network of Consumer Hearing Assistive Technology Trainers)

HLAA, in partnership with Gallaudet University and American Institutes for Research (AIR), developed a consumer train-the-trainer program supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, NIDILRR, through Gallaudet University’s Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (Grant #H133E140056). A total of 39 trainers have been trained and more than 1,200 people have been taught about technology. Now in its fifth and final year, HLAA is seeking funding to continue this program.

WEBINARS

The free, captioned monthly webinar audience grows each month with consumer-friendly topics such as Beyond the Audiogram, Inner Ear Gene Therapy, Office Hours with audiologist “Doc Otoblock,” and more.

HLAA2018 CONVENTION

Approximately 950 people gathered in Minneapolis to attend the hearing-friendly HLAA2018 presented by CapTel Captioned Telephone. The keynote address was delivered by Gary Shapiro, president and CEO of the Consumer Technology Association (CTA). The Research Symposium was on Hearing and Listening in Noise. More than 25 Corporate Sponsors supported Convention events and goods; and 54 exhibitors filled the Exhibit Hall and Trade Show.

ADVOCACY

HLAA represents 48 million people with hearing loss in the United States. HLAA fights for your rights on the national and state levels. We are sure to be at every table where people with hearing loss need to be heard on issues of access in all facets of life—work, travel, leisure time, medical settings, education, using the internet, watching TV and more.

HLAA Study Sponsor—We continued our role as a sponsor of the study on Hearing Health Care for Adults: Priorities for Improving Access and Affordability by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAS). We attended sponsor and stakeholder meetings about how to move forward on NAS recommendations.

“Over the Counter Hearing Aids—The Consumer View”—Since the Hearing Aid Act of 2017 was passed in August 2017, we published HLAA’s recommendations to the Food and Drug Administration in a paper on consumer views that stressed safety, efficacy, quality, recourse, innovation and consumer education.

Captioned Telephones—HLAA led the effort, along with other consumer and research organizations to file comments with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regarding IP CTS (Internet Protocol Captioned Telephone Services).

Hearing Aid Compatible Task Force—HLAA joins a task force with CTIA-The Wireless Association to ensure hearing aid compatibility and volume control on wireline and wireless phone.

CDC Report—The 2015 study by the Centers for Disease Control showed that one in four adults lives with a disability; however, they excluded hearing loss. HLAA advocated that hearing loss be added to the next study. The CDC was pleased to call HLAA to say the new study included hearing loss with a new finding in 2018—that one in five adults lives with a disability. The CDC attributed the new finding directly to adding hearing loss to the list.

H.R. 620—ADA Education and Reform Act of 2018—HLAA issued an Action Alert for people to write to members of the U.S. House of Representatives. H.R. 620 would weaken the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Federal Communications Commission Disability Advisory Board (DAC)—HLAA co-chairs the FCC’s DAC and provides recommendations to the FCC on issues such as captioning, realtime text, telecommunications relay, captioned telephones and hearing-aid-compatible cellphones.

Friends of the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus—as a member, HLAA co-sponsored a briefing luncheon for Capitol Hill staffers on untreated hearing loss in older adults.

2018 Walk4Hearing—Five-Year Strategic Plan

The Walk4Hearing goes beyond raising money; it engages people and creates awareness while fulfilling every aspect of the HLAA Mission. The Walk day experience itself is one that can’t be duplicated with peer-to-peer support, educational opportunities, and now hearing screenings.

We took a deep dive into HLAA’s premier program and concluded that it is a viable program with a formidable track record; therefore, we were able to perform analyses on trends, achievements, year-over-year reporting, challenges, staffing, national sponsor engagement, and financial projections.

CaptionCall became the Capital Sponsor of the Walk4Hearing.
FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT: To ensure that HLAA has the funds to be a sustainable organization for years to come, spending adheres to the mission of HLAA. We have prudently managed our resources and have set high ethical standards for fiscal management. The complete audited financial statements are available at hearingloss.org. Go to Audited Financials and IRS 990 page under the “About HLAA” section.

THANKS FOR A GREAT YEAR!
We want to thank you — our donors, members, constituents, volunteers, and corporate sponsors — for your commitment to HLAA and to people with hearing loss. Go to hearingloss.org to find out more, donate online, join HLAA, sign up for the free Hearing Life e-News, and for the latest news and resources.

Hearing Loss Association of America® (HLAA) is a tax-exempt, charitable organization and is eligible to receive tax deductible contributions under IRS Code 501(c)(3).

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IF YOU FORGET WHY HLAA EXISTS...
“The magazine [Hearing Life] was especially helpful to me because I’ve been dealing with hearing loss for 10 years and the struggle is real. I was diagnosed with hearing loss and tinnitus in my 30s and denied it for the first five years. It was not until reading my first issue of Hearing Life that I finally felt strong enough to advocate for myself. Every article spoke to me and helped alleviate stress and angst in having to live with hearing loss. Thank you for the empathy, advocacy, and most of all, the quality content that fills each issue.”—HLAA Member

HLAA COST TO RAISE $1:
11 cents in 2018 | 16 cents in 2017 | 33 cents Benchmark

FOR EVERY $1 SPENT:
>86 cents goes to programs | >6 cents goes to operations | >8 cents goes to development

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