



© Cindy Dyer

Celebrating Three Years of N-CHATT

The Network of Consumer Hearing Assistive Technology Trainers (N-CHATT) is now three years old. We are still learning, growing and becoming the program to turn to when you want a presentation on hearing assistive programs at an HLAA Chapter meeting, a veterans group or a public library meeting, or even the local Rotary or Lions Club.

N-CHATT is a network of consumer volunteers eager to learn and teach others about hearing assistive technology (HAT). This nine-month-long training includes an online community, webinars, and one in-person, three-day training. We hold our final meeting at the HLAA Convention each year.

N-CHATT grew out of a clear need: consumers with hearing loss and the people who work with them simply do not know enough about devices and technology that can make their lives easier or even better. Those devices can be anything from a visual doorbell, an app that provides speech-to-text, or captioned telephones. There are many products available, but not enough people who know about them.

N-CHATT is nearing the completion of its third year. The trainees have been through our online course, contacted us with questions both online and via our webinar, and have taken part in the intensive three-day training session in Bethesda, Maryland near the HLAA national office.

We are thrilled to see these trainees going out in the field to give their own presentations, spreading the word about HAT. When they have completed their grant-year presentations, some will join the ranks of trainers who give presentations upon request in their area.

Are you interested in having an N-CHATT trainer come to your meeting?

HLAA members have long been involved with HAT, and are often interested in learning more. There is more information about N-CHATT on the HLAA website at hearingloss.org/content/n-chatt-training. If you would like to have an N-CHATT trainer come to your meeting, take a look at our scheduling page at hearingloss.org/content/schedule-session to see if there is a trainer near you. Don't forget to check again in the fall. Our current class of trainers will be ready to put their names on the map in October 2017. **HLM**

Lise Hamlin is director of public policy at HLAA and can be reached at lhamlin@hearingloss.org.

This Notecard Is to Me What a White Cane Is to Visually-impaired People!

Sometimes technology is not always the answer. I have a severe hearing loss, and I found that wearing just a small, simple notecard in full view for all to see has been extraordinarily helpful! I wear the card on a lanyard around my neck or clipped to my shirt or jacket. It says:

I have a hearing loss. Please talk to me face-to-face so I can read your lips.

For detailed information and personal stories about how this simple, inexpensive, easy-to-use "device" might change your life too, email HLAA Member Jim Kurfess at kurfelmouse@comporium.net.

