

It's All Fun and Games... Sometimes

Mom always said “It’s all fun and games until someone gets hurt!” Well, no one got hurt in the photographing of this cover. No one fell off the ladder, lost his or her balance on the risers, broke a hearing aid ear tube molding or ran out of battery power on a cochlear implant. However, there were a few wardrobe malfunctions and a smashed cupcake or two.

Your national HLAA staff, with Diana Bender representing the HLAA Board of Trustees, Hollace Goodman representing our volunteers, and Dave Hutcheson representing our members, took a few hours to have some fun and laughs to bring you this cover. Here’s why:

We invite you to Washington, D.C., for HLAA Convention 2016 this June. We will also host the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People Congress. There is a lot to see and do in our nation’s capital in addition to attending workshops, seminars and the largest trade show for people with hearing loss at the convention. In this issue, we all share our favorite things about the region.

You’ve asked us about the staff—who are we and what do we do? We are your staff and we hope this puts faces on the people you talk to or help you know who to call or email when you need support, have questions, or suggestions. The HLAA Board of Trustees sets policy and strategic direction in line with our mission; the staff in Bethesda carries

out the policy with programs and advocacy at the national level. Plus, we have our network of state organizations and local HLAA Chapters across the country where volunteers work to carry out the mission of HLAA locally while providing information, education, give peer-to-peer support, and sometimes take on local advocacy efforts.

We also have you, our members, who might not belong to a local chapter and know about HLAA through *Hearing Loss Magazine* and hearingloss.org. No matter who you are and how you choose to be part of HLAA, we are an organization for you—consumers with hearing loss, your families and friends and often, those who work in the hearing health care industry.

It's Not all Fun and Games

We know it’s not fun to have a hearing loss whether you’re struggling to hear at work in meetings or feeling isolated in your family around the dinner table and at gatherings.

Since 1979, HLAA has been here to give you hope, to give you options and information about technology and communication skills. We bring you into contact with role models and others who have overcome struggles and learned to live well with hearing loss.

We know you all can’t join us in Washington, D.C., this summer, but if you think there’s a chance you can, please try. I promise you the experience is worth it, it could be life-altering in the best of ways. You’ll leave more determined because you will have more knowledge and you will have met others just like yourselves.

For those of you unable to attend the convention, find out if there’s an HLAA Chapter in your area, keep receiving *Hearing Loss Magazine* which comes with your membership, participate in our free captioned webinars from the comfort of your own home, dig into hearingloss.org, or give one of us a call or send an email. At the

risk of sounding promotional, check out the advertisements in this issue. If you can’t come to the HLAA Convention, there are products and services that might be of interest to you.

If we could have put each and every one of your faces on the cover of *Hearing Loss Magazine*, we would have. All of us together are the **people** who make up this great organization. Thank you for being part of HLAA. **HLM**

Barbara Kelley

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Barbara joined the staff in 1988 when Founder Rocky Stone was executive director. She has been editor-in-chief, director of publications, deputy executive director from March 2008 to January 2016, and is now acting executive director.

Whether it’s a half smoke from a street vendor, a Georgetown Cupcake, fresh oysters from the iconic Old Ebbitt Grill near the White House, or intimate Thai food at Little Serow in Dupont Circle, D.C. offers some of the best eats in the world!

