

Highlights of Convention 2016 and the Congress of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People



By Nancy Macklin

HLAA was honored to host Convention 2016 and the Congress of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH) at the Washington Hilton, a perfect setting in the heart of the Dupont Circle neighborhood of Washington, D.C. More than 1,500 people from 22 countries came to our nation's capital to learn in a communication accessible environment, experience new technology, and socialize with other people with hearing loss.

The photos included here are just the beginning—you will find many more in the Convention Archives at hearingloss.org/content/convention-archives.

On behalf of HLAA, I would like to extend a special thank you to all of the CART/caption providers, and Deanna Baker in particular; to our audio-visual company, CMI Communications; and to Contacta for loop installations throughout the Convention—a winning team in making the HLAA Convention communication accessible for people with hearing loss. If you attended Convention 2016, we thank you for your participation; if you were not there, we missed you, and hope that you will attend HLAA2017 Convention (See “What’s in a Name?” on page 24) in Salt Lake City, Utah, June 22–25, at the Little America Hotel and Salt Palace Convention Center. **HLM**



Above: Dan Blazer, M.D., Ph.D. and Susan Graham, Ph.D. presented a plenary session on Thursday, June 26 about the recent reports from the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NAS) and the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST).

The mobile Convention app will remain live until June 2017. All of the content, including presenters’ PowerPoints, can be viewed in the app.



Karen Peltz Strauss (left), deputy bureau chief of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, and Elaine Gardner (above), an attorney advisor in the Disability Rights Office, both of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), presented a session that provided updates on new hearing aid requirements for wireless phones, strengthened closed captioning quality requirements, and updated rules on IP CTS (Internet Protocol Captioned Telephone Service)





Dixie Ziegler, vice president of Hamilton Relay, had the honor of cutting the Exhibit Hall Grand Opening ribbon along with HLAA Executive Director Barbara Kelley.



Below: Keynote speaker Jenny Lay-Flurrie, chief accessibility officer at Microsoft, spoke from the heart—she was endearing, funny, and captivating as she spoke about her journey with hearing loss.



Above: Sony was awarded the HLAA Innovation Award for its entertainment access glasses. Sony's Satoshi Yamaga came from Japan to accept the award.



Above: Reading Flo Innes' mind was just one of the amazing acts Max Major performed at the Banquet.



Above: Amy Donahue, deputy director at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), was presented with the James B. Snow, Jr., M.D. Award by HLAA Board of Trustee Chairperson Meg Wallhagen.



Right: The Convention is a place to renew old acquaintances and make new friends; a place where everyone understands hearing loss.

The exhibit hall, open free to the public, is a great way to see and try the latest technology for people with hearing loss.



Right: Rising ninth grader Caroline Izkoff of Bethesda, Maryland belted out the national anthem. A special thank you to Caroline and to the U.S. Marine Corps for presenting the colors at the Opening Session.



Left: Earlier this year the HLAA Walk4Hearing issued a Call to Action to Step Up for People with Hearing Loss and Communication Access! Convention attendees were invited to take a photo with the #CommAccess frame at the HLAA booth.



Left: On behalf of Ernst & Young, LLP, Lori Golden, Abilities Strategy Leader, accepted the Outstanding Employer Award.



Right: It was Barbara Kelley's honor to present the HLAA Service Award to Hollace Goodman who is a full-time volunteer in the national office.



What's In a Name?

Is it Convention 2017 or 2017 Convention? Is it Convention or Conference? Our annual event has long been branded using "Convention" followed by the year, as in "Convention 2017." However, we have seen many variations, including using the word "conference" instead of Convention. So for 2017 we have decided to rebrand the Convention! You will see it as **HLAA2017 Convention**, or **HLAA2017** for short. Stay tuned for the new Convention logo.



Above: Comfortable furnishings made the booth shared by Pretty Smart Homes and OTOJOY a perfect place to talk about technology.



Right: The Yahoo Accessibility Team was given the HLAA National Access Award. Larry Goldberg, a longtime friend of HLAA, was on hand to accept the award.



Right: Lucille B. Beck, Ph.D. was presented with the Rocky Stone Humanitarian Award, given to a former board of trustee member who exemplifies the vision of founder Rocky Stone.



Above: One of the challenges asked for a photo of your team "stepping up for people with hearing loss."

About the Scavenger Hunt in Dupont Circle, Monroe team leader Terri Shirley said, "We had a blast. It was a true teambuilding project! Everyone on the team thought it was one of the most fun things we had ever done."



Below: Despite some brief rain, the Monroe team toughed it out and emerged victorious.



Monroe scored extra originality points for the challenge, "Take a photo of a teammate walking a dog."



Above: After a long day of listening and learning, teams (named after U.S. presidents) were able to relax and have fun in Dupont Circle.



Below: Frank Lin, M.D., Ph.D. moderated the research symposium, Novel Approaches Toward Addressing Hearing Loss—Ideas on the Cutting Edge, beginning with a moving tribute to renowned cochlear implant surgeon John Niparko, M.D., who passed away on April 25, 2016.

Right: As emcee for the Capital Banquet, Gael Hannan used her charm and wit to leave the crowd laughing into the night. Gael has promised to make an appearance in Salt Lake City next year.



Below: HLAA Board of Trustees Chairperson Meg Wallhagen presented the President's Award to Geoff Plant of the Hearing Rehabilitation Foundation.



Former HLAA Executive Director Brenda Battat received a standing ovation when presented with the HLAA Keystone Award.





Right: Convention 2016 was the most accessible event for people with hearing loss. Captions were displayed just above the presenter's PowerPoint presentation using a revolutionary technology called 1Fuzion. 1CapApp, developer of the technology, allowed attendees to view real-time captions on their mobile device in several different languages (thank you, 1CapApp!). And all of the rooms were looped (thank you, Contacta!).



Below: Dan Carione and Elizabeth Dugan (a daughter of the late Marcia Dugan), presented NYPD Deputy Inspector Dan Carione with the Marcia Dugan Advocacy Award. Officer Carione was forced to retire after the NYPD banned the use of hearing aids on the job. He has been successfully reinstated on the force.



Left: Suffice it to say, Max is THE master of the Rubik's Cube!

Below: Max read Terri Shirley's mind and came up with the name of the first boy she kissed.



Left: Japanese CART—A few countries brought teams of language interpreters and CART providers.



A World Record Was Set at Convention 2016!

On Saturday, June 25, 2016 a world record was set at the HLAA Convention during the *Capital Banquet*. Attendees helped to set a "Most Users of a Hearing Loop" world record. A survey conducted at the banquet was completed by 399 out of the 630 attendees (63 percent), with 327 people indicating they made use of the phased array hearing loop installed by Contacta, Inc.

The loop can make a big difference! The survey asked attendees to rate their listening effort. Users of the loop rated their average "out-of-the-loop" listening effort at "7" and "in-the-loop" listening effort at "2." (A "1" indicated no listening effort at all and "10" indicated extreme listening effort.)

While most users of the loop were able to hear and enjoy the program because of the loop, it is important to note that three percent of those surveyed indicated that the hearing loop was not enough. They needed captions, lipreading and/or sign language to understand the spoken word. Fortunately, all of those options were provided thanks to two large screens, expert live captioning, and sign language interpreters. This made the Banquet a model of accessibility!

