



Be Part of Honoring HLAA's Finest!
HLAA 2026 AWARDS NOMINATION INFO
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: FRIDAY, January 16, 2026

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) will honor outstanding individuals, HLAA Chapters and State Organizations, companies, and other organizations at the HLAA 2026 Convention in Louisville, KY at [The Galt House Hotel](#), June 10-12, 2026.

Things to Know

- Individuals nominated for awards **must be current HLAA members at the time of nomination**; exceptions are:
 - Alice Marie Stone Family Involvement
 - Communication Access
- 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.
- The awards committee reserves the right to select a recipient for another category than the nominee intended if it better fits other award criteria.
- Chapters and State Organizations are encouraged to submit awards on their own behalf.
- HLAA reserves the right to add an award at any time in addition to what is listed here.
- Not all awards are presented each year.
- Nominees, if selected, must be able to attend the HLAA 2026 Convention to receive their award. If they cannot attend, you can submit the nomination in subsequent years.

Instructions

- Information on the application form must be complete or it can be disqualified. Please be as detailed about the nominee as possible in your submission.
- If you have any questions about the submission process please send them to awards@hearingloss.org.

Judging

The awards committee is made up of a cross-section of people who have a strong interest in HLAA and/or people with hearing loss. All nominations are held confidential and will not be discussed outside of the committee.

Notification

Award recipients will be notified via email in February 2026; however they will not be told who nominated them. If a recipient has not yet registered at the time of notification a registration link will be included in the award letter. **Those who are selected must be available to attend the HLAA 2026 Convention in person.** Nominators will also be notified if their nominee was selected. Those who are NOT chosen for a 2026 award will not receive notification that they were nominated. No explanations will be given if a nominee is not selected; however you are welcome to submit the same person and/or organization for the same or different award in subsequent years.

Nominations are accepted for the awards listed below:

Category	Description
Hearing Health Champion	Presented to those with direct impact on accessibility, awareness, and advancing HLAA's mission. This can be awarded to an individual, company or prominent figure.
Communication Access	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.
Advocacy Impact	Honors an HLAA member or chapter who demonstrates exceptional advocacy by engaging with policymakers and key stakeholders on legislation and critical issues impacting individuals with hearing loss.
Volunteer Impact	This award honors individuals who have made an outstanding impact through their dedication, leadership, and service to the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA). The recipient has demonstrated exceptional commitment to advancing HLAA's mission through advocacy, education, and support—contributing significantly to the organization's growth and long-term success. Their efforts have strengthened the hearing loss community and inspired others to get involved and make a difference.
Alice Marie Stone Family Engagement	Presented 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.
Emerging Leaders	This award honors young adults who exemplify leadership, passion, and commitment to the mission of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA). Presented to members between the ages of 18 and 30, it recognizes those who have dedicated significant time and energy to advancing awareness, advocacy, and support for people with hearing loss. These emerging leaders inspire others through their initiative, creativity, and engagement—ensuring the continued growth and vitality of HLAA for future generations.
Chapter Excellence	Recognizes a Chapter and/or State Organization that best administers HLAA's standard of education, support and advocacy on a local community level. The honoree demonstrates exceptional dedication to empowering individuals with hearing loss through informative programs, peer support, and impactful community outreach. By fostering awareness, promoting accessibility, and championing advocacy at the local level, this organization serves as a model of excellence in advancing HLAA's mission.
Chapter Communications Excellence	Recognizes a Chapter and/or State Organization that demonstrates outstanding excellence in communication and outreach. The honoree effectively utilizes websites, social media platforms, newsletters, and printed materials to convey the messages and mission of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA). Their innovative outreach efforts may include public awareness campaigns, community partnerships, or educational programs that expand HLAA's visibility and strengthen its impact at the local or state level.