

CHAPTER CALENDAR

Chapter and Board meetings held at:

Weingart Senior Center, 5220 Oliva Ave, Lakewood 90712

Every Monday - Lip reading practice: 10 a.m. to 12 noon – Craft Room.

Every Wednesday - Lip reading class: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – Craft Room.

February 3 - HAT Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m. at Coco's Restaurant.

February 13 - Chapter meeting: 6:30 p.m. John Orr, Ph.D, retired USC in the field of Social Ethics and Advocate speaks on "How you can be an advocate in your community".

Refreshments provided by Flo McDavid/Shirley Brooks, Sally Geiger, Lupe Smith, Betty Shoemake. THANK YOU!

February 21 - Rocky Stone hearing device exhibit: 10 a.m. to noon (by HAT Committee).

February 26 - Chapter Board meeting, 12:30 p.m.

NOTE: This Board meeting will be at the Disabled Resources Center, Inc., 2750 E. Spring Street, Suite 100, Long Beach – we will be trying out their new hearing loop.

person with normal hearing is in the 8-to-10 range. He said, and with his hearing aids, he's a 7 on a good day. Without them, he's a 1. He doesn't use sign language, although he learned the basics of it in a college class. Instead, he reads lips. That requires eye contact with the person speaking, so it helps that Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson removes his mouthpiece when he calls a play and doesn't wear a face-mask crisscrossed with bars.

"You never really see me jumping offsides," said Coleman, who attended Troy High in Fullerton. "If I do, it's because I'm too excited and I'm not focused. It's not because I didn't hear the ball snapped or anything like that." When the offense is on the field but Coleman isn't part of the formation, he's typically standing beside offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell so he can read lips from the side as Bevell shields his mouth with a play card.

Once, during his freshman year in high school, Coleman lip-read an opposing coach. "My coach said, 'What are they about to run?'" he recalled. "I said, 'Outside sweep'. We changed the whole defense and stopped them. We tried to do it again, but it didn't work." Seahawks Coach Pete Carroll called Coleman "a guy that does everything right." "He does his job impeccably well in all areas and everything that we ask of him," Carroll said. "He's a terrific-effort guy; he's tough, he's fast, he's the third running back on game day when the roster sets up that way. So he's been a fantastic part of the team and it's been a really cool story. Not because he has issues, because he's made this team and he's made a spot for himself and he's claimed it. The fact that he has a hearing issue is really not even something that we deal with."

That is to say, Coleman has made his hearing impairment a non-issue. But there are certainly challenges. He has a backpack on the sideline for games with backup hearing aids and extra batteries. In the second quarter of Saturday's playoff game against New Orleans, he got a beeping alert that warned him the batteries were about to run out. "I had one of the equipment guys get my batteries," he said. "Came back, changed them right quick, good to go." Miller, whose locker stall is next to Coleman's said the fullback "makes the disability seem like nothing. He overcomes it so easily, never makes an excuse about it. True pro. All the adjustments and checks, there's a lot of talking at the line of scrimmage. Maybe it's not as big a deal when you're on the road, but when you're at home you talk a lot. So he has to constantly watch lips. Lot of concentration. He's definitely a stud for overcoming that."

The battery commercial is built around the motto "Trust the power within," and Coleman hopes that message resonates. "Everybody on the team really liked it," Coleman said of the ad, which has more than 5 million views on YouTube. "Guys say, 'Oh, my wife watched it. She was choking up. Almost made me cry. Just stuff like that. I don't really know how to respond to that. I'm glad that it got to everybody, and everybody truly not only sees what I overcame, but really got the message out of it, that you can do whatever you want to do. Just don't give up.'"

Written by Sam Farmer ON THE NFL

*Editor's note: To view the YouTube Duracell battery commercial, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2HD57z4F8E>
Thanks to Don Hachiya for suggesting this story.*

Reprinted from the Los Angeles Times of Friday, January 17, 2014.

BEING HEARD

Seahawks' Coleman has overcome a hearing impairment, inspiring others along the way, and his coach calls him 'a guy that does everything right'

Benton, Wash. – For Seattle fullback Derrick Coleman, the Seahawks' home field is the loudest stadium he's never heard.

Coleman is legally deaf, and has been since he was 3, so he won't have need for earplugs Sunday when the Seahawks play host to San Francisco in the NFC championship game. "I feel it, I don't exactly hear it," he said of the noise at a CenturyLinkField where twice this season the Seahawks' "12th Man" set Guinness Book records for being the world's loudest crowd at a sporting event. "I don't get pain or anything like that. I don't need earplugs. My hearing aids are my earplugs. I feel the vibration. I know they're yelling – you've got a lot of problems if you can't hear that."

Coleman, undrafted from UCLA in 2012, has two carries and eight catches this season, and mostly contributes on special teams. But he's an inspiration to his teammates, and now to millions of others as the star of a one-minute Duracell battery commercial that chronicles his improbable rise from being "picked on and picked last" as a child with a hearing problem to the NFL. Put simply by teammate Zach Miller: "Derrick is a stud."

Coleman describes his ability to hear on a scale of 1 to 10. A



Peg Heglund's AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Ear infections were part of growing up for me. That is one of the reasons for my hearing loss. The right eardrum was ruptured as the result of multiple ear infections. My childhood memory is waking up with either a toothache or an earache.

Lip reading just happened. Between lip-reading and my left ear, I was able to hear pretty well. At least I thought I did. I thought people who could hear using both ears were ambidextrous. I noticed a friend switching the phone from one ear to another, and commented, "I can't do that".

People started noticing that I was talking too loud in my forties. I was still in denial. It was finally explained to me that I lost hearing in my right ear due to infections but my left ear compensated. Eventually I was having nerve damage in my good ear, with increased hearing loss.

I got a couple aids in my left ear that helped but my head and neck specialist did not like the idea of foreign bodies (aids) in my ears causing more infections. After chemo in 2006, my hearing got worse and I was not managing well.

My doctor suggested a BAHA (a device that fit into a titanium screw in the right side of my skull that held a device that can help me hear through bone conduction) and it helped for a while but lost effectiveness. Replacement was very costly and easily knocked off.

I signed up for a Mac computer class and could not hear the instructor.

During this time I noticed an article in the paper about a meeting for the hearing impaired called HLAA Chapter in Lakewood and attended. HLAA showed me a device called Motiva and I had to get one of those immediately.

That day was the beginning for me to start understanding my hearing loss and its effect on my friends, my family and myself. My daughter told me "That thing is really working Mom, I haven't had a normal conversation with you without screaming at each other. It is so stressful".

My friends could not believe my voice lowered several octaves when I put the devices on.

Recently I got a new aid for the left ear because I wanted to be able to use Tcoils. I was impressed with how the technologically had improved.

Before long the amplified noise created a lot of stress for me. I could not carry on a conversation in a room where many people were conversing. I started to get isolated and refuse invitations.

When I started to attend the HLAA meetings I learned about the newly formed HAT group where volunteers would demonstrate hearing devices and where folks could learn where to purchase them. HAT obtained many devices from qualified vendors for people to see how they worked. This was right up my alley. I signed up and discovered there were lots of devices that could help me; one of them was the Pocket Talker and it was my device to demonstrate at our monthly exhibits. It is an amazing device and can help the HOH in many different ways and it is inexpensive.

Paying forward is rewarding in that I am helping myself while learning how to help other Hearing Loss folks.

HLAA Files a Friend of the Court Brief Supporting Equal Access to Captioned Telephones

January 24, 2014

On August 26, 2013, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted rules regarding the use of Internet-based captioned telephone service (IP CTS) and software applications (apps) that provide captioned phone calls on smart phones. Included in the rules was the requirement that captioned telephones and apps would be available only if they were purchased for a minimum of \$75 each. They also ruled that the phones must be set up so that captions would not appear until the consumer turned the captions on.

HLAA has watched captioned telephone services become increasingly successful since their arrival on the scene in 2001. Over the years, it has proven to be the one service that is truly equivalent to the traditional phones many of us grew up with: pick up the phone, dial and talk directly to friends, family, co-workers, even Joe's Pizza. The FCC, instead of embracing the success of captioned telephone services, appears to be focusing primarily on the cost of providing captioned telephone services.

In response to the new rules, CaptionCall, one of the companies that provide captioned telephones, filed a Stay Request and a Motion to Vacate in the Washington, D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, arguing the new FCC regulations violated the rights of people with hearing loss as guaranteed by the ADA. Their Stay Request was granted in part by the court on December 6, 2013, so that companies are now permitted to offer IP CTS phones for free with professional certification of hearing loss.

HLAA supports the FCC's efforts to ensure that no fraud or misuse harm the TRS fund. However, we believe this rule goes too far. The ADA is a civil rights law: no one should have to pay a special fee to have access to their civil rights. Consumers with hearing loss who need captioned telephones should not be prevented, deterred or discouraged from receiving this essential service.

In their brief to the court, CaptionCall notes that the FCC acted when the number of users of IP CTS approached 150,000 in January 2013. With 48 million Americans with hearing loss, it would seem logical that more than 150,000 of those people would benefit from captioned phones. In addition, the FCC apparently did not dispute CaptionCall's claim that preserving the fund would have required an increase of only three one hundredths of one percent in the contribution factor for contributors to the TRS Fund.

HLAA Files Friend of the Court Brief

HLAA filed a Friend of the Court Brief (amicus brief) January 14. We support CaptionCall's petition to the court requesting that the FCC's Order be vacated on two issues: 1) regarding the requirement of the minimum \$75 fee for the phone or software applications; and 2) the requirement for keeping the captions on. We argue that these rules create a barrier to people with hearing loss who could benefit from or have benefited from captioned phones. It's our understanding the court will rule on the issue sometime this summer. When that happens, we'll know just how difficult it will be for people to make a simple phone call.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Bill Busch

An Ideal Member

Louise Allen embodies the spirit of the Hearing Loss Association of America and has been an active member of our Chapter for 25 years. This month she and her husband, Roy, celebrate their 90th birthdays. I thought this would be a good occasion to tell you some of her participation in our chapter.

She tells me she was brought to her first meeting “kicking and screaming” by her daughter who learned about the group from a friend at church. She didn’t return right away because she was not a joiner, but her daughter continued to nag her and finally applied the guilt card. She couldn’t ignore her hearing loss any more after her daughter asked “Don’t you want to hear your grandchildren?” That did it! She is very happy now that she started coming regularly because it helped her a lot. She started taking the lip reading classes which she found very helpful.

When the chapter was looking for a volunteer to be Corresponding Secretary she offered her help. Later she took over all the secretarial duties including doing the minutes for the chapter and board meetings. This got her more involved with the board of directors of the chapter and was eventually Vice-President and President. The only office she didn’t hold was Treasurer but Roy volunteered for that job and she helped him by doing all the typing aspects.

She told me her proudest accomplishment was obtaining 4 grants over the years from the Boeing Employee’s Charitable Fund; two for captioning at our meetings, one for the Hearing Assistive Technology Committee (HAT) and one for our state board for a leadership conference.

We are all thankful for her support of all the Long Beach Walk4Hearings and her winning a hearing loop at the last one that she promptly donated to the Weingart Center and helped to arrange to get it installed in the Craft room where the lip reading classes and board meetings are held.

In addition she has helped on a large number of our activities including recently Editor of the Informer, Publicity for the HAT Committee and taking minutes at the board meeting to name a few.

All the while, she continues to attend our chapter meetings and board meeting and learn more about how to improve her hearing. She has proven that you can’t learn too much about combating hearing loss.

We thank Louise from the bottom of our hearts for all she has done to help people with hearing loss over her 25 years.

Reluctantly she has announced her retirement from the board of directors of our chapter and we will need a number of people to fill the gaps. She insists that some of the activities are really easy and don’t require a lot of time. Please see me or any board member if you can help us in any way.



FREE HEARING SCREENING & AMAZING PHONES EVENT RETURNS TO LAKEWOOD

By Herb Balkind, Co-Chairman of HAT Committee

The HEARING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE is proud to announce the return of our special event with the CALIFORNIA TELEPHONE ACCESS PROGRAM (CTAP) Wednesday, March 19, 2014, at the Weingart Senior Center in Lakewood. At our previous CTAP event 15 people had their hearing screened and 15 qualified for a free amplified telephone!

The CALIFORNIA TELEPHONE ACCESS PROGRAM (CTAP) is a free state program, which provides assistive telecommunication equipment. The mission of the program is to provide access to basic telephone service for Californians who have difficulty using the telephone. California residents with existing phone service who complete a certification form are eligible. There is no cost, obligation or income requirement. What this simply means is that if you have an existing land line (regular phone service), Dr. David J. DeKriek, Au.D. will administer a hearing test. If he determines that you have some form of hearing loss, you will qualify for a free specialized telephone.

Qualifying for this event is easy. First make an appointment by contacting the Weingart Senior Center before March 19th. Then at your appointment time you will be given a simple application to fill out, with help from staff members if needed. You will then be given a free hearing screening test by Dr. David J. DeKriek, Au.D. He will certify your difficulty with hearing and sign the application. Next a CTAP staff member will take you to another room where they will determine which phone will best help with your particular hearing loss. These specialized telephones and devices may provide some of these features for your needs as follows: Turn up the volume (amplified); Make dialing easier; Allow hands-free operation; Flash incoming calls; Display conversation in text; Remember phone numbers, and more!

This special event truly makes it that simple, easy and convenient for anyone who has a hearing loss to receive their free CTAP specialized telephone. I call it your ONE STOP SHOPPING EVENT. And it’s all FREE.

Once again: this event takes place on March 19th, at the Weingart Senior Center in Lakewood, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. An appointment can only be made by calling the Weingart Center at (562) 630-6141.

If you need further information or clarification about this event, the Weingart staff can help you or if need be, refer you to me, Herb Balkind, and I will be happy to help you with any questions. Please note, this event is only for new clients of CTAP. If you have been a CTAP client in the past or already have a free phone from them this event is **not** for you. If you have any questions as a past or current client, you must call CTAP directly at (800) 806-1191.

I would like to thank Dr. David J. DeKriek, Au.D. for his participation in this event. He helped make the last CTAP event a great success. He is our very own HLA Chapter’s Professional Adviser and we are very fortunate to have his enthusiasm and support for our varied events and programs.

SUMMARY

Chapter Meeting December 2013

“Rap Around the Clock with Technology to Communicate”

At this month’s meeting, all those in attendance broke into groups to discuss topics of interest. A brief summary of the discussions follows:

How do you like the newsletter “The Informer?”

The general consensus is that it’s great. There were several suggestions on how to support increasing it from four to six pages: recipes, creative writing by members, more great biographies, informational articles (i.e., ototoxic drugs.)

What technology do you use? Share so others might try to see if it helps them.

- Wireless transmitter “Motiva”
- Wired transmitter “Pocket Talker”

Come to the HAT meetings to explore what assistive gadgets are available for us to use

How do you tell people that you’re HOH?

- Don’t apologize for being HOH, it’s just who you are.
- One member who is a teacher lets her students know by showing them her HAs.
- Remind people to look at you.
- Using a caption phone? Tell caller to talk slowly and that you are using a caption phone.
- Dealing with medical personnel, nail techs, etc. – difficult, especially when they are wearing masks; so, ask them to remove them; also, there are transparent masks available; so, tell your doctor.
- One member carries a card in his wallet explaining that he’s HOH to show when necessary.
- Ask to be seated against a wall in a restaurant to help mitigate background noise.

There is a misconception that wearing hearing aids is like wearing glasses; that we put them on and have perfect hearing. If only

What do you want from HLAA?

Hearing aid information: looping systems, funding, advances in technology, advantages of certain HAs.

Contributed by Katie Wright, Chapter Member

SCOREBOARD

	Members	Guests	Total
January 2014	30	3	33
December	38	3	41
November	30	5	35
October	32	2	34
September	34	6	40
August	33	10	43

SUMMARY

Chapter Meeting January 2014

Regretfully, our scheduled speaker, Dr. Candela, who was to speak on deaf/blind, was not able to deliver his talk for this meeting. But in his place, we were treated to an impromptu presentation by Dr. David DeKreik, our Chapter’s Professional Advisor, who is a Board Certified Audiologist.

Having just attended the Hearing Innovation Expo, David told us about an upcoming revolution in the hearing aid industry which will affect all users in years to come. These changes are anticipated, but so far unannounced; although it is felt the different hearing aid manufacturers will be coming out with the new developments in the first quarter of this year.

As you probably know, each manufacturer has its own brand and line of devices which all work together within that brand. If you have a remote control from your old brand of aid, it will not work if you change brands, from a Phonak to a Starkey, for instance.

Now, Apple, Inc. has included hearing aid compatibility in their I-Phone, and we learned the last three versions of the I-Phone have this capability. David described it as low energy Bluetooth (wireless). For some time now, phones have been required to be compatible with hearing aids and vice versa, but no hearing aid manufacturers have pushed to make a standardized system; hence each manufacturer has its own system.

With the advent of this new idea, sound goes directly from your I-Phone to your hearing aid, making it possible to place your phone in the middle of the table to pick up sound, by-passing the microphones in your aid. Realization of greater clarity is anticipated. The fact that Apple has taken the steps to pioneer standardization will be of great benefit to all hearing aid users in future. Watch for announcements from the manufacturers this year.

“Hearing Loop Advocate”

Long Beach – John Orr will be guest speaker at the Long Beach/Lakewood Hearing Loss Association of America on Thursday, February 13th, 2014, 6:30 p.m. at the Weingart Center, 5220 Oliva Avenue, Lakewood, CA 90712.

“As to my short bio, I am a retired University of Southern California professor, in the field of Social Ethics. I joined HLAA two years ago, mainly because I needed to connect with all the resources that our chapter offers--resources which I felt would help me in my assistive listening advocacy at USC. At USC I have been working to bring assistive listening systems into auditoriums, large classrooms, and gathering places, and, also, to be sure that the University is effectively organized to move toward full compliance with requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. I have also been serving as a member of the Pasadena Commission on Accessibility and Disability, my focus being the installation of listening systems in major city sites and disaster centers.

“I grew up in Long Beach, then lived for years in Los Alamitos. My wife and I have two sons and five grandchildren. I spend a lot of time being involved with "urban street photography," and have had my work exhibited at a number of galleries.

“I think my biggest contribution at your meeting might be simply to describe the work of the advocacy committee of the Los Angeles chapter, which is chaired by Georgia Fleischer. I’ll emphasize three areas: advocacy with major theaters and performance sites; advocacy with the City of Pasadena; and advocacy to assure that the region’s disaster planning assures accessibility by hard of hearing people.”

IN MEMORIUM

Dear Friends,

I am the bearer of sad news. I called George Fearn to see if he would be able to hand out the ALDs at Thursday's chapter meeting and his brother Bill returned my call with the shocking news that George passed away on Christmas day. On 12/17, George complained to his brother who lived with him about having blurred vision. He was preparing to go to his eye doctor when he got a terrible headache. Bill became concerned and called 911. Para-medics came and rushed him to the hospital. He had suffered a stroke. When Bill got to the hospital, George was already in a coma from which he never recovered. He was cremated and there was no memorial service per George's wishes. He leaves a brother, a daughter and 2 granddaughters.

George was a talented, organized and friendly man who was not embarrassed by his hearing loss and was interested in learning more about improving his hearing ability. He was considering getting a cochlear implant. In the picture (below) from the Walk4Hearing in June, George is in the front row holding his bright orange vest saying in big letters Hearing Impaired. He wore it when he went for walks. So many people don't want others to know they have a hearing loss that they won't get hearing aids because they make them look old. It was refreshing to see George wear that vest like a badge of honor. I will miss him.

Bill Busch



HELP, HELP, HELP!

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS THAT WOULD BE WILLING TO RUN FOR THE OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT AND THE OFFICE OF TREASURER. ALSO, WE NEED COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN."

If you can spare a few hours every month volunteering, we can continue our chapter and its wonderful programs.

PLEASE, PLEASE, contact Maxine at bartbaum@verizon.net if you can serve.

You will not regret it."

REMINDER – Donate Your Old Hearing Aids

Old hearing aids are still being collected for the John Tracy Clinic. Bring them to the next meeting.

If you have a question or problem that relates to your hearing, please submit to: info@hlalongbeachlakewood.org.

If you have old copies of the magazine "Hearing Loss" please bring them to the next meeting.

HLAA - Long Beach / Lakewood Board Chapter Officers

President - Bill Busch

Vice - President - Herb Balkind

Treasurer - Walt Lowrie

Recording Secretary - Craig Bowlby

Corresponding Secretary - Ken Saw

Programs - Gail Morrison

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Professional Adviser - Dr. David DeKriek

Newsletter

Layout - Lisa Rettino

Editor - Louise Allen

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Educating Parents - Maxine Barton-Bauman

Hearing Assistive Technology - Herb Balkind / Bill Busch

Refreshments - Joan Schlegel

Lip Reading - Linda DeGuire

Looping - Ram Kakkar

Membership - Flo McDavid

HLA Websites

Long Beach/Lakewood: www.HLALongBeachLakewood.org

California: www.hearinglossCA.org

National: www.hearingloss.org

Chapter Contact:

Bill Busch, 310-540-6322

billbusch@ieec.org

HLAA

To join send \$35/\$45 for individual / family membership to:

Hearing Loss Association of America

7910 Woodman Avenue, Suite 1200,

Bethesda, MD 20814.

phone: (301) 657-2248 Voice;

(301) 657-2249 TTY

Membership brochures are available at our chapter meetings.

CTAP California Telephone Access Program

Information, Repair & Exchange

English Voice 1-800-806-1191 **Spanish** Voice 1-800-949-5650

Hearing Aid Tax Credit Reintroduced in the US Senate

Wed, 11/20/2013

Senators Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Dean Heller (R-NV) reintroduced the Hearing Aid Tax Credit on November 13, and they plan to work to insure that the legislation is considered when Congress addresses tax reform. The bi-partisan bill is nearly identical to legislation introduced in the past, and it is similar to H.R.1317 that was introduced in the House of Representatives in February by Reps. Tom Latham (R-IA) and Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY). Both bills would provide a tax credit of \$500 per device to people of all ages who need a hearing aid.

Senator Harkin has been a long-time champion of hearing health issues since joining the Senate in 1985, and Senator Heller has emerged as the new Republican champion in the Senate after Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME) retired in December. The reintroduction effort was supported by joint teams from HIA and HLAA during Hearing on the Hill (HOTH) earlier this year, as well as by HOTH teams from ADA, ASHA and IHS. For details on the legislation, and to contact your Senator to urge him/her to support the bill, visit www.hearingaidtaxcredit.org.

JANUARY MEETING VISITORS

We welcomed the following guests: Elaine Haglund, Ada and Jerry Rosenbaum. Please come again! We look forward to seeing you at our meetings. Current members, please bring a guest to our next meeting.

FROM NATIONAL: We Are Tweaking Our Logo

In our logo, in the words Hearing Loss Association of America, the “of America” is now in bold type like the other three words. And the words are now right aligned. (Special thanks to our chapter leader that noticed this and proposed that HLAA make the entire name appear in bold type.)

