



Photo: Marble Street Studio

WIRED FOR SOUND

The newsletter of the award winning Hearing Loss Association of Albuquerque

Vol. 22, No. 1

September, 2010

National leader to speak on important issues impacting the HoH

Dr. Roy Miller, president of TDI - (formerly known as Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc.) will be the speaker for both of our September chapter meetings. He will discuss some of the important telecommunication and media access issues facing the hard of hearing in the 21st Century, bills before the Congress to address those issues, and what we can all do to help get our access needs met.

Dr. Miller received his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Illinois in 1971 and taught at Southern Illinois University until 1999 when he became Executive Director of the Missouri Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing while concurrently holding the position of president at TDI.

Miller has also been the president of the Association of Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA), the Southern Illinois Center for Independent Living, and Hearing Loss Link in Chicago. He has worked with both the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research and the National Center for Biomedical Research. Dr. Miller has published numerous articles concerning hearing loss, has given many presentations at national and international meetings related to deafness and is a highly respected advocate for those with hearing loss.

Miller was diagnosed in 1972 with Neurofibromatosis Type II and he lost all hearing in his right ear when he had an acoustic neuroma removed from his right-side hearing nerve. In 1987, at the age of 47, he had an acoustic neuroma removed from his left-side hearing nerve, an operation that left him completely deaf

TDI was established in 1968 to promote distribution of text telephones to the deaf community and to publish an annual national directory of TTY numbers. Today, it is an active national advocacy organization focused on addressing equal access issues in telecommunications, media, and information technologies for those with hearing loss.

WEST SIDE: Sat., Sept. 11 @ 10.00 a.m.

Taylor Ranch Community Center

EAST SIDE: Sat., Sept. 18 @ 10.00 a.m.

Los Altos Christian Church

See the maps on the back page of this newsletter to find meeting halls.

HLAAbq - Providing support and advocacy for people with hearing loss

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FUTURE MEETINGS

WEST: Sat., Oct. 9 -10 a.m.
EAST: Sat., Oct. 16 -10 a.m.



HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION
OF ALBUQUERQUE

Providing support and advocacy
for people with hearing loss

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*CapTel number - dial toll free: 1-877-243-2823 then,
at the prompt, dial this number including the #

NEWSLETTER & WEB SITE

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Expeditors



Funds for CART services at HLAAbq
meetings are provided by

The State of New Mexico
Commission for Deaf and
Hard of Hearing Persons

whose mission is to provide effective
leadership, education, advocacy and
programs to reduce barriers to the so-
cial, economic, educational, cultural and
intellectual well-being of Deaf and Hard
of Hearing New Mexicans and their fam-
ilies, friends and colleagues.

B.J. Wood, Executive Director
(505) 881-8824



~~PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE~~

By 



HLAAbq needs you !

As you can see, there is no President's Message in this edition of WIRED FOR SOUND. That's because we don't have a President.

Norm Dawson devoted three years to that position and then sought in vain for someone to take over his duties so that he could move on to other interests while still serving on our chapter's board of directors in the position of immediate past president but nobody has stepped forward.

The chapter is also without a vice president for programs and a secretary. Hearing care provider Mike Grato has volunteered to take notes and provide minutes of board meetings but national HLAA rules preclude him serving as the official secretary for the chapter.

With a full board of directors working with other volunteers, none of these three vacant positions demands great amounts of time but, if they are not filled, that work falls on others on the board and threatens the continued operation of the Hearing Loss Association of Albuquerque.

The chapter has, over the years, helped literally thousands learn to better live with their hearing loss. We have all learned a lot about technology, coping strategies, available specialized services and other information through meetings and the chapter newsletter. We've applied that knowledge to our lives and they are richer and fuller as a result.

HLAAbq can only continue to help you and so many others learn the skills for living better with hearing loss if volunteers step up and provide the leadership needed to arrange and conduct meetings and to speak out on behalf of the hard of hearing when needed. Our chapter literatures says HLAAbq provides support and advocacy for the hard of hearing and that includes support and advocacy for ourselves.

Even if some are not old enough to have seen them when they were new, most of us have seen the WWII posters saying "Uncle Sam Needs You." Well, now, HLAAbq needs you !

If you feel you've benefited from your membership in HLAAbq - if your life is better thanks to what you've learned as a member - maybe it's pay back time. Time for you to step forward and volunteer for one of the positions listed above. Please think about it.

If you are willing to step up, please contact any one of the board members listed on the left and volunteer to help.

Steve Frazier, NM Chapter Coordinator
Hearing Loss Association of America

➔ **Special note to readers of WIRED FOR SOUND** ➔

If the word **COMP** appears after your name on this newsletter's mailing label, it is a complimentary copy that has been sent to familiarize you with our Chapter as part of our outreach to the hearing loss community in the hope that you will consider joining our group. The printing and mailing costs have been covered by our members or by a grant from the New Mexico Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons.

NATIONAL HLA NEWS:

HLAA is constantly looking out for your interests in Washington, D.C.. Among other activities, HLAA sits on the Federal Communications Commission's consumer advisory committee and is part of the Coalition of Organizations for Accessible Technology.

HLAA has been a strong advocate for the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act that was just passed in the Senate and sent on to the House where it's also expected to pass.

The bill will:

- Require captioned television programs to be captioned when delivered over the Internet
- Authorize the FCC to require 7 hours per week of video description on the top 4 network channels and top 5 cable channels nationwide.
- Allocate up to \$10 million per year for equipment used by individuals who are deaf-blind.– Require televised emergency information to be accessible to individuals who are blind or have low vision.
- Require accessible advanced communications equipment and services, such as text messaging and e-mail.
- Require access to Internet services that are built-in to mobile telephone devices, like smart phones, if achievable.
- Require devices of any size to be capable of displaying closed captioning, delivering available video description, and making emergency information accessible.
- Require accessible user controls for televisions and set-top boxes, and easy access to closed captioning and video description.

HLAA national staff attended the first meeting of the newly-formed AARP Hearing Care Awareness and Education Advisory Board.

Other board members besides HLAA are representatives from the American Academy of Audiology, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and the International Hearing Society (IHS). The first meeting was introductory, setting short and long-term goals and summarizing what each member organization is already doing to increase awareness about hearing loss.

CHAPTER NEWS:

The chapter is again this year the recipient of a very much appreciated mini-grant from the **State of New Mexico Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons** to help in our continuing efforts to reach out with support and advocacy to the hard of hearing in the greater Albuquerque area.

With the reduced budgets and other cutbacks by state government, the Commission was still able to set aside some funds to help HLAAbq and various other support groups who focus on hearing loss. This year's grant is for \$5,000 which will be used to cover most of the cost of providing CART at chapter meetings over the next 12 months.

LOOP NM NEWS:

There are some recent additions to the list of looped facilities in Southern New Mexico. **Dr. Tim Frost**, an Alamogordo ENT and his audiologist wife, **Kelley Frost**, have looped the waiting room in their Roswell office and the dispensary in their Las Cruces office and plan to do the same in their Alamogordo office.

Dr. Michele Cannon in the Frost's Alamogordo office carried out the project of looping **Calvary Baptist Church** in that city. An investigation is also under way as to the possibility of installing loops in the **Spencer Theater** in Ruidoso and Alamogordo's **Flickenger Performing Arts Center**.

These efforts are an outstanding example of hearing care professionals recognizing the value of assistive listening devices that compliment and supplement hearing aids to provide the hard of hearing with the best possible communication access.

Here in Albuquerque, a loop has been installed during the construction stage at **St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church**. Media attention has continued as the *Albuquerque Journal* has recently run two different articles on looping and included interviews and pictures of several of our HLAAbq chapter members. If you missed the articles, they are posted at the chapter web site. Go to: www.HLAAbq.com/LoopNM.html and click on "In the News."

New Mexico ahead of the curve on hearing loops

Many hard of hearing people here in Albuquerque first experience the use of a hearing loop at an HLAAbq meeting and are stunned by how it improves their ability to hear the speaker.

It was that reaction from first time users that prompted the creation of the Loop New Mexico initiative that, in partnership with ATS Resources, has resulted in the installation of literally hundreds of hearing loops in homes, churches, theaters, offices and elsewhere. Now there's a national effort to raise awareness of this remarkably cost effective and user friendly technology.

The "Get in the Hearing Loop" campaign was the talk of the recent HLAA national convention in Milwaukee. Induction loop advocates were thrilled to learn of this joint national effort by HLAA and the American Academy of Audiology with additional participation from Sertoma clubs and others.

This initiative holds the promise of making many more people - hard of hearing, hearing AND hearing care providers - more aware of induction loops and the great benefits of this simple technology in improved communication access in a variety of applications with little, if any, cost to hard of hearing users. This national campaign will culminate in a three day convention on looping technology to be held in Washington, D.C. next June, overlapping with the national HLAA convention.

Hearing loops made the TV news in Chicago recently with a report that shows how the technology works with the telecoils in hearing aids to make a church's services accessible to hard of hearing members of the congregation. Also in Chicago, the Tribune newspaper

ran a feature story on the same church that was then picked up and run in dozens of newspapers around the country.

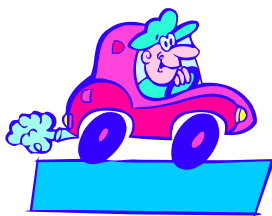
Hearing loops also got mention in the most recent online AARP bulletin and the article is scheduled to run in the upcoming AARP printed bulletin that is mailed to over 24 million AARP members.

A segment on hearing loops was broadcast over National Public Radio, a Wilmington, DL TV station did a news story on the technology, articles have also recently appeared in a number of hearing loss and audio visual trade journals.

Hearing loops are the most common assistive listening system used in Europe and now, with the recent decision in New York to loop subway fair booths, the growing use of loops at a wide variety of locations such as Disney World, it appears the time may have come for the U. S. to "Get in the Hearing Loop." It was recently announced that even Michigan State University is getting in the loop - they're looping their 15,000 seat football stadium.

There are over three dozen looped churches in New Mexico, mostly in Albuquerque but in other cities also. These churches and other looped venues are listed at www.HLAAbq.com/LoopNM.html. Many of these looped churches were the result of advocacy by members of the Albuquerque Hearing Loss Association, urging their church leaders to "Get in the Hearing Loop."

If you go to a church or use some other facility that could benefit from the installation of a hearing loop, please urge the appropriate parties to investigate the feasibility of looping the most heavily used meeting areas.



The hard of hearing driver

A police car with its lights flashing and siren wailing pulls up behind a hard of hearing man who is driving too fast. The man doesn't see the flashing lights because his car is loaded with suitcases and clothes for his trip. The officer finally pulls him over by driving alongside and motioning to him.

When stopped, the officer sternly asks, "Didn't you see my lights?" Driver: "I'm sorry, there's so much stuff in back, I couldn't see." Cop: "Then how about my siren? You didn't hear my siren?" Driver: "No, I'm hard of hearing." Cop: "Well, maybe you ought to get hearing aids if you're going to drive so fast." "Nah," the man replied, "Tickets are a lot cheaper."



You may have coverage entitling you to lower cost hearing aids

Want to buy hearing aids for about half price? There may be a way.

If you, your child, your parents, your grandparents have insurance coverage under Blue Cross/Blue Shield in New Mexico or another state, or coverage under some other health insurance plans, that coverage could include participation in the TruHearing hearing care program and that includes you!

In addition to all BC/BS plans across the U.S, all Humana plans nationwide, all Walmart employees and all federal employees (including retirees) and members of about 30 regional health plans are participants in the TruHearing program.

The TruHearing program offers a variety of state of the art digital hearing aids from brands such as Siemens, Rexton, Resound and Unitron plus their own, private label products.

Pricing is determined by the technology of the hearing aid and, within each pricing level, you can choose from a selection of hearing aids of comparable technology - anything from the new behind the ear/open canal models to the tiny completely in the canal style.

The most unique feature of this plan is that it not only covers the insured individual or health plan participant, it covers his or her children, grandchildren, parents and even grandparents who are not enrolled in the health insurance plan themselves.

What that means is that, if you are not a member of any of the health plans noted above but your son in California is (or your parents if Florida are), then you can participate in TruHearing.

The pricing information on the BC/BS flyer that

prompted this piece lists a TruHearing price and a "regular" price and there are three categories:

1. Basic - \$995 each, regular to \$1,595 each
2. Medallion - \$1,495 each, regular to \$3,595 each
3. Ultra - \$1,995 each, regular to \$4,795 each

The basic models have 6 channels, 3 manual memories, directional mics and telecoils. The features top out in the Ultra range with up to 16 channels, 5 memories and other premium features.

The cost listed includes free hearing screening, a one year supply of batteries, a 45 day money back guarantee, a 3 year warranty, and up to 12 months financing with approved credit..

You might not be able to use your regular hearing care provider - he/she would need to have a contract with TruHearing - but they have nearly 1500 Providers nationwide and Albuquerque has providers on that list.

These are licensed audiologists or dispensers, who agree to service TurHearing patients under their plan. The patient pays TruHearing the Health Plan Price on an aid and pays the provider clinic for testing and warranty period services (after three free visits).

Another feature offered by TruHearing is a Lifetime Replacement Program. Basically, those who have first bought at the discount level, are eligible to become a member of the Lifetime Program. There is a fee of \$89 a year but that is offset by a year of batteries at each renewal.

Under this supplemental program, the member can purchase replacement aids for wholesale and further discounted professional services, as often as they want, for the rest of their life.

Details on currently available brands and styles and other information is posted at the TruHearing web site: www.truhearing.com or you can call 1-800 988-2674 for information or to find out if you can qualify to participate in this program.

Hearing loss affects all age groups

The most recent MarkeTrak study of hearing loss in the U. S. (conducted and recently published by the Better Hearing Institute) found the following:

- About 65 percent of people with hearing loss are younger than 65.
- There are more than 6 million people in the U.S. between the ages of 18 and 44 with hearing loss,
- Nearly 1.5 million school age have a measureable hearing loss,
- The incidence of hearing loss in the U.S. is 11.3 percent.



Assistive technology

by Steve Frazier, HLAA New Mexico Coordinator

Rechargeable HA batteries

Your hearing aid batteries went dead, you have no spares and you're on a five hour flight to the HLAA convention? You can now take them out and re-charge them before you land.

Rechargeable batteries have been available for power tools, flashlights, cameras, radios and other gadgets for a long time. Now they're available for your hearing aids.

A German company named **Varta** (www.varta-microbattery.com) has developed a line of rechargeable hearing aid batteries and a couple of very innovative chargers.

The fast charge, high performance batteries come in many popular sizes (13, 312, 10 and 675) and can be fully recharged in 2 to 5 hours depending on size with a small, portable **power one Card Charger** (www.poweronebatteries.com), a convenient quick-charging system shaped like a credit card. An alternative charger, the **power one Pen Charger**, looks like a ballpoint pen.

You won't save any money using these rechargeables - in fact it could cost extra for the convenience as the batteries and charger aren't cheap!

The card charger for all but the 675 batteries sells on line for \$169. The slightly different model for the 675s sells for \$149.95 while the pen charger for the smaller batteries is a bargain at only \$88.95.

The batteries themselves are list priced at \$69.95 for a 2 pack but can be found at various web sites for \$39.95

Batteries and chargers can be ordered on line at <http://shopping.microbattery.com/Rechargeable-Hearing-Aid-Batteries-Chargers> or at <http://www.westone.com/catalog/power-one-rechargeables-0>



Virginia Carr Award presented to audiologist Jean Dugas

The Virginia Carr Award is named after the former HLAA New Mexico Chapter Coordinator who was also one of the founders of HLAAbq. It is awarded to a person in recognition of exception service to the hard of hearing - a person who has gone "above and beyond" in addressing the needs and concerns



Pictured: right - Jean Dugas with framed award certificate; left - Carol Clifford, chapter advisor holding the plaque carrying award recipients' names that is on display at the Albuquerque office of the New Mexico Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

of the hard of hearing and those who interact with them. This year's recipient, audiologist Jean Dugas, certainly meets that description.

Jean has been a member and active supporter of the chapter since it was organized in 1987 as Selfg Help for Hard of Hearing People. She has presented programs to the group over the years and is well known to an enormous number of hard of hearing New Mexicans not just because she has fitted them with hearing aids but because they and others attended the free, weekly speech reading classes, open to all, that she has taught at a local senior center for many years.

Congratulations Jean, and thank you for your dedication to and concern for the hard of hearing.

We thank these donors for their very generous support:*

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Wolf Elston
In memory of Lorraine Hind Elston
Betty Meador
In memory of Marilyn Wilkinson

A special thank you to the UNM Department of Linguistics and the student volunteers for providing ASL interpreting at our meetings, and to the many chapter members who volunteer to assist in setting up and conducting our meetings.

DONATION CATEGORIES
Platinum\$400 or more
Gold \$200 to \$399
Silver..... \$100 to \$199
Bronze..... \$50 to \$99
Friends.....Up to \$49

Donors listed here have made a donation to the chapter within the last twelve months

All donations to the Hearing Loss Association of Albuquerque or to the Hearing Loss Association of America are tax deductible

The HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA is a volunteer association of Hard of Hearing people, their relatives and friends. It is a nonprofit, non-sectarian educational organization devoted to the welfare and interest of those who cannot hear well. Membership is by annual dues which are separate from the annual Chapter Fee paid to this local chapter. National membership includes a subscription to the bimonthly publication **Hearing Loss Magazine**.

National dues are: Individual: \$35; Student: \$20; Library/Nonprofit: \$50; Professional: \$60; Corporate: \$150
To join, please send your name, full mailing address, email address and a check or money order in the appropriate amount (above)to:

Hearing Loss Association of America
7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

For more info: www.hearingloss.org
(301) 657-2248 V
(301) 657-2249 TTY

If you wish to make a donation toward the educational and advocacy efforts of the national organization, you can do so using the form below



Hearing Loss Association of Albuquerque - Annual Dues, Subscription, Donor Form -2010 CALENDAR YEAR

Name _____ Date _____
Address _____ Apt. Number _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone(Voice) _____ (TTY) _____ email _____

PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX: Annual Chapter Fee: \$15 - or Newsletter Subscription Only: \$7.50
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Donation to the chapter \$ _____ to the Hearing Loss Association of America \$ _____

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HLAAbq needs you - see page 2

**West Side Meeting Place
TAYLOR RANCH
COMMUNITY CENTER**

For further directions, call 768-6006

NOTE: Hearing loops in use at all meetings

East Side Meeting Place

Los Altos Christian Church - 11900 Haines Ave. NE
Call 401-4195 if you have difficulty finding the meeting