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A Self-Help Organization dedicated to education, advocacy and support for people who do not hear well, and those around them.

Welcome to the Hearing Loss Association of America KY Home Chapter November Newsletter

November 1, 2018

In this day and age, one must always be alert to the schemes of others. If you are on Facebook or some of the other social media, you may have received posts from "HLA", "Hearing Loss Association". You may have even seen "likes" by a HLAA, Hearing Loss Association of America Chapter or members. "HLA" is a commercial group piggybacking on the HLAA name. National is apparently addressing the issue. In the meantime, we need to be careful. Hearing Loss Association of America has always alerted us to be sure not to use the HLAA abbreviation unless we have first spelled out the full name earlier in the writing. For convenience and brevity, some HLAA chapters have used something like "HLAKentucky..." in their website or e-mail addresses. National is asking that we correct any such usage as soon as possible to avoid confusion and problems.

In a same vein, we are seeing PSAPs/OTC hearing aids using the simple term "hearing aids" without FDA approval. PSAPs (Personal Sound Amplification Products) are similar to hearing aids in looks; but, do not utilize a Hearing Professional in their distribution. HLAA pressed the FDA to approve Over-the-Counter (OTC) hearing aids for people with mild to moderate hearing loss. Their hopes (among other things) were that this would bring down the cost of hearing aids by providing some competition. The FDA agreed and passed the ruling. However, they did not yet spell out the full regulations and OTCs would not go into effect until 2020. Some companies are already calling their PSAP hearing products "hearing aids" and are advertising them as "Over-the-Counter" hearing aids. To compound the confusion, the FDA, ahead of schedule and without explanation,

approved a Bose OTC Hearing Aid. So, we now have an official OTC and many unofficial OTC hearing aids. Some are even saying they are appropriate for severe to profound hearing loss. We are dependent on the FDA to challenge them in court. It is expected that soon other companies will petition the FDA and follow BOSE. We will perhaps someday have an "Apple hearing aid" or such. Thus, the old axiom, Buyer Beware, is still very appropriate.

It appears that we need to re-visit the concept of OTC Hearing aids and their Pro and Cons in future articles. HLAA has spelled out some very positive reasons for supporting OTCs. At the same time audiologists are expressing some very strong concerns. Obviously, they need to protect their business. Nevertheless, most of their concerns should also be our concerns. Hopefully, we can have some good articles next month. In the meantime, we have multiple articles on the Bose this month. (see below).

Hearing Loss Association of America KY Home Chapter Monthly Meeting

At 6:30 on Monday, November 26, the Hearing Loss Association of America KY Home Chapter will hold an open discussion on hearing loss issues. The meeting at the Nelson Co. Public Library, 201 Cathedral Manor, Bardstown 40004, is free open to the public and real-time remote captioned.

Our "Open Forums" are a means to learn about hearing loss as others experience it. It is a good opportunity to learn by word of mouth what others know. Please plan to attend and bring a friend.

Holiday Party Saturday, December 1, 12 Noon

The chapter's Holiday Party will take place on Saturday December 1 at 12:00 (noon) at the Bardstown United Methodist Church Family Life Center, 116 E Flaget St, Bardstown, KY 40004. There will be a full catered meal for **\$15.00** per person. Call Nell Smith for sign up on 502-348-4857. We will continue to take prepaid sign ups at the chapter meeting on November 26, so Nell will know how many to plan. **Plan to bring a wrapped gift that is something you no longer use at home for gift exchange (White Elephant Gift Exchange like past years).** Remember, **your RSVP and payment must be made by Monday, November 26.** (You may enter by the back entrance on 2nd Street or the side entrance from Flaget Street.)

Here is what's new in our November 2018 Edition:

Layperson's Guide:

Over the Counter Hearing Devices: Since the passage of the Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act of 2017 the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has been working to create regulations regarding this new category of hearing device. OTC devices specifically for people with hearing loss are not yet on the market. If you are considering purchasing a device that claims to be in this new category, buyer beware. The next step will be a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) issued by the FDA, followed by an open comment period and then the final rules. After the final rules are in place, you still need to be an educated consumer: learn all you can about the device before you make that purchase. Please CLICK on this link to read more: [Layperson's Guide](#)

Guidance Articles:

FDA Approves First Self-fit Hearing Aid; Grants 'De Novo' Status to Bose Hearing Aid: The [US Food and Drug Administration](#) (FDA) today allowed marketing of a self-fit hearing device, the Bose Hearing Aid, intended to amplify sounds for individuals 18 years or older with perceived mild to moderate hearing loss, according to a [release](#) from FDA. This is the first hearing aid authorized for marketing by the FDA that enables users to fit, program, and control the hearing aid on their own, without assistance from a healthcare provider. Please CLICK on this link to read more: [Guidance Articles](#)

Current Research:

NEW WEBINAR: Depression, Hearing Loss, and Treatment with Hearing Aids: Research continues to link hearing loss to depression, loneliness, and many other chronic diseases. It would seem logical that hearing loss might lead to social isolation, then to loneliness, depression, and an erosion in quality of life. However, as [this webinar](#) by Victor Bray, PhD, of Salus University points out, the problem may be *much more complicated*. Please CLICK on this link to read more: [Current Research](#)

Language Input Matters Earlier than You Think!: Children learn language and language skill far earlier than traditionally thought. We need to give HHD children input as soon as possible (ACI Conference, Washington DC, March 2018. Roberta

Michnick Golinkoff, Ph.D., Giovanna Morini, Ph.D). Please CLICK on this link to read more: [Current Research](#)

Points Of View:

FDA Approves An OTC Hearing Aid – By Katherine Bouton: For the past year or so since the Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act of 2017 was passed, I and other hearing-loss advocates have patiently explained time and again that right now there are no [OTC hearing aids](#). That’s because the FDA approval process includes a three-year comment period before it publishes its final regulations. And until that time, only hearing “devices” can be sold over the counter. Or at least that was what we thought! Please CLICK on this link to read more: [Points Of View](#)

My Story:

Pediatric Hearing Loss and ‘The Listening Project’ Documentary: An Interview with Jane Madell, PhD: This is an interview with the director of The Listening Project and a trailer (visit <https://vimeo.com/252962848>) which consists of a few minutes of interviews and outcomes with amazing young people, all of whom were diagnosed or treated and fit with various technologies, and all of whom participated in auditory based therapy, with remarkable success. Readers are encouraged to click into the trailer. It’s fun, revealing, and authentic. Please CLICK on this link to read more: [My Story](#)

IN APPRECIATION:

Captioning provided by **McLendon-Kogut Reporting Services** at chapter meetings. Without this real time captioning, our meetings would be extremely difficult. Congratulations to McLendon-Kogut for the 20th anniversary of service to the community!

TAP

Do you have trouble hearing on the phone? If so, TAP may be for you!! The Kentucky Commission of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Telecommunications Access Program is here to serve you if you have a hearing loss. KCDHH provides specialized telephone equipment at no cost to you and other resources to assist with your hearing loss. To learn more click here - <https://www.kcdhh.ky.gov/ifyky/>

SHARP (Statewide Hearing Aid and Reuse Program) needs your used hearing aids.

Contact SHARP directly for a mailer and tax receipt--KATS Network at (800) 327-5287 or email them at sharp@katsnet.org . Ask SHARP about monetary donations as well.

WWW.HEARINGLOSS.ORG

To find all the news from HLAA check out the HLAA national website.

<http://www.hearingloss.org/>

Each top menu gives you good information on HLAA and hearing loss. Make it a habit to keep informed!

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (HLAA). Headquartered in Bethesda MD, is the nation's largest organization for people with hearing loss. The HLAA exists to open the world of communication for people with hearing loss through information, education, advocacy and support. HLAA is a 501c3 non-profit corporation and offers tax exempt status to all local chapters. Please join HLAA as the one of the first steps to doing something about your hearing loss. Through our advocacy work at the federal level, we represent 48 million people with hearing loss in the United States. <http://www.hearingloss.org/> Please consider joining.

A Special Thanks to our Webmaster, Dave Robertson, for a job well done!

Each month we add a few reminders:

- **Did you Know that Keystone Theaters now have both Assistive Listening Devices and Captioned programs.**
- Please keep in mind that we collect used hearing aids for the **SHARP** program of KY. This program assists people in purchasing new or refurbished hearing aids at a very discounted price. **Please note: The SHARP program has depleted its budget and is dependent on your financial donations.**
- HLAA KY Home is a Non-Profit 502c3 organization that is dependent on your involvement and donations. You may donate on line at our website, www.hearinglosskyhome.org , click on **DONATE**. You can send a contribution to our address and you can designate Hearing Loss

Association of America KY Home as your Kroger charity. We then receive a percentage of nearly everything you purchase at Kroger. It costs you nothing and it is a win win situation.

- **Is your world of communication better because you found HLAA?** If you need help or more information just contact us.
- (see below)

Kroger

Anyone who has a Kroger Card can join the Kroger Community Rewards Program.

If interested, please go to your Kroger Account and login in. Go to the Community section and learn more about this worthy program. The code for Hearing Loss Assoc. of America KY Home Chapter is 12384.

This will donate to HLAA KY Home a percent of what you spend on your groceries. This **does not** affect set your fuel points. This is an easy way to help our chapter.

Be Good to Yourself!

Ed Schickel

