



Hearing Loss Association of America

*Celebrating 35 years for
48 million people with hearing loss*

Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA)

Central IL- Springfield Chapter

UPDATES

“Opening the world of communication to those with hearing loss” - Rocky Stone, Founder of HLAA, formerly, the Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH)

Teresita Gonzalez, Local Chapter President



INTRODUCTION

- * How did HLAA begin?
- * Statistics/Facts
- * HLAA Mission/Values
- * Goals



Howard "Rocky" Stone

INFORMATION

Issue

Hearing loss awareness and knowledge is not prevalent among the hearing loss population in Illinois. How can HLAA be effective in disseminating relevant and useful information concerning hearing loss health?

Challenge

To reach all age levels of hearing loss individuals.

Resolution

We can share information from medical experts, hearing health professionals, and others via technology and various literature available

Methodology include:

- HLAA Brochures
- Award winning Hearing Loss Magazine
- HLAA Website
- HLAA printed materials such as the Communication Tip Cards

➤ MATERIALS/RESOURCES ARE UPDATED AS NEEDED

EDUCATION

Issue

Ignorance and intolerance still exist today regarding hearing loss here in Illinois and across the country.

Challenge

Old beliefs are not easily broken.

Resolution

We must educate everyone of all ages with hearing loss the principles as to why ignorance and intolerance is never acceptable nor conducive.

Methodology include:

- Educating the community on our mission and values.
- Providing consistent webinars concerning various subjects related to hearing loss to our members as well as non-members of the community.
- Providing training and workshops during our annual conventions.
- Providing educational seminars such as the HAT (Hearing Assistive Technology) training.

SUPPORT

Issue

People with hearing loss feel like they are facing their condition alone.

Challenge

How can we develop togetherness within diversity?

Resolution

HLAA offers Headquarters, State organizations and local chapters. All are available to offer support.

- Five (5) Chapters in Illinois
- Washington, DC Headquarters and State Associations (no current State Association in Illinois exist)
- Email our HLAA headquarters anytime at inquiry@hearingloss.org

ADVOCACY

Issue

Advocating for the hearing loss population may be difficult.

Challenge

Reaching all appropriate parties and convincing stakeholders and government level policy makers to understand the impact of positive action and reinforcement.

Resolution

HLAA has groups of committee members dedicated to sit on various panels such as the FDA and FCC to discuss matters which will aid in making changes to help people with hearing loss.

- Advocating for less expensive hearing aids and assistive devices
- Advocating for consumer education, access and protection.

Suggested Goals, Strategies and Improvements- Locally

- Advocate for 911 Text Capability. Other communities such as Jacksonville have done an excellent job of making their community text capable for 911 emergencies.
- Advocate for all hospitals to have etiquette training for hearing disabilities- could be implemented into diversity or cultural diversity employee training
- Maintain hearing loss support group meetings such as HLAA on a regular basis to bring speakers for relevant popular topics (tinnitus, latest hearing technology, etc), and for fellowship for the HL community- we are always encouraging folks to exercise together, why not meet together to discuss our strengths and weaknesses? We can learn together what works and what does not work. Together we can bring change.
- If everyone participated in advocating for hearing loss issues, we could actually eliminate or reduce the stigma attached to hearing loss
- ADA includes hearing accessibility and we all can advocate to places such as churches, schools, airports, and restaurants for reasonable accommodation/accessibility.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Annual Walk for Hearing Event: Nearest location is in St. Louis. To volunteer or to participate in the walk please contact Kathy Patrick at kathyp2880@gmail.com

HLAA Central IL -Springfield meetings are held every third (3rd) Sundays of the month. Announcements are via email and in publications such as Illinois Times, SJR and WICS Community Calendar. Please join us!!! We would love to have you! :)