

Meeting Location

Long Island Jewish Hearing & Speech Center is located on the grounds of the Long Island Jewish Medical Center. Enter the grounds from LAKEVILLE ROAD and it is the first building on your left. Go to the Conference room on the Lower Level 270-05 76th Avenue New Hyde Park, NY 11040

If you are in doubt as to whether there is a meeting, or if you'd like further information, please call Sal: 718-479-1098.

FYI

Assistive Listening Devices (ALD) are provided at our meetings. Headphones are available in the back. This room is Looped, so those who have hearing aids/cochlear implants can put on their T-coil switch.

Meeting News September 21, 2011

Refreshments and Social Time begins 6:30pm

Meeting begins 7:00pm

Topic:

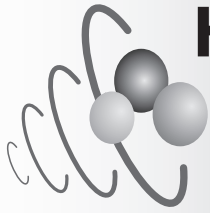
“RECLAIM YOUR PHONE – AND YOUR LIFE”

Speaker: Cameron Tingey, Director of Sales, CaptionCall

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offer includes FREE installation and FREE delivery by a qualified CaptionCall trainer. Also included will be FREE captioning service which is funded by the FCC so there are no new bills and no monthly charges.





Hearing Loss Association of America

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*HLAA of North Shore Long
Island does not necessarily
endorse the opinions of our
speakers, goods & services.*

First Timers at HLAA Convention 2011

Silvia & David Siegel

The HLAA convention was held at the Hyatt Hotel in Arlington Virginia, and we arrived there on Amtrak (great smooth ride). There were 1,400 hard of hearing loss members, all using assistive listening devices provided by HLAA throughout the convention rooms.

All of the programs topics were listed in the program and we had too many options to choose from. A special program for "New Comers" helped us with tips for making the convention a successful experience.

One of the highlights for us was a program by a "Consumer Report Magazine" reporter, who talked about the problem of the exorbitant prices we have to pay for hearing aids that have a short life span for the wearer. The reporter also talked about warranties that were mishandled by some audiologists, for their own benefit. We need the public to understand our handicap and our issues.

There were many vendors at the Exhibition Hall representing most hearing aid companies. There were also many new captioned phones companies, new assistive devices to try out, workshops to get information from, and on and on.

We had a very good time learning more about our hearing loss and how to deal with it. We recommend next year's convention for all to attend.

Hearing-Impaired Fans Demand Captions in Stadiums

NVRC News - June 12, 2011

By Ronen at Accredited Language Services 6/8/11

Closed captions are sometimes the only means through which individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing can fully access, enjoy and experience entertainment events or broadcasts that the rest of the world may take for granted. Unfortunately, in many cases, these means are denied them.

Sports games are just one type of event at which deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals are too often neglected and excluded. With all of the commentary, announcements and music projected over loudspeakers for aural consumption, these individuals cannot adequately enjoy the experience of a game without captioned accounts of what others can hear.

The issue of making sporting events more accessible to fans who are deaf or hard-of-hearing has received increased attention over the past few years.

With lawsuits being filed against numerous teams (both collegiate and professional), those in charge of sports teams and the stadiums/arenas at which they play have been forced to make accommodations to ensure equal access for patrons who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

In view of the plaintiffs' success in these cases, with judges ruling it unlawful for teams not to provide captioning for hearing-impaired fans, it is highly advisable that schools and other sports organizations enlist the help of professional captioning or subtitling services in order to accommodate the needs of all fans and avoid unnecessary legal bouts.

Washington Redskins: Precedent Set in the Nation's Capital
The first notable instance in recent memory, in which deaf fans filed suit against a professional football team for its refusal to provide captions at home games, was in a 2006 lawsuit against the Washington Redskins.

The court found the Redskins guilty under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which was enacted in 1990

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Excessive Alcohol Can Influence Hearing Loss

Aoife Connors

Irish Medical Times, 11/19/10

Excessive alcohol consumption may affect our hearing, new research has found. Dr. Nina Byrnes, Irish GP and Medical Liaison Office with Hidden Hearing—the Irish hearing health care provider—explained that studies have shown that high alcohol consumption over a long period of time can result in damage to the central auditory cortex of the brain and may lead to brain shrinkage. As the damage to the auditory nerves adds up, even moderate drinkers may risk nerve damage and hearing loss.

Research shows that alcohol can result in brain damage, but the quantity and length of time needed to accomplish this remains unknown. Although the ears may continue to function perfectly, the brain is no longer able to process the sounds. The high levels of alcohol in the bloodstream can create a toxic environment known as "ototoxicity," which can damage the delicate hair cells in the cochlea. A previous British study shows that alcohol and noise can cause temporary hearing loss. Researchers also believe that a regular ingestion of alcohol may lead to permanent hearing loss in the long term. Dr. Byrnes says, "As people's ability to hear reduces, it can often lead to other problems, such as less social interaction, lack of confidence, depression, etc."

National, State and Local Organizations Support the Captioned Radio Project

Hearing Loss Association of America, May 24, 2011

Over the last several years, Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) and Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Persons (NVRC) has supported the Captioned Radio Pilot Project developed by National Public Radio (NPR) and Towson University. It is a project whose goal is to provide a text version of radio broadcast over digital radio. We believe that we are very close to success.

Plans were being made for a captioned radio pilot project funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), but they pulled back when Congress began to talk about cutting their funding. We'd like CPB to reconsider this decision. HLAA and NVRC made plans to send a letter of support to CPB and request other organizations to sign on. Working over the course of only one week, were able to gather signatures from 49 other national, state and local organizations that also support the captioned radio pilot project. In addition, 131 individuals asked to sign on. You can read the letter that was sent to CPB.

Thanks to the many people who signed on and who support this project, but didn't have a chance to sign on. Your support means a lot to us. We hope it means a lot to CPB as well.

Access To The Airlines— Are We There Yet?

*Condensed from the blog of Lise Hamlin;
excerpt from Albuquerque, NM Newsletter 3/2011*

HLAA has been working with the Department of Transportation (DOT) forum on the Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA)... "Working together to improve air travel for passengers with disabilities."

People with hearing loss have seen some improvements over the last few years. Some airlines are providing more visual display of info at the gate. In newer planes, we are beginning to see visual display showing not only seat belt use, but when to shut down your electronics (including cell phones!). And on some international flights, there is seat-back access to movies with a choice of captioning. When emergency info is provided on a video, that video is now required to be captioned. HLAA strongly objects to rules that require selfidentification of individuals with hearing loss at every point in the process. We object not only because it puts the onus on the individual to declare their hearing loss but because it doesn't work.

HLAA's position is that all audible announcements should be accessible via text—and not just canned announcements, but live announcements—at the gate, on the aircraft, and at the baggage area. In areas that can be looped, looping should be provided. In addition, when an airline provides videos, there should be an option to caption those videos. We know it can be done. The technology is there. It's time for the air carriers to step up to the plate.

We also believe that better and more on-point training should be provided to airline staff. We have received reports that current training does a good job of informing staff about the law, but it does less well letting them know how to interact with people with different disabilities.

At DOT's forum, it was emphasized that consumers need to send complaints in, or things won't change. DOT says that they receive very few complaints from people with hearing loss. To file a complaint, go to:

<http://airconsumer.ost.dot.gov/escomplaint/es.cfm>

National Association of the Deaf Files Disability Civil Rights Lawsuit Against Netflix

Washington, DC (PRWEB) June 16, 2011

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Plaintiffs Charge that Netflix Violates the Americans with Disabilities Act by Not Providing Equal Access to its “Watch Instantly” Streaming Content. An estimated 36 million Americans are deaf or hard of hearing. The deaf and hard of hearing community has repeatedly expressed concerns—via letters, petitions, blogs, and social media—to Netflix about its failure to provide equal access to “Watch Instantly.”

The National Association of the Deaf (NAD), the nation’s premier civil rights organization of deaf and hard of hearing individuals, announced the filing of a major federal lawsuit against Netflix today in U.S. District Court, District of Massachusetts, Western Division in Springfield, MA (Case No. 3:11-cv-30168). The lawsuit charges the entertainment giant with violating the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by failing to provide closed captioning for most of its “Watch Instantly” movies and television streamed on the Internet.

The *New York Times* has described Netflix as the “only major player in the online-only video subscription business.” Netflix has over 60% of the streamed video services market share.

An estimated 36 million Americans are deaf or hard of hearing. The deaf and hard of hearing community has repeatedly expressed concerns — via letters, petitions, blogs, and social media — to Netflix about its failure to provide equal access to “Watch Instantly.”

“We have tried for years to persuade Netflix to do the right thing and provide equal access to all content across all platforms. They chose not to serve our community on an equal basis; we must have equal access to the biggest provider of streamed entertainment. As Netflix itself acknowledges, streamed video is the future and we must not be left out,” said NAD President Bobbie Beth Scoggins.

“There is no excuse for Netflix to fail to provide captions so that deaf and hard of hearing customers have access to the same movies and TV shows as everyone else,” stated Arlene Mayerson, Directing Attorney of the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund. “Netflix admits that there is no technological issue. For people who are deaf and hard of hearing, captions are like ramps for people who use wheelchairs.”

The ADA requires that all “places of entertainment” provide “full and equal enjoyment” for people with disabilities. Plaintiffs are asking the court to declare that Netflix’s behavior constitutes a violation of Title III of the ADA, and to require that Netflix provide closed captions on all of its streaming content.

In addition to NAD, other plaintiffs include the Western Massachusetts Association of the Deaf and Hearing-Impaired (WMAD/HI) and a deaf Massachusetts resident.

The plaintiffs are represented by the Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund in Berkeley, CA, the Oakland, CA law firm Lewis, Feinberg, Lee, Renaker & Jackson P.C., and the Boston, MA law firm Sugarman, Rogers, Barshak & Cohen, P.C.

Hearing Loss, Misunderstood and Stigmatized

The New York Times - June 27, 2011
To the Editor:

Re: "Ban on Hearing Aids Is Forcing Out Veteran New York City Police Officers" (news article, June 20):

Hearing loss is a health issue that has long been misunderstood and stigmatized in our society. Banning the use of hearing aids that help police officers to function at their best is inconceivable and perpetuates the myths and stereotypes that are still prevalent about hearing loss today.

More important, it puts both the police officer and the public at risk when those who have admitted their hearing loss, sought treatment for it and can function well with a hearing aid are forced to hide their hearing loss for fear of losing their jobs.

For more than 20 years the Americans With Disabilities Act has provided equal opportunity in the workplace. Barring young police officers from using the excellent hearing aids available today and forcing older police officers with hearing aids to retire is discriminating. As long as they can pass the hearing test with their hearing aids in, they should be allowed to use them on the job.

BRENDA BATTAT
Bethesda, Md., June 21, 2011
The writer is executive director of the Hearing Loss Association of America.

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and forbids discrimination against individuals with disabilities (which includes individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing among those protected).

The ruling was appealed, and despite the team's agreement to provide closed-captioning on the scoreboard at Fed-Ex Field, the original verdict was upheld, finding the Redskins guilty for having refused the deaf fans' initial requests.

Thus, the court of appeals set an important precedent and made it known that it is unlawful not to provide the deaf and hard-of-hearing with equal access to all game-related information.

Had the Redskins provided subtitles or captions in the stadium proper (i.e. on the scoreboard or jumbotron) and concourse areas in the first place, this costly legal battle might have been avoided.

Distributed 2011 by Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons (NVRC), 3951 Pender Drive, Suite 130, Fairfax, VA 22030

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