



# Hearing Loss Association of America

December 2014

North Shore of Long Island Chapter

## 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. Free parking is available behind the hearing and speech building: first entrance to parking lot after building. DO NOT go into the main parking building. 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

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Refreshments and Social Time begins 6:30pm.

Meeting begins 7:00pm.

## Topic: *Sharing Strategies With the EXPERTS*

This December meeting is designed to share hints and tips on how each of us deal with the challenges of the holidays in our own way. Noisy settings, conversations, holiday dinners, meeting new people and other ordinary stuff can be challenging every day, and even harder during the holiday season. Come and strategize with your fellow members!

We'll shorten our meeting, and share some Holiday Cheer: there will be socializing with snacks, drinks and desserts—a good time to try out some of the new coping tricks you just learned.

Join us and see what we have to offer people who just happen to have hearing loss. You'll be happy you did!

*There will be CART (real-time captioning) at the December meeting!*



# Hearing Loss Association of America

North Shore Chapter of Long Island

## Chapter Planning Committee

*HLAA North Shore  
Chapter of L.I.*

Sal Sturiale

Charlie Kantor

Rosemarie Mignogna

Trudie Walker

Ruth Wiener

Ruth Dunetz

Hilda Drucker

MaryAnn Weeks

Voice: 718-479-1098  
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[hlaalongisland@gmail.com](mailto:hlaalongisland@gmail.com)

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

## Our Chapter

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For those of you who didn't get to the November meeting, you missed a very interesting one. Our speaker was Antonio Cappola from the Hearing Health Foundation, and he spoke about ongoing research in regenerating hair cells in the cochlear cavity.

The research for this is being done on chickens. Yes, chickens! The amazing thing about chickens is if you destroy their hair cells in the cochlear canal, they can regenerate them in a matter of weeks. The research work being done focuses on taking this ability from chickens, and passing it on to humans. Science is a very slow process, however, and trying to transform this regeneration process from animals to humans makes it even slower. The time line for this research is possibly in the ten-year range, and that is just a rough prediction.

Come to our meetings and learn things like this, that one day could change your life.

See you in December.

Sal Sturiale

# Court Orders Medical School To Admit Deaf Student

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By <http://nad.org>

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington issued a preliminary injunction ordering Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences (“PNWU”) to ensure Zachary Featherstone begins his medical education on August 4, 2014. Featherstone, a deaf individual seeking to become a doctor, filed suit last month, alleging that PNWU discriminated on the basis of his disability in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and state disability law.

The complaint alleged that after earning admission to PNWU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine, PNWU refused to allow Featherstone to begin his education because Featherstone is deaf. In an April 2014 letter, Dean Scandalis of PNWU attempted to revoke Featherstone’s admission claiming that his presence would create a safety threat to patients and would take away from the educational experience of its hearing students.

After filing suit, Featherstone sought preliminary relief asking the federal Court to order PNWU to allow him to begin his education immediately and to provide the interpreters and captioning he needs for effective communication.

To obtain this preliminary relief, Featherstone was required to demonstrate that he was likely to succeed on the merits of his claim, that he would be irreparably harmed absent a preliminary injunction, that the balance of hardships tipped in his favor, and that the public interest supported granting of an injunction.

In its Order, the Court stated, “While PNWU is a small, new medical school, when they opened their doors to providing students an education, they, like other schools, have to obey legal obligations that come with providing those services.” The Court further concluded, “Equal justice under law is more than an inscription atop the Supreme Court building, it is the ideal that Congress followed when enacting the ADA. By granting this injunction, it is that ideal that this Court finds is in the public interest to protect.” The Court also denied PNWU’s request that Featherstone be required to post a \$200,000 bond.

Featherstone said that he is “overwhelmed and humbled to be given the opportunity to prove himself and pursue his dream.”

Featherstone was represented by Markowitz, Herbold, Glade and Mehlhaf, P.C., Stein & Vargas, LLP, and the National Association of the Deaf.

*For more information, please contact:*

Emily Teplin Fox, Markowitz, Herbold, Glade and Hehlhaf, P.C. (503)295-3085

Mary Vargas, Stein & Vargas, LLP (240)793-3185

# HLAA Signs Historic Agreement on Movie Captioning



Panel at the table, from left: *John Fithian (NATO, president & CEO); John Stanton (AG Bell, volunteer); I. King Jordan, Ph.D. (Gallaudet University, president emeritus, and ALDA); Anna Gilmore Hall (Hearing Loss Association of America, executive director); Andrew Phillips (NAD, policy counsel); Randy Smith (Regal Entertainment Group, senior vice president, chief administrative officer & counsel)*

In an historic first, Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) along with the National Association of the Deaf (NAD), the Association of Late Deafened Adults (ALDA), the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (AG Bell) sat down with representatives from the National Association of Theater Owners (NATO) to hammer out an agreement on movie captioning. HLAA is pleased to announce that our meetings resulted in two documents which have been filed with the US Department of Justice (Justice) in its rulemaking on movie access: the Joint Recommendations to the US Department of Justice and the Joint Voluntary Commitments on Closed Captioning and Video Description.

After several weeks of discussions, the five organizations agreed on a set of recommendations to the DOJ to improve access to movies for deaf and hard of hearing patrons.

- Closed captioning (CC) and audio description (AD) technologies are to be installed in all digital movie theater auditoriums nationwide.

*Continued on Page 5*

# HAVE YOU HEARD?

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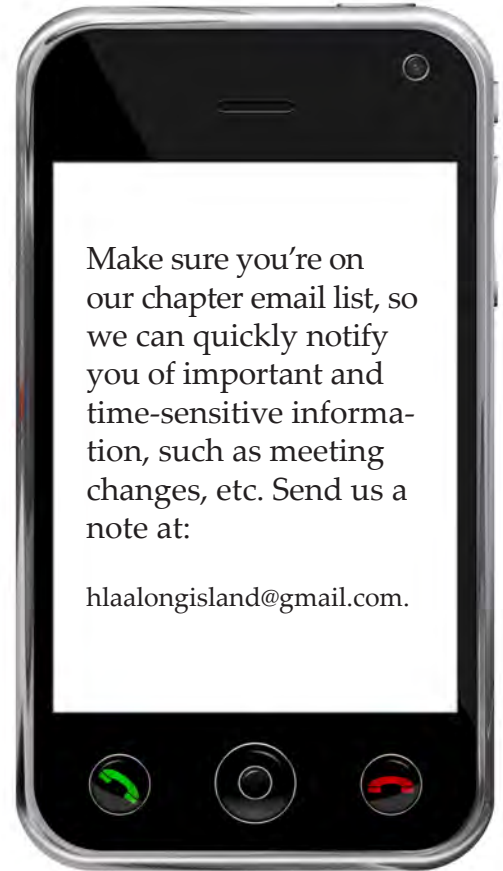
*Continued from page 4*

- The joint plan establishes certain minimum closed captioning device requirements with a monitoring requirement. This flexible, market-responsive device scoping method will ensure access for all deaf and hard of hearing patrons and respond to actual consumer demand.
- The compliance period has been restructured to reflect reasonable timelines in delivery and installation of CC and AD systems.

Read more about this historic agreement and Press Release: <http://17291.thankyou4caring.org/page.redir?target=http://www.hearingloss.org/content/hlaa-signs-historic-agreement-movie-captioning&srcid=17967&srctid=1&erid=3449316&trid=68d3ad34-d3c8-4d02-bcf4-b248d4b5db72>



**Stay Connected**



## **Do You Think Hearing Aids Should be Covered by Medicare?**

If so, please sign this online petition asking Congress to pass HR 3150: <http://bit.ly/1q5nPVd>

Ask your friends and family to sign, too!

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\*Certification of hearing loss by a hearing-care professional is required to participate in this offer. A standard phone line and Internet connection are also required to use this service.

## We Welcome All Donations

Please make checks payable to: HLAA North Shore of L.I.

Mail to: Sal Sturiale  
8038 212 Street  
Queens Village, N.Y. 11427

Be sure to designate who to acknowledge for your donation. For example: "this donation is: In Memory of; or In Honor of; or Happy Birthday; or Congratulations to..."

And please let us know who to send the acknowledgment to.

Thank you!

## Support Group for Parents of Hearing Impaired Children

### Meets at the Hearing and Speech Center of LIJ Hospital

For more information:  
Contact Dr. Linda Glazer at  
(718) 470-8631 or e-mail  
[lglazer@nshs.edu](mailto:lglazer@nshs.edu)



**HLAA of North Shore Long Island**  
<http://hearingloss-longisland.org>

Sal Sturiale  
80-38 212 Street  
Hollis Hills, NY 11427

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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## Membership Dues

Stay abreast of pertinent news and information. Send in your dues today.

Dues include Newsletter.

*Make check to:*

HLAA of North Shore Long Island

**Dues: \$15.00 (for the year)**

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

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