

April 2018



# Hearing Loss Association of America

## 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: 516-331-0231.

## Meeting News

### Wednesday, April 18, 2018

**Refreshments and Social Time begins 6pm.**

**Meeting begins 6:30pm.**

***Topic: The Hearing Loss Revolution!***

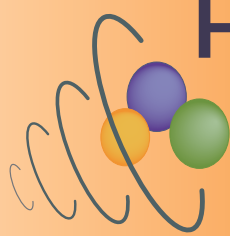
***(A snowstorm can't stop this revolution!)***

How would it be if we declared a revolution on how we view our hearing loss and clearly understood that our hearing doesn't define us in any negative way? How would it be if we truly let go of the idea that hearing loss makes us stupid or disengaged? Imagine a world where the cost of hearing aids was affordable and public venues were all equipped with functioning assistive listening devices. Hearing loss will have lost its stigma. We can make it happen by changing our attitudes about hearing loss. Join us to learn more about the Hearing Loss Revolution and the Nine Guiding Principles.

This revolution must start with us!

### ***Speaker***

Pat Dobbs started losing her hearing when she was twenty. She now wears two cochlear implants. It was only after she launched the "Hearing Loss Revolution and Its Nine Guiding Principles," that she discovered her true calling: Advocating for people with hearing loss. Pat is the creator of the Hearing Loss Revolution. She has written and presented on Communication Strategies and Coming to Terms with Hearing Loss. She is the President of HLAA-Morris County Chapter, Trustee of HLAA-NJ, and HLAA Representative to NJ Department of Deaf and Hard of Hearing.



# Hearing Loss Association of America

North Shore of Long Island Chapter

## Chapter Planning Committee

HLAA North Shore Chapter of L.I.

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

## Texas City Hires Its First-Ever Female Deaf Police Officer

*By Drew Powell, abc7amarillo.com  
DALHART, Texas*

The newest member of the Dalhart Police Department is helping the department make history. When police chief David Conner hired 25-year old Erica Trevino, she became the first female deaf commissioned police officer hired to work at the department and is believed to be the first in the state of Texas.



"It's a passion of mine," said Erica Trevino, newly hired police officer at Dalhart P.D. "It's not something I just want, it's something God has called me to do. That's what I believe. This truly is a career and I can't tell you how much I look up to the people and I respect how much work the officers put into becoming a police officer."

Trevino tells ABC 7 News she is fluent in four sign languages and can communicate in ways most officers can't when someone is in distress or needs help.

*Continued on Page 5*

# A Flood of Lawsuits Demand Websites Accommodate the Disabled

*By Jonathan Berr, Moneywatch, cbsnews.com*

Hundreds of companies are facing federal class actions filed in recent months alleging that their websites don't comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) because people with physical challenges have difficulties using them. Among those being sued are Nike (NKE), Burger King, Hershey (HSY), Lord & Taylor and Pandora (P).

Under Title III of the ADA, it's illegal to discriminate against disabled persons "in the full and equal enjoyment of public accommodations." Applying that standard to websites is tricky because the 1990 ADA predated the Internet as a mass medium. U.S. Department of Justice officials announced in 2010 that they would provide guidance regarding the standards that websites would have to meet.

The expected 2016 release of the DOJ rule, however, was delayed by the Obama administration. Further, the Trump administration, which has made reducing government regulations a priority, withdrew the website proposal without explanation in January. Contradictory court rulings clouded the picture even further, according to attorneys.

"Website access lawsuits have been filed against defendants in almost every industry and market," emailed Kristen Perkins, an attorney with Hinshaw & Culbertson in Florida, which represents businesses targeted in these cases. "While retail establishments have had the most filings, those in the health care industry, education, restaurant and nonprofit sectors, in addition to others, have had to defend these lawsuits."

More than 800 were filed in 2017, according to Minh Vu, an attorney with the law firm Seyfarth Shaw, which defends companies targeted in ADA litigation. Classaction.org, which tracks class actions, estimates that 256 ADA website-accessibility cases were filed in federal courts between Nov. 28 and Feb. 26, with no sign of a slowdown.

"Businesses have been put in a very difficult place," Vu said. "You cannot wave a magic wand to make your website accessible. There aren't a lot of people who know how to do it correctly."

According to William Goren, an attorney from Decatur, Georgia, who specializes in ADA issues, many designers didn't consider people with disabilities when they created websites, which makes it more challenging to fix them after they're online.

Companies often need to add code to pictures on their websites to enable special browsers to describe images for people with impaired vision. They also need to provide text for videos so people with hearing problems can understand them. The cost to address the issues can reach several thousand dollars depending on a site's complexity and the

*Continued on Page 5*

# If You're New, This is for You!

More than 48 million people in the US have a hearing loss, which can hinder daily communication. By age 65, one in three Americans has a hearing loss. This invisible condition affects the quality of life of the individuals with hear loss, as well as family, friends, coworkers and everyone with whom they interact. HLAA believes people with hearing loss can participate successfully in today's world.



*Information - Education - Support - Advocacy*

Founded in 1979, the mission of HLAA is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support and advocacy.

HLAA is the nation's foremost membership and advocacy organization for people with hearing loss. HLAA publishes the bimonthly *Hearing Loss Magazine*, holds annual conventions, a Walk4Hearing, and more. Check out: [www.HearingLoss.org](http://www.HearingLoss.org)

The North Shore Chapter is a dynamic group of individuals working together as a team. To join, please fill out the Membership Form in this newsletter. Welcome!

## *Parkside* *Memorial Chapels, Inc.*

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In Florida Call:

**Dade County:** (305) 864-3774

**Broward County:** (954) 472-2821

**Palm Beach County:** (561) 655-6844

“With officer Trevino being here that’s going to be tremendous asset for those who are hard of hearing or deaf,” said David Conner, Dalhart Police Chief. “She will be able to communicate and assist us in that realm as well.”

Day to day communications can be a challenge for deaf people. Overcoming challenges is something she has conquered since being deaf. She graduated from Caprock H.S. then went to West Texas A&M University before graduating third in her class at the police academy at Amarillo College.

“It’s not going to be easy, I know that,” said Trevino. “I’m preparing to put in the work and get to where I need to be. I want to be the best officer I can be.”

“Is it going to be a challenge for her and us? Yes, there’s no doubt,” said Conner. “Through all the obstacles she’s had to face in life and all the times she’s been told now she can’t do something she has succeeded. Who am I to say she can’t do this? There’s no doubt she can do it and she is qualified.”

She reports for duty on April 14. The first six months on the job she will be partnered with a field training officer and work the night shift. Her goal is to work in Criminal Investigations Division after she climbs up the ranks at the department.

*Read More Here: <https://bit.ly/2pKP4tG>*

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*A Flood of Lawsuits Demand Websites Accommodate the Disabled, Continued from Page 3*

extent of the issues that need to be addressed.

A bill pending in the U.S. House of Representatives would give companies with deficient handicap entrances and other architectural barriers six months to fix their problems before they can be sued. According to Perkins, owners of websites would benefit from similar consideration, but the proposed legislation currently doesn’t offer any.

“This type of pre-suit requirement would be a very helpful way to avoid the unnecessary costs of litigation,” wrote Perkins. “Clients with offending websites generally want to put fixes in place quickly to make their sites accessible to all people, given both the public policy concerns and the obvious business advantages to having your website work for everyone. The defense of these suits only makes curing access barriers to the impaired public more expensive.”

Nike declined to comment. A spokesman for Hershey said the candy company was “committed to making our websites user-friendly,” though he declined to discuss the ADA case. Officials from Burger King, which is part of Restaurant Brands (QSR); Lord & Taylor, which is part of Canada’s Hudson’s Bay; and Pandora didn’t respond to a request for comment for this story.

*Read more here: <https://cbsn.ws/2Jhyvhr>*



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Website: [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)



***HLAA opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support, and advocacy. HLAA is a 501(c)(3) organization.***

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

**I'd like to:** ☐ Become a member of HLAA ☐ Renew my membership ☐ Give a gift membership

### My Membership/Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter I belong to: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn about HLAA? \_\_\_\_\_

### Gift Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

	Annual USA Membership Fees	Annual Non-USA Membership Fees
Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35 (1 year) <input type="checkbox"/> \$95 (3 years) <input type="checkbox"/> \$140 (5 years)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45 (1 year)
Couple/Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45 (1 year)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$55 (1 year)
Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60 (1 year)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75 (1 year)
Library/Nonprofit	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 (1 year)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75 (1 year)
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 (1 year)	N/A
Corporate	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300 (1 year)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$325 (1 year)

My membership fee is \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Plus I'm adding a tax  
deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My total is \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### 3 Ways to Join, Renew or Give a Gift Membership

1. Return this form to your chapter with your check made payable to HLAA.
2. Mail or fax this form to the HLAA office at the address above with your credit card information.
3. Visit [www.hearingloss.org/content/join](http://www.hearingloss.org/content/join) and use your credit card online. (this is a secure website)

Credit Card Payment Information: ☐ American Express ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (as it appears on card)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ (Include your billing address if different than membership address above.)





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\*Certification of hearing loss by a hearing-care or healthcare professional is required to participate.



## Donating Hearing Aids to the Lions Club

*By Michelle Gross*

If you have used hearing aids to donate, please address the package to:

John McNamara, Au.D., Ontario Hearing  
2210 Monroe Ave., Rochester, NY 14618

**Put on the lower left corner of the package:**  
"Finger Lakes Region Lions Club"

(Cleaning tools, cases, most accessories, etc. have virtually no value and are discarded.) Aids that are usable are cleaned and checked and made ready for sending to the Lions Club for qualified recipients.

You can obtain a receipt for your donation (for tax purposes) but **you must request it**. And, thanks for considering donating your used aids.

*Trudie Katz Walker*

*Attorney at Law*

225 Old Country Rd.  
Melville, N.Y. 11747

[twalker@walkerlegaloffices.com](mailto:twalker@walkerlegaloffices.com)

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Hollis Hills, NY 11427

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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# Proposed Deaf Emojis for Texting

*By DeafNewsToday.blogspot.com*

Apple is proposing that the Unicode Consortium (which oversees the internet) approve some new emojis to represent users with disabilities. Apples says, "Diversifying the options available helps fill a significant gap and provides a more inclusive experience for all." The National Association of the Deaf helped come up with the new images. Among the proposed emojis:

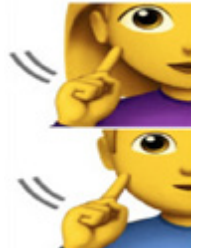
***Service Dog  
With Vest  
and Leash:***



***Ear With  
Hearing  
Aid:***



***Deaf Sign  
(Male and  
Female):***



*Read the full proposal here: <https://bit.ly/2udOLwt>*