



Heard in Fort Worth

Newsletter of the Hearing Loss Association of Fort Worth

November 2008

Celebrate Founder's Day in November

Throughout the month of November, HLA chapters and members celebrate Founder's Day in recognition of our Founder, Rocky Stone. Hearing Loss Association of America was incorporated November 29, 1979 as Self Help for Hard of Hearing People. In 1984, Founder's Day was established as the annual celebration of our birthday anniversary. It is a time to commemorate our beginnings, look back on our truly extraordinary achievements, and celebrate the privilege of being a part of this great organization. Founder's Day is a time of gratitude, a time we remember "all our Novembers."

Founder's Day is also an opportunity to express appreciation in a practical way. It is the single annual occasion during which chapters are asked to raise funds to send to the National Office to help support the HLAA chapter development department. This department, unlike other departments of HLAA, does not have an ongoing source of income. It is a major department, yet dependent on HLAA for financial support for extensive programs, publications, and activity to assist new and existing chapters.

Each November, HLA chapters and members throughout the country are asked to support this department by making a Founder's Day donation. While the amount to give is optional, a \$10 contribution per member would provide a major portion of the chapter development annual budget. Your board of directors has approved \$500 as our chapter donation. Wouldn't it be wonderful if our members could match that with personal contributions? The National Office prefers to get a single check from each location, so if you can contribute, please bring your check to the meeting in November. We will add your contribution to the chapter contribution and send in a single check. Chapters that send in at least \$500 will be recognized at the convention next summer.

For a biography on Rocky Stone, please check page 4.

Excerpts from www.hearingloss.org

Only **Hearing Loss Association of America** provides a national advocacy presence, a website with reliable, organized, and archived answers to questions about hearing loss and assistive technology, the *Hearing Loss Magazine*, with credible, current information, over 200 local support chapters and 14 state organizations, and discounts to annual national conventions and many regional conferences. For \$35 per year, less than 70 cents a week, we give you information and encouragement to be a vital person in our hearing world. We are here for you because you care enough to be a part of the national concern for hearing loss. We appreciate your membership. If you have not become a national member, information and instructions are available at www.hearingloss.org.



Joan's Journal

I don't know about you, but I am certainly enjoying the cooler temperatures! Before you know it, the holiday season will be upon us again. You know how much you enjoy talking to friends and loved ones on the phone during the holidays, right? No? OK, for most of us using the telephone is an exercise in frustration, but times, they are a-changin'. Our program this month is about a new captioned telephone system from Sprint Relay. It is called Web CapTel and it uses the Internet to provide captions for your telephone call using ANY telephone. I have used a CapTel telephone for a couple of years, but I can only use it at home. Web CapTel can be used with any phone when you have Internet access from any computer – at work, home, or library. Fannae Shields uses the system to talk to her sister who is also hard of hearing, and they both get captions. Fannae will be with us on November 8, to tell us how we can get those captions too. I think it will be a very timely program and information that you can use, not only for the holidays, but for the rest of the year too.

Joan O'Connor (huh_hoh_hum@yahoo.com)

Think about it...

- 20% of Americans have a disability; 10% have a severe disability
- Every year one in eight people become disabled.
- Almost 40% of people with a disability live in the South.
- An estimated 4 million Texans have a disability.
- In 2000, the over-65 age group made up 13% of the population; that is expected to DOUBLE by 2030.
- In 2000, 57.5% of the 75+ age group in Texas reported having a disability
- It is estimated that in the next 10 years, the number of Texans with SEVERE disabilities will increase by 30%.
- Americans with disabilities have an annual BUYING POWER of \$318 billion. That number is expected to increase as accessibility improves.

When you think about these facts, disabilities become a much more important issue. As the population as a whole grows older, the number of people with disabilities will increase. In addition, disabilities also occur as a result of accidents, violence and disease. Our challenge is to promote ways that the ever-increasing numbers of Americans with disabilities can be independent and productive.

From the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities

Heard in Fort Worth

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<http://www.goodrichcenter.org>
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

November 8: Hearing Loss Association of Fort Worth monthly meeting at Goodrich Center. Refreshments at 9:30 AM; program at 10 AM. "Web CapTel."

December 13: Annual Holiday Party at the Goodrich Center. Fun, food, and games for the whole family. Inexpensive gift exchange. More info in December newsletter.

January 24, 2009: Next CI Support Group meeting. There will be no meeting in November or December due to the holidays.

June 18-21, 2009: HLAA National Convention, Nashville, TN. Early registration is now open. Register early and save. Go to www.hearingloss.org and click on "convention."

Bits and Pieces

Marie Kizer moved to Lewisville to be near her son. Hope we can still see her now and then.

Julie Scheibe's father recently passed away. Please keep her and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Sue Marshall is recovering at home from major surgery. Get well soon, Sue!

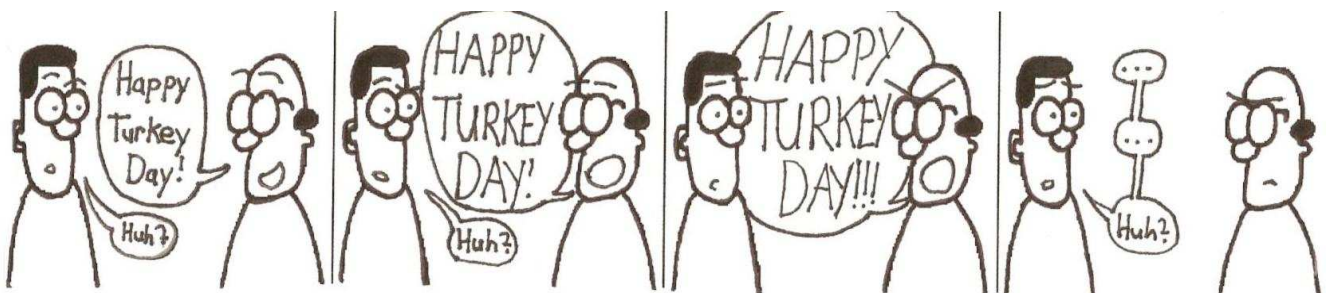
Emma Hill reports that the hearing loss group she started at Franklin Park Retirement Center is now an official chapter of HLAA. Karen Moulder and Kim Brownen assisted in the formation of the new chapter. Way to go, Emma!

Fannae Shields to present November program

Fannae Shields will present the program this month about WebCapTel. She is a regular user of the Sprint service. Since becoming aware of a hearing loss at age 35, she has lost more and more hearing. After going through all the "it could be's," she found out almost by accident that hearing loss runs in her family.

Fannae says that knowing that she will not get better and that her hearing loss will not stop until she reaches deafness, she became very interested in the technology and equipment available to enhance her life and help keep her in the main stream. She became a member of the Dallas SHHH chapter for that very reason. She finds that the programs at the Fort Worth chapter meetings, workshops, seminars, and conferences/conventions have helped her to understand her own problem, and in doing so, to become aware of so many people who have become isolated because of their hearing loss. She takes advantage of every moment to speak to others about what she has learned. Fannae, thank you for sharing!

HUH? By John O'Connor



Rocky Stone, Founder Extraordinaire

Howard E. "Rocky" Stone was born in 1925 in Cincinnati, Ohio. He began working at an early age to support his mother and two sisters during the Depression. During World War II military service at age 19, a nearby explosion resulted in a bilateral hearing loss. Following his discharge, he attended the University of Southern California, where he earned a degree in International Affairs. He then won a scholarship to the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, but did not complete the program because his hearing loss precluded him from taking oral exams.

Recruited by the Central Intelligence Agency, he spent 25 years in federal service with assignments to half a dozen Near and Far East countries. On retirement in 1975, he received the agency's highest award, the Distinguished Intelligence Medal.

Because there were no support services for hard of hearing people, Rocky founded SHHH in 1979, serving as its volunteer director until 1993. Having overcome the challenge of childhood poverty and profound hearing loss, Rocky believed in the ability of individuals to help themselves. "I established SHHH as a membership organization run by people with hearing loss. We provide information necessary for them to make choices, but emphasize the choice must be theirs. The challenge is to develop togetherness within diversity."

Within four years of its founding, SHHH had almost 6000 members and by the end of 1984 there were 122 SHHH chapters. Today, renamed Hearing Loss Association of America, the organization is the premier consumer organization for people with hearing loss. The mission is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss through education, advocacy and support.

In 1988, Rocky was appointed by President Reagan to the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board ("Access Board"), which drafted the accessibility guidelines for the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act. Later, he was appointed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to the advisory council of the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. He was awarded an honorary doctorate degree from Gallaudet University, where he served on the board of the Gallaudet Research Institute.

Following retirement in 1993 as SHHH's first executive director, macular degeneration greatly impaired his sight. A cochlear implant in 1994 gave him better hearing. He liked to say, "I have only lost my sight, not my vision." Despite his disabilities, he served four years as president of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People, was a member of the board of directors of Hearing International and the Cochlear Implant Club International, and founded the organization Teamwork, Inc. to promote cochlear implantation. Rocky Stone, whose love and compassion for people knew no bounds, died on August 12, 2004 of complications from pneumonia.

Legislative Update

Look out Rangers and Cowboys! In an opinion issued on September 30, 2008, a federal district court in Maryland held that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires the Washington Redskins to "provide deaf and hard of hearing fans equal access to the aural information broadcast over the stadium bowl public address system at FedEx Field, which includes music with lyrics, play information, advertisements, referee calls, safety/emergency information, and other announcements." If upheld on appeal, this ruling could have a widespread impact on sports stadiums and coliseums across the country and on the ability of deaf and hard of hearing patrons to enjoy EVERYTHING about the game.

We have our own website!

Just in case you haven't seen it,
the address is:

<http://www.hla-fw.net>

You can find lots of information and our current newsletter as well as archival copies of the old newsletters.

Our Webmaster is Bill Fuller, who still graciously runs our site even though he's in Oklahoma now.

CONVENTION 2009

Early-bird registration is underway for the 2009 HLAA convention in Nashville, TN. The Convention is June 18-21, 2009, and promises to be the best yet, as we band together to celebrate HLAA's 30th birthday. You can go to www.hearingloss.org and see all the information about the convention, as well as the link to the Gaylord Opryland hotel's reservation system where we will be staying. HLAA members who sign up for the full-activity package by December 31 will be entered in a drawing for a Nintendo Wii™. If you're not a National HLAA member, become one today, and take advantage of the member registration discount.

There are five educational tracks in 2009, with the addition of the Young Adult Issues track. Other tracks are Healthy Living and Working, Relationships and Communication, Hearing Technology, and Advocacy and Access. Come learn new things and rekindle old friendships. Register today!

Call For Papers: If you or someone you know is interested in presenting at the HLAA Convention, you can read the instructions at www.hearingloss.org and complete the application. Deadline for submission is December 5.

Hearing Loss Association - Fort Worth

Name: _____	Individual	Couple/Family
	<small>(circle one)</small>	
Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
Email address: _____		
Annual Chapter Activity Fee - \$10 individual/\$15 couple or family		\$ _____
Newsletter only - \$5		\$ _____
HLAA National Dues - \$35 individual/\$45 couple or family		\$ _____
<small>(If not already a member)</small>		
Donation – local chapter or National Office		\$ _____
<small>(circle one)</small>		
TOTAL		\$ _____



BOOK REVIEW

Silent Alarm: On the Edge with a Deaf EMT

By Steven L. Schrader

For many of us, hearing loss is not something that happens to someone else. It's something we live with every day. Many of us have opportunities now that would not have been probable even 25 years ago. In this book, *Silent Alarm: On the Edge with a Deaf EMT*, we get a first hand account of living with a hearing loss and fighting the prejudice from people who don't understand that it's a physical disability, not a mental one. Steven Schrader writes a biographical story that uses his disability as part of the background of a 15-year career as a firefighter and EMT in Atlanta in the late 70's and 80's. He describes prejudice, yes, but only to show that he pushed through the prejudice and was able to show his capabilities. This book is filled with stories from the Atlanta streets, and many of those streets are in the bad parts of town. He tells about successes on those streets, the scares he had, the failures he experienced. One of the successes he describes involves talking down a suicidal person by using his hearing loss to establish some rapport with the victim. The failures nearly always involved a loss of life. This book is a fairly short and very explosive read. The author is currently working on a sequel to *Silent Alarm*, which he hopes to finish for spring publication.

WARNING: This book is not for the faint of heart. Some of the scenes are very gritty, but it is a great read. You can borrow this book from our library.

Sprint to Launch WebCapTel On the Go

Free Mobile Solution for HOH Customers Allows Customers
To Read Word-for-Word Captions on Select Sprint Devices

On October 20, Sprint announced the availability of Sprint WebCapTel® On the Go, a new, free mobile Web-based service that allows hard of hearing customers to read word-for-word captions on Windows Mobile 6 Web browsers, such as the Diamond by HTC, Mogul by HTC, Palm Treo 800w and the MOTO Q9c by Motorola. In addition, this service is also compatible with the Safari 2.0 Web browser.

This new service is expected to help the estimated 30 million Americans with hearing loss. "Sprint is committed to equal access to all individuals," said Mike Ligas, director of Sprint Relay. "As such, we pride ourselves on offering the newest technology to hard of hearing individuals. This new solution offers the hard of hearing community mobility by being able to read real-time Web-based captions on Windows-enabled mobile devices." With Sprint WebCapTel On the Go, users make calls using two phones – reading captions on a wireless phone and listening and speaking on a second phone.

Sprint WebCapTel On the Go is an extension of Sprint's existing WebCapTel service, which is the topic of the monthly program in November. WebCapTel also provides captions during phone calls, but requires a computer with an Internet browser of either Internet Explorer 7.0, Firefox 3.0, or Safari 2.0 on which to display the captions. This new and free service is available almost anywhere as long as the wireless device is equipped with Windows Mobile 6 or an Apple Safari Web browser. "It gives people with hearing loss the independence to make and receive telephone calls without the necessity of wire line phones or computer connectivity," said Robert Engelke, president of Ultratec, Inc., the company that developed CapTel technology. This free service is available for customers anywhere in the US and within US Territories. To learn more about this free service, visit www.sprintcaptel.com or www.sprintrelay.com/webcaptel.htm.

Report from the State Conference

If you missed the state conference in October, you really missed a lot. It was packed with all sorts of useful information for individuals and for our organizations. Our own Karen Moulder presented two workshops that were extremely well received. She has been invited to present "How to Work a Room" by the Oklahoma City Chapter and has had inquiries from around the state. Karen also presented a workshop on "Using Technology with Confidence."

Another popular workshop was with Jeff Crilley on "Positive PR." He used humor and visual analogy to get his points across about establishing a personal contact with the media if you want to get your message out.

Susanna Dussling presented "Bouncing Back," on setting and reaching goals and aspirations in spite of physical challenges.

Esther Kelley also presented two excellent programs. Esther presented "ADA Facts for Hard of Hearing People." She gave participants a DVD about do's and don'ts in the workplace and classroom. She also presented a program on family dynamics for families of those with hearing loss.

Rose Aird Minette presented a program on taking charge of your hearing loss needs – asking for what you need. She also gave an excellent presentation on why we sometimes are accused of having "selective hearing" because we hear some sounds but not others, by showing us the "hearing banana" and where different sounds fall in it.

These are just a small portion of the programs that were available. See what you missed!!

Fort Worth Chapter Officer/Board of Directors Job Descriptions

The President shall be the chief officer of the Fort Worth Chapter. The President shall preside at meetings of the Board and general membership and shall serve as an ex-officio member of all committees. The President shall be responsible for the execution of the policies and programs of the Board and for the administration of the affairs of the Fort Worth Chapter.

The Vice-President shall perform such duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Board or the President. In the event that illness or other disability prohibits the President from performance, the Vice-President shall have the power to perform the duties ordinarily the responsibility of the President.

The Secretary shall keep accurate and complete minutes of meetings of the Board; shall maintain correspondence; shall give notices of all meetings as required; shall have the usual powers and duties of a Secretary and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Board or the President.

The Editor shall have responsibility for composing and mailing the monthly newsletter.

The Treasurer shall have general charge and supervision of the books and records of the account of the Fort Worth Chapter and, subject to the direction of the Board, shall have charge of and be responsible for all cash and securities of the Fort Worth Chapter. The Treasurer shall have the usual powers and duties of Treasurer, including the power to give receipts for cash, securities or other property delivered to the Fort Worth Chapter and the power to disburse funds in accordance with procedures to be established by the Board, and shall perform such additional duties as may be assigned by the Board or the President.

The Librarian/Historian shall maintain a record of all books, reading material, videos and other chapter-owned materials available for use or borrowing by the members. The Librarian/Historian shall have the authority, with the consent of the other Board members, to make any purchases of these materials. The Librarian/Historian shall collect and maintain chapter memorabilia and materials of historic interest.

The Hospitality Chair shall coordinate refreshments at meetings or other special events and ensure that the meeting area is set up prior to meeting time.

WEBSITES YOU CAN USE

Are you looking for information, social interaction, advocacy information, legislation information, but don't know where to look? Here are some websites to help you get started.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/subscribe/txhll> -- Texas Hearing Loss List, Tommie Wells' informational and social network. You can get good information and ask questions. Someone will have an answer or know where to find one. Tommie is a local member and national board member.

http://www.saywhatclub.com/swc_lists.html -- The Say What Club has several interactive discussion groups.

<http://www.hearingloss.org> -- The National HLAA website is always being updated with new features and information on hearing loss.

<http://hearinglossnation.ning.com/> -- HLAA's new social network for young adults.

<http://www.hearinglossweb.com> -- Center for Hearing Loss Help, a resource for news.

<http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing/> -- National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders -- one of the government's National Institutes of Health.

<http://www.alda.org> -- The Association of Late Deafened Adults. This website also has forum groups.

<http://www.theearsofyourheart.com/MemberList.htm> -- Wes Allen's website. Wes is one of our local members.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/beyond-hearing/> -- Also an excellent site for information.

Specialized Telecommunications Assistance Program (STAP)

STAP is a voucher program that provides financial assistance for the purchase of specialized assistive equipment or services for individuals whose disability interferes with their ability to access the telephone network. Vouchers can be used to get telecommunications equipment such as amplified telephones, captioned telephones, VCO phones, TTYs, neckloops, and headsets that can be used with hearing aids or cochlear implants, as well as a host of other devices. You can get a voucher every five years.

For more information or help in determining which device is best for your particular needs, talk to Dan White or Karen Moulder at the Goodrich Center. They'll be happy to help you.

ANTHONY HEARING AIDS *Specializing in Difficult Hearing Aid Fittings*

Sandra Clarkson, MA, CCC-A, FAAA
Lead Audiologist
Hollis Hardman, MA, CCC-A, FAAA
Audiologist

901 Hemphill Fort Worth, Texas 76104
817/338-HEAR (4327)

November Program:

November 8, 2008
Goodrich Center

Web Captel

By
Fannae Shields

Fannae has had a recognized hearing loss for many years and is an advocate for those of us with hearing loss. She works at Callier Center.

Refreshments at 9:30 AM
Meeting at 10:00 to 11:30

Bring family and friends.

*We use listening devices and live captioning
for communication accessibility at our meetings.*

2500 Lipscomb Street, Fort Worth, TX

2009 Board of Directors

The following slate of officers is offered for 2009. Voting will take place at the November meeting.

President: Joan O'Connor

Vice Pres: Fannae Shields

Secretary: Jenny Zeis

Treasurer: Kelli Barrow

Hospitality Chair: Sue Marshall

Librarian/Historian: Emma Hill

Other nominations are allowed from the floor if the person being nominated agrees to it.

Job descriptions are found on page 7.