



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL. AND TO ALL A GOOD NEW YEAR!



## HEAR THIS !

*(It's Personal)*

by Marilyn Weinhouse

## Programs

### President's Corner



Happy Holidays everyone! At the November meeting, we learned some tips about dealing with Holiday stress and our

communication barriers. This month we are going to party!

Don't forget; see Bill Zitrin for the HLAA brochures you can hand out!

### HLAA-SD Steering Committee Officers:

President: Bonnie Eggert-Zitrin  
Vice President: Char Sivertson  
Treasurer: Bill Zitrin  
Secretary: Larry Sivertson

#### Members:

Dolli Cutler  
Joan Padilla  
Christy Stolzer  
Marilyn Weinhouse

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If you are not an HLAA member, you can sign up any time. Membership is good for one year from date you join.

### How much does membership cost?

Yearly dues are \$35 individual or \$45 couple. Make checks out to "Hearing Loss Association of America" and notate on the check \*for San Diego Chapter.\* Checks will be collected and we will send them to National, which will then send us \$10 back for each membership. Or mail to HLAASD, P.O. Box 2810, Alpine, CA 91903.

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### We are on Facebook!

Join Facebook and become a "friend" of HLAA – San Diego Chapter. Our Facebook page

posts our meetings and events, has links to hearing loss web sites and a section for online discussions. Come and share ideas, resources and problems with other people with hearing loss. \*\*\*\*\*

### HLAA Web Sites:

<http://hearinglosssandiego.org/home>  
<http://www.hearingloss.org/>

### Member Spotlight - Marilyn's Story



I'd like to share two great resources with you: The **Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DOR)** and **SCORE "Counselors to America's Small Business."**

I retired from teaching, partly because my hearing loss made it very stressful for me despite using an assisted listening device in the classroom.



I approached the DOR and asked for help with starting a new business. DOR asked me to present a business plan to help determine whether or not they would provide funding for me. I turned to SCORE for help in writing a business plan.

SCORE provides free counseling for anyone looking for help in starting a business and they offer excellent workshops on a variety of business topics. I attended several of their workshops and worked with counselors to create my business plan. DOR approved my plan and my request for "vocational training." They paid my tuition for 7 workshops at SCORE. The workshops are good. The speakers are all successful business people, excellent speakers, and are extremely knowledgeable. I am excited to be starting my own business, "Hear Gear," selling assistive listening devices. If your hearing loss has prevented you from being able to continue your career, I recommend applying to DOR for support services. Please contact me for suggestions on how to get started:

[Xweinhouse@aol.com](mailto:Xweinhouse@aol.com)

### Department of Vocational Rehabilitation

[www.dor.ca.gov/sandiego](http://www.dor.ca.gov/sandiego)  
San Diego District  
(619) 767-2100 (VOICE), (619) 767-2159 (TTY)  
7575 Metropolitan Drive, Suite 107  
San Diego, CA 92108-4402

### SCORE

[www.score-sandiego.org](http://www.score-sandiego.org)  
550 West C Street, Suite 550  
San Diego, CA 92101  
Phone - 619.557.7272, Fax - 619.557.5894

### HLAA San Diego 2011 Meetings (subject to change):

**January 15.** Our own Larry Sivertson will talk about speechreading, formerly known as lipreading. We will practice in game-playing and will learn new resources.

**February 19.** Roberta Smith from Deaf & Disabled Telecommunications Program (DDTP) will be talking about all the great phones available through the California Telecommunications Access Program (CTAP), which provides phones at **no cost** to Californians with hearing loss.

**March 19.** Audiologist Linda Oliver will be discussing the latest in hearing aid technologies, what we can expect in the near future, and how to get the most out of your hearing aids.

**April 16.** Dawna Mills from the House Ear Institute will discuss the latest in Cochlear Implant technology, who is a CI candidate, and what to expect as you go through the process.

**May 21.** Our own Marilyn Weinhouse presents on assistive technology, a field changing so fast it's hard to keep up!

**June 18.** To be decided.

**July 16.** We'll have an ice cream social at our July meeting. This is a great opportunity to chat with folks and get to know each other a little better.

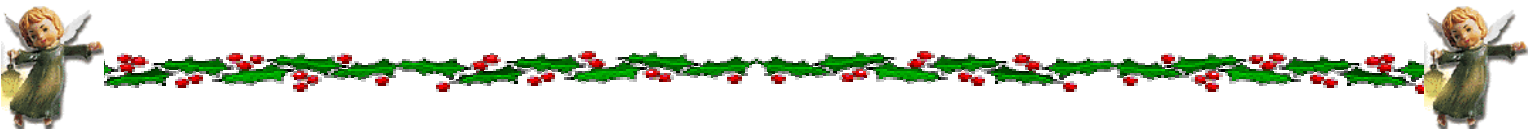
**August 20.** No meeting in August

**September 17.** Annual picnic with indoor and outdoor activities.

**October 15.** Jennifer Raulie, a Bionic Ear Association Manager, will tell us about the Advanced Bionic device as well as the new 'Clear Voice' technology.

**November 19.** We'll have a discussion of how people with hearing loss and their families can cope with the holidays.

**December 17.** Holiday Brunch and White Elephant Gift Exchange! Our holiday brunch is always amazing.



NEWS FROM HLAA NATIONAL – MORE INFO at [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org).



*The Nation's Voice for People with Hearing Loss*

[Forward to a Friend](#) | [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)

Twenty years ago, HLAA members came out in force when it was time to comment on rules under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Our comments helped shape the way the rules were written. We need you to do that again to push for captioned movies. The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) published a notice that it is considering changes to its regulations to require movie theater owners and operators to show captioned movies. DOJ is inviting written comments from members of the public.

## **If movie captions are important to you, tell the DOJ!**

**The DOJ proposes to require movie theater owners and operators to show films with closed captioning. DOJ proposes to limit this requirement to no more than 50 percent of the films shown, and DOJ is willing to give owners and operators up to 5 years to get to the 50 percent mark.** HLAA believes that "full and equal enjoyment" of services under the Americans with Disabilities Act means that people with hearing loss must be provided the kind of accommodations that would allow us to attend any movie anytime. For people with significant hearing loss, that means 100% captioning. We believe that an across the board industry cap of 50% is arbitrary and inconsistent with the law.

### **HLAA's position on movie captioning is:**

- All movies should be made accessible to movie goers with hearing loss through captioning.
- People with hearing loss should be able to see any movie at any time on any day.
- There are many ways to caption movies today. HLAA does not specify the method used to caption the movie so long as it provides effective communication.

DOJ is seeking comments in response to 26 questions. The entire document with all the questions can be accessed at <http://www.regulations.gov>. You can reply to some or all of the questions. We suggest at a minimum, that you respond to DOJ Question #1: 1. DOJ is proposing that the percentage of movie screens offering closed captioning be set at 10 percent after one year and increased 10 percent a year until 50 percent is reached. Does this approach provide a proper balance between providing accessibility to consumers, on one hand, and giving owners and operators time to acquire the necessary equipment, on the other hand?

## **Send your comments to the DOJ today!**

Comments sent by U.S. mail must be postmarked and electronic comments must be transmitted on or before **January 24, 2011**.

- State the question(s) you are responding to. You can focus all your comments on question #1 or add more.
- State why you are interested in responding. For example, that you have a hearing loss and cannot attend movies without effective closed captioning.
- State what you want to see: 100% captions, 5 years or less, no later than January 2016.
- State how lack of captions has impacted you. State why you think 100% captioning is needed.
- Thank the DOJ
- Sign your name.

See our **Sample Letter**. [http://www.hearingloss.org/advocacy/docs/Sample\\_letter\\_DOJ\\_MovieCaptioning.doc](http://www.hearingloss.org/advocacy/docs/Sample_letter_DOJ_MovieCaptioning.doc)

We did it for the ADA. Let's do it again for movie captioning. Send your comments to the DOJ! Thank you!

Brenda Battat, Executive Director