



East Bay Chapter: Newsletter September 2024



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September 14 Meeting: Joint-Chapter Panel Presentations: Highlights of the 2024 HLAA Annual Convention

Did you miss the 2024 HLAA annual convention in Phoenix (June 26-29)? Wondering what the buzz was all about? Join us for a special session where five attendees from three of our local chapters will share the key takeaways from this year's event.

Our presenters:

- Linda Gee, Verna Dow, and Connie Gee from the East Bay (EB) chapter
- Ann Thomas, EB chapter member and Diablo Valley chapter president
- Sara Oser, North Bay of California chapter president

This dynamic group will offer a diverse overview of the convention's highlights, including notable sessions, merging trends, and exciting developments in the hearing loss community.

Event Details:

- Date: Saturday, September 14, 2024
- Time: 9:30 Social; 10:00 Meeting; and 11:30 Lunch
- Location: Oakland Kaiser Fabiola Building, 3801 Howe Street, Room G26
- Cost: Free

While this session is a hybrid meeting, we encourage you to attend in person for an engaging and informative experience. Enjoy our usual morning coffee and bagels, and stick around for pizza lunch (**PIZZA!**) after the presentation. We're looking forward to seeing you there!

Please RSVP via the link below by close of business on Thursday, September 12, to reserve a spot:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvceirj8oEtMOjIXw6L4Uzr0RfRAlyXSD>

HLAA-EB posts our newsletters to the California State Association webpage and a link on our website. **VOLUNTEER! Contact us to let us know you are available!** Check out our website at: <http://www.hearinglosseb.org/> Contact us at: info@hearinglosseb.org

This Fall we have some great programs lined up!

In addition to our program in September we have lined up programs for October and November:

October: "All About Meniere's Disease." Member Gerry Niesar will give us background about this rather unpleasant condition that afflicts some people with hearing loss. Gerry, Peter Townsend and others will share experiences with Meniere's.

November: Dr. Susanna Storm, AuD from Blue Sky Hearing will present "Navigating the Soundscape: Innovations in Hearing Aid Technology and Beyond". Dr. Storm will explore the latest advancements in hearing aids and related technology, as well as other hearing technologies to improve the auditory experience.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are 120 Chapters, Support Groups, and State Organizations nationwide.

In California there are 9 chapters which is 7% of all chapters in the United States.

- In Northern California there is Diablo Valley Chapter, East Bay Chapter, North Bay Chapter, Peninsula Chapter, and Silicon Valley Chapter.
- In Southern California there is Long Beach Chapter, Los Angeles Chapter, Mission Viejo Chapter and San Diego Chapter.

We in California are so lucky to have such great support organizations for the hearing loss community.

Other things that happened with HLAA in the US in 2023:

- There were 131+ virtual meetings
- 3 New State Conferences (New York, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin)
- 17 Educational Webinars which engages thousands of participants
- There are 50,000 social media followers
- There are 10,000 *Hearing Life e-news magazine subscribers*
- There are 60,000 HLAA Website views per month
- For Walk4Hearing: 5435 participants, 555 teams, \$814,000 donations

We in the HLAA East Bay Chapter are grateful for all the people who support this organization.

Please join the national HLAA which you can join for any donation, however, if you donate \$45 or more per year, you will receive the magazine. You can choose to receive it in hard copy or by e-mail. HLAA is working for you!

These are some of the accomplishments from 2023:

- HLAA was cited in dozens of national and local media stories in 2023
- HLAA advocacy led to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requiring all wireless phones to be 100% compatible with hearing aids and cochlear implants
- HLAA supported FCC's ruling that makes videoconferencing services full accessible with improved captioning and sign language interpretation
- HLAA is working with the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to provide visual emergency alerts and other new technologies to enhance safety for people with hearing loss

- HLAA partnered with DOT and other organizations to include important safety and accessibility provisions in a new bill called the Air Carrier Access Amendments Act of 2023 (ACAAA), which protects the rights of airplane passengers with disabilities.
- HLAA mobilized support for passage of the Communications, Video and Technology Accessibility Act (CVTA), which has the potential to broaden access to technology like telehealth, online and television programming and video conferencing, improving the daily lives of millions of people.

Many have found hope through HLAA and its chapters. Let's keep pushing for these and more benefits to the hearing loss community!

We need your help! Can you volunteer? Contact us at: info@hearinglosseb.org

Here is a list of volunteer positions we are seeking to fill:

- **Zoom Assistant** - Assist George Chin, Sr. to run Zoom, cameras, and PA/Audio Loop during in person/hybrid meetings.
- **Camera Operator** - Use a remote control to operate our 2 cameras for in-person Zoom meetings.
- **Volunteer Coordinator**: Contact people who said they could volunteer and tell them about volunteer needs. Recruit for those positions.
- **Outreach Coordinator**: Organize a table for our chapter at various street fairs and other venues. Set up the table. Recruit volunteers to help with the events. Reach out to people who participate in our meetings. Let people know about our chapter.
- **Just want to help?** All of our committees need helpers! All volunteers are welcome! Contact us and we'll help you figure out what would be a good fit for you.

HLAA SF/East Bay Leaders

The chapter is run by a Steering Committee, Leader: Len Bridges
 Outreach National Chapter Coordinator/Liaison: Linda Gee, linda.gee4@gmail.com
 Treasurer: Len Bridges, lenbridges3993-hlaa@outlook.com
 Programs: Robin Miller, robin@robinmillerlaw.com
 Technology: George Chin, Sr., georgechinsr@gmail.com
 Membership: Connie Gee, cbgee2014@yahoo.com, Marlene Muir, muircmc@comcast.net
 Volunteer Coordinator: (Open)
 Newsletter Editors: Nancy Asmundson, nasmundson@comcast.net. Kathy Fairbanks, mkathyfairbanks@att.net
 Publicity: Marlene Muir, muircmc@comcast.net, George Chin, Sr., georgechinsr@gmail.com
 Technical/Audio Loop: Peter G. Townsend, peterg.townsend@gmail.com
 Website updates: George Chin, Sr., georgechinsr@gmail.com. Peter G. Townsend, peterg.townsend@gmail.com
 Consulting Legal Counsel: Gerald Niesar, gniesar@nvlawllp.com
 Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) services: Audrey Spinka, captionit@gmail.com

JOIN HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (HLAA) – THEY ADVOCATE FOR YOU!
hearingloss.org Membership is now open to all of our valued supporters who help fuel our mission and change the lives of people with hearing loss. **Everyone who gives is now an HLAA member, helping to amplify our HLAA voice, and fulfill our important mission— together!**

COST OF MEMBERSHIP: The HLAA national office had consolidated the donation and membership processes. Presently, anyone who donates as little as \$1 would become a member of the national HLAA. Additionally, with a donation of \$45 annually, individuals have the option to receive a hard copy of the Hearing Life magazine from the national office.

See you September 14th!

*Zoom is available but we'd love to
see you in person.*

*Not to mention there is pizza for
lunch!*

