

April Chapter Meeting **Elections and goodbyes**

April's meeting will be a celebration and farewell to two of our long-time members. We will be honoring Dr. Bill Busch and Louise Allen as they move out of the area. It's also our traditional meeting to elect and install the Chapter Officers for the 2017 year. Please join us as we say farewell to Bill and Louise.

Hearing Assistive Technology **April Hat Demonstration**

Our next HAT (Hearing Assistive Technology) Demonstration will be on Friday, April 21 from 10 AM to noon in the Weingart Center's Craft Room. Invite your friends and relatives with hearing loss to come and try out a large variety of devices that can improve their ability to hear better in difficult situations. These devices can be very helpful to people with or without hearing aids and are a lot less expensive.

In addition to our large selection of devices for you to try, Sam Moghadam, Hearing Instrument Specialist from Ascent Hearing Center, will also be present to answer questions about hearing aids.

HAT does not sell hearing aids or Hearing Assistive Devices, but provides information on where to purchase items demonstrated.

For more information, call the Weingart Center at (562) 630-6141.

Video chat: transforming relationships for people with hearing loss

*Angie Aspinall, February 2017
Hearing Like Me (edited for space)*

Using the phone can be a challenge with hearing loss. But luckily there are more and more technology options that make it easier to communicate with loved ones.

For example, my dad—who has never been one for chatting on the phone—and I recently started to chat via text messages. Then we discovered video calling. Now, video chat has massively changed our relationship and we talk nearly every week.

As someone with single-sided hearing loss, video chat has transformed my relationships.

What is video chat?

For anyone unfamiliar with video chat, it's a way to communicate by seeing each other's faces via



a screen. There are video chat apps for your desktop computer, smart phone, tablet, or you can even hook up a web camera to your TV monitor if it has internet connectivity.

One of the most popular video chat platforms is Skype, which is what I use. Skype, which is owned by Microsoft, is an online platform that allows you to make video calls (face time,

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CHAPTER CALENDAR

All events except HAT committee meetings are at Weingart Center, 5220 Oliva Ave, Lakewood 90712

- April 13** Chapter Meeting, 6:30: Election and installation, farewell to Bill and Louise
- April 21** HAT Demo, 10 a.m. - noon, Weingart craft room
- April 26** Board Meeting, 12:00 - 1:30, Weingart craft room
- May 1** HAT Committee Meeting, 12:30-2:00, Heritage Family Pantry on Lakewood Blvd.
- May 11** Chapter Meeting, 6:30: Katie Wright, "When Hearing Aids Are Not Enough"

HLA offers 2 different lip reading classes: Mondays 10:00–noon and Wednesdays 9:30–11:30 am



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from **Katie Wright**

Help for the workplace

I recently attended an online “webinar” held by HLA on “Effective Workplace Accommodations for Employees Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.” I feel very strongly that hard-of-hearing adults who are still working need help learning what they can use to help them do their jobs—and, in some cases, keep their jobs. One of the speakers was Teresa Goddard from the Job Accommodation Network. JAN is one of several services provided by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP).

JAN is the leading source of free, expert, and confidential guidance on workplace accommodations and disability employment issues. It helps people with disabilities enhance their employability, and shows employers how to capitalize on the value and talent that people with disabilities add to the workplace.

JAN provides free consulting services for individuals with physical or intellectual limitations that affect employment. Services include one-on-one consultation about job accommodation ideas, requesting and negotiating accommodations, and rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and related laws. Although JAN does not help individuals find employment, JAN does provide information for job seekers.

If you or someone you know has hearing loss and is struggling at work, JAN may be able to help.

Here’s how to reach them:

- Phone: (800)526-7234
 - Email: jan@askjan.org
 - Website: askJAN.org
- (Live Chat available from 9-6 EST)

Have you noticed?

The informer now has hyperlinks!



Connor is our Team Captain for the fourth year! This year’s walk is on Saturday, June 10, at Marina Green Park at Long Beach Marina. Registration is at 9 am. Walk begins at 10 am.

To help Connor reach his goal, you can:

Write a check to “Walk4Hearing” and bring it to the April Chapter meeting or mail it to Katie Wright at the address under “Dues” below.

Donate online: Google “walk4hearing connor waterman” and make a donation—or sign up to walk with us.

More details to come in the May Informer.

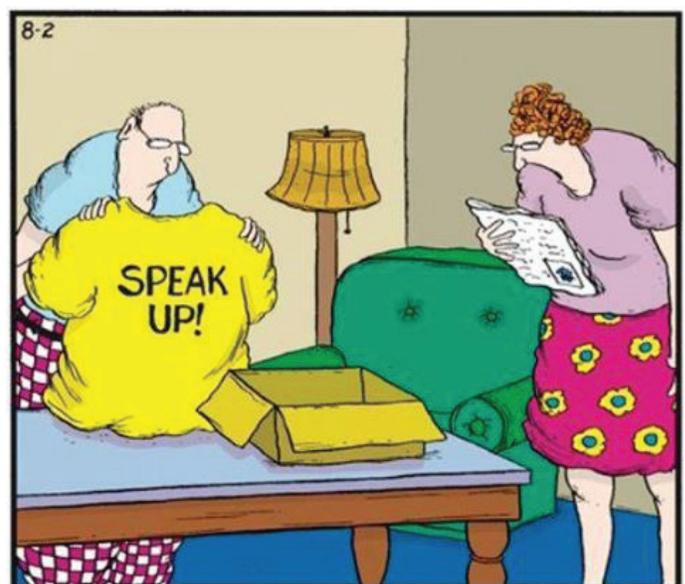


Dues!

Bring your dollar to the next meeting or mail it to:

Hearing Loss Association of America,
Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter
c/o Katie Wright
7802 Kingbee Street
Downey, CA 90242

Exact change please, and no \$1 checks.



“The magazine says, ‘Improve Your Hearing Without Hearing Aids or Surgery! Immediate Results! Only \$50!’
Yep, you got ripped off, all right.”

Good-bye and thanks, Dr. Bill Busch

by Katie Wright

We will soon be saying farewell to a valuable member of our Chapter. Dr. Bill Busch and his wife Barbara will be moving to Santa Barbara this summer. Our Chapter will not be the same without him.



When Bill first began to lose his hearing, he joined our Chapter at the encouragement of his audiologist. At the time, Bill had deep fears that he would become deaf and didn't know what to do about it. He attended a HAT training workshop in San Diego sponsored by HLAA in February 2009. At this workshop, he became so excited about the vast array of devices available to help people with hearing loss that he wanted to share his knowledge with others. When he returned, he immediately asked the chapter to form the HAT Committee with him as Chair. They enthusiastically agreed. He recruited a dedicated group of members, many of whom are still active.

Bill has been the driving force behind the HAT Committee, procuring nearly 50 technology devices that assist the HOH (Hard of Hearing) to hear in numerous situations: in the car, theater, restaurants, at worship, and at home for TV and personal communications.

Eight years later, with Bill at the helm, the HAT Committee has participated in numerous outreach events and has reached thousands

of people to teach them about hearing loss and how they can help themselves.

In addition to his commitment to spreading the news about assistive devices, Bill has been an officer of our Chapter. He was Vice-President, then President for three years from 2012 to 2015: running the Board and Chapter meetings, filing taxes, analyzing our budget, writing grants. For the last 2 years, he has overseen the setting up our sound system at the Chapter meetings—loudspeakers, loop and ALDs. He brings a projector when a guest speaker needs one. He arrives at 5pm for our 6:30 meetings and is usually the last to leave at 8:30. His son is our webmaster. He participates in every Walk4Hearing.

On a personal level, it was Bill who welcomed my husband and me to our first Chapter meeting. It was Bill who asked me to take over the newsletter. It was Bill who invited me to come to the Board meetings. It was Bill who asked me to run for President two years ago. It was Bill who modeled for me the importance of greeting each visitor at the meetings. It was Bill and his wife who came to my husband's memorial celebration. It was Bill who waited with me in the parking lot until AAA came to change my tire one night after a Chapter meeting. It is Bill I depend on to find the typos in my newsletter each month. It is Bill I lean on to help me do my job as the current President.

I know we will go on without him. We will just miss his leadership and, mostly, his friendship.

Best wishes to Louise Allen



Louise Allen, a long-time member of our Chapter, is moving from the Long Beach area to be closer to her family. Louise has been a member of our HLAA Chapter for over 25 years.

Name a job and she's done it—President, Recording Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Ways and Means Chair, grant writer, Walk4Hearing Chair, Publicity Chair, fundraising with local

businesses, putting together the Welcoming Packets—I've probably left some out. Finally, in 2014 when she turned 90, she decided it was time to cut back a bit on her volunteering. The Disabled Resources Center in Long Beach honored her with the Community Service Award in 2015 for her work on behalf of the hearing loss community in Long Beach.

We've missed seeing her at Chapter meetings the last two years but she is planning to be at the April meeting. Come and say thank you for all she's done for us!

Video chat

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voice-only calls and instant messaging) to fellow Skype users for free, via the Internet.

Other video call apps include FaceTime (which works if you both have Apple phones) and Google Duo.

Why are video calls good for people with hearing loss?

Video calls are good for people with hearing loss because it allows for face-to-face communication. With webcams, users can see one another in real time, making it possible to lipread or use sign language.

Another great thing about video chats is that they're often not restricted to just two people: sometimes my Mum and Dad are at my Dad's PC and my husband and I are at mine. There's the opportunity for my brother to join the call too.

Does video chat have captions?

If you or your loved one has severe hearing loss, face-to-face communication still may not be enough. (Especially if you don't have a great wifi connection and the signal cuts out.)

Another benefit to some chat platforms is live captions. For example, Skype's online translator helps users communicate during voice and video calls by providing captioning.

If you have hearing loss, consider video chatting with your friends and family. It could make your relationships a lot stronger.

Editor's Note: Read how to set up Skype on page 5

from the HAT cabinet

Come to the chapter meeting early (we'll start at 6 pm) to see and try examples from HAT's collection of 50+ assistive listening devices.

For April—

Know when your alarm goes off, the doorbell rings, or the fire alarm is triggered! See devices that alert you using sound, lights and vibration.



April election slate for 2017

The following slate has been proposed by the Nominating Committee and accepted by the chapter:

President	Katie Wright
Vice-President	Gail Morrison
Recording Secretary	Joyce Bowlby
Corresponding Secretary	Van VonBurg
Treasurer	Craig Bowlby

March meeting summary

Lyra Repplinger of [MED-EL](#) was the guest speaker at our February Chapter meeting. She described the MED-EL Synchrony Electro Acoustic Stimulation (EAS) system that has a cochlear implant and an acoustic unit similar to a hearing aid working together. It is designed for adults with mild to moderate low-frequency hearing loss and sloping to profound hearing loss in the high frequencies.

She also described MED-EL's fully rotatable magnet which allows MRI scans, and their FLEX24 electrode that doesn't have to be surgically inserted so deep in the cochlea. She gave a thorough presentation and answered numerous questions.

Chapter meeting attendance

	Members	Guests	Total
March '17	30	0	30
Feb '17	20	0	20
Jan '17	27	7	34
Dec '16	20	4	24
Nov '16	30	8	38



HLAA
2017
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JUNE 22-25 | SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

How to video chat with your friends and family using

Whitson Gordon, Lifehacker, 2011

If you have a friend or relative living a bit further away than you'd like, you can stay in touch with the magic of video chat. It's actually quite simple to set up. Here's how.

1. Get Skype. [Download Skype](#) and install it on your computer. It works on both Windows and Mac machines.

2. Start up Skype. If you don't have an account, hit the "don't have an account" or "create an account" button to make one. You just need to enter your name, the password you want to use, an email address, and your "Skype name", which will be the name by which people reach you. Make it something easy for your friends to remember.

3. Sign in. Enter your Skype name and password. Once you do, your buddy list should pop up. If you've just created a new account, it will be empty.

4. Add contacts. To add someone to your contact list, hit the "Add a Contact" button on the bottom. Type in their Skype name, and their phone number and email if desired. To video chat with them, all you really need is their Skype name, though.

5. See who's online. You can see which buddies are online by looking at the small green dot next to their names. If it's colored in and has a white check mark on the inside, they're online and available to chat. Double-click on someone's name to chat with them.

6. Start a chat. Double-clicking on their name will start a text-only chat. To video chat, hit the "Video Call" button on the next screen, and if they're around, you should see them pop up on your screen.

7. That's it! Have your conversation, and when you're done, just hit "end call".

From now on, you can start up Skype whenever you want, and initiate a video chat with any of your friends or family who are online. Note, of course, that you need a webcam connected to your computer for this to work, though many laptops today come with them built-in.

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HLAA, Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter

Officers

President Katie Wright

Vice-President Bill Busch

Treasurer Joyce Bowlby

Recording Secretary Craig Bowlby

Corresponding Secretary Ken Saw

Committees

Hearing Assistive Technology

Bill Busch, Ilga Dravnieks

Lip Reading Linda DeGuire

Looping - Ram Kakkar

Membership Flo McDavid (on leave)/Katie Wright

Programs/Publicity Gail Morrison

Refreshments *need volunteer!*

Ways and Means *need volunteer!*

Professional Advisor Dr. David DeKriek, Au.D.

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HLAA Hearing Loss Association of America

Join HLAA to receive *Hearing Loss Magazine* and to become part of the one organization that represents the interests of 48 million people with hearing loss in the U.S.

Send \$35 for individual or \$45 for family membership to:

Hearing Loss Association of America

7910 Woodman Avenue, Suite 1200

Bethesda, MD 20814

Or join online: www.hearingloss.org/content/join

For more information:

(301) 657-2248 or email inquiry@hearingloss.org.

Membership brochures are available at chapter meetings.

CTAP California Telephone Access Program

For information, repair or exchange:

English Voice 1-800-806-1191

Spanish Voice 1-800-949-5650

www.californiaphones.org/about-us

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Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter

Hearing Loss Association of America,
Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter
c/o Katie Wright
7802 Kingbee Street
Downey, CA 90242

First Class

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Upcoming Programs

April 13 Election and installation of officers, farewell to Bill and Louise

May 11 Katie Wright: "When Hearing Aids Are Not Enough"

June 8 Summer Celebration!

HLAA Long Beach/Lakewood Chapter Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, 6:30-8:00 pm, at the Weingart Center, 5220 Oliva Ave, Lakewood 90712

If you don't like meetings because you can't hear well, our meetings are different!

- We have a high quality sound system
- You can borrow an assistive listening device
- If you have hearing aids with telecoils, we have a hearing induction loop
- If none of these help, we project captions on the wall for you to read.

We provide all these options free so you can understand what is said.



Hearing Loss Association of America

HLAA opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support and advocacy. The national support network includes the national office in Washington D.C., state organizations and local HLAA Chapters.

Join HLAA now to receive *Hearing Loss Magazine* and become part of the one organization that represents the interests of 48 million people with hearing loss in the United States.