



Wake Chapter Newsletter Aug 2024

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Our Wake Chapter Summer Social is THIS MONTH!

You still have time to register for the HLAA Wake Chapter summer social on Sunday, August 25, at the JC Raulston Arboretum in Raleigh.

We've reserved Room 109 in the arboretum's air-conditioned education center, and the chapter will provide a light lunch from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. You are welcome to bring family and friends. It's a chance to meet and socialize with others while enjoying a sandwich, salad, chips, desserts and a beverage.

Please RSVP to Steve Latus (slatus@comcast.net) including number of attendees by August 21 or earlier Total attendance is limited to 35 because of the room size.

Participants will have the option of checking out the arboretum's splendid gardens before or after lunch.

You also are welcome to bring unused hearing aids that the chapter will donate to the [Hearing Aid Project](#).

Arboretum admission and parking are free. The arboretum is in west Raleigh near the N.C. State Fairgrounds. The address is 4415 Beryl Road. The parking lot has limited slots, but you can also park in designated areas on Beryl Road.

The mission of the arboretum "is to diversify the landscape by sharing our passion, our plants and our knowledge to plan – and plant for a better world." The arboretum collects, evaluates and selects for introduction landscape plants for their most beneficial economic, ecological and aesthetic value. Its gardens are a living laboratory that reside in and complement the curricula of North Carolina State University.



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[Hearing Assistance Dogs Focus of October Program](#)

HLAA Wake Chapter members will have a special opportunity to learn about hearing assistance dogs at our October program meeting.

Join us Thursday, October 24, at Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian Church, 200 High Meadow Dr. in Cary, for a presentation by [Dogs for Better Lives](#), a nonprofit that provides hearing, autism and facility assistance dogs.

The program will feature Dr. Danielle Rose, a member of the Dogs for Better Lives board who lives in Mooresville, NC, and her black Labrador assistance dog, Delight.

Due to technological limitations, the event will not be available remotely via Zoom. It will take place in the church's Fellowship Hall and begin at 7 p.m. Beverages and snacks will be available during and after the presentation. The hall is outfitted with a hearing loop, which will provide telecoil-equipped hearing aid or cochlear implant users with an enhanced listening experience.



[An HLAA Wake Member Has Article Published](#)

Wendy Dembeck's article, ***We Are Not Alone***, will be published soon in ***Hearing Health Magazine***, but you can see it now on the [magazine's BLOG](#). It's a great article about the process of accepting our hearing loss and conquering it. If you're new to hearing loss, it provides a clear path forward. If you've already come to grips with your loss, it will surely resonate.

You can read the quarterly Hearing Health Magazine issues online or [subscribe to a printed version](#) for free.

If you're interested in becoming a published author, too, [contact Wendy](#) about how she scored this coup. Or, if you'd like to start local, send your hearing loss articles to steve.barber@earthlink.net for possible publication in our HLAA Wake Newsletter.



WENDY DEMBECK

[We Can Relate](#)

I went to my doctor today and told him I was having problems with my hearing.

He asked, "Can you describe the symptoms?"

I replied, "Sure... "They're yellow, Homer's fat and Marge has blue hair."

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[Support the HLAA Wake Chapter NC Walk4Hearing Team](#)

Save Sunday October 13th and plan to attend the annual HLAA NC Walk4Hearing. It's a great opportunity to get out and meet others with hearing loss in a fun and inspiring setting.

Please join or donate to support our [HLAA Wake Chapter team](#) for the 2024 NC Walk4Hearing. Once you've registered or selected "Donate," you'll be able to search for "Wake Chapter." You can join our team or donate to support any individual walker on our team.

Walk details are provided in the flyer below. Funds raised by the team are shared between our chapter and the HLAA national organization. The walk is the chapter's primary fundraising effort and supports our continued operation, outreach activities and scholarships for worthy local high school graduates with hearing loss. Be a part of our team!



Together, we're bringing hope to hearing loss.

Hearing Loss Association of America
WALK4 HEARING

North Carolina Walk4Hearing
Sunday October 13, 2024

WakeMed Soccer Park
201 Soccer Park Drive
Cary, NC 27606

10:30 am - Registration
12:00 pm - Stage presentation
12:15 pm - Walk begins



**Scan to Register today
or visit walk4hearing.org**

Walk Manager: Ronnie Adler **radler@hearingloss.org**

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More Ways You Can Support HLA Wake Chapter

The Hearing Loss Association of America Wake Chapter is a purely volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. As part of HLA, our mission is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support and advocacy. The chapter has no employees, and our board members are not paid. Donations we receive from participants in the annual North Carolina Walk4Hearing serve as our primary source of income. We consider you a chapter member if you participate in one of our program meetings or social events or if you receive this newsletter. There are no membership dues.



Many of you assist our chapter in various ways – and we are most grateful! But if you're looking for a way in which you could support us, check out the list below.

- Attend chapter events in person (or via Zoom when offered)
- Encourage family, friends and neighbors with hearing loss to attend chapter events
- Assist with set-up, clean-up for chapter event
- Supply snacks for chapter event
- Greet attendees at chapter event
- Greet visitors at chapter table at health fair or other outreach events
- Manage chapter event supplies (plates, cups, plasticware, napkins, etc.)
- Manage chapter's supply of informational handouts
- Deliver informational handouts to ENTs, audiologists and hearing instrument specialists near you
- [Walk with, donate to or raise funds for the Wake Chapter Walk4Hearing team](#)
- Serve as Walk4Hearing volunteer
- Join the [HLAA Wake Chapter Facebook page](#)
- Post links to hearing loss-related articles on our chapter Facebook page
- Use assistive listening devices at theaters and performing arts centers and share your experiences on chapter Facebook page
- Contribute article ideas (or actual articles!) for chapter newsletter
- Contribute ideas for chapter programs
- Serve on chapter board
- Donate to [Hearing Loss Association of America](#) (a donation of any amount makes you an HLA member)

If you'd like to learn more about any of these assistance ideas – or if you have additional ideas – please contact Chapter President Steve Latus (slatus@comcast.net).

Apex 55+ Health & Wellness Fair September 14

Discover health and wellness resources Apex and surrounding communities have to offer at the [Apex 55+ Health & Wellness Fair](#) on Saturday, September 14.

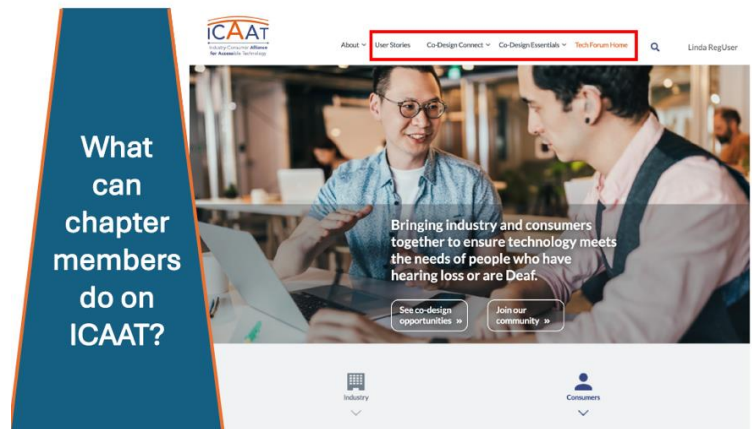
Volunteers from the Wake Chapter will staff a table at the fair and provide information about hearing loss and the chapter's support of people with hearing loss.

The fair will run from 9 a.m. to noon at the Apex Senior Center, 63 Hunter Street.

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Inspiring More Accessible Products

A significant element of the Hearing Loss Association of America's national convention is a half-day workshop for HLAA chapter leaders prior to the official opening of the event. At the 2024 convention in Phoenix, much of the workshop was devoted to a special preview of and training session on HLAA's new technology-focused program, the Industry-Consumer Alliance for Accessible Technology or ICAAT (pronounced "eye-cat").



[ICAAT](#) is an online community at HLAA that brings consumers with hearing loss together with product developers and researchers to inspire more accessible hearing loss-related products and services.

Workshop presenter Linda Kozma-Spytek, a consultant and professional advisor for HLAA on hearing technology, spelled out the vision and mission for ICAAT.

"Our vision for ICAAT is for industry and consumers to work together for mutual benefit, and what we want is to ensure new and existing technologies improve the quality of life for people with hearing loss," she said. "Our mission is to inspire more accessible, innovative and responsive technologies, but that can only happen when consumers participate, and we really want that to happen from the ground up in order to meet the needs of people with hearing loss."

ICAAT offers people access to:

- A Tech Forum to share experience, knowledge and ideas
- Stories about technology and hearing loss in the real world
- Market research and product testing opportunities
- Practical information for consumers and industry working together

Specifically, for HLAA local chapters, ICAAT's Tech Forum provides a way for members to bring or continue conversations about technology-related topics online in the Tech Forum's [Community](#) groups. Chapter members also can add local events to the Tech Forum's [Events](#) page or share helpful [Resources](#).

The HLAA Wake Chapter plans to devote time in a future program meeting to a demonstration of ICAAT.

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Tech Focus: Hearing Instrument Specialists and Audiologists

Professionals who are allowed to measure hearing loss, prescribe and fit appropriate hearing aids in the US are certified by states and professional organizations. There are several different levels of certification and it's important for everyone with hearing loss to understand. This article covers the basics of the varying credentials you might encounter when looking for someone to measure your hearing and, if necessary, propose appropriate solutions such as hearing aids, cochlear implants, and referrals to a doctor for medical assessment or treatment. There are also several categories of doctors that specialize in diagnosing and possibly treating medically related causes of hearing loss, but this article focuses only on hearing instruments specialists and audiologists.

Hearing Instrument Specialists

A **hearing instrument specialist** (HIS) is authorized to sell and fit hearing aids. Their credentials include a high school degree plus whatever else your state requires, but typically they must pass a test, and apprentice to an existing hearing aid specialist for a specified period. They also must complete a minimum number of semi-annual continuing education hours and renew their license by completing 24 contact hours of continuing education within the two years preceding the renewal period.

Audiologists

To be classified as an **audiologist** you need a 4-year undergraduate degree (often in pre-med) plus a 2-year Master of Arts or Master of Science degree (MA or MS) in audiology. This formal training includes extensive study in fitting hearing aids, causes and symptoms related to hearing loss that might need medical attention and best practices.

Most audiologists today also have a Doctor of Audiology degree (Au.D.) in audiology in addition to their Master of Audiology degree.

Some audiologists with a doctorate degree have a Ph.D. instead of an Au.D. degree. Some Ph.D. degrees were earned before the Au.D. program began ... some may work in research rather than a clinical environment.

Extern – An audiology extern is a student who is in their clinical training/residency year called an externship. This person has a bachelor's degree, completed their graduate coursework, and is one step away from obtaining their Doctor of Audiology degree. As externs, they work under the supervision of an audiologist, and will soon be one, too.

Additional Voluntary Credentials for Audiologists

Audiologists can join the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ASHA) and receive a CCC-A credential indicating that in addition to their degree in Audiology, they have completed a supervised period of training in a clinical situation.

The F-AAA is a certificate awarded by the American Academy of Audiologist (AAA). Audiologists who have completed their degrees can join AAA, which provides opportunities for professional development, education, research, and increased public awareness of hearing and balance disorders.

Audiologists can join the American Board of Audiology organization that offers a credential (ABA Certified). In addition, the ABA offers the Pediatric Audiology Specialty Certification® (PASC) and the Cochlear Implant Specialty Certification® (CISC).

Education isn't the only factor that determines competency, but the main difference between hearing instrument specialists and audiologists is the amount of formal education directed at causes of and solutions for hearing problems beyond fitting hearing aids.

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[Donate Unused Hearing Aids to a Good Cause](#)

Many of us have unused hearing aids gathering dust in a dresser drawer. They were once our “main” hearing aids and then, perhaps, our “back-ups.” Or we “inherited” hearing aids from a deceased relative.

These devices can be donated to the [Hearing Aid Project](#). This effort, driven by the missions of organizations like [Sertoma](#) and [Hearing Charities of America](#), is making hearing aids available to those who might otherwise go without.

You can bring your unused hearing aids, batteries, cleaning tools and hearing aid accessories to the Wake Chapter summer social on August 25 ([see Page 1](#)) and the chapter will forward them to the Hearing Aid Project. Alternately, you can mail your donation to the following address:

Hearing Aid Project
720 Main Street, FL 1
Kansas City, MO 64105



Donated hearing aids are evaluated and tracked by staff and students in the Department of Speech-Language-Hearing: Sciences & Disorders at the University of Kansas. They determine if an aid is current enough to be reconditioned and redistributed. Aids that don't pass this initial screen are cannibalized for parts or sold for their salvage value. Reconditioned and purchased aids are distributed to U.S. residents who cannot afford them.

[Wake Chapter Contacts](#)

Steve Latus (President)

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Steve Barber (Media)

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Member Outreach

Open; seeking volunteer for this vital role

Susan Goldner (Treasurer)

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