

Hear & Now

January 2014
Volume #9



Give a Listen !

ALOHA will mark 30 years of service for hard of hearing people on March 17, 2014.

See observations on page 4 of ALOHA past and present.

Want to Loop your home for TV etc. ? Free class: January 17—sign up!

Ads in Newsletter

Aloha accepts ads related to hearing loss issues as a means to inform, educate, and publicize products and services available to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. ALOHA does not endorse any product or service advertised herein. Advertisers assume full liability for the content of ads.

Newsletter Publication
4 times a year.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

ALOHA Membership Drive !

If you are a new member who joined after July in 2013, you do not have to renew membership until 2015.

For the rest of us, our yearly membership renewal time is now.

Please help the staff by paying dues promptly. It is time-consuming to track unpaid dues and they can better use that time to provide programs for us.

A BIG Thank You to our members who have already paid their dues.

In return for your support, we at ALOHA do our best to help you deal with hearing issues. We don't ever try to sell you anything. But we understand that hearing issues can be expensive. We are only interested in providing the best information available so that you can make the best decisions regarding your hearing.

CLASSES, ETC.
Beginning sign class and Speech Reading Class:

\$50 Member
\$75 non-Member

Taking Requests
795-9887

Sign class to begin soon !

Assistive Device Demos: by appointment only. Listening and signaling devices demonstrated. None for sale, but a vendor list is available. Also, loop demos.

Peer Support Meetings: Weekly, on Tuesdays, 1 to 2 PM. Loop amplification. Friendly discussions and info shared about hearing aids, assistive devices, inductive looping, etc.

Inductive Loop Class. Learn how to install in your home. Free to members
JANUARY 17, 1:00 TO 3:00

Office Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tue, Wed & Thur

Changed your Email?

Please let us know.

MEETINGS

DESERT COCHLEAR CONNECTIONS GROUP

At ALOHA 4001 E. Fort Lowell, Tucson
Meetings second Saturday of each month
September thru May.

Time: **11:00 am to 1:00 pm.**

January 11—Tom Muller, AuD. From UA
Hearing Clinic will talk about cochlear
implant. Group discussion will follow.

February 8—Sue Vardon to speak about
HAT (hearing assistance technology)
CART transcription & loop amplification are
provided at these meetings.

Be automatically notified of Cochlear meetings,
Call ALOHA 795-9887 or info@alohaaz.org

TINNITUS SUPPORT GROUP

Due to low-attendance, these meetings are on
hold. Please contact Cristi as below for next
meeting.

Cristi Moore, audiologist with tinnitus, helps to
facilitate these meetings at ALOHA. Contact:
Cristi 881-8740.
Sonorahearingcare@gmail.com

GROUP MEETINGS AT ALOHA:

Every Tuesday at 1:00 to 2:00 pm, open
discussion is held to answer your questions.

On **Third Tuesdays** of the month (except
summer) free seminars are held, same time,
with usually a presentation by a local
professional.

**All meetings on this page are free and
open to the public. The meetings are
offered to keep you up to date on new
technology and coping strategies.
There is no better support than PEER
support.**

GREEN VALLEY ALOHA SUPPORT GROUP:

Contact Ebba Andersen 203-8059
Meetings — **first Monday of the month at
La Posada Recreation Room (except
summer time) 10 am to Noon.**

Green Valley Meeting Dates.

January 6th—Video from composer
Richard Einhorn—his personal experience
with hearing loss.

February 3rd—Stephanie Leigh
Adamovich, PhD, CCC-A will talk about the
UA Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences
department and how they partner with
ALOHA to educate about hearing loss.

**ALSO NEW: GV ALOHA Support/
Discussion Group.** will be held at the
Community Connect building, usually 4th
Thursdays of the month at 1:00 pm
Call Ebba. 203-8059.

SIERRA VISTA ALOHA SUPPORT GROUP:

Karl Hallsten facilitates these meetings
held monthly., first Monday of the month.
To Contact Karl, e-mail him at
SierraVistaALOHA@gmail.com

ORO VALLEY ALOHA SUPPORT GROUP

January 9th, 2:00 to 3:00 pm
Santa Catalina Catholic Church, Cholla &
Ocotillo room, 14380 N. Oracle Rd.
Facilitator Joan Eddy 825-8630

NEW !! –NETWORKING GROUP-

Is your career suffering because of hearing
loss? Join us for these helpful meetings at
ALOHA. Call 795-9887 or you may e-mail
info@alohaaz.org. The facilitator is Sherry
Whitfield. Date & Time may change from
Fridays at 7:00, so please contact ALOHA.

NEW !! – : FAR HORIZONS EAST GROUP to
meet at 7570 E. Speedway.
January 17th 2:00 to 3:00 pm in the Card
Room, Main Clubhouse.
Contact: Patty Harvey, facilitator, 471-8049

Pam Wood, Acting President, welcomed all to the Annual Meeting and stated its purposes to review the current year, disclose ALOHA's financial position and appoint new board members. Members present voted for six board members to serve a 3-year term: Patty Harvey, Stan Kruggel, Cristi Moore, Carolyn Olson and Sue Vardon. Member Gigi Dinniman was nominated from the floor and accepted. Treasurer Bruce Stewart said ALOHA was in good position for 2013 due to the Golf Classic event income, sponsorships, donations, memberships and grants. Due to a growth in membership, one consideration is an addition to our current building. Officers elected for one year term are: Karl Hallsten, President; Pamela Wood, Vice President; Stan Kruggel, treasurer; Cynthia Amerman, Secretary.

ALOHA supports were reviewed, such as expansion of support groups, and advocacy for a better quality of life for people with hearing loss

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2014 ?

Oro Valley Support Group Resumes:

The ALOHA Oro Valley Group is back with meetings, October through May. The next meeting is January 9th 2:00 to 3:00. Joan Eddy is the facilitator, and some Tucson members are helping her. Do you live in or near Oro Valley? Attend the meetings, and spread the word! (see page 2)

Tinnitus Support Group: For October, the attendance was low, and then in November no one showed up. So, it was decided these meetings would continue only if people call or e-mail their interest. Cristi Moore, audiologist, is the facilitator. Contact ALOHA for meeting announcements.

Networking Support Group: We thought this new group would really take off because we heard from so many hard of hearing people having difficulty getting a job, or communicating at their workplaces. The facilitator, Sherry Whitfield may be changing the day and time to see if that helps bring folks to the meetings. Call or e-mail ALOHA about future meetings.

Green Valley Group Expansion: Ebba Andersen, facilitator, decided to try a group meeting, based on the Fort Lowell agenda, where people meet in open forum. These new meetings will be at a different location in the Community Connect building in Continental Plaza. They will be held 4th Thursdays of the month at 1:00 pm. But, they will continue other meetings (La Posada) 1st Mondays of the month when they have guest speakers or other activities Contact at 203-8059

Golf Event 2014: This will be our final 3rd year for this fundraising event under current contract with the ProFund company. The first year saw intake of about \$18,000, last year was about \$9,000. We hope we can do better this time! No date set yet, but likely around April. We hope you will make the effort to sponsor an ALOHA golfer. Watch for more information on this later.

Wish List: The volunteers have been doing some rearranging of the office building, and want to set up an additional office room, since it becomes too crowded in the main office. Some things they wish for is a good new or used computer, paint for the walls (and an offer for someone to do the painting). Also they noted the back yard could use a load of tan-colored gravel to improve the appearance since that is the entrance to ALOHA. The demo room and the hall leading to the conference room needs new carpeting...it is 15 years old. The carpeting in the conference room was replaced last year.

Loretta's Observations



I have been your Office Director for 15 years at ALOHA. Here are a few of my observations.

There were many years we struggled to keep services flowing to you. In the past year the financial picture has improved, thanks to members and contributors, who paid dues, and donated to the golf fundraiser, or added something extra on membership renewal. The staff consists of one minimum wage part-time employee, and over 25 volunteers, which includes the board members. Without the dedication of volunteers, ALOHA could not provide what it does for people.

We had one support group when I started, and that was at the ALOHA building once a week for an hour, and that group continues. Today, we have four more support groups in the community: Green Valley, Oro Valley, Sierra Vista, and Far Horizons East. In addition, specialized support was added: Desert Cochlear Connections Group, Tinnitus Group, and Networking group for hard of hearing employees. All of these groups are facilitated by volunteers.

In 1998 an assistive device demonstration room was added, where people can try devices in a no-sell environment. Volunteers have added devices over time to include home loop devices and captioned telephones and other applications to help people better grasp the spoken word. A mentor also answers questions regarding hearing aids and coping strategies.

The office is staffed primarily by four people who answer the phone, respond with e-mail, communicate with visitors, and otherwise contribute many hours to do office tasks. The ALOHA board of directors oversees the operations of the organization. Volunteers also do presentations in the community, attend community meetings and work on the Let's Loop Tucson! project.

In the past year, an E-Updater was added for information, and that goes out by e-mail 8 times a year and is edited by a volunteer. Great information in there! The ALOHA newsletter is sent out via e-mail or snail mail 4 times a year.

On March 17th, ALOHA will mark 30 years of providing services for hard of hearing people. Founder of ALOHA, Gloria Baral, was told it probably would not last beyond 2 years. We certainly are glad they were wrong! ALOHA has been influential beyond the Tucson area. The Arizona Telecoil Law was prompted by an ALOHA member. The provision by Cinemax theaters to have neckloops available was helped along by ALOHA members. The "Let's Loop Tucson!" project continues, and a country-wide listserv was adopted by ALOHA that encourages other states to do loop projects.

I sometimes think of ALOHA as the "little engine that could". All of us putting our heads together and supporting the organization's work has helped thousands of people over the years. Keep it going, folks.....Pay it forward! Keep that train a-rolling!

You can lend a hand by offering your time to volunteer, making ALOHA one of your favorite charities, spreading the word to others who need the services, recruiting new members, etc. An especially important volunteer need at present is for the upcoming Golf Event fundraiser. Member Don Poore was Captain for this for 2 years, and would help someone to learn the ropes to carry out this fundraiser. If you can volunteer for this position, please contact ALOHA 795-9887 or e-mail info@alohaaz.org Also, you can play, and drum up sponsors!

Welcome New Members!

Michael & Beverly Neff
Walter & Evelyn Karl
Charles & Cecily Bressel
Frank & Joan Newman
Diane Stephenson
Erika Gorgas

Franklin Turner
Milton Mooney
Barbara Weaver
George Hubbard
Jerold & Kathleen Tucker
Marilyn Smith

Carolyn Filigenzi
Phyllis Salmon
Chelly Salmon
Nancy Hook
Brenda White

Donations since October, 2013 *Thank You!*

Sam Turner
Raytheon Charitable Giving
City of Tucson ECAP
Erika Gorgas
Jerold & Kathleen Tucker
Renee Nelson

William Elser
Richard Coker
Nancy Hook
Fritz Perwitz
Robert Maddox

Barbara Weaver
Rodric Himebaugh
Lenore Pille
Melvin Slanina
Dixie Nixon

Also, many thanks to Jim & Kathleen Tiffany for donating all the office furniture for our much needed additional office.

My Taxi Cab is LOOPED?

Well, maybe. All new cabs in New York are being delivered with hearing loops installed. Hard of hearing consumers in New York are succeeding in being heard in a big way. If you have ever had trouble hearing the ticket booth attendant or the bank teller behind the protective glass, you will envy New Yorkers as they enjoy the hearing loops installed in subway information booths, information booths at stadiums, libraries, museums, and even taxis. Theaters on Broadway are being looped starting with the landmark Gershwin Theater and the Richard Rogers Theater. Most of the other theaters can be expected to follow the trend. I can think of places in the Tucson area that I wish were looped, can't you?

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) was one of the major consultants/advocates in the development of the Americans with Disabilities Act (the ADA). This law requires the operators of facilities that serve the public to provide accommodations to people with hearing loss. We have the HLAA to thank for the captions you read on TV as well as for the availability of captioned telephones. Can you remember those buzzing and static sounds you used to hear when you held a phone near your hearing aid? It was the HLAA that pressured the FCC to fix the problem.

The HLAA has partnered with the American Academy of Audiology to make public venues more accessible to hard of hearing people through the use of hearing loop/telecoil technology. Another recent initiative is pressing government to recognize hearing loss as a medical condition so that hearing aids could be considered prosthetic devices and be covered by health insurance and President Obama's Affordable Health Care Act. The HLAA is exactly what their motto says, "The nation's voice for people with hearing loss." (Adapted from *Wired for Sound*, HLAA of Albuquerque NM Newsletter, Nov 2013)



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Hear now. And always.



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- Gigi Dinniman
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- Dale Henson
- Cristi Moore
- Carolyn Olson
- Bruce Stewart
- Susan Vardon
- Sherry Whitfield

Office Hours: 10 AM to 4 PM, Tues thru Thurs.

**Please call in advance to confirm hours.
Thanks!**

Combined Fed. Campaign #68532

You can reach us at:

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FAX: (520) 795-9585

E-Mail: info@alohaaz.org

ALOHA's Internet Site: <http://www.alohaaz.org>

Non-profit Tax ID# 86-0554154

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