

SILENT VOICES HEARD

Grand President's Program 2025-2026

Silent Voices Heard focuses on the hearing and speech impaired. Hearing is a vital part of our lives affecting every aspect of our daily lives. Hearing, or lack thereof, is directly connected to our speech. Think about it, when you play the game that starts with a saying and by the time it gets to the last person, it is a different saying. What did you hear and what did you say? As you can see, your hearing and speech go hand in hand.

What you hear is crucial to your well-being and health. With Grand President Julie's program, you have an opportunity to educate, help others and yourself, and understand the crisis that is affecting millions of people just in the United States.

According to Hear4Hope.org, our hearing ability can impact our health; and hearing loss is a common and widespread issue worldwide. It is currently the third-leading chronic health condition in the United States and cases are rapidly increasing. Fortunately, half of all global cases are preventable through public education, early identification, and timely treatment.

- Hearing loss affects about 60.7 million Americans age 12 and older and about 15.5% (44.1 million) of American adults age 20 and older have some level of hearing loss.
- Of people age 65 and older, 31.1% experience hearing loss, while 40.3% of adults age 75 and older experience hearing loss.
- Only 16% of people age 20–69 have ever used a hearing aid, while just 30% of those age 70 and above have done so.
- Hearing loss is on the rise in the United States and is expected to almost double by the year 2060.

How to Connect/Participate -

- Educate, raise awareness, compassion and understanding the hard of hearing and speech impaired community.
- Universities/School Programs
 - Look at your local schools and colleges for programs in your communities.
 - Most elementary schools have programs to identify speech and hearing loss.
- Catholic Dioceses - Reach out to your local diocese – some dioceses have programs for the hearing impaired.
- Dates to Remember:
 - World Hearing Day – Tuesday, March 3, 2026
 - Hearing Awareness Month is May
 - National Protect Your Hearing Month – observed every year during the month of October to raise awareness on how to prevent noise-induced hearing loss.

www.hearlife.org

We have added several organizations to get you started. There are many areas that are listed where you can donate, volunteer and help. National organizations are listed first, and then each state information. *Get involved, be creative, and let us see what we can do.* Speakers and organizations are ready to **hear** from you. **Speak up** and get involved.

National

- **American Society for Deaf Children (ASDC)** - www.deafchildren.org
- **Hearing Center** – www.hearcenter.org
volunteer@hearingcenter.org; info@hearingcenter.org, 626-796-2016

- **Hearing Loss of America** – www.hearingloss.org

A non-profit organization whose mission is to provide education, support and advocacy for deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Each chapter hosts meetings each month featuring social and educational events. Chapters are listed below in each state.

- **National Association of the Deaf** - www.nad.org

California

- **California Speech-Language-Hearing Association (CSHA)** - www.csha.org
- **California Association of the Deaf** – www.cad1906.org
- **Hearing Loss Association of America, Calif State Association (HLAA-CA)** – www.hearinglossca.org; Chapters in Northern California include: Diablo Valley Chapter (Walnut Creek), East Bay Chapter (Oakland), Napa Valley Chapter (Napa), Peninsula Chapter (Redwood City), San Francisco Chapter (San Francisco), and Silicon Valley Chapter (San Jose). Email individual chapters or Bob Zastrow (bzastrow@hearinglossca.org), the HLAA Northern California Chapter Coordinator, for more information.
Also chapters in Southern California in Long Beach/Lakewood, hlaa.longbeach.lakewood@gmail.com, Miryam Fernandez, 562-884-7460, mzzmimm@gmail.com; and Los Angeles Chapter, Wendi Washington, info@hlaa-la.org. For additional chapters for Southern California contact Toni Barrient, tbarrient@hearinglossca.org
- **Deaf & Hard of Hearing Service Center** – www.dhhsc.org
 - Fresno; Central Coast Outreach (Salinas); Merced Outreach (Merced); South Valley Outreach (Visalia); email: resources@dhhsc.org

Oregon

- **Bridges Oregon** - www.bridgesoregon.org
- **Hearing Loss Association of Lane County** – www.hearinglosslane.org
Clark Anderson, 541-916-0627, hlaalane@gmail.com
- **Hearing Loss Association of America** – Portland, www.hlaa-or.org/portland-chapter
- **Oregon Speech-Language-Hearing Association (OSHA)** - www.oregonspeechandhearing.org

Hawaii

- **Aloha State Association of the Deaf (ASAD)** - www.deafaloha.org
- **Hear4Hope**, www.hear4hope.org
Tori Carapelho, 808-960-3900, tori@hear4hope.org, info@hear4hope.org

Washington

- **Hearing, Speech & Deaf Center** - volunteer@hsdc.org
Audiology/Speech and Language/Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services
- **Washington Speech-Language-Hearing Association (WSLH)** - www.wslha.org
- **Washington State Association of the Deaf (WSAD)** - www.wsad.org
- **Hearing Loss Association of America Washington State Association**
Cheri Perazzoli, 503-82-0115, info@hearingloss-wa.org

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