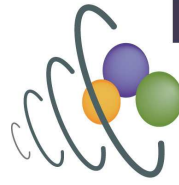


Hear It Is!

Oregon



**Hearing Loss
Association
of Oregon**

Spring 2012

Issue 49

YouTube Makes Captioning More Accessible for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Viewers

By Maura Judkis, The Washington Post 2/28/2012

Millions of people enjoy viral videos each day, but some people aren't getting the jokes — and it's not for a lack of humor, either. Because many videos on YouTube do not include closed captioning, deaf viewers can be left out. But thanks to a new change at YouTube, more hard-of-hearing people will be able to indulge in the wealth of online videos.

The video sharing site enabled caption support in 2006, but it announced Tuesday options that make user-uploaded videos more accessible for those who rely on closed captioning, with new languages, search options, and settings for video text.

YouTube now supports automatic captions in Japanese, Korean and English, and captions can be added in 155 languages and dialects. New settings can also change the caption color — not an aesthetic choice, but rather, to make the captions easier to read against the background of videos where the colors may blend in. Videos uploaded with broadcast caption support, which positions text near the character speaking, are now visible on YouTube in the same format. It's also easier to upload videos that already have captions embedded in them.

Though television stations are required to provide closed captioning for deaf and hearing-impaired viewers, internet TV was not — until recently.

Explains Melissa Bell: Last year, President Obama signed into law the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act, requiring that captioned television shows must be captioned online. But there's a loophole: The law does not require original online programming to be captioned.

"At the same time that the web series industry is growing, web series producers are not required to closed caption," Jamie Berke, a Washington-based deaf activist wrote in an e-mail. "So deaf and hard of hearing people like myself are largely left out of this 'new television.'"

As a host of original programming, YouTube's improved captioning isn't mandated by the CVAA either, but it's to their advantage to make videos available for as many viewers as possible. Deaf viewers have found YouTube to be an adept communications tool for sign language — check out some of the viral music videos of pop music sign-language performances, like Miley Cyrus's "Party in the USA" — but with these new tools, their playlists will get a lot longer.

From My Lips to Your Ears

Editorial by Chuck Vlcek

Life is about to get a bit easier for folks who wear hearing aids and cochlear implants, especially in public areas. The increased use and advocacy for captioning and looping technology will see to that. The front page story is about one of many advances in the use of captioning, and the "Within Earshot" page has a couple of tidbits about loop advocacy. In addition, new standards have been implemented for the provision of assistive devices (loop, FM, and IR systems) in public assembly areas. They are listed beginning on page 8.

HLA-OR now has 17 board members but almost as many committees. They can use some help. *You do not have to be a board member to join a committee*, and you can do it online. Just send an e-mail to info@hearinglossOR.org and you will be put in touch with the appropriate person.

We encourage readers with internet access to subscribe to the online version of this newsletter found on www.hearinglossOR.org/news.htm, replacing the subscription to the printed version. This will save paper, postage, and printing costs. A link to download a pdf reader is included. If you obtained this copy at a clinic, waiting room, etc., let the audiologist or staff member know about this feature so that extra copies can be printed from a downloaded pdf file if and when necessary. Alternatively, new patients with internet access can simply be provided with the web address listed above.

Watch for the next issue!

We have some exciting news we can't share right now even though it may not be a secret anymore. But we will have all the glorious details in the summer issue, so watch for it!

Hearing Loss Association of Oregon

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Vice President Cheryl Davis
Secretary Chuck Vlcek
Treasurer Wayne Seely

Board members: David Viers, Karin Smith, Vicki March, Karen Swezey, Cathy Sanders, Liza Knowles, Kathryn Eckhart, Karen Brockett, Leela Davis, Duane Davis, John Hood-Fysh, Sary Weiner-Collier, and Sylvia Eckles

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Hear it is! will regularly print your hearing loss-related stories – personal experiences, coping strategies, and evaluations of technology are welcomed. Maximum word count is 500 words. Article contributions should be made to the editor at info@hearinglossOR.org.

For advertising information and rates, contact Karen Swezey at info@hearinglossOR.org.

Deadline for Summer 2012 edition: June 30, 2012.

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HLA-OR Board Election Results

All candidates for HLA-OR board positions were elected, with the exception of Kate Seader who had to withdraw because she will be moving out of the state. We wish her well. We welcome back Wayne Seely, Karin Smith, and Kathy Eckert-Mason who were re-elected. We welcome new members Sara Weiner-Collier, Karen Brockett, and John Hood-Fysh.

We also welcome Vicki March who was nominated from the floor to fill the vacancy left by the withdrawal of Kate Seader and elected by the board. Vicki suffered a sudden hearing loss three years ago and has become quite active in HLA since. She is a board member of the Portland chapter, attended last year's HLAA convention, and will be HLA-OR's representative at this year's HLAA convention in Providence, RI. She was one of the top individual fund raisers in last fall's Walk4Hearing.

We thank outgoing board members Cindy Campbell and Anthony Davis for their service on the board. They will continue to serve in other ways.

After the board election results were announced at the annual meeting the board convened a special meeting to elect officers. All of the officers were re-elected to their respective positions. Thus Bob Russell will continue as President, Cheryl Davis as Vice President, Chuck Vlcek as Secretary, and Wayne Seely as Treasurer. Cathy Sanders will also continue to be Chapter Coordinator.

HLA-OR Quarterly Meeting Dates

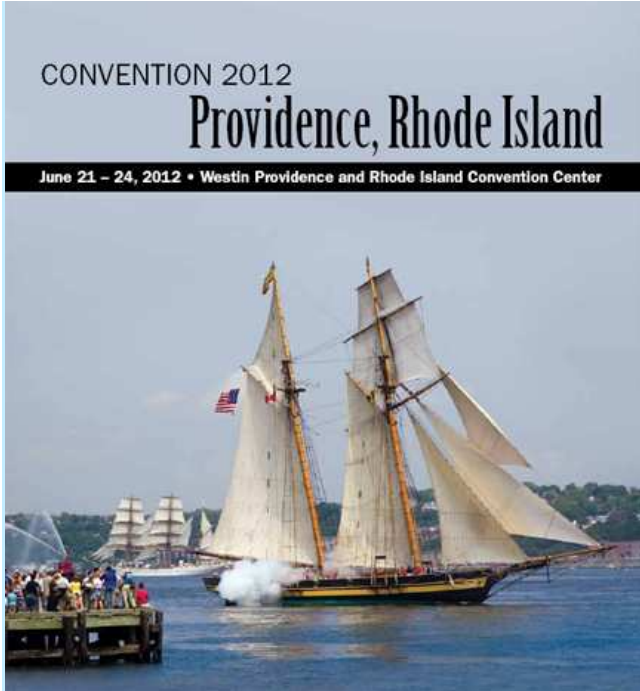
The next meeting will be held on June 16, 2012 at Albany General Hospital
(Reimer Building). Future meetings are September 29 and December 15.

To confirm, contact President Bob Russell at bhrussell@frontier.com or call him at (503) 614-9730. Guests are invited to attend but should first contact President Bob Russell.

Something to think about ...

If you are reading the printed copy sent to you, the *color* version is available *right now* on www.hearinglossOR.org/news.htm

CHECK IT OUT! SEND A LINK TO A FRIEND OR RELATIVE!



Come Sail with Us to New England

HLAA has announced Providence, Rhode Island as the host city for Convention 2012.

All workshops, plenary sessions, exhibit hall, and social events will take place at the Rhode Island Convention Center which is connected by skybridge to The Westin Providence. Located in the heart of downtown Providence, you'll find plenty of restaurants, shopping, and points of interest. It's not too early to start planning your trip to New England.

Check the HLAA Convention web page for updates:

<http://www.hearingloss.org/content/convention>

HLAA Happenings

HLAA has been educating consumers that there are different service delivery models for the sales of hearing aids and related services and they should know about them and look for one that suits them best. The most common current practice is price bundling. The hearing aid is sold for a price that includes the audiologist's time, their services, follow up visits and their overhead costs. The cost is not broken down so people really don't know exactly what they are paying for and what each element costs. They often attribute the whole cost to the device. There is also bundling with price transparency. You pay one price up front but you are told what the total includes.

The third cost practice is unbundling or itemization (the preferred term by the audiology associations). This is where you pay for the

device and each visit separately as you need it. This is easier for people who cannot pay thousands of dollars up front. The Academy is providing their membership with directions on how to adopt an itemization model for their business. There is support for this approach and reference is made to HLAA as recommending that fees should be itemized for greater transparency.

HLAA is a member of the NRPA (National Fire Protection Agency) advisory committee. At the most recent meeting, educational materials for consumers on fire safety were reviewed to ensure they covered information for people with hearing loss and other disabilities.

HLAA wrote comments in response to the FCC's notice regarding hearing-aid-compatible mobile phones. The comments were focused on moving to adopt the 2011 version of the ANSI standard for manufacturers to follow.

Membership in HLAA is \$20 -- student, \$35 -- individual, \$45 -- couple/family, \$50 -- professional.

Membership includes the award-winning bi-monthly magazine, *Hearing Loss*. Write to HLAA, 7910 Woodmont Ave., Ste. 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814; 301-657-2248 (Voice); 301-657-224 (TTY); 301-913-9413 (Fax) or www.hearingloss.org.
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Within Earshot: News You Need to Know

Work Place Experiences

David Baldrige is a deafened professor at Oregon State University and former Rochester Institute of Technology professor. He is currently working on a research project titled *Work Place Experiences of People who are Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing* (Deaf/HOH) that will collect interview and survey data from experts, people with disabilities, their supervisors and coworkers. David is an HLAA member and will present initial findings at the HLAA conference in June. If you have had an experience you would like to share, please contact him at david.baldrige@bus.oregonstate.edu to participate prior to the end of 2012.

Top 10 Job: Audiologist

One of the 10 best jobs in the USA is Audiologist. This tidbit was announced by CareerCast.com. Why best? It says "due to low physical demands, a relatively low-stress and safe working environment, combined with a good 2012 hiring outlook and income growth potential for those entering the profession". Another plus: good average income. *Let's hear it for those hard-working audiologists!*

National Geographic in the Loop

Check out page 21 in the April 2012 issue of National Geographic. It explains what an induction loop is, how it is used, and where it is used. It is to be commended for spreading the word beyond the immediate hearing loss community. We hope other media outlets will follow suit.

Keynote Speaker in the Loop

The Hearing Loss Association of America® is pleased to announce David G. Myers, Ph.D., as the keynote speaker at its Convention 2012 Opening Session, June 21, in Providence, Rhode Island. A social psychologist at Hope College, Holland, Michigan, Dr. Myers is a driving force behind greater use of hearing loop technology in the U.S. with his campaign "Let's Loop America."

Dr. Myers' keynote address, *Accelerating Progress Toward the Looping of America—and Doubled Hearing Instrument Functionality*, will report on the growing momentum nationwide in support of making assistive listening directly hearing instrument compatible. In a pre-Convention statement Dr. Myers stated, "The accelerating movement to make listening assistance directly hearing aid compatible (thanks to hearing advocates across the country, and now also to major media visibility and growing support from audio contractors and hearing professionals) is so exciting. With installations ranging from home TV rooms, to New York City's subways booths and future taxis, to places of worship and auditoriums nationwide, more and more people are appreciating that hearing aids can also serve as convenient wireless loudspeakers that deliver customized sound." Using a telecoil and hearing loop together is seamless, cost-effective, and unobtrusive, without the need for additional equipment.

2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design

Standards for accessible design developed under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 2010 went into effect on March 15, 2012. Many of the recommendations for changes to the original ADAAD made by HLAA have been incorporated. HLAA put out a listserv to detail those standards that impact persons with hearing loss, and is reprinted below.

219 Assistive Listening Systems

219.1 General. Assistive listening systems shall be provided in accordance with 219 and shall comply with 706.219.2 Required Systems. In each assembly area where audible communication is integral to the use of the space, an assistive listening system shall be provided. (*Assembly Area:* A building or facility, or portion thereof, used for the purpose of entertainment, educational or civic gatherings, or similar purposes. For the purposes of these requirements, assembly areas include, but are not limited to, classrooms, lecture halls, courtrooms, public meeting rooms, public hearing rooms, legislative chambers, motion picture houses, auditoriums, theaters, playhouses, dinner theaters, concert halls, centers for the performing arts, amphitheaters, arenas, stadiums, grandstands, or convention centers).

EXCEPTION: Other than in courtrooms, assistive listening systems shall not be required where audio amplification is not provided.

219.3 Receivers. Receivers complying with 706.2 shall be provided for assistive listening systems in each assembly area in accordance with Table 219.3. Twenty-five percent minimum of receivers provided, but no fewer than two, shall be hearing-aid compatible in accordance with 706.3.

EXCEPTIONS: Where all seats in an assembly area are served by an induction loop assistive listening system, the minimum number of receivers required by Table 219.3 to be hearing-aid compatible shall not be required to be provided.

Table 219.3 Receivers for Assistive Listening Systems

Seating Capacity	Minimum # of Required Receivers	Compatible Recivers*
50 or less	2	2
51 to 200	2, plus 1 per 25 seats over 50 seats	2
201 to 500	2, plus 1 per 25 seats over 50 seats	1 per 4 receivers **
501 to 1000	20, plus 1 per 33 seats over 500 seats	1 per 4 receivers
1001 to 2000	35, plus 1 per 50 seats over 1000 seats	1 per 4 receivers
2001 and over	55, plus 1 per 100 seats over 2000 seats	1 per 4 recievers

* Minimum Number of required receivers required to be hearing-aid compatible
 ** 5 must be neck loops for 500 seats

continued on page 10

Chapter Capers

Salem Chapter: Meetings have been moved back to the main hospital in Salem following renovations there. Check the contact info on page 14-15 for details.

Lebanon Chapter: Also called the Benton-Linn (County) chapter, it now has its own logo.

Douglas County Chapter: Elections were held at its April meeting and Chuck Vlcek was reelected president, Tasha Havens remains V.P., Barb Stoner continues as secretary, and Doris Clark is the new treasurer. Ten members attended the informal chat session, one of whom was being advised about getting a cochlear implant. While meetings now occur every other month, members do stay in touch by e-mail.

New chapters? Linda Diaz hopes to start a new chapter in the Cottage Grove area and has a looped meeting place available. Another new chapter may be in the offing in the Hillsboro area, but the person organizing it has had to deal with an illness in the family. Stay tuned.

HLA-OR: After much hard work by Karin Smith and crew, the Board Reference Manual is nearly ready. It is now undergoing final review by board members. While it is intended primarily for current and prospective board members, it does include a list and description of committees, useful to persons outside of the board who might want to join a committee. For more info contact info@hearinglossOR.org.

CI Corner

In the last couple of issues this column has been covering the process of qualifying for and obtaining a cochlear implant. Now it turns out that this subject is very well covered by Brad Ingrao, Au.D. in an article titled "Plugged in for Sound: Cochlear Implants Today", which appears on page 16-19 of the March/April 2012 issue of the Hearing Loss Magazine put out by HLAA. The author does note that the article is geared towards adults. Those looking for implants for children should contact an audiologist or one of the CI manufacturers listed at the end of the article.

This column was going to discuss the "mapping" process in some detail. Since the HLAA article gave only a brief description of the mapping process, the details are still forthcoming. The most important thing to know is that the initial mapping session, or "activation", is not going to produce "natural" sound. Be patient – it will get better. Part of it is due to your hearing history and the need for your brain to readjust. But part of the "difference" is real.

An audiologist explained that most patients cannot tolerate high frequency sounds or loud sounds at any frequency very well at the outset. Thus the first map is biased toward the low frequencies (bass) and the maximum permitted volume ("C" or comfort level) is rather low, resulting in low dynamic range. The resulting sound is very dead or at best muddy, though true bass sounds seemed incredibly rich. Women sounded like men and everyone sounded like he had a bad cold. Water running from a faucet sounded like Niagra Falls. As successive sessions put more emphasis on higher frequencies and increased dynamic range, the sounds became more natural. Your processor can increase the "C" level across the board (all frequencies) to some extent. Push it up as soon as you can tolerate it.

What is your chapter doing? Send your story to the editor at cvlcek@centurytel.net

See pages 14-15 for contact information for these chapters and events.

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<http://www.hearinglossor.org/>

Select "Survivor's Manual" from the menu

2010 ADA Standards (continued)

706 Assistive Listening Systems

706.1 General. Assistive listening systems required in assembly areas shall comply with 706.

Advisory 706.1 General. Assistive listening systems are generally categorized by their mode of transmission.

There are hard-wired systems and three types of wireless systems: induction loop, infrared, and FM radio transmission. Each has different advantages and disadvantages that can help determine which system is best for a given application. For example, an FM system may be better than an infrared system in some open-air assemblies since infrared signals are less effective in sunlight. An infrared system is typically a better choice than an FM system where confidential transmission is important because it will be contained within a given space.

The technical standards for assistive listening systems describe minimum performance levels for volume, interference, and distortion. Sound pressure levels (SPL), expressed in decibels, measure output sound volume. Signal-to-noise ratio (SNR or S/N), also expressed in decibels, represents the relationship between the loudness of a desired sound (the signal) and the background noise in a space or piece of equipment. The higher the SNR, the more intelligible the signal. The peak clipping level limits the distortion in signal output produced when high-volume sound waves are manipulated to serve assistive listening devices.

Selecting or specifying an effective assistive listening system for a large or complex venue requires assistance from a professional sound engineer. The Access Board has published technical assistance on assistive listening devices and systems.

706.2 Receiver Jacks. Receivers required for use with an assistive listening system shall include a 1/8 inch (3.2 mm) standard mono jack.

706.3 Receiver Hearing-Aid Compatibility. Receivers required to be hearing-aid compatible shall interface with telecoils in hearing aids through the provision of neckloops.

Advisory 706.3 Receiver Hearing-Aid Compatibility. Neckloops and headsets that can be worn as neckloops are compatible with hearing aids. Receivers that are not compatible include earbuds, which may require removal of hearing aids, earphones, and headsets that must be worn over the ear, which can create disruptive interference in the transmission and can be uncomfortable for people wearing hearing aids.

706.4 Sound Pressure Level. Assistive listening systems shall be capable of providing a sound pressure level of 110 dB minimum and 118 dB maximum with a dynamic range on the volume control of 50 dB.

706.5 Signal-to-Noise Ratio. The signal-to-noise ratio for internally generated noise in assistive listening systems shall be 18 dB minimum.

706.6 Peak Clipping Level. Peak clipping shall not exceed 18 dB of clipping relative to the peaks of speech.

NOTE: The compliance date for the 2010 Standards for new construction and alterations is determined by: the date the last application for a building permit or permit extension is certified to be complete by a State, county, or local government; the date the last application for a building permit or permit extension is received by a State, county, or local government, where the government does not certify the completion of applications; or the start of physical construction or alteration, if no permit is required. If that date is on or after March 15, 2012, then new construction and alterations must comply with the 2010 Standards.

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If you have not contributed in the last 12 months and are able to do so, please use the form on the back of the newsletter, and mail your tax-deductible gift to:

Hearing Loss Association of Oregon, PO Box 22501, Eugene, OR 97402

We thank the following folks who have sent donations since the last issue:

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Chapters in Oregon

Local chapter meetings are open to all. Family, friends, and professionals are encouraged to attend and become involved. Through chapter meetings and newsletters you'll find:

- *Insights into effectively living with hearing loss*
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- *Information about the latest technology*
- *Coping strategies & tips*
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- *Diminished feelings of isolation and aloneness*
- *Opportunities to share concerns and hear from others*



We believe in education - for those who hear well and those who cannot - so that both may understand the causes, challenges and possible remedies for hearing loss. At our meetings, you'll find a comfortable place where hearing loss is accepted and not a problem. Many people report that being a part of a Hearing Loss Assoc. group has made a major difference in their lives. Your participation benefits not only you, but others who attend as well. Following is a list of the current chapters and contact people in Oregon.

HLA of Central Oregon (HLACO) meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 6 to 8 PM at the St. Charles Medical Center, 2500 NE Neff Road, Bend, in Conference Room A (by the front entrance).

Contact: Cliff Tepper
1664 NE Redrose Court
Bend, OR 97701
(541) 390-2174

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Applications are generally due mid-March each year.

Hearing Loss Assoc. of Lane County meets 2nd Thursday each month - 7 PM at the Hilyard Community Center, 2580 Hilyard Street - Eugene.

Contacts: Andrea Cabral
e-mail: angora@comcast.net
(541) 345-9432 voice
PO Box 22501 OR Clark Anderson
Eugene, OR 97402 e-mail: clarkoa@msn.com

Hearing Loss Association of Salem meets the 2nd Wed. each month (except July and August) - 6:30 PM at the Salem Hospital, Building C, Room 1A, 2561 Center St. NE

Contact: Mary Fagan
e-mail: hlasalem@live.com
(503) 409-5491
3253 Dallas Hwy NW Salem, OR 97304-4222

HLA of Portland meets the 3rd Tuesday each month (except June, July and August) - 7 PM in the North-South 1st Floor Conference Room, Building #2 of Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center, 1040 NW 22nd Ave., Portland 97210

Contact Anne McLaughlin (president)
e-mail: hlaportland@gmail.com
PO Box 2112
Portland, OR 97208-2112
www.hearinglossor.org/portland/

HLA of Douglas County meets the 2nd Monday of even-numbered months - 7 PM at the Mercy Hospital Community Education Room, 2459 Stewart Parkway, Roseburg (between Parkway Pharmacy & OfficeMax)

Contact: Chuck Vlcek OR Barb Stoner
e-mail: cvlcek@centurytel.net (541) 496-0060
(541) 496-4541
P.O. Box 175
Idleyld Park OR 97447

Hearing Loss Assoc. of Linn and Benton Counties meets the 3rd Thursday of each month (except July and August) – 6:30 PM at the Senior Center – 65 “B” Academy Square – Lebanon

Contact: Bob Williams
e-mail: robertiw@comcast.net
541) 258-5818
2020 South 12th #111
Lebanon, OR 97355

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If you are interested in starting a chapter in your area, contact:

Cathy Sanders
Oregon Chapter Coordinator
e-mail: catsindallas@q.com
(503) 881-1642 (cell) or
(503) 623-4662 (home)
1131 SW Marietta Lane
Dallas, OR 97338

or

Chapter Coordinator
Hearing Loss Assoc. of America
(the National Office}
e-mail: elebarron@hearingloss.org
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Here It Is! Oregon Spring 2012 Newsletter

I would like to receive (or continue to receive) this newsletter.

Name _____

Phone _____

Organization Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____ Please send my newsletter via e-mail _____

I learned about the newsletter from: _____

- Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____ to support the **Hearing Loss Association** outreach programs in Oregon. Contributions will be acknowledged in the next issue.
- I wish to remain anonymous.
- I cannot contribute but would like to receive the newsletter.
- I want to join **Hearing Loss Association of America**, the National Organization. Please enroll me as a member. I'm including my \$35 membership fee.

Or you can sign up online at www.hearinglossOR.org (click membership, then click application)

Hearing Loss Association of Oregon is a 501(c)(3) charity and depends on donations and grants. All personnel are volunteers. Please send your donation to support our efforts to ***Hearing Loss Association of Oregon*** PO Box Box 22501, Eugene, Oregon 97402.