

HLA Morris County Chapter Holds Second Meeting

On January 7, the second meeting of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), Morris County Chapter was held. Twenty-three people, with a variety of hearing loss situations (life-long loss, late-life loss, cochlear implants and/or hearing aids), from around northern NJ attended. (A couple of people with normal hearing who work professionally with the deaf or have family members with hearing loss were welcomed too!) We were excited to have Traci Burton, field representative for the NJ Division of the Deaf and Hear of Hearing, as our guest speaker.

In her talk, Ms. Burton explained and discussed a number of assistive listening devices as they are used in various situations — with telephones, TVs, or in meetings/lectures. There are differences in technology and costs, as well. She pointed out which devices are available (with qualifications) either free, or at a reduced price, through the state of New Jersey. The importance of exploring and trying out devices was emphasized, because of the variety of technology and the very individual circumstances of each person's hearing loss. When concluding the discussion of each device by listing some of the possibilities, Traci repeated each time the refrain, "...Whatever works best for YOU!"

Ms. Burton encouraged us to call or email for an appointment at one of the five Assistive Listening Device Centers around the state. At these locations, the various devices can be examined and demonstrated. For more details about specific devices available through the state, for demonstration center locations, and for contact information (to make an appointment) see the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing website: www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddhh/home/ .

The meeting was equally informative as questions were answered by Traci. It also was valuable that attendees were eager to share information about their experience in using listening devices.