

HLAA-NJ News and Views

A Monthly Column from The Hearing Loss Association of NJ

By Joel Strasser, APR, Fellow PRSA, Trustee, HLAA - NJ, Public Information Officer

May 1 Deadline Looms for NJ High School Seniors with Hearing Loss to Apply for HLAA-NJ Scholarships

Last call! With the May 1 deadline coming up quickly, this has to be our final announcement about HLAA-NJ college scholarships to be presented in June to as many as four qualified high school seniors with hearing loss. With funding made possible in part by the successful Garden State Walk4Hearing in October, up to four scholarships of \$1,000 each are being offered to successful candidates.

You are encouraged to apply if you are a high school senior with hearing loss, a New Jersey resident between 17 and 20 years of age, you plan to continue your education in the fall of 2014, and are ambitious and determined not to let hearing loss get in the way of your dreams.

The application process includes completion of a form, letters of reference, and an essay. To start the process, go to www.hearingloss-nj.org to download the application, or if you have additional questions, write to scholarship chair Alice Glock at alice.glock@hearingloss-nj.org.

Scholarship winners will be announced in May, and this year's award ceremony and celebration open to all will be held Saturday, June 7, 2-4 p.m., location to be announced.

Next State Board meeting: May 3

Next meeting of the Board of Trustees of HLAA-NJ is Saturday, May 3, from 1 to 4 p.m., at the East Brunswick Public Library. As usual, all board meetings are open to the public, so if any of our readers would like to meet board members, ask questions about hearing loss issues, or learn more about HLAA-NJ activities, feel free to attend, especially if you are not able to attend one of our local chapter meetings closer to home. Also, planning for our next Walk4Hearing on October 19, 2014 is just getting started, so if you'd like to get involved with the early planning or operation, now would be a good time to join the effort. We always welcome new members and find ways they can lend their special skills or talents. Possible agenda items also may include the HLAA-NJ Web site revision, the planned statewide looping project and other efforts. Meetings are usually looped, sound-augmented, and/or otherwise aided by CART captioning, so potential attendees need not worry about understanding meeting proceedings.

HLAA-NJ President Linda Schaab Wins Community Service Leadership Award

HLAA-NJ President Linda Schaab is the recipient of the 2014 Communitas Award for "Leadership in the New Jersey Hearing Loss Community," as announced by the Association of Marketing and Communications Professionals (AMCP). Communitas Awards recognize individuals and organizations that unselfishly give of themselves and their resources, and those that are changing how they do business to benefit their communities.

AMCP judges found that Linda Schaab clearly exhibits the spirit of Communitas, a Latin word that means people coming together for the good of community. Linda Schaab joins other Communitas

winners recognized for specific programs involving volunteerism, philanthropy or ethical, sustainable business practices. Some individuals and organizations also are recognized as leadership winners because of their excellence in multiple programs.

Linda Schaab's notable contributions during her tenure as president include spearheading development of an annual Scholarship Social event for HLAA-NJ scholarship winners, establishment of two additional HLAA-NJ chapters in Morris County and South Jersey, her participation in the NJ Hearing Aid Project, vocal support of the statewide Looping NJ Project, the redesign and revision of the new HLAA-NJ membership brochure, and her active leadership and support of the Annual Walk4Hearing fundraising event.

Communitas Awards is an outgrowth of the pro bono recognition program of AMCP, a several-thousand member group that honors creative achievement and fosters partnerships with charities and community organizations. Communitas nominees are evaluated based on the extent and effectiveness of their program. The size and potential scope of the nominee also is taken into consideration. Winners range from a one person design firm donating \$35,000 in services to help improve the diets of inner-city students, to an online retailer enlisting help from vendor-partners to design and create teddy bears that have helped cheer-up 20,000 recovery room patients at a Children's Hospital, to a Fortune 500 business that is converting its fleet of cars and trucks to energy efficient vehicles.

Need More Info on HLAA-NJ?

Contact Joel Strasser at joel.strasser@hearingloss-nj.org, or call 732-415-7556.