

## **HAAA-NJ News and Views**

### **A Monthly Column from The Hearing Loss Association of NJ**

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

### **Scholarship Awards Reception, Board Meeting Set as May, June Events to Highlight HAAA-NJ Calendar**

This spring is shaping up to be an active one for HAAA-NJ as dates and locations for two key happenings have been set for the next 60 days.

Scholarship applications continue to filter in as HAAA-NJ's Scholarship Reception moves into the planning and presentation stages for Saturday, June 7, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Madison Community House, 25 Cook Ave., Madison, N.J. This venue provides a good size parlor room with large windows, making it quite suitable and inviting for this annual event during which HAAA-NJ's newly-minted 2014 college scholarship winners will be announced and introduced to New Jersey's hearing loss community. The public is invited to attend, meet our new scholars and enjoy our enthusiastic and motivated speakers and unusually delicious refreshments as we launch our newly-knighted scholars to their respective campuses to embark on their college or post-secondary educational endeavors.

Also, HAAA-NJ's next quarterly meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held Saturday, May 3, from 1 p.m. 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 HAAA-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 meeting on October 19, 2014 is just getting started, so if you'd like to get involved with the Walk's 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. Meetings are usually looped, sound-augmented, and/or otherwise aided by CART captioning, so potential attendees need not worry about understanding meeting proceedings. For more information on this quarter's meeting agenda, or to add to or review this meeting's program, contact Linda Schaab, HAAA-NJ president, at: [lms365c@gmail.com](mailto:lms365c@gmail.com).

### **Governor Christie Appoints/Reappoints Five HAAA-NJ Members to DDHH Advisory Council**

The governor's office has announced the appointment or re-appointment of five HAAA-NJ members to the State's Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing's Advisory Council for three-

year terms. Along with HLAA-NJ's appointees, five others also are appointed from the NJAD. HLAA-NJ's appointees are:

- Wayne Roorda - co-founder of HLAA-NJ, Walk4Hearing Chairperson, HLA-NJ board member - bilateral cochlear implant user.
- Judy Ginsberg - former HLAA-NJ president, former DDHH Advisory Council Chairperson - bilateral cochlear implant user.
- Marie Nordling, president of the Middlesex County Chapter, HLAA-NJ board member - hearing aid user (retired nurse).
- Linda Schaab, president of HLAA-NJ - hearing aid user.
- Arlene Romoff, co-founder of HLAA-NJ, past president HLAA-NJ, former co-chair of DDHH Advisory Council, author of two books - bilateral cochlear implant user.

## **South Jersey's Wayne Roorda to Receive Rocky Stone Award**

Wayne L. Roorda of Voorhees, New Jersey, will receive the Howard E. "Rocky" Stone Humanitarian Award at the HLAA Convention 2014 in Austin, Texas, during the Fiesta Banquet, on Saturday, June 28.

The Howard E. "Rocky" Stone Humanitarian Award was established in 1990. The recipient of this prestigious award is elected by the Board of Trustees to honor an outgoing or past trustee for his or her extraordinary contributions toward the furtherance of the objectives and personal exemplification of the philosophy envisioned by Howard E. Stone, founder of Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH). In 1979, Stone founded SHHH, which is now known as the Hearing Loss Association of America.

The Board selected Roorda as the 2014 recipient at its February 28, 2014, Board meeting in Bethesda, Maryland.

Wayne Roorda has been a member of the organization since 1983 and has served two terms on the Board of Trustees (1986-1990 and 2005-2008). In his first term he served as treasurer and, since 1986, has given continuous service on the Finance Committee of the Board. He had the pleasure of working with Founder Rocky Stone for many years. He started the first chapter in New Jersey and is a founding member of the New Jersey State Association and currently serves as secretary. Roorda also has been a two-time chair of the New Jersey Walk4Hearing.

Selected by his peers, Roorda is described as: "...self-effacing, not one to write his own press releases. Few know the extent of time he has given to HLAA and to people with hearing loss. He serves as a peer mentor for those interested in receiving cochlear implants. He is a staunch advocate and has made more than one trip to Capitol Hill to advocate for such issues as the hearing aid tax credit bill. At home, he frequently is asked to conduct training sessions in places such as the Department of Defense, libraries, and community places. As a federal employee, he promotes workplace giving to HLAA through the Combined Federal Campaign. Few can rival his integrity, devotion or loyalty to HLAA and its mission.

"The word 'humanitarian' (one who seeks to promote human welfare) can readily be used to describe Wayne Roorda. Spend a little time with him, and you soon will know that his only agenda is for the good of HLAA and those who have hearing loss. He doesn't just talk about it. His 31-year membership, along with his unbroken service to the HLAA Board since 1986, is proof of his actions backing up his beliefs."

### **HLAA Names Edward Ogiba, Sarasota, Florida as New Director of Chapter Development**

HLAA has appointed Edward F. Ogiba of Sarasota, Florida, to be its new director of chapter development with the primary charge of helping current chapters to grow and to build new ones through strategic development, best practices and leadership training. The post entails providing HLAA's state organizations and chapters around the country with the direction and support they need to deliver the organization's acclaimed education, support and advocacy services to open the world of communication for those with hearing loss. Ed joined the HLAA national office staff effective April 21, 2014.

He has served as president of the HLAA Sarasota Chapter for the past five years, been the HLAA Florida state chapter coordinator, and a board member of the HLAA Florida State Association for the last two years. He is entering his fifth year as a board member of the Ear Research Foundation.

In the last five years, the HLAA Sarasota Chapter's membership under Ed's leadership has grown significantly by offering a wider range of new education and support services, with a high-powered outreach program that has had the chapter averaging some six to eight meetings and events in the community each month.

Ed has been a local advocate for hearing loops and has been instrumental in drawing in more than 100 local theaters, churches and community venues in Southwest Florida to install hearing loops. The chapter was named Sarasota County's "Best Cause" by SRQ Magazine in 2012, with Ed being pegged as the "Best Visionary."

Ed Ogiba, who wears both a hearing aid and cochlear implant and lost his hearing primarily due to a combination of military service and Ménière's disease, is a case in point. He says that "HLAA saved me from a life of isolation by introducing me to listening and communication skills as well as several assistive listening devices, all of which I desperately needed to return to a normal life and resume my career."

**Need More Info on HLAA-NJ?**

For additional information about our state association, please contact Joel Strasser at [joel.strasser@hearingloss-nj.org](mailto:joel.strasser@hearingloss-nj.org) , or telephone 732-415-7556.