

# HLA-NJ News and Views

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

*By Joel Strasser, APR, Fellow PRSA, Trustee, HLA - NJ*

## HLA-NJ Scholarships Presented to Three Worthy High School Seniors

Three worthy high school seniors from different parts of New Jersey have been chosen by the Scholarship Selections Committee of the Hearing Loss Association of New Jersey as recipients for this year's HLA-NJ college scholarships. The students were presented with their checks and accompanying certificates during a special ceremony June 8 at HLA-NJ's annual Scholarship Reception in East Brunswick.

Following welcoming remarks by HLA-NJ President Linda Schaab, the presentations were made by Scholarship Chair Sandy Spekman, to:

<picture> *Sandy Spekman, Scholarship Chairperson (l), and Linda Schaab, HLA-NJ President (r), present scholarship winner, Marissa DiDonna, with her certificate and check.*

*1. Marissa DiDonna, of Morris Plains, N.J., a senior at Governor Livingston High School, a member of her school's ASL Honor Society, and an avid soccer team member, plans to attend the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, to major in Arts and Imaging Studies with a focus on graphic design and photography as she plans her career in related areas. Marissa uses cochlear implant technology to help her listening.*

<picture> *Sandy Spekman, Scholarship Chairperson (l), and Linda Schaab, HLA-NJ President (r), present scholarship winner, Tyler DeVore, with his certificate and check.*

*2. Tyler DeVore, of Boonton Township, N.J., a senior at Mountain Lakes High School, and captain of his high school's ice hockey team, as well as a stellar international competitor in ice hockey competitions, plans to attend Rochester Institute of Technology, to study biomedical engineering and pursue a career in surgical robotics and medical instrument design. Tyler uses a hearing aid and a cochlear implant to help his hearing.*

<picture>

*3. Sandy Spekman, Scholarship Chairperson (l), and Linda Schaab, HLA-NJ President (r), present scholarship winner, Rita Margiasso, with her certificate and check.*

HLA-NJ scholarships are presented each year to up to four deserving high school seniors with hearing loss who are pursuing a college degree or vocational training. Recipients must have applied to a college or vocation educational program, be between the ages of 17 and 20 and wear a hearing aid(s) or cochlear implant(s). Financial need is not a consideration, and the scholarship is a one-time award.

Scholarship committee members include Sandy Spekman, Arlene Romoff, Marvin Schaab, Janet Rosen, Amy Mogland, Alice Glock, Wayne Roorda, David Cooper, Ann Marie Olson and Maryrose McInerney. Interpreters for this year's event included Cheryl Lepple and Marci Friedman, and refreshments were arranged by Janet Rosen and Amy Mogland, while Arlene Romoff handled photography. Jeanette Voight provided CART captioning for this year's event. Interpreters and captioning were provided by the NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

The scholarship is made possible in part by funds raised by the Garden State Walk4Hearing event. The annual Walk4Hearing is a national project of the Hearing Loss Association of America to raise awareness about the causes and consequences of hearing loss and to raise funds to provide information and support for people with hearing loss.