

## THE SHHH CALIFORNIAN

California State Association Newsletter of Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, Inc.

### RAEGENE CASTLE RECEIVES VOLUNTEER AWARD FROM PEOPLE WHO CARE

By Grace W. Tiessen

#### First the good news.

It is with great pride that we report that **Raegene Castle**, president of the SHHH Peninsula Chapter, received the **Individual Volunteer Award** at the **People Who Care Awards Dinner**. She was nominated for the award by Peninsula Chapter Vice President, **Sister Ann Rooney**. Each year the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and the **Commission on Disabilities** present People Who Care awards to individuals, businesses, teachers and organizations who have made a significant contribution to people with disabilities. The awards were presented at a dinner held on October 3, 2003, at the South San Francisco Convention Center.

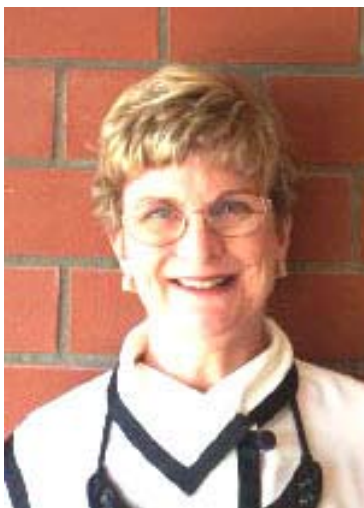
This is a real breakthrough for those of us who have hearing loss, since we tend to get less attention than others with more visible disabilities—even though people with hearing loss form the largest disability group. This event was widely attended by SHHH leaders from around the state in order to congratulate Raegene for her ongoing efforts to enrich the lives of people who are hard of hearing.

The following SHHH members were there to wish her well: **Jean Collop** representing Sacramento; **Barbara Bishop** representing Tri-Valley; **Rufus Wesley** representing San Jose; **Ronda Bonati** and **Otis Phillips** representing San Francisco; **Margaret Azcona** representing East Bay; **Cindy Jagger**, Northern CA state chapter coordinator, and representing Diablo Valley; **Marilyn Finn**, representing the Board of Trustees. And **George Freisleben**, **Grace Southward**, **Joan O'Keefe**, **Liz Furber**, **Mary Shafer**, **Marj Heymans** from Raegene's Peninsula Chapter. Congratulations, Raegene!

#### And now the bad news.

**Was this function accessible to people with hearing loss?** No. This was a disability function and should have been accessible to hard of hearing people (a disability). The ALDs did not work well. Our members were seated in the back of the room where it was hard to lip read. There was no captioning. They provided sign language interpreters, but there did not seem to be any deaf participants, so maybe the interpreters were for the hard of hearing people. (Very few hard of hearing people understand sign language).

There was a big screen to enlarge faces, which would have helped lip reading. But the podium was not well lit and the cameraman took side and rear view shots and often



panned the audience during speeches. The screen was set in the corner of the huge banquet room, far away from the speakers.

**ADA requirements, Title II-A.** This event is an activity of a local government, the County of San Mateo, and is covered by Title II-A of the ADA. Title II-A applies to all local and state governments and says that all programs, services and activities shall be accessible, unless it would cause an undue financial or administrative burden. Two sections of Title II-A apply—one general and the other specific. The general section, **3.4400 Modifications in Regular Programs**, says that a public entity must provide an opportunity for a disabled person to benefit from their services and programs. The specific section, **7.1000 Equally Effective Communication**,

says that a public entity must ensure that its communications with (hard of hearing) individuals with disabilities are as effective as communications with (hearing) others.

**How could this meeting have been made communications accessible?** This meeting should have been captioned. The captioning screen(s) should be set up on the stage near the speaker with the captioning in large black and white letters so that everyone in the auditorium could easily read it. The speakers should watch the captioning and not speak too fast for the captioner. They should face the audience, so hard of hearing people can lip read. For a large function such as this, have the audio/visual engineer check it out.

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### BALLOT ENCLOSED PLEASE VOTE - DEADLINE DECEMBER 31, 2003

If you want to vote and you think your membership has lapsed, or you have not joined SHHH, please include with your ballot a check for \$25 made out to SHHH and send to **Rufus Wesley**, Nominations Committee, 369 Manila Dr. San Jose, CA 95119-1934. He will forward your check to National.

Or you may join/renew online at [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org), click on Join or Renew. Then email/write Rufus Wesley, [rwesley@shhhca.org](mailto:rwesley@shhhca.org) saying you are now a member and that your vote is valid.

If you have any questions about your membership, email **Toni Barrient** at [tbarrient@hearingloss.org](mailto:tbarrient@hearingloss.org).

## TEACHERS of the Hard of Hearing or Deaf UPGRADE YOUR AUDITORY-ORAL SKILLS

by T. Jordon Goulder, Ph.D., Summer Institute for Auditory-Oral Education,  
Alliant International University, San Diego, CA

### With more and more children getting Cochlear Implants, will you be fully qualified to teach them to listen and speak?

The one week seminar, *Introduction to the Principles and Practices of Auditory-Oral Education*, at National University in July 2003, had an overwhelmingly positive response from teachers and allied professionals. Sixty-six participants signed up for one week of intense training and at the end of the training they asked for more! To continue that training, I hope to enroll 120 teachers and allied professionals in a 2004 Summer Institute to be conducted over a four-week period.

### 2004 Summer Institute: A Certificate Course in Auditory-Oral Education

In response to the growing awareness of the need for enhanced knowledge and skills in the area of Auditory-Oral education, **Dr. T. Jordon Goulder** will direct a summer institute for teachers and allied professionals July 20-August 19, 2004. The Certificate program will offer four (4) graduate level courses, each course receiving three (3) credits. The courses will be free-standing courses so that participants can enroll in one, two, three or four courses, (depending on their

mental and physical endurance). The first course will begin July 20-24, 2004. A self-guided study course will also be offered during the regular school year, receiving three (3) credits.

The Summer Institute courses will be offered through Alliant International University, College of Education, San Diego, CA. Graduate tuition will be reduced to allow teachers and others to participate at a reasonable cost. The current estimate is that a three credit course will cost \$600.00. The campus also offers dormitory accommodations and three meals per day at a cost of \$45.00 per day (\$255.00 for the week). Board and room is on a first come, first served basis. A practicum course will also be offered for three (3) credits. This course will be administered during the school year and participants will complete a guided-study program.

The faculty for the course will be nationally recognized leaders in the field of Auditory-Oral Education. To be part of this certificate program, contact Dr. Goulder: 858-623-2777 x

### ONLINE SURVEY: Drive Thru Restaurants

The restaurant community is interested in the experiences of people with hearing loss with "Drive Thrus" at fast food restaurants.

Go to <http://fs6.formsite.com/uISDriveThru/form213937691/index.html> and fill out this survey online.

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## EARLY BIRD SHHH CONVENTION IN OMAHA, JUNE 10-13, 2004

Time to start getting in the mood for the 2004 SHHH Annual Convention in Omaha! The **early bird rate of \$185** per person, for members only, is good until January 15, 2004. A downloadable registration form and direct registration are available on our secure site, [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)

## TWO INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES Deadline December 15, 2003

### 2004 Summer Congressional Internship

Administered by the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) and sponsored by the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation (MEAF), second-semester sophomores through first-semester seniors interested in working on Capitol Hill are encouraged to apply. Accepted candidates will work in congressional offices in Washington, DC. Roundtrip air travel and housing will be provided to interns, and each student will receive a stipend of \$1,500. For additional information and an application, visit [www.aapd-dc.org](http://www.aapd-dc.org).

### 2004 Summer Information Technology Internship

Administered by AAPD and sponsored by Microsoft Corporation, undergraduate students interested in pursuing a career in information technology are encouraged to apply. Accepted candidates will work in various agencies in the executive branch of the federal government. Roundtrip air travel and housing will be provided to interns, and each student will receive a stipend of \$4,500. For additional information and an application, visit [www.aapd-dc.org](http://www.aapd-dc.org).

### DOGS FOR THE DEAF, INC.

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## RESEARCH WANTED: LATE DEAFENED PEOPLE AGES 15 THROUGH 45

### Psychosocial Impact of Hearing Loss.

**Your input may be key to creating and improving services provided to the late-deafened!**

- They say losing your hearing is emotionally and psychologically draining, but just how much?
- They say social support helps coping with your hearing loss, but just how much?
- They say you should go talk to someone, but do you know where to go and whom to talk to?

I have decided to research the above questions for my Master's thesis. To facilitate data collection, I have devised a 60-question survey, but I need **YOUR HELP!** **Answering the questionnaire should take only 20 minutes.**

It may provide policy makers with much-needed information about the underserved, late-deafened community.

Please contact Valerie Stern at [vsstern@ispwest.com](mailto:vsstern@ispwest.com) or (310) 477-7256. You can make the difference!

## NEW SHHH CHAPTER OPENS IN RIVERSIDE

**Barbara Tucker**, Southern California Chapter Coordinator, proudly announces the opening of a new chapter in Riverside. The meetings will have captioning and programs are set up through the end of the year. **Linda Ryssman**, (909) 898-1661 Voice/TTY, [lryssman@hotmail.com](mailto:lryssman@hotmail.com) is the leader.

## DID YOU KNOW? TAXIS ARE LOOPED IN UK

Here's an update on the efforts of **David Myers** and [www.hearingloop.org](http://www.hearingloop.org) to get induction loops installed everywhere.

They're doing a great job of providing access in certain localities here in the United States.

In the UK, most cathedrals, churches, lecture halls, etc., are now looped. In the not too distant future, all London Underground ticket stations and even all London taxis are to be made communications accessible.

**Loop systems are to be mandatory immediately in all new taxis.** Existing taxis will need loops installed by January 2007.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings once again to all of our California members! It's hard to believe that the year has gone by so quickly and that this is the last 2003 edition of *The SHHH Californian*. This time of year always has so many activities to keep us busy. There are the holidays, SHHH Founder's Day, and voting for our representatives on the SHHH-CA Board of Trustees (ballot enclosed in this edition).

In November, we honor the founding of SHHH by Rocky Stone. What an amazing organization this is! It was started by Rocky in his basement in 1979, and has grown to 250 chapters, all over the country. Twenty-three of these chapters are here in California! However, we still get emails from people who are not near a chapter, so evidently we could use more!

There are millions of people out there with hearing loss. SHHH has been such a blessing to all of us, we need to take every opportunity to reach out and tell our story to others. As we plan our festivities for Founder's Day, let's reach out to anyone we know with a hearing loss and bring them along to our chapter meetings. Also, if you are possibly able to do so, now is a good time of year to remember SHHH at the national level, by sending in a donation to help them continue to do the work they do for us.

As we near the end of the year, are you thinking about what you would like to see achieved in your chapters for next year? I know most of us have such wonderful ideas. It is nice to make a list at the beginning of the year. At the end of the year, as you look back, some things will be achieved, and others will still be in progress, or just added to next year's



**Sandi Streeter**

list. Do you include "having fun" right along with "increasing membership"? Keeping a couple of meetings a year that are purely for fun purposes helps to give your members some social time together, and helps to keep them coming back. Picnics, other outings, and holiday parties are examples of this.

Have you noticed that the Oregon *Facing the Challenge, a Survivor's Manual* is now on our web site? I had some inquiries as to when this was going to be printed. Grace has put this on our web site at [www.shhhca.org](http://www.shhhca.org), click Information, click Facing the Challenge. She will be editing the information to show resources/programs specific to California, but there is much there that is wonderful information no matter where you live. If you haven't already done so, take a look at it and see! You can download whatever you want of this information and print it yourself!

As I bring this column to a close, I'd like to remind you that the ballot for the SHHH-CA Board of Trustees is enclosed in this newsletter. Before you get all caught up in the holiday festivities, please take a few minutes to fill it out and return it to Rufus "Wes" Wesley, our nominations chair. Vote for three people you would like to represent you on the SHHH-CA Board for the next three years. In the past couple of years, the returned ballots have been pretty low in number, so let's see if we can do a better job this year.

I'd like to wish you all a very happy holiday season. And thank you to each and every one of you wonderful members, for all you do for SHHH!

Best Wishes, **Sandi Streeter**

## Relay is as easy as 7-1-1

California Relay Service (CRS) bridges telephone service between individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, speech disabled, and hearing. CRS provides access to every telephone customer in California 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



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| Voice                     | 800-735-2922 |
| Español (Voz, TTY, ASCII) | 800-855-3000 |
| Speech-to-Speech          | 800-854-7784 |
| ASCII                     | 800-735-0091 |

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 900 Services (TTY)      | 900-438-9748   |
| International           | 209-863-0162   |
| Customer Service (TTY)  | 800-735-0193   |
| Customer Service (V)    | 800-735-0373   |
| Customer Service (FAX)  | 877-432-9624   |
| Customer Service email: | <a href="mailto:crs-cs@wcom.com">crs-cs@wcom.com</a> |

## WHAT'S NEW AT DDTP (NOW TADD)

By Phil Kaplan, TADDAC Chair

The **name has been changed** from DDTP (Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program) to TADD (Telecommunications Access for the Deaf and Disabled).

**Phil Kaplan**, San Fernando Valley Chapter of SHHH, has been named Chair of the TADD Administrative Committee as of July 1, 2003.

We now have **three SHHH members** serving on TADD. Besides **Phil Kaplan**, **Cecilia Hartley** represents us on CRSAC (California Relay) and **Karen Street** on EPAC (Equipment program)

Your telephone is a social connection, your link to family, friends and workplace, even a lifeline when you need help. If using the telephone has become difficult, it's time to get in touch with the California Telephone Access Program (CTAP). There are products and services available that can make using the phone easy again, all free of charge to any California resident who has phone service and completes an easy certification form. There is no income requirement.

Specialized devices will allow you to turn up the volume, alert you to incoming calls, display conversation in text, use the California Relay Service to assist in understanding, remember numbers and more.

This program is funded by a small surcharge that appears on all Californians' telephone bills. The money collected from this surcharge pays for both the equipment loan program and the California Relay Service (CRS). This surcharge appears on your telephone bill as "California Relay Service and Communication Devices Fund."

On August 11, 2003, TADD opened its seventh walk in service center in Burbank. Service centers are available to help qualified consumers with their telecommunications needs by offering equipment suited for the hard of hearing or deaf. They

will also exchange equipment if your current equipment is not working properly. The centers are open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Call Carol Jones, Supervisor at (818) 569-7130 (voice) or (818) 569-7140 (TTY) for more information about the Burbank service center.

### Here are the seven service centers in California.

**CTAP Burbank Service Center** (opened August 11, 2003)

303 N. Glenoaks Blvd., Suite 130, Burbank, CA 91502

**CTAP Fresno Service Center**

1320 East Shaw, Suite 130, Fresno, CA 93710

**CTAP Oakland Service Center**

1970 Broadway, Suite 650, Oakland, CA 94612

**CTAP Riverside Service Center**

6370 Magnolia Avenue, Suite 310, Riverside, CA 92506

**CTAP Sacramento Service Center**

2033 Howe Avenue, Suite 150, Sacramento, CA 95825

**CTAP San Diego Service Center**

2878 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 400, San Diego, CA 92108

**CTAP Santa Ana Service Center**

2677 North Main Street, Suite 130, Santa Ana, CA 92705

### THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

*The SHHH-CA Board of Trustees wishes to thank the following people for their generous donations.*

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### SPECIAL THANKS

to the **San Francisco SHHH Chapter** for their \$1,000 donation to this newsletter.

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Thank you, Kaiser Permanente, for your Community Grant of \$5,000 to support our newsletter, and for working to make your HMO communications accessible to hard of hearing people.

- Blessed are the flexible for they shall not get bent out of shape.
- Only those who risk going too far will ever know how far they can go.
- For every problem there is a solution that is simple, neat and wrong.
- Winners make their goals; losers make excuses.
- To disagree, one doesn't have to be disagreeable.
- Accept that some days you are the pigeon, and some days you are the statue.
- **Be kind. Every person you meet is fighting a hard battle.**

## *Coping... with Carol*

by Carol Waechter, M.S., Psychologist

### Part 2 of two parts

**COPING STYLES OF SPOUSES OR SIGNIFICANT OTHERS.** Just as there are coping styles by people with hearing losses, there are also different styles of coping by spouses or significant others as they deal with their loved ones' hearing losses. How each person deals with his/her spouse's loss can be very important to how the relationship continues.

**PROTECTOR/MANAGER** - This person assumes the responsibility for getting what the hard of hearing spouse needs because he has a hearing loss. Answering phones, making appointments, interpreting conversations are all taken on as accepted responsibilities even in situations when assistive listening devices are readily available.

**UNINVOLVED/HANDS OFF** - This spouse lacks any concern at all. The hard of hearing individual, after all, is the person with a problem and that is who needs to learn to cope with it. This person is likely to say, "YOU have a hearing loss, so DEAL with it."

**CRITICIZER** - When there is a hearing loss within a relationship, there is bound to be breakdowns in communication. This spouse will criticize the hard of hearing individual for the breakdown by saying something like "You never listen to me!" or "You don't pay attention when I'm talking." Taking part of the responsibility for breakdowns or admitting the fact that communication is a two way street never occurs to this individual.



*Carol Waechter teaches lip reading classes for Long Beach Community College. She is a member of and Professional Advisor for the Long Beach/Lakewood SHHH*

**VICTIM** - This spouse has difficulty empathizing with the hard of hearing spouse because s/he is so wrapped up in the effect the hearing loss has on her/him. The main concern is how this individual's life has changed because the spouse has a hearing loss.

**RESIGNED/REMINISCE** - This spouse is able to look back at all the good times they have had as a couple and is resigned to the fact that all that is changed now. It is common for this spouse to be heard saying, "Oh well, we can't do what we used to. It's just not the same now that ..... has a hearing loss,"

**SUPPORTER/ENCOURAGER** - This spouse is upbeat and helps and encourages the hard of hearing individual without coddling or demeaning him/her. This spouse is aware of accommodations that must be made for good communication to take place and does his/her share in making this happen. This spouse is also aware of possible break-

downs in the communication process and develops strategies to avoid these problems.

**ACTIVIST** - This spouse is actively involved in helping all hard of hearing individuals. We often see these jewels actively supporting their hard of hearing spouses and others with hearing losses at SHHH meetings.

Spouses also have an **IN TRANSITION** stage which would include those who know their relationship is changing because of hearing loss and are doing their best to learn how to cope with this adjustment but haven't settled into one style yet.

### IN MEMORIAM, DANIEL LING, O.C., Ph.D., 1926 – 2003

**Daniel Ling**, co-founder of Auditory-Verbal International (AVI) died August 9, 2003.

**Dr. Ling's** contribution to the field of deafness and to the lives of countless children who are hard of hearing or deaf is immeasurable. He will be remembered as a leader and a pioneer who was **truly dedicated to helping deaf children everywhere learn to listen and speak.**

During one of his teaching experiences, Ling encountered a young child who was deaf and was inspired to find ways to teach this student. This, and his interest in acoustics--throughout his life, he made and played his own violins, violas, and cellos with amazing acoustic quality--led him to study audiology and education of the deaf at the University of Manchester. This was the beginning of his commitment to spoken language for children who are hard of hearing or deaf. **He literally wrote the book on what is now known as Auditory-Verbal therapy, transforming**

**the landscape of speech therapy and oral deaf education forever.**

Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Ling was involved in many national and international committees concerned with human communication. In the 1970s, he was appointed as a Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), served as president of AG Bell in the early 1980s, and co-founded Auditory-Verbal International (AVI). He has received numerous honors and awards for his teaching and research including an appointment as an Arkansas Traveler from former U.S. President Bill Clinton. For his original contributions to the field of deafness and his extraordinary international work with children with hearing loss, Dr. Ling was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1999.

Dr Ling's life-long legacy has been to teach deaf children to listen and speak. We will miss him.



## WRITE A LETTER/EMAIL ASK YOUR U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO COSPONSOR HR 3103 Want 100 Cosponsors. Only 12 so far

Please contact your U.S. Representative and urge him/her to co-sponsor Bill HR 3103. To find the name of your U.S. Representative, go to [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) and enter your zip code. To phone your representative, call U.S. Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121.

To see the wording of this bill or to check to see whether or not your representative has signed on as a cosponsor, go to <http://thomas.loc.gov>, click on Bill Summary & Status, enter HR 3103, click on Cosponsors.

U.S. Representative Jim Ryun (R-KS) introduced HR 3103, the Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act, which will provide a tax credit of up to \$500 per device toward the purchase of hearing aids (\$1000 for two). A tax credit, unlike a tax deduction, is a dollar for dollar amount. The tax credit may be taken by an individual age 55 or older or by their dependent child or parent and may be used once every five years. This bill has no restrictions on what type of hearing aid or professional provider the consumer may select.

Co-sponsoring the bill are Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY), Rep. Jim Walsh, (R-NY), and Rep. Donald Payne (D-NJ). Rep. Ryun, a former Olympic miler, is well known to SHHH members for his "early morning runs with Jim Ryun" at past SHHH conventions. A hearing aid user himself, Rep. Ryun is aware of the benefits and is taking the lead in making them more available.

**This is a very important bill.** H.R. 3103 is a good first step in the process of getting coverage for hearing aids. It brings Federal recognition and credibility to hearing aids and their benefits. **We need to get a foot in the door and this is a start.**

Here is a sample letter/email

The Honorable (full name)

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr./ Mrs./ Ms Last Name:

I support H.R. 3103, the Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act, and ask that you co-sponsor it.

We need a special tax treatment for hearing aids because they are not covered by Medicare and most insurances. While 95% of individuals with hearing loss could be successfully treated with hearing aids, only 22% currently use them. The average out of pocket expense for two hearing aids today is over \$2,800, and thousands of people are unable to afford them.

(Use this paragraph to describe your own experience with hearing aids, why they are so important to you, and the burden the high costs place on your and your family.)

I strongly support this Bill because it would bring the benefit of hearing aids to close to two million people with hearing loss - those over the age of 55 and dependent children.

Please show leadership on this issue and co-sponsor H. R. 3103. Thank you very much.

Your name, title, SHHH chapter

## H.R. 3103, HEARING AID ASSISTANCE TAX CREDIT ACT TALKING POINTS

**What would H.R. 3103, the Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act, do?**

- Provide a tax credit of up to \$500 per hearing aid, available once every 5 years, towards the purchase of such hearing aid, available to: 1) individuals age 55 and over, or 2) those purchasing a hearing aid for a dependent.

**Why do we need this special tax treatment for hearing aids?**

- While 95% of individuals with hearing loss could be successfully treated with hearing aids, only 22% (6.35 million Americans) currently use them according to the most recent 'MarkeTrak' report, the largest national consumer survey on hearing loss in America.
- It is estimated that there are 28 million Americans with hearing loss. Included in this figure are 1 million children under the age of 18 with a diagnosed hearing loss who are not now using a hearing aid, and around 9.7 million Americans age 55 and over.
- 40% of individuals with hearing loss have incomes of less than \$30,000 per year. A Department of Commerce study indicates that the overall family income of people with hearing loss is almost half that of the general population.
- **30% of those with hearing loss cite financial constraints as a core reason they do not use hearing aids**, according to a MarkeTrak report.
- The average cost for a hearing aid in 2002 was over \$1,400, and almost 2/3 of individuals with hearing loss require two devices, thereby increasing the average out of pocket expense to over \$2,800.
- Hearing aids are not covered under Medicare, or under the vast majority of state mandated benefits. In fact, 71.4% of hearing aid purchases involve no third party payments, which places the entire burden of the hearing aid purchase on the consumer, according to 'MarkeTrak'.

**What is the extent of the problem with hearing loss in this country?**

- Hearing loss is the most prevalent birth defect in America today, affecting 2-3 infants per 1,000 births. 1.2 million children under age 18 have a hearing loss.
- For adults, hearing loss usually occurs more gradually, but increases dramatically with age, with 10 million older Americans experiencing age-related hearing loss.
- According to "Healthy People 2010", an HHS-led program to address America's health needs, another 10 million young adults and working aged Americans have noise-induced hearing loss. A primary objective of Healthy People 2010 is to *'increase the number of deaf or hard-of-hearing people who use adaptive devices, such as hearing aids.'* HR 943 is one of the most practical and cost-effective tools government can use to accomplish this goal.

**What is the cost impact of untreated hearing loss?**

- **Children** who do not receive early intervention cost schools an additional \$420,000 and are faced with overall lifetime costs of \$1 million in special educa-

(Continued on page 8)

## H.R. 3103 TALKING POINTS

(Continued from page 7)

tion, lost wages, and health complications, according to a respected 1995 study published in the Intl. Journal of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology.

- For **workers**, noise induced hearing loss is the most common occupational disease and the second most self-reported occupational injury.
- Studies estimate a 50-70% **reduction of income** received for workers with untreated hearing loss as compared to that received by their non-hearing impaired peers.
- For **seniors**, untreated hearing loss causes additional costs to Medicare and other health programs due to loss of independence, social isolation, depression, safety issues, and quality of life. The Senate Special Committee on Aging, in Senate Report 107-74, noted: "As the wave of seniors begins to experience age-related disability, our current long term care system will not be able to support this demographic shift." Hearing aids help enable seniors to retain their independence and avoid other long-term care costs.
- In 1999, the **National Council on the Aging (NCOA)** conducted the largest known study on the effects of untreated hearing loss among adults and their families. The study quantified both the negative results of untreated hearing loss and the positive impact of hearing instruments on an individual's quality of life. It found that impaired hearing results in distorted communication, greater isolation, withdrawal, reduced sensory input, depression, anger, and severely reduced overall psychological health. Conversely, **hearing aid usage among those with hearing loss was found to significantly impact the following areas:**
  - Increased earnings power, of around 50%;
  - Enhanced emotional and mental stability and reduced anger, anxiety, depression and paranoia;
  - Improved health status and less incidence of pain;
  - Reduced social phobias and improved interpersonal relationships.

### What is the potential utilization of H.R. 3103?

Currently 1.28 million Americans of all ages purchase hearing aids each year, with some individuals requiring two devices, bringing the total number of hearing aids purchased across all age groups to approximately 2 million. This number has remained constant over recent years.

H.R. 3103 would provide a potential benefit to a population of around 2 million individuals, many of whom cite financial reasons as the primary barrier to treatment, and would be available only once every 5 years. H.R. 3103 is not intended to cover the full cost of hearing aids, but will simply provide some measure of financial assistance to the groups who are most in need of these devices but are unable to afford them: those approaching or in retirement, and families with children.

### Who supports this bill?

This bipartisan initiative is supported by the Hearing Industries Association, Self-Help for Hard of Hearing People, and the American Academy of Audiology.

## LEGISLATION – CAPTIONING THANK YOU, SENATOR KARNETTE All videos used in grades K – 12 must be captioned

Another victory! Slowly but surely we are gaining communications accessibility. Hard of hearing people want every single video captioned. SB 842, introduced by **Senator Betty Karnette**, D-Long Beach, asking that Universal Design be applied to all instructional materials is now law.

**For hard of hearing students, this means that all videos used in grades K – 12 shall be captioned after January 1, 2005.**

Existing law imposes requirements upon publishers of instructional materials. **This bill would require publishers to also apply universal design.**

Section 60061.8 is added to the Education Code, to read:

**(a) (2) All video products designed for pupils in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12 inclusive, shall be closed-captioned.**

To read this bill in its entirety, go to [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov) **Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH)**, the largest consumer organization of Hard of Hearing people in the United States, thanks Senator Karnette for introducing SB 842 and getting it passed.

## LOUISIANA GIVES HEARING AID COVERAGE TO SENIORS

Act 1182 allows the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf to distribute hearing aids using the 5 cent tax collected each month from each telephone line.

This Louisiana State program offering **full coverage for hearing aids to seniors** in Louisiana has become extremely successful. The entire budget was exhausted in just a few months. In the first five months of 2003, 700 seniors received hearing aid assistance from the program administered by the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf.

The program is targeted towards **hearing impaired people with a documented loss of 40 dB or greater, aged 50 or older with a maximum income of \$29,850 for couples or \$22,150 for singles**. The program enables seniors who could not otherwise afford it to get hearing aids. The state of Louisiana allocated \$750,000 to the first six months of the project.

"It's such a popular thing because we are the only agency that these elderly, needy people can go to for help with hearing aids. Medicare does not provide hearing aids for seniors", said **Jan Faulkner**, Louisiana Commission for the Deaf, executive director.

Jan Faulkner expects a high number of hearing aid requests when further financing becomes available after the first of July.

Source: *Shreveport Times*, May 5, 2003.



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*Both the Chapters and Desks are  
current as of November, 2003.  
for changes/additions email:  
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*Desks are volunteers with expertise in subjects that interest hard of hearing people. They will answer your questions, give advice or just lend an ear, depending on your specific needs.*

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### To start a new SHHH group

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## THINGS TO DO

### 1) RENEW/SUBSCRIBE TO YOUR NEWSLETTER, ONLY \$7

Please make your check payable to SHHH-CA and mail to Grace Tiessen, 714 Prospect Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91103.

### 2) JOIN/RENEW SHHH NATIONAL ONLY \$25 FOR INDIVIDUAL/COUPLE/FAMILY

#### How do I know if I am a member of SHHH-National?

You are a member of National if you receive the bi-monthly *Hearing Loss Journal*.

You can sign up online at our secure site, [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org), click "Join or renew" in left hand column. Or make a check payable to SHHH and mail to SHHH, 7910 Woodmon Ave., Suite 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814.

### 3) PLEASE MAKE A GIFT TO SHHH.

I would like to contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_.

**What a difference SHHH has made in my life!** Just imagine a life without amplified telephones. Or a life without closed captioning. Or a life without assistive listening devices. Do you remember not knowing what to tell people about how to help you understand what they were saying?

We need to **keep SHHH National financially healthy** and working on our behalf. SHHH is not a manufacturing plant that can sell a packaged product. We're not a Wal-Mart or a Home Depot. We're simply a not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to make it possible for you, for me, and for thousands of other people with hearing loss to lead full and productive lives

**Please make your contribution on-line at [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org) or send a check to SHHH, 7910 Woodmont Ave, #1200, Bethesda, MD, 20814.**

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SHHH-California publishes *The SHHH Californian* quarterly in mid February, May, August and November

**Demographics.** Our database consists of 3200 records: 1200 SHHH members, 1300 California audiologists, 100 California Department of Rehabilitation Hard of Hearing or Deaf Counselors, 100 Itinerant Teachers of the Hard of Hearing or Deaf, 30 Office of Deaf Access regional/outreach centers and others interested in hard of hearing issues.

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Submissions for the Spring 2004 issue are due no later than January 15, 2004, and should be sent to [gtiessen@shhh.org](mailto:gtiessen@shhh.org). Inclusion and/or editing will be at the full discretion of the Editor.





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## **BALLOT ENCLOSED**

**(See Page One)**

**You must be a paid-up member of  
National SHHH in order to VOTE  
Deadline: December 31, 2003**

## **SELF HELP FOR HARD OF HEARING PEOPLE, INC.**

*Supporting SHHH Chapters throughout California.*

### **Who We Are**

Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, Inc. is an international, non-sectarian, educational, consumer organization of hard of hearing people, their relatives and friends. It is devoted to the welfare and interests of those who cannot hear well but are committed to participating in the hearing world.

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SHHH-CA, California State Association of Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, is affiliated with the national organization headquartered in Bethesda, MD. Both are non-profit and tax-exempt. The SHHH-CA Tax ID number is 77-0033506 Anyone residing in California who has joined our national organization is a member of SHHH-CA.

### **Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, Inc.**

is the largest consumer organization of hard of hearing people in the United States.

### **Our Mission Statement:**

To open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support and advocacy.

### **Watch your websites for the latest news.**

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