

WORKSHOPS & PRESENTERS

The SaywhatClubconvention is a wonderful opportunity to meet and socialize with others who know what life is like with hearing loss. However, that's not all our convention offers! There is an abundance of good information and insight to be mined from our workshops and presentations.

Scroll down the page to read about our scheduled workshops.

VENDOR INTRODUCTIONS & UPDATES

Thursday, August 5th

1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

TBD: Our first workshop on Thursday afternoon will highlight our vendors. Each will give a short introduction and update for their respective company and/or product.

NOTE: At this time, some information is incomplete, check back frequently for updates to this page. You can find a basic schedule with dates and times of workshops [here](#).

Thursday, August 5th
3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

**Pittsburgh Center for
Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

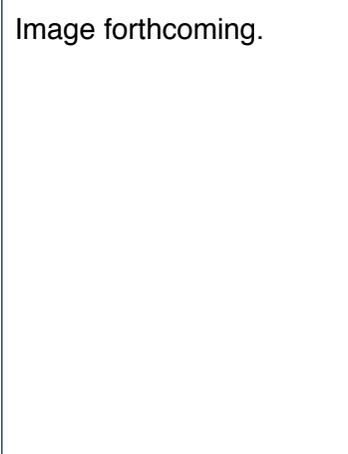
Presenter:
Patricia Maurer

Information forthcoming.

DESCRIPTION

PRESENTER: PATRICIA MAUER

Image forthcoming.



Thursday, August 5th
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

OFFICER, HERE'S MY SIGN!

Presenter:
Cathy Zimmerman

It's a common fear of hard of hearing drivers: What will happen if the police pull us over and we can't hear the directions they give us? Miscommunication in this situation can have tragic consequences.

DESCRIPTION

The presentation will focus on our Highway Hearing Safety cards, a useful card to attach to a vehicle's sun visor to let others know the driver may not hear them when loud traffic whizzes past. During the talk, we'll tell how and why Hear Fayette volunteers took on the task, how we got rolling, who helped, how we made the final product, how it may help others, and how we got the cards into the hands of people who need them.

PRESENTER: CATHY ZIMMERMAN



Cathy Zimmerman has spent a lifetime of 70-plus years residing in rural towns of southwestern Pennsylvania, doing what she loves best: taking care of her family, gardening, writing, and laughing. She describes her hearing as "gone," but does hear music and sounds (mostly the annoying ones). She reads lips, has two hearing aids to match her hair color, and has been learning sign language for over ten years. In 2009, she graduated from Penn State Fayette and began a program for other people who have hearing loss. It was the first such program in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, and it continues to help persons who lost their hearing or have never heard at all. She embraces the Deaf population and feels so much more comfortable among people who communicate in whatever way they can.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:

Friday, August 6th
8:45 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

What hard of hearing
people need to know

Presenter:
Kay Tyberg

Information forthcoming.

DESCRIPTION

PRESENTER: KAY TYBERG

Image forthcoming



Friday, August 6th 10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. **MAX YOUR MICS: An introduction to several hearing assistive microphones**

**Presenter:
Chris Doig**

Many of us use remote microphones (mics) to help us hear what people say to us. Phonak makes an assortment of “Roger mics” that people with hearing loss can use to improve their speech understanding in noise and over distance. These mics can be used with most hearing instruments (hearing aids, Bone Anchored Hearing Aids (BAHA's) and cochlear Implants) and are not Phonak specific. They can also be used with hearing instruments made by other manufacturers, such as Resound, Oticon, and Cochlear America, to name a few. Many of these mics can be linked together to form groups (often called a network), thus increasing the benefit of a single remote mic.

DESCRIPTION

This workshop will provide an overview of 9 different Roger microphones and will demonstrate how they might be used. In most applications an additional component called a Roger receiver is required to be able to hear the audio from the mics. These receivers come in several forms. This workshop will introduce the receivers and will illustrate how they can be coupled with various manufacturers’ devices. Multiple people with hearing loss can listen to one microphone network, which is a benefit for groups of people with hearing loss who are gathered together. All those who have trouble hearing with their basic hearing instruments alone or with one remote mic will find something of value in this workshop.

PRESENTER: CHRIS DOIG



Chris Doig is a volunteer N-CHAT (Network of Consumer Hearing Assistive Technology Trainer) for the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA). She is a member of the Association of Late Deafened Adults (ALDA). She is Vice President of the Montgomery County, PA HLAA Chapter and serves on the HLAA PA advisory board. She has bilateral sensorineural hearing loss and wears 2 hearing aids. She enjoys flying airplanes and spending time with family/ friends and her 3 cats!

pathVu Navigation: A mobile app for accessible pedestrian directions

Friday, August 6th
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Presenter:
Eric Sinagra

There are approximately 4.1 million miles of sidewalk in the United States, most of which are unmapped. Cities often don't know where their sidewalks are located nor their condition. Typical navigation apps use the road network when suggesting routes to users, assuming there is a sidewalk on both sides. These apps do not consider the user's ability to navigate nor the accessibility of those routes.

DESCRIPTION

This session will provide an overview of a new app called pathVu Navigation, which focuses on pedestrian navigation for all users, of any ability. Unlike typical navigation apps, pathVu Navigation uses the sidewalk network, condition of the route, and the user's customized settings when suggesting routes. This session will explore the various features of the app, upcoming features to be included, and allow you to share your opinion on desired features. You will learn how you can use the app in the Pittsburgh area throughout this conference.

PRESENTER: ERIC SINAGRA



Eric Sinagra is CEO and Co-Founder of pathVu, a Pittsburgh startup whose mission is to map the world's sidewalks to improve accessibility and walkability. Eric has a Master's in Rehabilitation Science and Technology from the University of Pittsburgh, where his research focused on how sidewalks affect wheelchair user comfort. In 2014, Eric started pathVu in order to help people with disabilities get around the community safely and accessibly. His passion for this work comes from friends and family members who have a disability, including: his brother Nick (pathVu Director of Technology, wheelchair user), his father-in-law Greg (blind), and pathVu co-founder Jon (wheelchair user).