The SaywhatClub convention 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](#).
Since the early 2000’s efforts have been underway to make hearing loops the go-to assistive technology for users of hearing aids and cochlear implants. But what is the future of hearing loops? Is a new public digital wireless streaming technology on the horizon?

DESCRIPTION

This session will give a progress report of the looping of America and try to answer the question whether hearing loops have a future when the whole world seems to be going digital. A timeframe of when a digital Wireless Interface for Hearing Instruments replacement technology might go mainstream, will be discussed. No matter the type of assistive technology – without advocacy nothing will change; that’s why some practical advocacy tools will be shared.

PRESENTER: Juliëtte Sterkens, AuD

Dutch born audiologist Juliëtte Sterkens has 40+ years of experience in the field of audiology and hearing rehabilitation. She is on her encore career as a consumer and hearing loop advocate for the Hearing Loss Association of America. In this capacity she lectures to consumers and hearing professionals and supports anyone who wants to foster a loop in their personal house of worship, or in local public spaces. She is a member of Get in the Hearing Loop (GITHL) National Taskforce, member at large of the WI State Chapter of HLAA Board and serves on the board of the Hear in the Fox Cities; a non-profit that helps pay for hearing aids for children and teens in NE, Wisconsin.

Following a successful career in private practice in Oshkosh Wisconsin, Dutch born audiologist Dr. Juliëtte Sterkens is on her encore career as the Hearing Loss Association of America’s professional hearing loop advisor. In this capacity, she ardently advocates for inclusion of and properly programmed telecoils in hearing aids and cochlear implants, the installation of hearing loop systems that meet IEC 60118-4, as well as other T-coil compatible assistive technology, to permit universal hearing access for consumers with hearing loss, the world over.
Tall Tales about Hearing Loss and the Story of Pittsburgh’s “H”

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

**Presenter:** Angie Fuoco

**DESCRIPTION**

This guided session will be about you and your stories as much as you want it to be. Tell your tallest tale about hearing loss in 5 minutes or less, be it hilarious or horrifying!

This means you get 5 minutes to tell your best hearing loss story (true and “embellishing” details are welcome!). Practice is advised! Practice in the mirror, with your spouse, or with someone who hasn't heard your story before. Angie will be using Toastmasters’ timing rules which require wrap-up at the designated time, unless the audience permits.

Angie will cover the “rules” at the beginning of the hour and see who wants to “tell all.” She’ll also bookend the session with her hilarious and horrifying story that relates to the picture of her that you see here. And the story of the Pittsburgh “H”...

**PRESENTER: Angie Fuoco**

Angie is a self-described Abilities Evangelist. She has been a SWCer since 2016 and was invited to lead a workshop at the 2017 SWC convention in Savannah. When she’s not working for the EPA, she talks about disability and hearing loss awareness as much as she can, anywhere in the world. Most recently, she served on a 2021 “Humor in Hearing Loss” panel, sponsored by HLAA-AZ Working Adults and Utah Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services.

This will be her first interactive workshop where YOU take part by telling tales as Angie keeps time and allows us to “roll on the floor laughing” if the stories call for it. So be kind... and get ready for some fun and a lesson or two!
Are you prepared when an emergency happens? At other emergency trainings, did the speaker talk about adaptive needs for the person with hearing loss or disability? While asleep at night without your hearing aid or cochlear implant on, can you hear the smoke detector go off? Time is a precious commodity in surviving...life or death unexpected situations! People with hearing loss overlook emergency preparedness. This session will present how you can be better prepared without chaos and panic.

DESCRIPTION

This workshop will discuss how people with hearing loss can plan and prepare in an emergency. Mother Nature has her own elements - fires, floods, tornados, hurricanes, mudslides, earthquakes, and collapse of bridges/dams happen depending on your geographical location. Today's society there are additional scenarios like active shooters, terrorists, carjacking, gang related incidents, shootings, etc. Have a plan in place before disaster strikes through hearing assistive technology devices, alerting apps, “Go Kit”, and personal necessities to have ready for your safety up to three days or more. Join us for this interactive presentation.

PRESENTER: Annita “Kay” Tyberg

“Kay” Tyberg was born with sensorineural hearing loss in the left ear and profoundly deaf in the right ear. In 2008, Kay became profoundly deaf in three days. Kay is fluent in several communication mode - sign language, speech reading, cued speech, and others. Kay’s lifelong inspiration and passion is ensuring people with hearing loss, their families/guardians, and the public seek appropriate resources and information to make sound decisions about his/her hearing loss in the various stages. Kay teaches sign language to the public. Kay attended Gallaudet University, Mercy College/New York, The Union Institute University, and Pennsylvania College of Technology with degrees in Management Information Systems, Human Resources, Business Administration with minors in Psychology and Physical Education. She is involved in various organizations; ALDA, PSAD, SILC, CILSCPA, TRS/PUC, HLAA-Blair County PA Chapter president, PATF, PA State Ombudsman, etc. Kay and her husband, Dr. Thomas Tyberg have four adult children and 10 grandchildren. They reside outside of Altoona, Pennsylvania.
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-CHATT (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!
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).