
◊ Hear's the News ◊

The Official Newsletter of the Iowa Hearing Association

Winter 2024



IHA Spring Conference

April 26, 2024
West Des Moines Marriott
West Des Moines, IA

AAA Conference

April 17-20, 2024
Atlanta, GA

IHS Convention

September 12 - 14, 2024
Louisville, KY

IHA Fall Conference

Sept. 27, 2024
Sheraton
West Des Moines, IA

*Mark your
calendars now
and plan to attend*

From the President's Pen

Another year is upon us! It seems 2023 came and went like a flash.

It is a privilege and an honor to serve as president of the Iowa Hearing Association. I am following in the steps of great leadership and am excited to work with our board of talented passionate hearing care providers. I thank the presidents before me and feel very fortunate to have such wonderful mentors to learn from. As I start my 18th year in this field and my 17th year with this association, I look back at all the changes we have seen come about in our industry. From sophisticated advancements in technology, OTC hearing aids, third-party influences, fighting to protect licensure, and a pandemic, we have seen our share of growth and challenges.

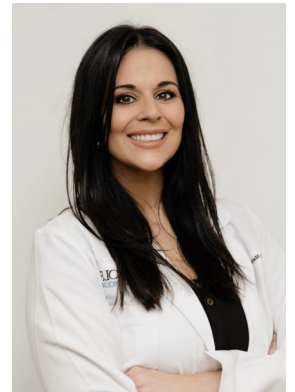
Despite challenges that have come our way, there is one thing we all share and that is the drive to help others. In recent years we've gotten further confirmation that the impact of what we do goes beyond just better hearing but improves quality of life and the wellbeing and health of those whom we treat. We are not a simple commodity; we supply a skilled service that offers ongoing care and support to those in need. We are reconnecting families and helping our patients regain confidence to continue participating in the daily activities that they love. We don't stop there, we continue to guide, support, and educate those patients, families, and the public.

The Iowa Hearing Association is a place where we can grow our trade, network with people who share our passion for audiology, and learn from some of the best in our industry. IHA is more than just a place to gain your CEUs, it is a place to sharpen our skills and feel confident knowing you are members of an organization dedicated to protecting the integrity and ethics of this rewarding field. My goal is to help maintain these high standards and show you, the members, why it is important for us to stay united within this great association. We owe it to our patients to stay up-to-date with changes in our industry on both a state and international level.

As we move into 2024, I want to hear from you. What concerns or questions do you have? What would you like to see brought to our spring and fall conferences? And can we improve and give you more from the IHA? I look forward to your feedback.

Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your president. I am excited and looking forward to seeing all of you at our spring meeting on April 26th at the Marriott Hotel in West Des Moines. See you soon!

Sincerely,
Amy M. Melik-Israyelyan



Silent Auction at Spring Conference

Once again IHA will sponsor a silent auction at our Spring Conference. We ask members, venders, and manufacturers to donate items for the silent auction.

Need ideas? Items donated in the past included hearing aids, a hearing aid cleaner, gift baskets, gift cards, a portable hearing loop, one night at a national chain hotel, a national conference package with free registration and much, much more.



Participants enjoyed this event and bids and donations brought our association revenues. The Silent Auction event was a success and will be a part of the 2024 Spring Conference.

Plan ahead! It's not too early to start considering what you may want to submit to the silent auction this year. For more information call the IHA office at 515-778-1288 or email apmsthomas@aol.com.

Welcome New Members

Mallory Bremer
Carroll, IA

Deborah Dyer
Galesburg, IL

Nathan Whipple
Sioux City, IA

Connor Collins
North Liberty, IA

Anthony Finn
Mason City, IA

Blasi Whitehead
Fairmont, MN



Anna Vandenberg
Polk City, IA

Amanda Wilson
Rochester, MN

Receive Benefits of 2024 Dues

Please remember to send in your IHA 2024 dues if you have not done so. The membership directory will be published in May and sent out through email.

IHA members receive discounted registration fees for Spring and Fall conventions.

IHA publishes a biannual newsletter and an annual membership directory. IHA also monitors the Iowa Legislature for legislation of interest to hearing health professionals.



Mark Your Calendars Now

**IHA Spring
Conference and
Auction**

April 26, 2024

**Marriott Hotel
West Des Moines**

IHA Board of Directors

President
Amy Melik-Israyelyan
Wolfe Clinic
1140 S 5th St., C5
Polk City, IA 50226

President Elect
Vacant

Treasurer
Steve Harrison
Miracle Ear
921 Blairs Ferry Road NE, Ste. 110
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
1-319-378-8077

Secretary
Annette Redman
New Sound Hearing
2401 B 4th St. SW
Waverly, IA 50677
319-774-5366

Past President
Cory Popelka
Miracle Ear
921 Blairs Ferry Road NE, Ste. 110
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
1-319-378-8077

Director at Large
Greg Moore
Moore Hearing Clinic
1317 N. Court
Ottumwa, IA 52501
515-276-6122

Director at Large
Robyn Nepper (Ritchey)
Wolfe Clinic
309 E Church St.
Marshalltown, IA 50158
641-754-6263

Director at Large
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Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
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Director at Large
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Beltone of Iowa
3717 Center Point Rd. NE, Ste. 200
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
319-393-8994

Director at Large
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Beltone of Iowa
Miracle Ear
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515-278-2517

Executive Director
Bev Thomas
1001 Office Park Rd., Suite 105
West Des Moines, IA 50265
515-778-1288

IHA Payment Options Expand

The Iowa Hearing Association has added a new payment option for yearly dues and conference registration payment. You may now pay with Venmo.



Choose Iowa Hearing Association@IHAexecutivedirector to use Venmo for your payment.

You may also pay by charge card by calling the office at 515-778-1288. Mastercard and Visa are accepted. A 5% processing fee will be added to all charges.



Checks and money orders should be made out to Iowa Hearing Association and mailed to IHA, PO Box 71604, Clive, IA 50325

Check out the IHA website at Iowahearingassociation.org
For conference information

Support the Iowa Lions Hearing Aid Bank



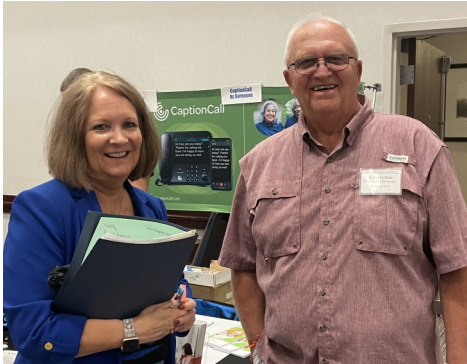
Used hearing aids may be given to your local Lions Club or mailed to:

Iowa Lions Club
c/o Brent and Dawn Janssen
23146 Newell Avenue, Allison, IA 50602

All hearing aids are accepted with sincere appreciation.
(Your donation may be considered a tax deduction.)

IHA Fall Conference Highlights

September 26, 2023
Sheraton Hotel, West Des Moines, IA



IOWA HEARING ASSOCIATION
DISPENSER OF THE YEAR AWARD
- Nomination Form -

*Please submit this form by April 1, 2024 to IHA Office,
PO Box 71604, Clive, Iowa 50325*

I wish to nominate the following person for Dispenser of the Year:

Nominee's Name _____ Business/Company _____

Address _____

Background on Nominee _____

Reasons for Nominating _____

Additional Outstanding Characteristics _____

Nomination submitted by: (Optional)

Name _____ Company or Business _____

Address _____ Signature _____

Calibration at Spring Conference



What could be more convenient — you're not at work, and your audiometer needs to be calibrated — you attend the seminars and pick up your machine when the conference is over. Remember, you are required by the State Health Department to have your audiometers calibrated once a year. Bring your audiometers to the spring conference.

**Nominating Criteria for
Iowa Hearing Association
*Dispenser of the Year Award***

The Dispenser of the Year Award is designed to honor an individual who has demonstrated distinction in the field of Hearing Aid Dispensing Services, regardless of how significant that contribution might be. The following criteria outlines the categories of distinction which should be considered when nominating an individual for this award.

Years of Service: Nominees should have at least 5 years of distinguished service to the field of hearing aid dispensing.

Performance: Nominees should have distinction in the performance on the job as well as service beyond the standard requirements of the job.

Leadership: Nominee's accomplishments should demonstrate how their contribution is notable and deserving of recognition by the Iowa Hearing Association. Nominees should have a record of providing service to the field such as: offices held, committee memberships, teaching roles, research contribution, special projects, community involvement and exposure, ease of access for patient care, or contributions to policy or the dispensing practice. The nominee should demonstrate knowledge, a positive image and offer distinguished representation to the field as a whole.

Standing: A nominee must hold an Iowa Hearing Aid License and should be a member in good standing of the Iowa Hearing Association. If applicable, Nominees should encourage their staff to be member of the Iowa Hearing Association. A nominee should never have any formal charges filed against them by the Professional Licensure Board.

No more than one award may be given per year. The Dispenser of the Year Award may be given posthumously.

One Dispenser of the Year Award may be presented during the Spring Iowa Hearing Association Conference. Once an individual is awarded this honor, that individual can still be eligible to receive another Dispenser of the Year Award.

To nominate an individual for this distinguished honor please submit a letter or email summarizing the nominees accomplishments as outlined above, to the Executive Director of the Iowa Hearing Association, 1001 Office Park Rd., Suite 105, West Des Moines, IA 50265, (apmsthomas@aol.com). The Executive Director will submit all nominations to the Iowa Hearing Association Board.

Plan to Attend The IHA Spring Conference



April 26, 2024

West Des Moines Marriott • West Des Moines, Iowa

❖ Continuing Education

❖ Speakers

❖ Professional Networking

❖ Trade Show

Purpose of the Iowa Hearing Association

- To promote the welfare insofar as hearing is concerned, of the hearing impaired.
- To coordinate, promote and advance the program of this corporation and others in similar work.
- To provide a unified voice within and for those actively and principally engaged in the practice of selling and fitting hearing aids.
- To provide communications among members of the professions.
- To improve the methods of fitting and using hearing aids.
- To enforce among its members the Code of Ethics of the hearing aid industry and many state or federal laws and regulations that apply to the profession.
- To cooperate with the medical profession and all other ethical professional groups engaged in aural rehabilitation.
- To promote and encourage an effective program of public education as to benefits of the use of hearing aids.