

JULY 2012 MEETING-MEMBER STORIES

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ANOTHER SUN CITY LOOPING OPPORTUNITY-NEW SUN CITY THEATER BUILDING PROJECT

RECENT EMAIL

Good evening Gary,

As chairman of the Linda Day Performing Arts Foundation, I would like to thank you for your interest in this project. While we still have many items to address, I am confident that the community will support our efforts to make this new building a reality. [The hearing loop is definitely an item that will be addressed as we get into the planning for the entire sound system.](#) Keep on reading about the project and [I feel certain we will make this a part of the sound system to reach more potential patrons for our shows and make going to the theater an enjoyable experience.](#)

Dave Lovelace

- HELPFUL SIGNATURE-EMAILS AND FORUMS:

On Forum posts, in Emails and other communications with other's having a hearing loss it is helpful to provide the extent of your loss which could be displayed as in the following signature style:

JESSE JAMES

50-35	45-45	45-50	65-65	90-75	100-90	Mod-Profound
250	500	1K	2K	4K	6K	Hertz

Explanation:

Red=Right Ear

Blue=Left Ear

- Hearing Loss Range= Normal (0-20dB) Mild (20--40dB) Moderate (40-60dB) Moderately Severe (60-70dB) Severe 70-90dB) Profound (90+dB)

MEETING:

The scheduled meeting presentation included **the following presenters:**

STEVE FOUGHT (New Member-Hearing Aid User-VP Sun City Board-Advocate for Hearing Solutions-Not In Profile Gp)

Steve described having **made a presentation in an ancient theater located in Florence, Italy that he called the "Perfect Theater" where the acoustics were so perfect that a sound**

amplification system was not necessary and Steve actually said he could see the sound waves.

In a 20 year service career as a pilot in the Air Force he was required to simultaneously monitor constant chatter from four separate radios and differentiate each source which took a toll on his hearing and eventually was contributory to his current hearing difficulties, which are not with amplification but directionality and differentiating sounds. He just has difficulty determining who is talking. He wears one aid in his left ear to cope with this **problem**.

As a Hearing Solutions member and a CA Board member Steve has indicated a willingness to advocate for the interests of our group of hearing handicapped Sun City residents.

GLENN FISCHER (Profile Group-Phonak-Mild to Profound-Long History of Hearing Loss and Wearing Aids-Rates Aids and Provider S)

Glenn has a twenty history of hearing loss with nerve damage and admits to a love of bird hunting and cites "too many missed doves" with his favorite shotgun.

Like many members of the Hearing Solution group Glenn, due to circumstances beyond his control, has been forced to transaction from one provider to another for different reasons to get the programming and other services he requires for the Phonak Naida Ultra Power aids he has had for three years. He is anticipating another two-three years before technology advances will dictate new aids and indicates his aids still leave a lot to be desired and cites difficulties shared by others with profound loss.

Amplification in quite or one-on-one situations is good but word recognition when coping with competing sounds in noisy environments is very difficult particularly when listening to fast talkers or those with lazy enunciation habits.

Glenn used a recent high school reunion as an example of **where premium aids and all their special features being unable to cope. He cites the shows in Branson as an example where the theater speaker systems amplify volume to an uncomfortable level without word recognition benefit. He believes the individuals that operate the sound systems must be deaf. At the Palace Theater when using t-coils he has a constant buzzing and the amplification is so exceedingly uncomfortable his wife who has very good hearing must "stick her fingers in her ears".**

Some of the features of his aids include t-coils, five programs, volume control, directional microphones accentuated by Phonak I-Com for audio streaming and hands free cell phone use as well as a remote control but Glenn freely admits to not using these accessories often.

Glenn experiences above normal ear wax buildup which necessitates frequent cleaning of tubes and domes in addition to wax removal from his canals. He describes his general health maintenance as requiring a medical specialist for each body part and in the case of hearing loss he says there is a specialist on every street corner all ready to sell **you aids**.

His previous profession was in the electronic technologies industry provides creditability to speak on the electronic devices we describe as hearing aids.

His motivation for doing what he can for his hearing loss is his ten GRANDKIDS!

MARILYN MASON (Profile Group-Siemens-Mild to Mod Loss-Rates Aids and Provider VS)

Marilyn used to listen to Sun City friends talk about how they had hearing aids which were kept in a drawer because they could not tolerate wearing them. After realizing she had difficulty hearing, **Marilyn received testing at a local ENT to confirm her loss.**

Not exactly looking forward to shopping for hearing aids she decided to rely on positive comments she heard about Jim Cearnal at Georgetown Hearing Aid Center and scheduled a consultation visit. Marilyn states Jim is a hearing instrument specialist (HIS) who has been serving clients since 1986 at his small but adequate office across from the original Monument Café and deals with most hearing aid companies with exceptions being Miracle Ear and Beltone.

After performing a hearing test on Marilyn and discussing her personal lifestyle, Jim suggested Siemens Cielo aids which he thought a reasonably priced good choice for her situation. Marilyn says Jim is very accessible and is usually able to see someone the same day but the best part is Jim is just so low key and easy to talk to and is able to offer “good prices” due to his low overhead.

Fast forward six years and you find Marilyn still wearing her Siemens having had Jim make adjustment only twice in addition to new tubes, domes, filters, cleaning and periodic testing all without charge.

Marilyn's aids **do not have t-coils but Jim says he can add them for \$50 as he does in house repairs and other services include wax removal, in home testing and other services at no additional cost.** In response to a question Marilyn stated Jim can be reached at 863-4691 and that his web site was www.Georgetownhearingaids.com.

Marilyn is happy to tell about being able to sit at a dinner table near a performing band with dishes clanking, etc. and still able to hear conversations.

Other Impromptu Comments from Attendees:

JERRY KUPPERMAN (New Member)

Jerry, who joined the group today is a new Sun City resident having relocated from Wisconsin where he retired **from being an Audiologist and University of Wisconsin professor.**

Both Jerry and his wife wear hearing aids and he is looking forward to learning more about our group and interacting **with our 190 members. He indicated he does not have a Texas license and has nothing to sell which for some reason received a round of applause. He went on to say he would be looking forward to actively participate in our group.**

SARAH CHRISTIANSEN (Profile Group-Founding Member-Rexton-Mild to Profound-Long History of Hearing Loss and Wearing Aids-Rates Aids and Provider S)

Sarah mentioned her heredity hearing problems **and a long history of wearing aids. Although she did not mention her age, she gave it away by stating her first aids were the analog style that lived in her purse. Too many of us are well aware of the analog aid days.**

She indicated satisfaction with her \$2,600 COSTCO Rexton aids with remote that she has been wearing the last three years. Her aids have been trouble free and maintenance basically consists of annual checkups. Her aids do not have t-coils for looping.

Her biggest concerns are (1) conversations with others who talk too fast and drop their voice volume at the end of a sentence and (2) having to be careful where she sits in large meeting areas **due to acoustical conditions and proximity of sound system speakers.**

JACK DAVIDSON (Profile Group-New Aids-Mild to Severe-Long History of Hearing Loss and Wearing Aids-Rates Aids and Provider VS)

Jack Davidson mentioned that he was in the 90 day trial period of new aids purchased from COSTCO which had t-coils and rechargeable batteries. He is very pleased with his purchase at this early date. His previous aids were Zounds and he was very displeased with them.