

**HLAA-LA.
CHAPTER MEETING.
HEARING LOSS TRIVIA.
PRESENTATION BY DANNY TUBBS.
JUNE 27, 2015.
CAPTION BY JOANNE Y.**

[START 9:00 AM]

**DANNY TUBBS: OKAY. WE WILL GET STARTED.
WELCOME TO THE JUNE HLAA-LOS ANGELES CHAPTER MEETING.
THIS ROOM IS LOOPED. IF YOU HAVE A HEARING AID THAT HAS T-COIL,
TURN ON YOUR T-COIL.**

IS IT WORKING?

CAN YOU HEAR ME?

STEPHANIE: I HEAR YOU.

**DANNY TUBBS: GREAT. FANTASTIC. WELL, WE'VE GOT A BIG
GROUP TODAY. (LAUGHS) NOT REALLY. NORMALLY WE FILL THIS ROOM,
WHAT HAPPENS IS THERE'S EIGHT OF US AT THE CONVENTION. YOU GUYS
ARE LUCKY ENOUGH TO BE AT THE BEST MEETING THIS YEAR. I HOSTED
THE MEETING LAST YEAR THIS TIME, TOO. SMALL GROUP, BUT A LOT OF
FUN.**

**WE WILL START WITH SOME ANNOUNCEMENTS. AS I SAID...I'M
GOING TO DO THIS. HERE WE GO.**

**NATIONAL CONVENTION. WE GOT A LOT OF LEADERS THERE.
MY WIFE IS THERE. MY WIFE IS HARD-OF-HEARING. SHE WEARINGS
TUBING BEHIND-THE-EAR HEARING AID. MY WIFE IS ONE OF SEVEN
FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THIS LOCAL CHAPTER.**

**LAST SEPTEMBER WE HAD OUR 10TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY. SO
WE ARE ON OUR 11TH YEAR. WE HAVE A FUN GROUP. WHAT I WOULD LIKE
TO SAY IS THAT WE'VE MET SOME OF OUR BEST FRIENDS HERE. SO
WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS. JOHN AND JENNIFER. GREAT. THANK YOU
FOR COMING TODAY.**

**OKAY. AND THEN ALSO GOING DOWN HERE TO THE GREEN
AREA. COMING ON JULY 4 THERE'S A POOL PARTY AT OUR HOUSE. WE
HAVE A BIG BACKYARD WITH A POOL AND A BARBECUE AND THE CHAPTER
WILL PROVIDE HAMBURGERS AND HOT DOGS. I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S A
SIGN-UP LIST. THERE WILL BE SOON. BRING IN DESSERTS OR ANY SIDE
DISHES.**

>>TIM: I THINK THEY STARTED THAT.

**DANNY TUBBS: THEY DID. GOOD. THERE'S ALWAYS PLENTY OF
FOOD.**

**THE POOL IS HEATED BY THE WAY. JUST TO LET YOU KNOW.
WE WILL KEEP IT ABOUT 85 DEGREES.**

LET ME SEE IF I COULD...TO WORK THROUGH -- WE HAVE THE

WALK FOR HEARING -- WAS IT LAST SUNDAY? NO. BEGINNING OF THE MONTH. I'M WEARING THIS SHIRT. THIS SHIRT IS FROM LAST YEAR. IT'S A LITTLE LOOSER. WE'VE GONE EVERY YEAR. I THINK THE CHAPTER RAISED OVER \$4,000. I DON'T KNOW THE EXACT NUMBER, BUT WE GET TO KEEP 40% OF THAT. FUNDRAISING FOR LOCAL CHAPTERS IS 60% GOES TO THE NATIONAL, HELP SUPPORT THE ADVOCACY OF THE GROUP.

TIM WAS THERE. YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE EXPERIENCES?

TIM: MY FIRST TIME DOING THIS SO I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT. I WAS HELPING SETUP WITH AND EVERYTHING. I WAS AMAZED JUST ALL TYPES OF PEOPLE THERE. THE YOUNG, OLDER DIFFERENT ETHNIC GROUP. IT'S AWESOME TO SEE A WHOLE VARIETY OF PEOPLE THERE.

THE WALK WAS ENJOYABLE. IT WAS ALONG THE OCEAN. THERE'S A LOT OF GOOD ACTIVITIES AND GOOD SPIRIT THERE. I THOUGHT IT WAS VERY NEAT. I KIND OF WAS HOPING WE WOULD GET MORE EXPOSURE IN TERMS OF WHERE WE WERE WALKING. BUT A LOT OF PEOPLE STILL GOT TO SEE WHAT WE WERE DOING IF NOT FAMILIAR WITH WHAT WE WERE ABOUT.

I THINK IT WAS A GREAT SPIRIT. I REALLY ENJOYED THE EVENT AFTERWARDS. I DIDN'T HAVE A MARGARITA, BECAUSE I HAD TO DRIVE HOME.

I LOOK FORWARD IN DOING IT NEXT YEAR. ALSO A LOT OF PEOPLE HELPED ME MY CHARITY WORK. AND I GOT TO GO BACK AND TALK TO THEM ABOUT THEIR CONTRIBUTION AND HOW TO HELP OUT.

THEY IN TURN KNOW ABOUT WHAT WE ARE. I TALKED TO MY FRIENDS, THEY DON'T HAVE HEARING ISSUES BUT THEY WERE CURIOUS. AND BY KNOWING MOR, THEY KNOW WE ARE SERIOUS WITH WHAT WE ARE DOING; SO THEY WANT TO KNOW HOW THEY CAN HELP OUT TOO.

DANNY TUBBS: THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

COUPLE OF GOOD THINGS ABOUT THE WALK IS YOU HAVE EXPOSURE TO THE COMMUNITY, TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY, AND BRINGS IN MONEY FOR A GOOD CAUSE.

MARCIA.

>> MARCIA: I WAS ALSO AT THE WALK. I WAS AT THE REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT. WHAT'S INTERESTING THIS YEAR IS THEY HAD THINGS FOR CHILDREN. ALL KINDS -- THEY HAVE RIDES AND CLOWNS. THEY HAD MAGIC PEOPLE THERE. AND IT'S AMAZING HOW MANY CHILDREN THERE ARE WEARING HEARING AIDS, COCHLEAR IMPLANT. IT FLOORS ME WHEN I SEE ALL THESE YOUNGSTERS. IT'S VERY STIMULATING. I'M GLAD I WAS INVOLVED WITH THAT AND I WANT TO GO NEXT YEAR.

DANNY TUBBS: THAT'S A GOOD PRINT. IF WE HAVE A TAG LINE, IT WOULD BE "HEARING LOSS, IT'S NOT JUST FOR THE ELDERLY."

WHEN MY WIFE AND I STARTED THE GROUP, SHE WAS IN HER MID 40s, SHE USED TO HAVE THE AID COVERED WITH HER HAIR. ONE THING WE'VE LEARNED AT THE MEETING IS IT'S WHO YOU ARE. NOW, SHE HAS IT BEHIND THE EAR AND MULTICOLORED. SO IT'S NOT JUST HAPPEN

TO THE ELDERLY BUT ALL OF US.

IN THE NEWSLETTER AND IT'S POSTED IN OUR YAHOO GROUP AND OUR FACEBOOK BOOK. SO THE NEW MEMBERS GIVE ME OUR E-MAIL ADDRESSES SO I CAN ADD YOU TO OUR YAHOO GROUP AND SEE OUR NEWSLETTER.

>> FEMALE AUDIENCE: I DON'T WANT TO INTERRUPT YOU, ON MY COMPUTER WHERE IT SAYS YAHOO GROUP. I THINK I'M CONNECTING WITH THIS GROUP AND I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YAHOO GROUPS ARE.

DANNY TUBBS: YAHOO GROUPS IS FOR ANY TYPE OF INDIVIDUALS SO THEY CAN COMMUNITY WITH EACH OTHER.

I HAVE TO SAY I USE YAHOO GROUP ONLY ONCE TO SET IT UP TO WHERE THE NOTIFICATION GOES TO MY E-MAIL ADDRESS.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO TO YAHOO GROUP PAGE. ONCE YOU SET UP YOU SEND AN E-MAIL AND IT GOES TO THE GROUP.

OUR FACEBOOK PAGE, WE ALL TALK TO EACH OTHER. WE POST DIFFERENT EVENTS THAT ARE HAPPENING LIKE THE OPEN CAPTION LIVE PERFORMANCES HERE. YOU CAN GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THAT TYPE OF THING.

ALSO IT TALKS ABOUT BIRTHDAYS.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND FUN. WHO WENT TO THAT? JOHN AND WENDI, YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT. TELL US WHO WAS THERE AND WHAT YOU GUYS WERE EATING.

>> WENDI: IT WAS A GREAT GATHERING AT JOHN AND ELIZABETH'S HOUSE. WE ALL SAT OUTSIDE. I DON'T REMEMBER WHO WERE THERE. WE HAD A LOT OF FUN. BOTH, JOHN AND I, DECIDED TO HELP OUT WITH THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS. AND THEY CALLED ME TO ASK ME TO HELP OUT THE EVENT. I THOUGHT IT WAS FUNNY TO GET PHONE CALL ON A WEEKEND FROM A BIG COMPANY LIKE THAT.

DANNY TUBBS: THAT'S GOOD.

HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE AT THE PARTY?

>> I DON'T KNOW. LIKE 300? [LAUGHS]

>> 50-300.

DANNY TUBBS: THANK YOU.

OKAY. ONE OTHER THING FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS...WE ARE HAVING OUR ELECTIONS IN SEPTEMBER.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN GETTING MORE INVOLVED WITH OUR CHAPTER THINK OF NOMINATING YOURSELF. YOU NEED TO BE A MEMBER. THERE'S A \$35 A YEAR DONATION. BUT IF YOU WANT TO HELP ON THIS COMMITTEE, I'VE BEEN ON THIS COMMITTEE, WE'VE STARTED THE CHAPTER FOR 4, 5 YEARS. YOU WILL FIND OUT THAT IT'S GREAT TO HELP BUT YOU ALSO NEED A BREAK. AS NEW PEOPLE ARE COMING IN, IT'S GREAT TO BE INVOLVED IN THE CHAPTER. SEE LISA WHEN SEE GETS BACK FROM THE NATIONAL CONVENTION AND YOU CAN TALK TO HER ABOUT THAT.

I THINK, TIM, YOU ARE CONSIDERING GOING ON, RIGHT?

>> TIM: I GUESS SO.

DANNY TUBBS: YOU WILL BE A GREAT ADDITION.

>> TIM: THANK YOU.

DANNY TUBBS: SO LET'S START WITH THE PRESENTATION. COUPLE THINGS I JUST WANT TO TELL YOU. I DON'T DO THIS FOR A LIVING. I'M A CREATIVE DIRECTOR.

I DON'T HAVE A HEARING LOSS, MY WIFE DOES. I'VE BEEN AROUND THIS ORGANIZATION FOR SO LONG THAT I'VE LEARNED A COUPLE OF THINGS. TODAY'S MEETINGS IS ABOUT HEARING LOSS FACTS. SOME TRIVIA AND INTERESTING THINGS TO KNOW. SO I WENT ON THE INTERNET AND FOUND A BUNCH OF INFORMATION TO READ THROUGH AND TALK AND MAYBE SPARK A CONVERSATION THAT MAYBE IN YOUR DAILY LIFE WHEN YOU ARE DEALING WITH HEARING LOSS.

OKAY. [POWERPOINT] -- SO "HEARING LOSS IS A MAJOR PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE THAT IS THE THIRD MOST COMMON PHYSICAL CONDITION AFTER ARTHRITIS AND HEART DISEASE. (READING) --"

IT'S TALKING ABOUT MY WIFE IN HER EARLY 30s, HER HEARING STARTED GOING AWAY, AND FINALLY AT 35 SHE GOT HEARING AID. KIND OF A GRADUAL THING AT AN EARLY AGE.

MAYBE SOMEONE WANT TO SHARE WHEN DID YOUR HEARING LOSS HAPPENED, WAS IT GRADUAL? WAS IT SUDDEN? ANYBODY? JENNIFER.

>> JENNIFER: CAN YOU HEAR ME?

SO I AM 46. AND ABOUT THE TIME I WAS 32, I HAVE PERFECT HEARING UP UNTIL THAT POINT. MY MOM HAD HEARING AIDS BUT WE JUST THOUGHT SHE WAS OLD. AND THEN MY SISTER WHO WAS 3.5 YEARS OLDER THAN ME SAID I'M HAVING PROBLEM HEARING, AND ME TOO. IT HAPPENED AT THE SAME TIME. WE DIDN'T THINK ABOUT IT. IT WAS GRADUAL.

WITH MY SISTER, SHE LOST MOST OF HER HEARING WITHIN 1 YEAR. SHE HAS A COCHLEAR IMPLANT, AND IT HAS BEEN LIFE SAVING FOR HER. SHE COULDN'T COMMUNICATE WITH HER HUSBAND, HER SON BEFORE AND NOW SHE CAN.

I JUST FOUND OUT THAT I'M A CANDIDATE FOR COCHLEAR IMPLANT IN MY LEFT EAR. I HAVE HEARING AIDS. I THINK I MIGHT BE BORROWING MY SISTER'S FOOTSTEP. SO IT MIGHT BE GENETICS.

DANNY TUBBS: THANK YOU FOR SHARING.

>> JOHN: CAN I ASK A QUESTION. JENNIFER? DID YOU OR YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS WORK IN HIGH NOISE ENVIRONMENTS SUCH AS IN A CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WHERE THERE'S A LOT OF NOISY WORK GOING ON AROUND YOU OR LOUD MUSIC PLAYING, LOUD NOISES? SO NONE OF THESE THINGS LEAD TO ANY OF YOUR PROBLEMS?

>> JENNIFER: NOTHING. NO. MY MOM WAS A TEACHER.

DANNY TUBBS: YEAH. YOU'LL FIND OUT THERE'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEARING LOSS ISSUE AND GENETICS.

MY WIFE, I THINK, IS GENETICS.

>> MALE AUDIENCE: PRIOR TO MY 44TH YEAR I HAD PERFECT

HEARING. ABOUT THE SUMMER OF WHEN I WAS 44, I WENT TO SLEEP ONE NIGHT. BIG MISTAKE. AND WHEN I WOKE UP IN THE MORNING I WAS DEAFENED. AND THE DOCTOR SAID THAT IT WAS A SUDDEN HEARING LOSS. OVERNIGHT HEARING LOSS AND IT WAS PROGRESSIVE.

AND THAT JUST TOLD ME IT'S GOING TO GET WORSE. AND YEARS LATER I WENT COMPLETELY DEAF. AND I WENT ON MY LEFT EAR TO HEAR THING. I TOOK ASL CLASSES. THAT'S BEEN HELPFUL. AT LEAST I HAVE SOME CONTROL OVER MY HEARING LOSS.

DANNY TUBBS: I NOTICE YOU HAVE A HEARING AID IN YOUR RIGHT EAR.

>> MALE AUDIENCE: THIS TRANSFERS FROM RIGHT SIDE TO LEFT SIDE.

>> WENDI: SINCE I'VE BEEN FIGHTING INFECTION FOR A NUMBER OF MONTHS, MY MOM FOUND PAPERWORK THAT SHOWS INFECTION IN MY EAR. I JUST SAW RECENTLY I THOUGHT I WAS A LITTLE OLDER, BUT I STARTED WITH HEAR LOSS BUT I WAS CLOSE TO PRESCHOOL AGE THAT I HAD HEARING LOSS. IT WASN'T UNTIL KINDERGARTEN THAT IT WAS PAYING ATTENTION TO. I WAS GETTING SPEECH THERAPY. 6 MONTHS OR SO LATER, THEY DIDN'T THINK THAT I WOULD HAVE SUCH TRAUMATIC CHANGE IN SPEAKING. I COULD HEAR OKAY.

EVERY YEAR I GET MY EARS CHECK AND THE DOCTORS ARE AMAZED THE NUMBER OF SURGERIES I HAVE FROM TUBES AND SO FORTH.

"HOW DO YOU FEEL ANY HEARING BECAUSE ALL YOU HAVE RIGHT NOW IS SCAR TISSUE?"

WHICH I THOUGHT IT WAS KIND OF FUNNY.

DANNY TUBBS: THANK YOU.

>> JOHN: I WAS BORN WITH A HEARING LOSS. BUT WHEN I WAS BORN THEY DIDN'T DO TESTING RIGHT AWAY. I HAD EAR INFECTION, ACCORDING TO MY MOM. SHE MEMBERS IT MORE THAN I DO. I YELLED AND SCREAMED AND I HAD EAR INFECTIONS. THE DOCTORS CAME UP WITH ALL SORTS OF STUFF. MY MOM FELT I HAD HEARING LOSS. BUT UNFORTUNATELY MOTHERS CAN ONLY SAY THINK WHAT THEIR CHILDREN HAVE AND DOCTOR HAS TO FIGURE IT OUT.

WHEN I WAS 5 YEARS OLD I WENT TO AUDIOLOGIST SAID I HAD HEARING LOSS. THAT'S WHEN I GOT MY HEARING AID. THE AUDIOLOGIST FIGURED IT OUT.

DANNY TUBBS: SO EVEN IN THIS ROOM THERE'S A RANGE OF FROM BORN WITH ONE OR LATER IN LIFE.

JENNIFER, DOES YOUR SISTER HAVE T-COIL IN HERS?

>> JENNIFER: YES.

DANNY TUBBS: DO YOU?

>> JENNIFER: I'M GETTING NEW HEARING AIDS. THIS ONE TODAY IS A BUM ONE. BUT I'M GOING TO GET NEW HEARING AIDS AND HOPEFULLY THEY WILL BE T-COIL.

DANNY TUBBS: STEPHANIE.

STEPHANIE: THERE'S A STATIC SOUND. THAT'S BETTER. I'LL

JUST TALK WITH THIS MICROPHONE. GREAT.

**HOW MANY PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM HAVE COCHLEAR IMPLANT?
FEW PEOPLE IN THE ROOM.**

**QUITE A FEW ARE AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION HAVE
COCHLEAR IMPLANT.**

MANY OF OUR PEOPLE HAVE COCHLEAR IMPLANT.

**AND THE STORIES WITH COCHLEAR IMPLANT IS SO
INTERESTING. I ALWAYS LOVE TO HEAR WHEN IT FIRST GETS TURNED ON.
WHAT THEY HEAR. I HEAR THINGS LIKE IT SOUNDS LIKE A BUNCH OF BEEP
OR MICKEY MOUSE VOICES.**

**BUT THE BEST ONE WAS MONIQUE. SHE GOT ON THE PHONE
RIGHT AWAY. IT WAS AMAZING.**

**>> WENDI: WHEN I FIRST GOT HEARING AIDS, I WAS ALL
EXCITED. AND I KNOW IT WAS KIND OF SILLY, BUT I GOT ALL EXCITED
WHEN I COULD HEAR THE CAR ENGINE FOR THE FIRST TIME OR RAIN
FALLING FOR THE FIRST TIME. I WAS JUMPING FOR JOY TO BE HEARING
THAT STUFF.**

DANNY TUBBS: RIGHT.

**"HEARING LOSS AS AN INVISIBLE CONDITION. (READING) --
THESE EFFECTS MAYBE ATTRIBUTED TO ALOOFNESS, CONFUSION OR
PERSONALITY CHANGES."**

**I KNOW JUST FOR A FACT WITH MY WIFE. AT HER WORKPLACE,
SOMEBODY CAME AND SAID SOMETHING, SHE DIDN'T PAY ATTENTION.
AND THEY THOUGHT SHE WAS RUDE. SHE HAD NO IDEA.**

**SO I THINK IT'S BEST TO WEAR IT ON YOUR SLEEVE. "I HAVE
HEARING LOSS. PLEASE FACE ME."**

**WE HAVE THESE BRIGHT YELLOW BUTTONS THAT SAYS "FACE
ME. I HAVE HEARING LOSS."**

>> TIM: WE HAVE A QUESTION.

DANNY TUBBS: OH, SORRY.

**>> FEMALE AUDIENCE: I HAVE HAD MY HEARING LOSS THAT
I'M AWARE OF ABOUT 20 SOMETHING YEARS. MY MOM HAD SEVERE
HEARING LOSS AND IT REALLY AFFECTED HER LIFE SEVERELY, MENTALLY.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I INTENDED TO TALK ABOUT.**

**I STARTED TO COMING TO THESE MEETINGS BECAUSE I WENT
TO MEETINGS IN THE VALLEY AND ONE OF THE PEOPLE IN THE VALLEY
STARTED COMING HERE AND SAID IT'S WONDERFUL. AND I STARTED
COMING HERE OUT OF CURIOSITY.**

**I HAVE LEARNED SO MUCH FROM THIS GROUP. ONE OF THE
THINGS IS COCHLEAR IMPLANT. I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW MANY PEOPLE HAD
THEM. I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS A COMMON THING.**

**AND I STILL -- I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY I'VE GONE TO
AUDIOLOGIST, SEVERAL, I'VE GONE TO HEARING DOCTOR, HEARING AID,
BUT NO ONE HAD EVER SAID TO ME "WHY DIDN'T YOU HAVE A COCHLEAR
IMPLANT?"**

BUT HERE IN THIS GROUP THERE ARE SO MANY HAVE IT. I

**DON'T KNOW WHY DOCTORS NOT SUGGEST THAT SOONER TO ME.
SO I WANT TO KNOW WHAT GOT YOU TO HAVE COCHLEAR
IMPLANT.**

**DANNY TUBBS: I DON'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME YOU SAID
YOU LEARNED ABOUT T-COIL.**

**>> FEMALE AUDIENCE: THAT WAS AMAZING. THERE WAS A
SPEAKER ASKED ME IF I HAD A T-COIL ON. I TURNED IT ON AND I COULD
HEAR HIM SO MUCH BETTER.**

**I WENT BACK AND ASKED OTHER PEOPLE IF THEY HAVE T-COIL.
PEOPLE DON'T KNOW THAT. IT'S NOT A COMMON THING.**

**DANNY TUBBS: IT REALLY HELPS IN THE MEETING. BECAUSE IF
YOU HAVE A T-COIL, IT'S LIKE THIS MICROPHONE IS RIGHT IN YOUR EAR.
AND IN EUROPE IS AHEAD ON THESE THAN U.S.**

**I THINK THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, COUPLE OF YEARS
LAUNCHED LOOP AMERICA, AND IT'S STILL IN PROGRESS AND HARD TO DO.**

**>> MICHAEL: WELL, THE REASON WHY THEY DIDN'T SUGGEST
COCHLEAR IMPLANT FOR YOU IS THE SAME REASON SHE COULDN'T GET
HERS FOR MANY YEARS. HEARING LOSS IS NOT ENOUGH. YOU HAVE TO
HAVE COMPLETE DEAFNESS IN 1 YEAR BEFORE CONSIDERING COCHLEAR
IMPLANT. BY DOING THAT THEY HAVE TO DESTROY HEARING COMPLETE.
COCHLEAR DOESN'T TAKE UNLESS YOU LOSS YOUR HEARING COMPLETELY.**

**>> FEMALE AUDIENCE: I WON'T GO INTO THIS NOW. BUT I
DID NOTICE IN VERY STRANGE SITUATIONS WHEN I TAKE MY HEARING AID
OUT I'M DEAF. I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING. BUT WHAT I'VE NOTICED IN
CERTAIN SITUATION I COULD HEAR ALMOST PERFECTLY. I DIDN'T KNOW
WHAT'S GOING ON. WHEN I WENT TO HOUSE CLINIC, I CAN HEAR CERTAIN
FREQUENCY IF IT'S CHANNELLED RIGHT IN MY EAR.**

**I FOUND A RESEARCHER DOWN IN IRVINE. WE FOUND A
FREQUENCY THAT COCHLEAR CAN HEAR. BUT WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY
IS THERE'S NOW A HYBRID COCHLEAR IMPLANT. IT DOESN'T TAKE AWAY
YOUR HEARING. IT WORKS WITH IT.**

**HE WORKED AT HOUSE FOR 8 YEARS AND HE CAN'T BELIEVE
"THEY DIDN'T TELL YOU."**

**WITH HEARING AID, I'M NOT. THEY SAID, WELL IT'S POSSIBLE
THAT BECAUSE YOU ARE DISCRIMINATION IS BAD, WHICH IT IS. THAT
BEING SAID THERE IS SUPPOSEDLY THERE'S A NEW COCHLEAR IMPLANT.
IT'S A HYBRID. I DON'T KNOW ENOUGH FOR IT. BUT IT DOESN'T DESTROY
YOUR CURRENT HEARING.**

**DANNY TUBBS: THAT WOULD BE GREAT. BECAUSE LIKE
MICHAEL WAS SAYING. WHATEVER SIDE WORKS, THEY ACTUALLY CUT THE
NERVE AND THEN PUT THE WIRE DOWN THE COCHLEAR SO THEY DON'T
HAVE NATURAL HEARING IN THAT EAR AGAIN.**

**SO IF JENNIFER WAS SAYING IS TRUE THAT WOULD BE
REMARKABLE.**

**ONE SECOND I WANT TO GET ON TO ANOTHER ONE. LET'S SEE
HERE.**

(READING) "-- IN OLDER PEOPLE, A HEARING LOSS IS OFTEN CONFUSED WITH OR COMPLICATED SUCH CONDITIONS AS DEMENTIA."

MY WIFE'S MOTHER, I THINK THE ISOLATION IN THE BRAIN IS NOT WORKING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. SO I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT FOR THIS GROUP TO STAY ON TOP OF THE TOOLS OUT THERE. KEEP OUR BRAIN ACTIVE. AT 57 I WANT TO KEEP MY BRAIN WORKING.

>> WENDI: WHEN MY GRANDMOTHER FOUND OUT SHE HAD HEARING LOSS, SHE WAS 60 AT THE TIME, SHE CALLED MY MOTHER, "DO YOU THINK IT'S WISE TO GET HEARING AID?"

I SAID "YES."

WHEN WE BOTH HAD HEARING AIDS, WE HAD COMPETITION WHOSE HEARING AID COULD WHISTLE MORE.

[LAUGHTERS]

DANNY TUBBS: MY WIFE HAS HIGH FREQUENCY LOSS. WHEN THE OVEN BEEPS, SHE CAN'T HEAR. OKAY.

WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THIS EARLIER. [READING] -- "NOISE INDUCED HEARING LOSS MAY HAPPEN SLOWLY OVER TIME OR SUDDENLY.

(READING) -- BEING IN A NOISY WORK ENVIRONMENT OR USING A LAWNMOWER."

I DO THINK IT WAS FUNNY THAT YOU ASKED IF SHE WORKED IN CONSTRUCTION. OKAY. THAT WAS A JOKE.

(READING) -- "IT COULD LEAD TO HEARING LOSS FOR MANY YEARS.

**SUDDEN, NOISE FROM GUN FIRING --"
WAS YOUR SISTER FIRING A GUN?**

>> JENNIFER: NO.

[LAUGHTER IN THE ROOM]

DANNY TUBBS: SO SHE WASN'T A CONSTRUCTION WORKER AND NOT FIRING A GUN.

NO.

"ONE CAUSE HEARING LOSS IS BY VETERANS."

ANY ONE HERE HAS TINNITUS? I KNOW LISA, OUR PRESIDENT HAS THAT. WHEN SHE GOT HER COCHLEAR IMPLANT IT WAS WORSE. IF YOU EVER TALK TO HER ABOUT IT, I JUST DON'T KNOW. IT MUST BE VERY, VERY TOUGH TO LIVE WITH.

OKAY. WE CAN PAST BY THIS.

[READING] "SO ONE OF 10 AMERICANS HAVE HEARING LOSS THAT'S 31 MILLION PEOPLE. 15% OF BABY BOOMERS 45-64 HAVE HEARING LOSS."

I HAVE GOOD HEARING. I'M JUST LUCKY.

"IN THE U.S. ONE OUT OF 1030 + YEARS OLD IS ALREADY HEARING-IMPAIRED AND ONE IN FOUR 62 + YEARS OLD SUFFER FROM HEARING LOSS.

29% OF THE PEOPLE OVER THE AGE OF 65 HAVE HEARING LOSS."

AND SOME OF THESE THINGS YOU MIGHT KNOW. I WENT ON THE INTERNET AND THOUGHT I'D SHARE THESE STATISTICS WITH YOU.

"AT AGE 65, ONE OUT OF THREE PEOPLE HAS HEARING LOSS. 60% OF THE PEOPLE WITH HEARING LOSS ARE MALE."

THIS IS INTERESTING STATISTICS. BECAUSE MOST MEMBERS HERE ARE FEMALES. I DON'T KNOW MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE MALES ARE IN DENIALS. AND WOMEN ARE MORE LIKELY TO SEEK OUT HELP.

AND SO ON AND SO FORTH. I DON'T NEED TO READ THEM ALL. HERE ARE 10 CELEBRITIES WITH HEARING LOSS.

>> FEMALE AUDIENCE: THE REASON I KNOW IS BECAUSE MY DOCTOR HAS A FULL BOOK FULL OF CELEBRITY.

DANNY TUBBS: STEPHANIE, DID YOU RAISE YOUR HAND?

STEPHANIE: I DID. I THOUGHT YOU ASKED ABOUT CELEBRITY. BARBRA STRIESAND.

DANNY TUBBS: RIGHT. I DON'T THINK SHE'S ON THE LIST. LET'S SEE WHO IS ON THE LIST.

[ON SCREEN].

"ROB LOWE. HE WAS DIAGNOSED WITH MUMPS. NOISY RESTAURANTS DRIVES ME CRAZY."

THAT'S THE SAME WITH MY WIFE.

HE SAID. "I LIVE IN A MONO WORLD. I WISH I COULD HERE IN STEREO. OTHER THAN THAT I DON'T THINK ABOUT MY HEARING LOSS.

BILL CLINTON. (READING) -- UNTIL DOCTOR DIAGNOSED HIM WITH HIGH FREQUENCY HEARING DEFICIENCY."

IT'S INTERESTING A GOOD FRIEND OF OURS THAT WE MET AT THE GROUP, DAY IN A. SHE HAS A LOW FREQUENCY LOSS AND MY WIFE HAS HIGH FREQUENCY LOSS. SO WE GO DOUBLE DATING SOMETIMES.

SO DEPENDS ON WHO WE TALK ABOUT. WITH MY WIFE, "PASS THE BUTTER." (LOWERS VOICE.)

"HALLE BERRY. (READING) -- VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SOME 20 YEARS AGO. SHE LOST HER HEARING ABOUT 80%.

STEPHEN COL-COLBERT. (READING) -- I JUST REMEMBER HIM SEEING HIM ON TV THINKING HIS EAR LOOKED FUNNY. NOW I KNOW WHY."

OKAY. WE ARE PASSING BY THIS ONE.

[LAUGHTER IN THE ROOM] BECAUSE -- OKAY. WE WILL READ IT.

>> BOO.

DANNY TUBBS: RIGHT. THANK YOU.

(READING) -- "DIAGNOSED WITH AUTO IMMUNE DISEASE."

WE WERE TALKING ABOUT WHAT CAN CAUSE HEARING LOSS. THERE'S ALSO CERTAIN DRUGS THAT CAN DO IT.

I TOLD MY DAD HE'S A DRUG ADDICT.

PETE TOWNSHEND. GUITARIST OF THE WHO. WHY DO YOU THINK HE LOST HIS HEARING? LOUD ROCK-'N'-ROLL. YEARS OF POUNDING ON THAT GUITAR.

I DIDN'T KNOW THIS ONE.

(READING) "JANE LYNCH. SHE SAID MY BROTHER WAS SWITCHING HIS TRANSISTOR RADIO FROM ONE EAR TO THE OTHER AND THAT'S PROBABLY WHEN SHE REALIZED ONE EAR DIDN'T HEAR AS WELL AS THE OTHER."

ROBERT REDFORD, I DON'T KNOW THIS ONE EITHER.

"SO HE WAS PLAYING A SAILOR IN THE OCEAN WHERE HE WAS SUBMERSED IN THE WATER TANK DAY AFTER A DAY."

I CAN'T READ THE REST BUT I THINK THAT ATTRIBUTED TO HIS HEARING LOSS.

"HOLY HUNTER. (READING) -- SHE SAID THAT HER DISABILITY HAS BEEN A BOOM TO HER CAREER. SHE HAD TO HEAR INTENSELY TO WHAT PEOPLE HAD TO SAY."

SAME WITH MY WIFE AT GATHERINGS. AFTERWARDS SHE'S WIPED OUT BECAUSE SHE HAD TO CONCENTRATE WHAT OTHER PEOPLE WERE SAYING.

I DON'T KNOW THIS ONE EITHER.

JODIE FOSTER.

OKAY.

"SO HEARING LOSS IS ONLY SECOND TO ARTHRITIS. ONLY ABOUT 10% OF HEARING LOSSES ARE HELPED BY SURGERY OR OTHER MEDICAL TREATMENT. THAT SEEMS LOW. LIKE I SAID IT'S FROM THE INTERNET.

90% OF HEARING LOSS CAN BE TREATED WITH THE USE OF HEARING INSTRUMENTS.

ONLY 16% OF PHYSICIANS ROUTINELY SCREEN FOR HEARING LOSS. THAT SEEMS LOW TOO. YOU THINK THE PHYSICIANS WOULD SCREEN FOR THAT A BIT MORE.

SOME OF THIS IS GOING BACK TO WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT BUT EXCESSIVE NOISE IS THE NUMBER ONE REASON FOR HEARING LOSS. AND JOHN, I THINK YOU WERE TRYING TO GET TO THIS EARLIER AS WELL.

EXPERT AGREES THAT CONTINUED EXPOSURE TO NOISE OF 85 DB OR LOUDER OVERTIME WILL EVENTUALLY HARM HEARING.

IF YOU CAN'T CARRY ON A CONVERSATION IN THE PRESENCE OF NOISE, IT IS TOO A LOT FOR YOUR EARS AND CAN POTENTIALLY CAUSE HEARING LOSS.

1 IN 4 WORKERS EXPOSED IN HIGH LEVELS OF NOISE WILL DEVELOP A HEARING LOSS.

CONSISTENT NOISE ABOVE 80-90 DECIBELS IN AN 8-HOUR WORKDAY IS CONSIDERED HAZARDOUS.

FIREARMS, MUSIC, AIRPLANES, LAWN MOWERS, POWER TOOLS, AND MANY APPLIANCES ARE LOUDER THAN 80 DECIBELS AND POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS TO HEARING WITH PROLONGED EXPOSURE."

THINK ABOUT THIS IN TODAY'S AGE THERE'S MORE KIDS PLUGGING IN AT PHONES INTO THEIR EARS. WHEN I WAS GROWING UP IT WAS THE RADIO, BUT TODAY EVERY YOUNG KID I SEE IS PLUGGED IN. AND

HOPEFULLY WITH THE VOLUME DOWN. I DON'T KNOW IF THEY KNOW THE DAMAGE THEY COULD CAUSE THEMSELVES.

"A LIVE ROCK CONCERT PRODUCES SOUNDS FROM 110 TO 120 DECIBELS."

HAVE YOU GONE TO A ROCK CONCERT?

I PLAYED GUITAR AND BASS. I HAD AN AMP RIGHT BEHIND ME AND WHEN I PLAY THE BASS, MY BODY WAS SHAKING.

[LAUGHTER IN THE ROOM].

OKAY.

"THE NUMBER ONE REASON PEOPLE SEEK A HEARING SOLUTION IS THE RECOGNITION THAT THEIR HEARING HAS WORSENERED. AND I THINK THAT'S A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE COME TO THIS GROUP COME HERE SEEKING OTHERS THAT HAVE THE SAME SITUATION. IT'S WORSENERING."

HOW ARE OTHERS COPING WITH IT? WHAT DO YOU DO WITH IT? HOW DO YOU WORK? HOW DO YOU COMMUNICATE? WE ALL LEARN THESE TYPES OF THINGS HERE IN THIS GROUP.

(READING) -- I CAN SEE THAT SOMEBODY MIGHT BE IN DENIAL. THEY DIDN'T HEARING THE FIRE TRUCK COMING. HOPEFULLY IT DOESN'T GET TO THAT POINT.

"PROFESSIONS AT RISK OF HEARING LOSS INCLUDING FIREFIGHTERS, POLICE OFFICERS, FACTORY WORKERS, FARMERS. CONSTRUCTION WORKERS. MILITARY PERSONNEL, HEAVY INDUSTRY WORKERS, MUSICIANS AND ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS."

SO HEARING LOSS PREVENTION:

(READING) -- WHEN WAS THIS WRITTEN?

[LAUGHTER IN THE ROOM].

SHOOTING A GUN.

"IF YOU HAVE PAIN IN YOUR EARS AFTER LEAVING A NOISY AIR AND YOU HEAR RINGING AND BUZZING TINNITUS IN YOUR EARS IMMEDIATELY AFTER EXPOSURE TO NOISE CONSIDER THIS AS A WARNING SIGN THAT THE SOUNDS ARE TOO LOUD."

INTO TINNITUS NOW. SO THE NEXT LIST IS CELEBRITIES WHO HAS TINNITUS.

ANYBODY KNOW ANY?

LET'S SEE PEOPLE WHO HAS TINNITUS.

(READING) -- RONALD REAGAN. AFTER A SHARP NOISE LIKE THAT CAUSES PERMANENT TINNITUS.

STEVE MARTIN DEVELOPED THIS ON THE SET OF "THE THREE AMIGOS."

OH, NO. NOT AGAIN. WE WILL PAST HIM.

WILLIAM SHATNER (READING) -- I DID NOT KNOW THAT.

AND WHY DO YOU THINK BOB HAS TINNITUS? YEARS OF PLAYING BAD MUSIC.

>> MALE AUDIENCE: I HAVE A QUESTION.

DANNY TUBBS: OKAY.

>> MALE AUDIENCE: WHAT DO DID YOU SKIP RUSH?

DANNY TUBBS: I SKIPPED HIM BECAUSE HE WAS KIND OF A REPEAT. BESIDES THE FACT THAT I DON'T LIKE HIM.

YOU HEARD ME. OKAY. A LITTLE BIT OF HONESTY.

[LAUGHTER IN THE ROOM]

>> BUSTED.

DANNY TUBBS: IT'S BEEN REPORTED THAT TINNITUS WAS A DAILY -- (READING). I DON'T KNOW THAT.

GERARD BUTLER. HE HAD SURGERY DONE. KATHERINE SAW THIS BEFORE SHE LEFT TO THE CONVENTION. SHE DIDN'T KNOW OF ANY SURGERY TO RELIEF THIS.

>> SUPPOSE THE HOUSE HAD INFORMATION ON THIS. THEY ASKED ME IF THEY HAVE INFORMATION ON THIS IF I'M INTERESTED.

DANNY TUBBS: SO YOU ARE SAYING THE HOUSE HAS SURGERY FOR REDUCING THIS?

>> FEMALE AUDIENCE: THE RESEARCH I WAS SPEAKING ABOUT. HE CREATED A MACHINE, I DON'T KNOW HOW IT WORKS. BUT IT IS SUPPOSED TO RELIEF TINNITUS.

DANNY TUBBS: OH, INTERESTING. I'M GLAD IT WORKS. BECAUSE IN 300, HE WAS INCREDIBLE.

HAVE YOU SEEN IT? IF NOT, YOU HAVE TO. IT'S GREAT MOVIE.

TIM, WHAT WAS THE FAMOUS QUOTE FROM THAT MOVIE?

>> TIM: I'M A MATH GUY. I COULD NUMBER THE NUMBERS.

DANNY TUBBS: 300 AGAINST THE ENTIRE PERSIAN ARMY. HE SAID "TONIGHT WE DINE IN HELL."

>> TIM: MY GIRLFRIEND ONLY NOTICED HIS ABS.

DANNY TUBBS: OZZY PROBABLY LOST HIS HEARING FROM LOUD MUSIC.

I DON'T KNOW WHO THIS IS. ANYONE KNOW?

>> A RAPPER.

DANNY TUBBS: I THINK HIS NAME IS WILL.

ALEX SUFFERED. PALL SIMON, PLAYING WITH LIVE BAND.

I DON'T KNOW WHO THIS IS.

PHIL COLLINS.

OH. WE TALKED ABOUT HER EARLIER. BARBRA STRIESAND. SHE'S BEEN SUFFERING FROM TINNITUS SINCE SHE WAS A CHILD.

I GET A HIGH PITCH NOISE LIKE MY BRAIN REBOOTING.

STEPHANIE: THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS. CONSTANT OR ONCE IN A WHILE OR DIFFERENT SOUNDS.

DANNY TUBBS: ALL KINDS OF DIFFERENT SOUNDS.

>> IS TINNITUS IS ONE KIND OF HEARING LOSS OR PREDOMINATE KIND OF HEARING LOSS?

DANNY TUBBS: I DON'T THINK IT'S A HEARING LOSS. I THINK IT'S A SIDE EFFECT. I THINK TINNITUS IS A RINGING OF THE EAR OR SOME TYPE OF NOISE IN YOUR HEAD. IT COMES CONSTANTLY OR COMES AND GO.

>> BUT IT'S NOT NECESSARILY HEARING LOSS.

DANNY TUBBS: I THINK IT IS ASSOCIATED WITH HEARING

LOSS, BUT PEOPLE WITHOUT HEARING LOSS CAN HAVE TINNITUS.

>> UH-HUH.

DANNY TUBBS: ANOTHER GUY WHO PLAYS IN A BAND. MUSIC.

LIZA MINNELLI HAD THAT. I DON'T KNOW THAT. SHE DEVELOPED THIS AFTER HER FATHER SCREAMED LOUDLY IN HER EAR. ANOTHER ABUSIVE SITUATION.

THIS IS A LONG LIST.

ALAN, ANOTHER ONE. HE HAD SURGERY TO FIX THAT. I'M GLAD HE FIXED THAT.

"ALAN, PASS THE BOOSTER."

"WHAT?"

(POWERPOINT) -- VINCENT VAN GOGH CUT OFF HIS EAR AFTER A RESPONSE TO TINNITUS.

I DON'T KNOW IF I BELIEVE THAT. THESE ARE FOR ENTERTAINMENT FACTS.

[ON SCREEN].

ANOTHER METALLICA PERSON. SO LONG AND SO FORTH.

DANNY ELFMAN. ANY OF YOU LISTENED TO "OINGO BOINGO"?

HE DOES A LOT OF MUSIC FOR MOVIE SOUND TRACKS. IF YOU LOOK AT MEN IN BLACK. THE INTRO SCENE, HE DID THE MUSIC FOR THAT.

HE'S MORE FAMOUS FOR MUSIC SOUND TRACK THAN THE MUSIC HE PLAYED IN HIS EARLIER YEARS. VERY TALENTED.

OKAY. AND THEN WE WILL TAKE A BREAK AND COME BACK AND TALK ABOUT IT SOME MORE. THERE ARE SOME FOOD OUT FRONT. AND WE WILL GIVE THE CAPTIONER A BREAK. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR CAPTIONING TODAY, JOANNE.

THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE.]

(BREAK TIME: 10:52 A.M.)

(START MEETING AFTER BREAK)

DANNY TUBBS: LET'S GET STARTED.

WELCOME BACK FROM THE BREAK. I HOPE YOU ALL GOT A LOT TO EAT.

WE FORGOT SOME THINGS TODAY. WE FORGOT THE NAME TAGS, WATER OR JUICE. NEXT MEETING WE WILL BE BACK TO NORMAL.

OH, WE WILL WAIT FOR JENNIFER TO COME BACK.

ANYBODY WANT TO SHARE ANYTHING WHILE WE WAIT?

>> TIM: I HAD A HEARING TEST LAST WEEK AND FOUND OUT SOMETHING INTERESTING. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU GUYS ENCOUNTERED IT.

THEY DID TWO TESTS. ONE IS FREQUENCY THAT YOU HEAR LOW SOUND, HIGH SOUND, SO FORTH. THEY COMPARED TO YOUR PAST HISTORICAL DATA.

THE OTHER ONE IS RECOGNITION OR SAY WORDS. IF YOU REPEAT THE WORD CORRECTLY, THEY GIVE YOU A SCORE.

THE GOOD NEWS WAS THAT ALTHOUGH SLOWLY DETERIORATING OVER TIME WITH HEARING LOSS, MY FREQUENCY STAYED RELATIVELY THE SAME AFTER 3 YEARS. BUT MY RIGHT SIDE VOICE RECOGNITION IS ABOUT THE SAME. BUT THEY NOTICED MY LEFT SIDE 5 YEARS AGO I CAN RECOGNIZE SOME 84% ON MY LEFT EAR WITH THE PROPER VOLUME TURNED ON. IT HAD GONE DOWN TO 56%.

WE TALK ABOUT SO MUCH CAN YOU HEAR? MY THING IS CAN YOU RECOGNIZE WHAT YOU ARE HEARING.

THE BRAIN NEEDS TO PROCESS WHAT YOU ARE HEARING. IT'S SOMETHING TO MONITOR. IT'S GREAT TO HEAR BUT DOESN'T DO MUCH GOOD IF YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE WHAT YOU ARE HEARING.

I WAS BORN TO HEARING LOSS ON BOTH EARS. OBVIOUSLY THE BRAIN IS BEING TRAINED NOT TO HEARING CERTAIN WORDS AND SO FORTH OVER THAT TIME. I HOPE IT'S ALWAYS BEEN TO CATCH UP. BUT MAYBE I'LL HEAR NOISES TO MY LEFT EAR BUT I WON'T UNDERSTAND IT.

I WONDER IF ANYONE HERE HAS SIMILAR EXPERIENCE.

DANNY TUBBS: TIM WAS SHARING THAT HE'S GONE TO DOCTOR FOR NOISE RECOGNITION. HE CAN HEAR BUT NOT ABLE TO RECOGNIZE THE SOUNDS.

STEPHANIE: JENNIFER AND I WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT THAT AT THE BREAK. HAVING DIFFICULTY UNDERSTANDING SPEECH. ANYONE I HAVE A HIGH FREQUENCY LOSS. I DO BETTER WITH LOWER PITCH NOISES. THAT HELPS QUITE A BIT. BUT I WAS TELLING JENNIFER THAT I'M WEARING HEARING AID. I LOOK INTO THE BRAIN HEARING THAT JEFF WAS TALKING ABOUT COUPLE METERS AGO. SOME OF THE OTHER MANUFACTURERS ALSO DOING THE SAME TYPE OF THING.

MY UNDERSTANDING IS BRAIN HEARING. WE HEAR WITH OUR BRAIN NOT OUR EAR. THAT'S WHY COCHLEAR IMPLANT WORKS SO WELL. IT'S PASSING THAT AUDITORY NERVE. THE WIRES TAKES THE PLACE THAT NEEDS TO BE THE AUDITORY NERVE.

SO THE HEARING LOSS WITH THE BRAIN HEARING TECHNOLOGY IS ALONG THE SAME LINE THERE'S A MICROCHIP FOR HEARING AIDS, THEY COME IN ALL SIZES. AND WHAT IT DOES IS THE MICROCHIP IS MATCHED TO THE WAY THE BRAIN HEAR SOUND AND TO PERSONAL AUDIOGRAM IS PUT INTO THE PROGRAMMING, AND IT'S ABLE TO MATCH HOW YOUR BRAIN HEAR CERTAIN SOUNDS AND IT ENHANCES THOSE AREAS TO BRING MORE RECOGNITION.

AND HE SAID THAT A LOT OF HIS PATIENTS ARE GETTING INCREASED TO 30% IN UNDERSTANDING BY READING THESE TECHNOLOGY, HEARING AIDS. I REALLY WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THAT.

AND ALSO WHAT JENNIFER WAS TALKING ABOUT ADVICE BY THE DOCTOR IN IRVINE SHE WENT TO SEE WAS GIVING HER 95%. SAME TYPE OF THING. SO REALLY LOOK MORE INTO. AND LIKE TIM SAID,

RECOGNITION IS THE KEY.

I COULD HEAR, BUT I TRY TO TALK TO YOU AND I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE'S SAYING. BECAUSE THE NOISE AROUND THE ROOM AMPLIFY WITH THE AID. THAT'S THE DIFFICULTY I HAVE. IF I CAN UNDERSTAND PEOPLE BETTER, AS YOU STAND NEXT TO ME, IT'S BLENDING TOGETHER.

SO THAT'S WHY I'M REALLY FRUSTRATED RIGHT NOW. IT'S BEEN LIKE THAT FOR 6 MONTHS. LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

DANNY TUBBS: IT'S INTERESTING BEING IN THIS GROUP FOR 11 YEARS. AND SOME PEOPLE COME IN IS THEY JUST EXPERIENCING HEARING LOSS AND LOOKING FOR HOLY GRAIL OF HEARING LOSS. THERE ISN'T ONE.

IT WILL NEVER BE PERFECT. BUT THE TECHNOLOGY IS AMAZING. WHAT STEPHANIE WAS TALKING ABOUT, THE THING WITH THE PAST WITH ANALOG HEARING AIDS AND SOME OF THE DIGITAL ONES THAT MATCHES WITH YOUR AUDIOGRAM AND TURN UP THE VOLUME. WHAT HAPPENS IS THAT CAN BE DISTORTED.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HEARING AID COMPANY, BUT IT'S A DIGITAL AID THAT MATCHES YOUR AUDIOGRAM AND THE HIGH FREQUENCY, IT WILL MOVE THAT NOISE TO THE MIDS. SO IT'S NOT LIKE INCREASING THE VOLUME IN THE HIGH. IT'S ACTUALLY CHANGING THE PITCH OF THAT SAME NOISE, BUT PUTTING IT IN MID TONE SO YOU CAN HEAR AND COMPREHEND BETTER.

>> WENDI: BRINGING UP THIS TOPIC MADE ME THINK OF WHEN I'M AT WORK OR COLLEGE OR WHATEVER, FIRST THING I ALWAYS TELL WHOEVER I'M WITH, I'M HARD-OF-HEARING. DEAF ON ONE SIDE AND VERY HARD-OF-HEARING ON THE OTHER. TRY TO FACE ME WHEN YOU ARE TALKING TO ME. AND ONE TIME I HAD A COLLEGE INSTRUCTOR WHO THOUGHT I WAS LYING. SHE WAS STUPID WHATEVER. SHE GOT UPSET WHEN I COULDN'T ANSWER HER QUESTION. SHE WAS FACING THE BOARD. MY CLASSMATES ARE SAYING, "CAN YOU REPEAT THE QUESTION. SHE TOLD YOU EARLY ON THAT SHE HAD ISSUE WITH HEARING LOSS."

IT'S INTERESTING THAT THIS INSTRUCTOR THAT I HAD AT THAT TIME WAS SO SET IN HER WAYS, OLD TIME TEACHER WHO ALWAYS DO IT THEIR WAY.

AT THAT TIME, THE FM SYSTEM, HE TURNS TO ME AND SAYS, "I CAN'T WEAR THIS."

AT THE END I'M THINKING, NOW YOU GET WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.

DANNY TUBBS: SOME OF THE EDUCATION, PEOPLE TO LEARN HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH PEOPLE WITH HEARING LOSS. I'VE LEARNED A LOT WITH MY PARTNER. I'M NOT PERFECT. NOT THAT SHE'S HERE TO TELL YOU.

[LAUGHTER IN THE ROOM].

BUT SERIOUSLY. I TRY TO FACE HER. SHE TELLS ME SOME OF

THE MOST DIFFICULT TALKING WITH PEOPLE OR SPEAKERS THAT DON'T UNDERSTAND SPEAKING TO PEOPLE WITH HEARING LOSS, THEY WILL DO THIS. [HAND OVER MOUTH]

"MOVE YOUR HAND AWAY."

BUT A LOT OF PEOPLE DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND. WE TRY TO EDUCATE AS MANY PEOPLE AS WE CAN.

COVERING THEIR MOUTH.

TURNING AWAY FROM YOU WHEN TALKING.

PEOPLE WITH HEARING LOSS IT'S HARD TO HEAR THAT WAY.

>> FEMALE AUDIENCE: I THINK IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT EVERYBODY KNOWS THIS.

I WANT TO SHARE THIS ONE THING I THINK IT'S VERY IMPORTANT HERE.

MY DRIVE, I GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE. I USED TO DRIVE TO DOWNTOWN. AND WHEN I DROVE HOME, IT'S GREEN LIGHT. EVERYBODY STOPPING. WHY ARE THESE PEOPLE STOPPING. AND I CONTINUE DRIVING. THEY THINK I'M NUTS. BUT THEN I REALIZED THERE'S A FIRE TRUCK.

I LEARN ONE THING, IF THEY STOP. JUST STOP TOO. BECAUSE FOR THIS KIND OF STUFF, YOU CAN GET A TICKET OR LOSE YOUR LICENSE IF YOU DON'T DO WHAT YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO.

I DON'T HEAR ON THIS SIDE. FROM THE SIDE IF YOU SEE THEM STOP, AND IT'S GREEN, JUST WAIT.

DANNY TUBBS: THAT'S A GOOD POINT. YOU CAN GET A TICKET OR LOSE YOUR LIFE.

WE TALKED ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE WEARING EARPHONES. I TRIED TO LISTENING TO MUSIC WHILE I WAS RUNNING. I COULDN'T DO IT. I WANT TO BE AWARE OF MY SURROUNDING.

KIND OF THE SAME THING. I WANT TO BE ABLE TO HEAR THE ENVIRONMENT AROUND ME. THAT'S A GOOD POINT.

>> MALE AUDIENCE: THANK YOU. WHEN I FIRST HAD MY HEARING LOSS I USED TO TELL PEOPLE THAT I'M HARD-OF-HEARING. SO WHAT DO THEY DO. THEY WOULD SCREAM AT ME. IT'S EMBARRASSING. SO I DON'T TELL ME I'M HARD-OF-HEARING. I JUST TELL THEM I'M DEAF.

ANYWAY I WAS WALKING MY DOG THE OTHER DAY. AND I BUMPED TO SOME GUY. I WEAR MY HEARING AIDS. AND THIS GUY WAS TALKING TO ME. AND I SAID TO HIM, "YOU HAVE TO LOOK AT ME AND TALK TO ME STRAIGHT ON BECAUSE I'M DEAF."

HE STILL LOOKED AWAY AND TALKED. I COULDN'T BELIEVE THIS GUY. I JUST STOOD THERE AND NODDED MY HEAD. AND WHEN HE TOOK A PAUSE. IT WAS NICE TALKING TO HIM AND WALKED AWAY. WHAT CAN YOU DO?

>> FEMALE AUDIENCE: YMCA. SHE SAID HI. I DIDN'T KNOW SHE WAS DEAF AND SHE DIDN'T KNOW I WAS DEAF.

THEN SHE SAW MY HEARING AID AND SHE STARTED TALKING TO ME.

DANNY TUBBS: AND THEN YOU FOUND OUT YOU HAD THE SAME DOCTOR, CORRECT?

>> FEMALE AUDIENCE: WE HAD THE SAME SURGEON.

[LAUGHTER IN THE ROOM]

DANNY TUBBS: I THOUGHT I GOT THAT PART OF THE STORY RIGHT.

OKAY. "THINK ABOUT IT ALL THE COMPONENTS OF THE INTRINSICALLY DESIGNED PROCESS MUST WORK AT PEAK FUNCTION TO CARRY WAVES IN THE AIR AROUND YOU TO YOUR BRAIN -- HEARING ALLOWS YOU TO -- (READING)."

WE TALKED ABOUT SOME OF THIS STUFF ALREADY.

YOUR HEARING CAN BE DAMAGED PERMANENTLY EVEN AFTER A SINGLE INCIDENT OF EXPOSURE TO EXTREMELY LOUD NOISE. I THINK WE KNOW TO STEER AWAY FROM THAT STUFF.

YOUR EARS NEVER STOP HEARING, EVEN WHEN YOU SLEEP. YOUR BRAIN JUST IGNORES INCOMING SOUNDS.

SOME OF THE PEOPLE WITH COCHLEAR IMPLANT WHEN YOU TAKE YOUR COCHLEAR OFF, YOU ARE COMPLETELY DEAF.

SHE SAID AT NIGHT SHE CAN'T WAIT UNTIL SHE CAN TAKE THAT OFF AND CAN'T HEAR.

SO WE ARE GOING TO TALK ABOUT SOME HEARING LOSS MYTHS.

[READING] -- "A MYTH. ONLY A FEW PEOPLE ARE HEARING-IMPAIRED. THAT STATISTICS DON'T APPLY TO ME.

WITH 40 MILLION REPORTING HEARING LOSS IN THIS COUNTRY ALONE OR ONE IN 10 PEOPLE, ODDS ARE GOOD THAT YOU ARE OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS INDEED AFFECTED BY HEARING LOSS.

MYTH. IF I DID HAVE A HEARING IMPAIRMENT, I'D CERTAINLY KNOW ABOUT IT.

FACT: THE TRUTH IS HEARING LOSS, HAPPENS GRADUALLY, BUT I GUESS IT HAPPEN GRADUALLY, AND THE SIGNS ARE SUBTLE AT FIRST. OUR OWN BUILT IN DEFENSES AND ABILITY TO ADAPT MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO SELF-DIAGNOSE. A SIMPLY Q&A HEARING TEST CAN HELP YOU GAIN INSIGHT WHILE PROFESSIONAL SCREENING CAN PROVIDE A MORE DEFINITIVE ANSWER."

>> WENDI: WHEN MY GRANDMOTHER HAD MEETING WITH THE DOCTOR, THE DOCTOR WOULD TURN TO MY MOM INSTEAD OF FACING MY GRANDMOTHER.

MY GRANDMOTHER FELT THE DOCTOR WAS RUDE.

SHE GOT SO UPSET THAT THE DOCTOR TREATED HER LIKE SHE WAS AN INFANT.

MY MOM TOLD THE DOCTOR TO SPEAK UP. SHE'S NOT A BABY. SHE'S 88 YEARS OLD. SHE'S NOT DEAF AS A DOORKNOB.

DANNY TUBBS: WHEN I WAS STANDING WITH MY WIFE ONE TIME AND I DON'T REMEMBER THE EXACT SITUATION, HE WAS EXPLAINING SOMETHING TO HER. AND MY WIFE SAID, "EXCUSE ME."

HE SAID IT AGAIN.
SHE SAID, "PARDON ME."
AND THEN HE SAID IT LIKE TO A CHILD.
THAT MADE ME SO MAD. SHE'S NOT A CHILD. SHE JUST CAN'T
HEAR YOU.

I WOULD START SPEAKING UP FOR HER, WHICH IS A NO. NO.
SHE TELLS ME DON'T TELL PEOPLE THAT.
IT WOULD BOTHER ME THAT SOMEBODY WOULD THINK OF HER
STUPID.

>> FEMALE AUDIENCE: A LOT PEOPLE WITH HEARING ISSUE
PROBLEM, WITH PEOPLE DON'T HEAR. LIKE I SAID, WHEN YOU GO TO A
DOCTOR, YOU SEE HIM SITTING IN THE COMPUTER TALKING.

THE DOCTOR ASK "CAN YOU HEAR ME?"
AND I SAID "NO."
IF YOU REMEMBER FINE. IF NOT, TOO BAD.
DANNY TUBBS: I ADMIT IT'S FRUSTRATING. AND I'M ON THE
HEARING SIDE.

SOMETIMES THERE'S FAST CONFERENCE CALLS. WHEN I COME
HOME I CAN'T KEEP UP THAT PACE. I HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT I'M HOME
NOW. THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'LL AUTOMATICALLY DO THAT. TALKING FAST.
IT'S FRUSTRATING FOR ME, TOO. I CAN'T LIE THAT IT'S NOT FRUSTRATING.
BUT THE LOVE I HAVE FOR HER, I TRY TO MAKE IT BETTER.

>> FEMALE AUDIENCE: IT'S HARD. IT'S DIFFERENT LIFE. IT'S
VERY DIFFERENT THAN HEARING AID. IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT. I
USED TO HAVE A CUSTOMER SHE SAID, "WHAT IS THIS?"

IF YOU CAN'T HEAR THE PHONE, YOU GET OUT OF HERE.
GIVE ME YOUR NAME.
I'M THE DAMN OWNER. DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?
DANNY TUBBS: WE TALKED ABOUT EARLIER SOME PEOPLE ARE
RUDE.

HAS ANYBODY ELSE IN THE ROOM IN A SITUATION WHEN
SOMEONE TALKING TO YOU AND YOU ASKED THEM TO REPEAT AND THEY
SAID IT AGAIN LIKE YOU ARE STUPID?

>> MALE SPEAKER: THIS RAISES OTHER ISSUES AS WELL THAT
AFFECTED ME PERSONALLY FOR MOST OF MY LIFE. AND I WENT TO AN
AUDIOLOGIST AND I DESCRIBED EACH PROBLEMS FOR HIM AND HE TESTED
MY HEARING. AND HE SAYS WELL YOUR HEARING IS LESS THAN IDEAL BUT
NOT BAD. YOU ARE KIND OF AVERAGE JOE. STAY AWAY FROM NOISY
ENVIRONMENTS YOU WILL DO OKAY.

BUT I FIND MYSELF INCREASINGLY HAVING TO ASK PEOPLE TO
REPEAT THEMSELVES I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD OR A PHRASE OR A
SENTENCE THEY WERE SAYING WITH A NORMAL VOICE. AND I HAVE
FREQUENTLY TO ASK, I STILL CAN'T HEAR, CAN YOU REPEAT IT.

INCREASINGLY I HAVE TO ASK PEOPLE TO REPEAT THEMSELVES
BECAUSE I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND THE KEY WORDS OR THE SENTENCE.
AND IT'S MADE ME WORRY IS MY HEARING GETTING WORSE OR ARE THEY

NOT BEING ARTICULATIVE ENOUGH. WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

OF COURSE YOU FEEL YOU ARE BEING RUDE TO REPEAT THEM BECAUSE I'M NOT CONCENTRATING OR OTHER ISSUES. BUT I'VE ALWAYS HAD THAT PROBLEM AND INCREASINGLY IN FACT.

I HAVE A SPECIAL PROBLEM WITH ANYONE WHO SPEAKS WITH AN ACCENT FROM ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, ALMOST ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD. AND I HAVE THIS PROBLEM WHERE OTHERS AROUND ME DON'T.

NOW I'M EMBARRASSED TO TELL YOU THAT I STUDIED SPANISH FOR FOUR FULL YEARS IN HIGH SCHOOL. 8 SEMESTERS. BASIC TO ADVANCED SPANISH. AND TODAY I STILL CANNOT UNDERSTAND A WORD OF SPOKEN SPANISH.

[LAUGHTER IN THE ROOM].

AND THEY SAY THAT IF YOU MAY THE RECORD SHOW YOURSELF IN A CULTURE WITH LOTS OF SPANISH SPEAKING PEOPLE THAT SHOULD NO LONGER BE A PROBLEM. AND I'VE DONE THAT TOO. AND STILL UNSUCCESSFUL.

I WORRY THAT IS THAT BECAUSE OF THE HEARING PROBLEM I'M HAVING OR SOMETHING. BUT THAT'S SOMETHING THAT I HAVE TO CONTENT WITH. THE AUDIOLOGIST SIMPLY SAID YOUR HEARING IS NOT IDEAL BUT NOT BAD. SO I JUST PUT THESE THINGS OUT TOO.

BY THE WAY THE MOST ABUSED WORD IN THE ENGLISH TODAY IS THE WORD SHOUT. YOU KEEP HEARING PEOPLE SAYING SO AND SO SHOUTED AT ME. OR SO AND SO SHOUTED, HOW RUDE.

AND IT'S VERY MUCH GENDER BASE I FIND. THE WOMEN ARE MORE LIKELY TO SAY SO AND SO SHOUTED.

BUT OFTENTIMES PEOPLE SPEAK LOUDER THAN NECESSARY BECAUSE THEY THEMSELVES MAY HAVE A LIMITATION. SO HEAR THEMSELVES SPEAK, THEY SPEAK LOUDER NOT THINKING THAT PEOPLE INTERPRET THAT AS SHOUTING AS RUDE.

SO THAT'S SOMETHING PREVALENT IN OUR SOCIETY AND GENDER BASE. MEN TEND NOT TO CARE ABOUT SHOUTING. BUT WOMEN MORE SO TAKE SHOUTING MORE OFFENSIVELY.

DANNY TUBBS: I THINK TODAY WE HAVE SO MANY GADGETS. WE HAVE IPHONES, IPADS. I'VE BEEN KNOWN TO HARD OF LISTENING.

MY COWORKERS WOULD SAY TO ME THINGS AND I WOULD GO UH-HUH. UH-HUH. WHAT DID YOU SAY?

SAME THING WITH LANGUAGE. MY SON WENT TO ARGENTINA. THEY REFUSED TO SPEAK ENGLISH TO HIM AND HE CAME BACK SPEAKING FLUENT THEIR LANGUAGE.

I THINK ALL CAP IS SHOUTING.

[LAUGHTER IN THE ROOM].

GOING BACK TO THE MYTHS.

"(READING) -- 90% OF HEARING LOSS, THE KIND THAT'S BROUGHT ON BY AGE OR EXPOSURE TO NOISE IS VERY RESPONSIVE TO TREATMENT IN THE FORM OF TECHNICALLY ADVANCED HEARING INSTRUMENT.

MYTH. IF YOU'RE HEARING-IMPAIRED, IT JUST MEANS SOUNDS AREN'T LOUD ENOUGH."

I THINK IN THE THEATERS YEARS AGO ASSISTIVE HEARING DEVICE WERE HEADPHONES. IF YOU HAVE ANY TYPE OF FREQUENCY LOSS THAT'S NOT GOING TO HELP YOU. SO WITH TODAY'S ADVANCED THEORY TECHNOLOGY, IT'S FANTASTIC. IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT INCREASING VOLUME BUT WHAT'S BEING SAID.

"MYTH: LIVING WITH HEARING LOSS IS NOT A BIG DEAL. OH, YEAH. EVERYBODY HERE WILL HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THAT.

(READING) -- TROUBLE COMMUNICATING WITH OTHERS CREATES A STRAIN ON RELATIONSHIPS AND A LOSS OF ESTEEM."

I JUST WANTED TO TALK THAT A LITTLE BIT MORE.

MY WIFE HAS A HEARING LOSS. AND I UNDERSTAND IT AND I SUPPORT HER. BUT WHEN WE GO TO FAMILY FUNCTIONS, I'LL SIT NEXT TO HER RIGHT EAR AND TRANSLATE A FEW THINGS. BUT IT'S BEEN YEARS MY FAMILY KNOWS ABOUT HER HEARING LOSS. BUT STILL SHE WILL TALK REALLY FAST AT THE TABLE. SHE MISSES ABOUT 90% OF WHAT'S GOING ON.

SO HEARING LOSS AFFECTS THE WHOLE FAMILY. I DON'T THINK THEY DON'T CARE BUT THEY ARE NOT AWARE OF IT IT'S NOT IN THEIR EVERYDAY LIFE. IT AFFECTS EVERYBODY IN THE FAMILY.

"MYTH: HEARING AIDS ARE OBVIOUS AND UNATTRACTIVE.

FACT: (READING) -- NEW TECHNOLOGY HAS MADE THESE DEVICES REMARKABLY DISCREET. MANY PEOPLE CAN WEAR AIDS THAT ARE EITHER TUCKED WELL INSIDE THE EAR OR ALMOST COMPLETELY HIDDEN IN THE EAR CANAL. BEHIND THE EAR HEARING AID STYLES ARE OFTEN DISGUISED BY HAIR STYLES."

I TALKED ABOUT HEARING AIDS HAVE IN BRIGHT COLORS.

>> TIM: WITH YOUNG KIDS AT WALK FOR HEARING --

DANNY TUBBS: OH, YEAH. I DON'T THINK IT'S ABOUT DISGUIISING IT ANYMORE.

STEPHANIE: WHEN I FIRST HAD HEARING LOSS AND HAD TO WEAR HEARING AID I WAS A COURT REPORTER. AND I DIDN'T WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW. I USED TO HIDE THEM WITH MY HAIR.

BUT NOW, SEVERAL YEARS LATER, MY THING IS LIKE IT'S GREAT THAT THEY CAN SEE THEM. I RATHER PEOPLE SAY THAT'S WHY YOU DON'T GET ME. AND PEOPLE DON'T SEEM TO MIND ONCE THEY KNOW.

YOU ASKED THEM TO REPEAT. I FIND MYSELF TELLING PEOPLE RIGHT AWAY THAT I HAVE HEARING LOSS. SO IF I ASK THEM TO REPHRASE IT OR USE DIFFERENT WORDS, THEY WILL DO THAT.

I HAD A FENDER BENDER AND I GOT OUT OF CAR AND HE GOT SO MAD. HE HAS ACCENT. AND HE WANTS TO HURRY AND GO. HE TALKED SO FAST. I HAVE TO SLOW HIM DOWN.

PEOPLE TALK FAST THESE DAYS. A LOT MORE THAN BEFORE. I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST ME. EVEN WHEN YOU ARE WATCHING SHOW OR MOVIE, THE DIALOGUE WAS SO QUICK.

MY FRIEND AND HER HUSBAND WATCHING TV AND HE WAS LAUGHING THREE JOKES AGO. SO YOU FEEL OUT OF IT. SELF-ESTEEM, DEPRESSION. YOU JUST FEEL OUT OF IT. LIKE YOU ARE NOT WITH THE GROUP AND NOT WITH EVERYONE.

I DO WANT TO MENTION TO TELL PEOPLE AND TELL THEM KNOW AND STOP HIDING. WE HAVE TO BE OUT THERE. I THINK THEY WILL BRING MORE DIFFICULT ON US IF WE DON'T TELL THEM.

DANNY TUBBS: THAT'S A GREAT POINT.

EXTROVERT AND INTROVERT.

MY WIFE IS INTROVERT. SHE HAS HER METHOD. AND I'M EXTROVERT. WE WOULD BE TALKING TO PEOPLE AND I KNOW SHE'S NOT GETTING A WORD BUT SHE WOULD BE SMILING. SHE WOULD ASK ME LATER. SHE DOESN'T WANT TO COME OUT TO SAY THAT AND I'M NOT ALLOW TO DO THAT ANYMORE.

>> WENDI: I WAS AT WORK JUST LIKE STEPHANIE WAS TALKING ABOUT. SEVERAL STUDENTS 3 YEARS AGO I THINK IT WAS. WANTING TO GO SOMEWHERE AND I DIDN'T HEAR WHERE. AND I GAVE THE OKAY.

THE TEACHER TURNED TO ME AND ASKED WHERE THEY WERE GOING.

I DIDN'T HEAR THEM. SO SHE SAID THEY WANTED TO DITCH THE CLASS. AND I GAVE THEM THE OKAY.

THE TEACHER SAID TO ME NEXT TIME IF YOU ARE NOT SURE WHAT THEY ARE SAYING, DON'T SAY YES.

DANNY TUBBS: LESSON LEARNED.

"ANOTHER MYTH: HEARING LOSS AND HEARING AIDS ARE A SIGN OF OLD AGE.

FACT: (READING) -- AGE CATEGORY THAN -- NEITHER OF THE BABY BOOMERS NOW EXPERIENCING HEARING LOSS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY INVEST IN BETTER HEARING SOONER THAN LATER. AND INVEST IS THE RIGHT WORD. INSURANCE DON'T PAY FOR HEARING AIDS.

(READING) -- INDEED DOING NOTHING TO HELP YOURSELF --" I DON'T KNOW WHO WROTE THIS. I DON'T AGREE WITH EVERYTHING HERE.

MYTH: (READING) --.

>> FEMALE AUDIENCE: DANNY, CAN YOU TELL THEM THAT -- I GOT A HEARING AID, IT'S GOING TO BE \$3,000 AT USC. I GOT IT HERE THE SAME ONE \$800. THIS IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION. IF YOU NEED A HEARING AID, YOU SHOULD COME HERE.

DANNY TUBBS: WHEN SHE SAYS HERE, IN PASADENA. THEY ARE A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION. AND THEY HAVE DISCOUNTED HEARING AIDS AND A GREAT AUDIOLOGIST STAFF. AS HLAA WE ARE NOT ALLOWED TO ENDORSE PRODUCT BUT WE ARE IN PARTNERSHIPS.

>> FEMALE AUDIENCE: ALSO DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR WIFE WAS HARD-OF-HEARING WHEN YOU WERE DATING HER?

DANNY TUBBS: YOU KNOW WHAT? WE WERE 9TH GRADE

SWEETHEART. WE GOT BACK AT OUR 25-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL REUNION. I DIDN'T KNOW SHE HAD HEARING LOSS. WE WERE ON A TRIP AND SHE TOLD ME.

IT WAS NOT A BIG DEAL TO ME, AND SHE WAS RELIEVED. AND BECAUSE OF THAT WE STARTING THIS GROUP AND MEETING SO MANY GREAT PEOPLE THAT HAVE CHANGED OUR LIVES.

OKAY. "MYTH (READING) HEARING AIDS DON'T WORK."

WE TALKED ABOUT THAT EARLIER. JUST MY OWN EXPERIENCE. "PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FOR THE HOLY GRAIL OF HEARING AIDS."

I DON'T THINK THAT'S EVER OBTAINABLE. BUT I THINK WITH NEW TECHNOLOGY YOU WILL GET TO THE POINT WHERE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO HEAR AND HAVE CONVERSATION AND UNDERSTAND. BUT I REALLY BELIEVE THAT ANYWHERE IN A CROWDED ROOM OR CROWDED RESTAURANT IT'S GOING TO BE VERY DIFFICULT. THEY ARE STILL TRYING TO WORK ON BACKGROUND NOISE REDUCTION SO YOU CAN HEAR SOMEONE TALKING IN FRONT OF YOU.

LET'S SEE WHAT THEY SAY.

"(READING) -- STOP REGRESSION OR NOISE RELATED HEARING LOSS -- HEARING AIDS AREN'T THE WHOLE STORY. BUT SMART NEW DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY INCLUDING THE ABILITY TO AMPLIFIED SOUND SELECTIVELY DO MOST PEOPLE HEAR BETTER IN MOST SITUATIONS.

NO HEARING AID WILL WORK UNLESS YOU ARE WILLING TO ADAPT TO IT."

THAT'S SO TRUE.

OKAY. WE ARE GETTING TO THE END OF PRESENTATION. I JUST HAVE A COUPLE OF FUN FACTS NOT ON HUMANS.

"(READING) -- NOT ALL LIVING CREATURES HEAR WITH EARS.

MALE MOSQUITOS HEAR WITH THOUSANDS OF TINY HAIRS."

THE LAST ONE IS FASCINATING.

"IN WORLD WAR I PARROTS WERE KEPT ON THE EIFFEL TOWER IN PARIS. THEY COULD HEAR THE ENEMY AIRCRAFT COMING LONG BEFORE EVERYONE COULD HEAR IT."

EVERYONE LIKES THE PRESENTATION?

15 MEETING HERE. IT'S A GOOD MEETING.

I HOPE THE NEW MEMBERS COME BACK AND MEET THE REST OF THE PEOPLE.

WE'VE GOT 5 MINUTES. PASS IT DOWN AND SAY ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SAY.

>> MALE AUDIENCE: THANK YOU. DODGER GAME.

>> FEMALE AUDIENCE: ONE HEARING DISPENSER TOLD ME THAT HEARING AIDS WERE COST WOULD WHAT THE TRAFFIC WOULD BEAR.

>> FEMALE AUDIENCE: THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR A WONDERFUL MEETING.

DANNY TUBBS: THANK YOU.

>> FEMALE AUDIENCE: THAT'S WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY. THANK YOU DANNY YOU DID A GREAT JOB AGAIN.

DANNY TUBBS: THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>> GOOD VIBE.

>> FEMALE AUDIENCE: THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME. YOU DID A WONDERFUL JOB.

SOMETHING I WOULD LIKE TO TALK ABOUT IN FUTURE MEETING IS THE, I FEEL LIKE THERE IS NOT ENOUGH ADVOCACY FOR HARD-OF-HEARING PEOPLE. I FEEL LIKE THE AUDIOLOGIST, I DON'T MEAN TO BAG THEM, BUT IT DOES FEEL LIKE THE WILD LOW WEST. NO ONE IS WATCHING OVER US TO SAY THIS AUDIOLOGIST IN BEVERLY HILLS CHARGES \$4,000 AND SAME HEARING AID HERE FOR \$400. THERE'S NO REGULATION. AND I FEEL LIKE AND THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING ON MY OWN IS CAME TO FIND YOU BECAUSE I FEEL LIKE I NEED MORE SUPPORT IS THAT THERE ARE CHILDREN, BEFORE IT WAS OH, IT'S WHAT YOU SAID. IT'S ELDERLY THING. GIVE THEM HEARING AIDS AND THEY WILL GO AHEAD.

\$7,000 IS A LOT FOR HEARING AID. IT'S MORE THAN 10 COMPUTERS. I THINK PEOPLE WOULD BE WILLING TO PAY \$7,000 IF WE GET OUR HEARING BACK. BUT IT'S NOT A PERFECT THING.

SO MY FEELING IS THE HEARING MANUFACTURERS, IT'S COSTING THEM, I DON'T EVEN KNOW. COUPLE OF HUNDRED DOLLAR BUCKS TO MAKE THIS. AND AUDIOLOGIST IS MAKING A PROFIT. IN ANY COMMERCE SITUATION WHEN DEMAND GOES UP, PRICES COME DOWN.

THE DEMAND IS GOING UP BUT THE COST IS STILL GOING UP. SO WHAT I'M INTERESTED IN FUTURE MEETING IS WE NEED MORE ADVOCACY. I FEEL LIKE WE'VE BEEN TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF. IF IT COST 5 GRAND TO MAKE AND COST 6 GRAND, IT'S OKAY. BUT IT'S NOT.

DANNY TUBBS: ABSOLUTELY ON OUR COMMITTEE THERE'S AN ADVOCACY CHAIR. MOST OF HER ADVOCACY FOCUSED ON THEATER AND PLAYS.

THAT'S REALLY GREAT IF YOU WANT TO BECOME GREAT IN THAT AREA. THAT'S WHAT HLA IS SUPPORT THAT.

SOME PEOPLE HAVE PASSION FOR DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE GROUP.

ABOUT THE HEARING AIDS, IT COST AS MUCH AS A CAR AND YOU HAVE TO GET ONE EVERY 3 YEARS OR SO. SO YOU ARE LOOKING AT PAYING THAT EVERY 3 YEARS.

>> JENNIFER: AND I'M PART OF A FORUM. AND I KEEP READING THINGS LIKE I'M DIPPING INTO MY 401(K) TO GET MY HEARING AID. I HEAR PEOPLE SAY "I'M LIQUIDATING MY MOTHER."

THAT IS NOT RIGHT. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HEAR WITHOUT LIQUIDATING OUR RETIREMENT AND LIKE I SAID, IT'S ONE THING TO PAY MONEY FOR A DEVICE, BUT \$7,000 AND MORE PEOPLE ARE COMING FORWARD AND PRICE KEEPS GOING UP THAT MAKES NO SENSE.

DANNY TUBBS: HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS GROUP HERE?

>> JENNIFER: MY HEARING IS GETTING WORSE AND NOW I'M A COCHLEAR IMPLANT CANDIDATE. I'M AT A DESPERATION LEVEL. I DID A LOT OF RESEARCH. WHAT I FOUND WAS, IS GLAD.

SO I HAD AN INTERVIEW FOR GLAD AND THEY CANCELLED IT BECAUSE I DON'T QUALIFY.

DANNY TUBBS: INTERVIEW TO WORK THERE?

>> JENNIFER: YES. IT'S LEGAL. BUT I FELT VERY DISCRIMINATED AGAINST. YOU NEED A VOICE FOR THE DEAF, ABSOLUTELY. BUT VOICE FOR HARD-OF-HEARING.

DANNY TUBBS: THEY ARE DEAF FIRST. HEARING LOSS SECOND.

>> JENNIFER: I COULD BE WRONG. BUT THEY ARE TRYING TO BRING HARD-OF-HEARING MORE TO THE FOREFRONT.

WITH THAT BEING SAID, WHERE CAN I GO NOW. I CAN'T GO TO GLAD. SO I FOUND THIS. I JOINED THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION.

I'M ACTUALLY CLOSER TO THE SANTA MONICA ONE. BUT WHEN I HAD SPOKEN TO JENNIFER, I SAID TO HER I'M LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE, EVEN IN THE BUSINESS WORLD, THAT'S MY STRUGGLE AND I NEED TO FIND PEOPLE WHO I CAN TALK TO. HOW ARE YOU DEALING WITH PHONE AND PHONE CONFERENCES? AND SHE TOLD ME SANTA MONICA DEALS MORE IN THAT.

DANNY TUBBS: NICE TO HAVE YOU.

>> JENNIFER: THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME.

>> MALE AUDIENCE: I WORK AT HOME. I'M A WRITER. IF SOMEONE IS KNOCKING ON MY DOOR, I DON'T KNOW. I HAVE A DOG. HER NAME IS SCRIBBLE.

ONE DAY THERE WAS SOMEONE KNOCKING ON THE DAY. SCRIBBLE COMES RUNNING IN, LOOKS AT ME, BARKS IN MY FACE, AND THEN RUNS OUT THE DOOR. AND I FOLLOWED HER. AND SURE ENOUGH THERE'S SOMEONE THERE. SO I GOT MYSELF A HEARING DOG.

DANNY TUBBS: NICE. WE GOT TO WRAP IT UP.

>> TIM: I DON'T HAVE A DOG.

ONE THOUGHT FOR THE FUTURE. NOW I WORK AT GYM AND PARK SO FORTH. I DO SEE TEENAGERS BLASTING MUSIC IN. I THINK OUR WORK IS MORE IMPORTANT NOW. I BELIEVE THERE WILL BE MORE PEOPLE STRUGGLING WITH HEARING LOSS. I THINK EVERYTHING WE DO NOW WILL BE MORE CRITICAL FOR THE FUTURE.

DANNY TUBBS: THANK YOU.

STEPHANIE: I THINK PEOPLE REALLY CONTINUING TO SUPPORT EACH OTHER AND SHOW UP AT THESE GROUPS. YOU GUYS COME BACK NEXT MONTH AND WE WILL HAVE THE OTHER HALF OF THE GROUP HERE.

HAAA REALLY ADVOCATES FOR US. A LOT OF STUFF THAT'S HAPPENED THAT REALLY HELPED. SO JUST US CONTINUING TO SUPPORT EACH OTHER AND SUPPORT THE CHAPTER IS REALLY GONNA MAKE SOME DIFFERENCES. WITH THE CAPTIONING, ALL OF THE OTHER THINGS THAT'S BEEN GOING ON TO WORK ON OUR ADVOCACY, TOO.

THANK YOU, DANNY, FOR ALL YOUR RESEARCH. CAN YOU PROVIDE THIS FOR US?

DANNY TUBBS: SURE. I'LL POST IT.

**THANK YOU, JOANNE, FOR THE GREAT CAPTIONING.
[APPLAUSE].
HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND.
I'LL SEND GUYS E-MAIL BY TOMORROW.**

[END 12:00 P.M.]