

>> HEATHER: GOOD MORNING. MAKE SURE YOU ARE IN THE BLUE LINE.

YOU ARE NOT HEARING IT, YOU ARE DOWN, HUH?

>> I HEAR YOU BETTER WITHOUT THE T-COIL.

>> HEATHER: HANG ON. MAYBE IT'S THIS.

IS THAT BETTER? NOT BETTER.

OKAY. IS THAT BETTER? IS THAT TOO LOUD? ALL RIGHT. GREAT.

I HAD TO PUT IT ON A DIFFERENT CHANNEL.

GOOD MORNING, WELCOME EVERYBODY. I WANT TO TELL YOU HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE YOU BEING HERE TODAY; NOT ONLY FOR ROLLING OUT OF BED ON SATURDAY, TAKING TIME OUT OF YOUR DAY TO HELP YOURSELF AND OTHERS.

FIRST ITEM OF THE DAY.

WOW AWARDS. WE HAVE SO MANY GREAT PEOPLE DOING SO MANY GREAT THINGS IN THE CHAPTER; DOING THINGS IN THE CHAPTER AND OUTSIDE TO HELP PEOPLE WITH HEARING LOSS.

WE WANT TO GIVE THEM A LITTLE HEADS-UP.

OUR FIRST WOW AWARD WINNER IS TERI BRIER. TERI WENT TO ANOTHER MEETING AND FOUND A SPEAKER WHO IS COMING HERE NEXT MONTH. WHEN YOU SEE PEOPLE OR HEAR PEOPLE WHO ARE RESEARCHERS OR PEOPLE DOING GREAT WORK IN THE HEARING LOSS COMMUNITY, IT WAS SO WONDERFUL OF HER TO REACH OUT AND BRING US THAT PERSON TO OUR GROUP. I REALLY APPRECIATE TERI. SAVES US A LOT OF WORK.

ANYONE WANT TO SAY ANYTHING? NO.

SECOND WOW AWARD FOR THIS MONTH IS SO, SO WELL-DESERVED, SOMEONE WHO SHOULD PRETTY MUCH GET A WOW AWARD EVERY SINGLE MEETING BECAUSE WITHOUT HIM WE COULDN'T DO ANYTHING. OUR TECH GURU, PERSON WHO NEVER GETS ANY RECOGNITION, TIM [APPLAUSE] – TIM BRINGS US UP TO THE MILLENNIUM AND GET MORE TECHNOLOGY. AND OUR TECHNOLOGY AND OUTREACH MATERIALS WILL GET BETTER AND BETTER.

I DO HAVE A STORY I HEARD. I WAS TALKING TO ERIN MORRANTE (PHONETIC) AT NATIONAL. GOING CRAZY ABOUT HOW THE WEB SITE IS, HOW IT'S EFFECTIVE AND THE BEST WEBSITE IN THE COUNTRY.

[APPLAUSE]

>> TIM: I JUST FOUND OUT THIS MORNING. I KNOW YOU WERE HOPING WE WOULD WIN. WE DID WIN FOR THE BEST WEBSITE.

[APPLAUSE]

>> WAY TO GO.

>> HEATHER: CONGRATULATIONS, TIM. ARE YOU GOING TO ACCEPT THE AWARD AT THE CONVENTION?

>> TIM: I WILL TRY TO MAKE IT.

DON'T FORGET, PAT AND LISA AND KEN HELPED. LET'S NOT FORGET ABOUT THEM. BUT IN SPIRIT, THEY WERE A BIG, BIG HELP.

>> HEATHER: THINK ABOUT THAT AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION IN JUNE AT MINNESOTA, WE WILL HAVE TWO NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS: LISA AND TIM. I'M REALLY THRILLED ABOUT THE RECOGNITION.

NEXT ITEM IS OUR WALK4HEARING IS JUNE 9, AND WE HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO GET READY FOR THAT. NOT ONLY DO WE ALL NEED TO GET OUR OWN SPONSORS --

LET ME BACK UP. I'M SORRY. AS USUAL, I AM JUMPING AHEAD.

FIRST THING EVERYONE CAN DO IS GO ON THE NATIONAL WEBSITE AND SIGN UP FOR THE NATIONAL WALK4HEARING.

HERE IS OUR VERY OWN DIANE, OUR WALK4HEARING CHAIRPERSON AND SOCIAL MEDIA, FABULOUS, AWESOMENESS PERSON, WHO WILL TELL YOU ABOUT WHAT WE NEED TO DO TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WALK4HEARING TO BRING MORE MONEY TO OUR CHAPTER.

>> DIANE: I'VE HAD A HECTIC MONTH SO A LITTLE BEHIND IN WHAT I NEED TO TELL YOU AND TO PUT UP ON OUR WALK4HEARING PAGE. I WILL HAVE THAT DETAIL HOPEFULLY SOMETIME NEXT WEEK. I WILL WALK YOU THROUGH WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO SIGN UP FOR THE WALK4HEARING, WHICH IS JUNE 9 IN LONG BEACH. AND UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE BEEN TALKING TO NATIONAL TRYING TO GET TO MOVE IT CLOSER TO LA, BUT NO GO. WE ARE GOING BACK TO LONG BEACH. AND I AM JUST GOING TO GO THROUGH MY NOTES.

ONE OF THE THINGS WE WILL BE DOING IS ASKING FOR VOLUNTEERS ON THE DAY OF THE WALK. ONE ITEM NEEDED IS THERE WILL BE A TABLE WITH BROCHURES AND FLYERS THAT WILL COVER NATIONAL AND CHAPTERS THAT ARE PARTICIPATING. WE WILL NEED TO MAN THAT TABLE.

OTHER THING TO DO IS GET CARPOOLS TO GO DOWN TO LONG BEACH, I WOULD LIKE SOMEONE TO VOLUNTEER TO COORDINATE CARPOOLS. VOLUNTEER LIST WILL COME LATER.

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE WALK... THE FUNDS THAT ARE RAISED FOR THE WALK ARE SPLIT BETWEEN NATIONAL AND THE CHAPTERS.

OUR CHAPTER HAS A TEAM CALLED THE LA STARS THAT YOU CAN SIGN UP TO WALK AS PART OF THE TEAM. YOU CAN SIGN UP WITH YOUR OWN TEAM IF YOU FEEL YOU WILL HAVE A BIG CROWD COMING WITH YOU, AND YOU CAN DESIGNATE THAT THE FUNDS GO TO THIS CHAPTER OR DESIGNATE THEY GO TO NATIONAL.

THERE IS A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT WAYS, AND THAT WILL COME OUT IN WRITING.

THE USE OF THESE FUNDS WILL BE FOR EXPENSES.

YOU HAVE A BUNCH OF BROCHURES FOR THE WALK?

AT SOME POINT WE WILL HAVE A LIST OF THE ITEMS THAT NATIONAL USES AND THE CHAPTERS USE. ASKING YOU TO GO OUT AND RAISE MONEY, NOT GOING TO ASK YOU TO BADGER EVERYBODY YOU KNOW. IF YOU CAN

FIND 10 PEOPLE AND ASK THEM FOR \$5 OR \$10. MINIMUM YOU CAN GO FOR IF YOU WANT TO WIN A SNAZZY WALK4HEARING T-SHIRT, YOU NEED TO RAISE A HUNDRED DOLLARS.

ALSO LOOKING FOR SPONSORSHIPS, PEOPLE TO SPONSOR THE WALK TO GET LOGOS ON THE BACK OF THE T-SHIRT AND TO BE PART OF THE SIGNAGE OF THE WALK. IF YOU CAN THINK OF COMPANIES THAT MAY WANT TO PARTICIPATE, COME TALK TO ME, AND -- AND I HATE THAT I CAN'T READ MY HANDWRITING ANYMORE.

WE WILL BE BRINGING -- NEXT MONTH I WILL HAVE MORE FLYERS AND INFORMATION. BUT BETWEEN NOW AND THE NEXT MEETING I WILL BE PUTTING UP MORE INFORMATION ON THE WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE AND EMAIL LIST.

I THINK THAT'S ABOUT IT FOR THE MOMENT. THE WALK IS IN JUNE, AND MARCH WILL BE THE TARGET DATE TO GET THINGS MOVING. OKAY.

ANY QUESTIONS BEFORE I SIT DOWN? I DON'T SEE ANY.

YOU CAN'T GO BY MY EYES ALL THE TIME.

>> HEATHER: I AM APPROACHING DOLBY SOUND, IF THEY CAN POSSIBLY SPONSOR US. MY HUSBAND WORKS FOR DOLBY. I AM GOING THROUGH CHANNELS RIGHT NOW.

WAS THERE SOMEONE WHO VOLUNTEERED TO TALK TO TRADER JOE'S, BECAUSE THAT'S A LOCAL BIG COMPANY THAT MIGHT SPONSOR US? LAST MEETING, I THOUGHT SOMEBODY RAISED THEIR HAND --

I HAVE A TEMPLATE, A LETTER THAT ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS FILL IN THE BLANKS AND YOU CAN SEND IT TO THE PERSON AND FOLLOW UP. IT'S REALLY EASY IN TERMS OF ASKING FOR SPONSORSHIP. SO IT'S NOT LIKE A LOT OF WORK. IT'S MORE LIKE FINDING OUT THE ADDRESS OF THE PERSON AND SENDING OUT THE LETTER AND WAITING A WEEK AND THEN MAKING A COUPLE PHONE CALLS.

PROBABLY THEY WILL SAY TO YOU, "NO." I ALREADY APPROACHED A COUPLE STARTUP-TYPE COMPANIES THAT WERE NOT INTERESTED.

THINK ABOUT THAT, GUYS, AT THE BREAK. I'M GOING TO START TWISTING ARMS AND MAYBE SOMEONE TO APPROACH TRADER JOE'S AS WELL.

NEXT ON THE AGENDA IS THE NATIONAL CONVENTION, 2018, COMING IN JUNE. IT'S IN MINNEAPOLIS. 22? JUNE 22. THAT WEEKEND. IT'S LIKE A WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, AND THEN SATURDAY.

MOST OF THE ACTIVITIES ARE ON THE FRIDAY AND THE SATURDAY, AND THEN SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY ARE KIND OF LIKE CHAPTER STUFF, RIGHT? SORRY. I DIDN'T GO LAST YEAR BECAUSE I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL. BUT TIM KNOWS MORE ABOUT THIS.

>> TIM: I WENT ON WEDNESDAY. WEDNESDAY HAVE A LOT OF CHAPTER INVOLVEMENT WORKSHOPS AND THURSDAY MORE THEY DO SOME FOLLOW-UPS. AND I THINK THURSDAY AFTERNOON, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, THEY HAVE A LOT OF WORKSHOPS. AND EVERY YEAR THEY ADD MORE AND

BETTER AND INTERESTING WORKSHOPS. SO I THINK FRIDAY AND SATURDAY ARE PRIMARY DAYS, AND SUNDAY OFFERING A TOUR OF MINNEAPOLIS.

WENT TO THE MORMON TABERNACLE LAST YEAR.

>> HEATHER: AND I HOPE THAT SOME OF YOU ARE CONSIDERING GOING TO THE CONVENTION. IT WOULD BE GREAT TO HAVE A BIG CHEERING SECTION FOR BOTH LISA AND TIM WHO WILL BE ACCEPTING THIS AWARD.

I KNOW I PLAN ON PAINTING MY FACE HLAA COLORS. IF YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT IT, THIS WOULD BE A GOOD YEAR. OR IF YOU HAVEN'T GONE AND WANT TO GO, THIS WOULD BE A GOOD YEAR TO GO. I THINK WE WILL HAVE A PRETTY GOOD SHOWING.

ARE WE READY FOR OUR PANEL?

>> TIM: WE JUST NEED TO MOVE THIS OUT AND PUT CHAIRS HERE.

>> HEATHER: OKAY. SO –
YOU HAVE A QUESTION?

>> MITZI: NO. MORE ABOUT CONVENTION. THERE IS A SCHOLARSHIP FOR FIRST-TIMERS. YOU KNOW ABOUT IT.

I THINK IT'S THE ROCKY STONE SCHOLARSHIP FOR FIRST-TIME ATTENDEES. ALL THEY HAVE TO DO IS APPLY AND WRITE SOMETHING. IT'S PRETTY EASY TO GET. THEY DON'T PAY ALL OF YOUR EXPENSES BUT IT'S A BIG CHUNK OF IT.

>> HEATHER: IS THAT ON THE NATIONAL WEBSITE?

>> MITZI: I THINK IT IS. I WAS A WINNER.

>> HEATHER: IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN GOING BUT DON'T FEEL YOU CAN AFFORD IT, PLEASE LOOK ON THE WEBSITE, THE NATIONAL WEBSITE FOR THAT. AND THAT MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP YOU OUT.

WAIT. I AM SORRY. I TOTALLY FORGOT.

WE HAVE SOME NEW PEOPLE TODAY.

ANYONE NEW? CAN YOU RAISE YOUR HAND? WOULD YOU MIND SAYING YOUR NAME AND TELLING US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOUR HEARING JOURNEY?

>> STEVEN: I AM STEVEN. I AM FROM RESEDA. AND I WAS BORN WITH A HEARING LOSS. THIS IS MY SECOND ATTEMPT AT A HEARING AID. MY FIRST ONE I GOT WAS HORRIBLE. THE ONE I HAVE NOW, I HAVE HAD ABOUT THREE YEARS AND -- I FOUND THE WEB SITE JUST BY ACCIDENT, GOING ON GOOGLE LOOKING FOR STUFF FOR HARD-OF-HEARING. JOINED ABOUT A YEAR AGO. AND THIS IS MY FIRST TIME HERE.

>> HEATHER: WELCOME. THANK YOU FOR COMING.

ANYONE ELSE NEW?

THANKS, TERI.

>> JOLIE: MY NAME IS JOLIE, I AM ALSO FROM CHATSWORTH. ALSO BORN WITH HEARING LOSS. I STARTED WEARING HEARING AIDS WHEN I WAS FIVE. I HAVEN'T MET ANYONE ELSE WITH HEARING LOSS WHICH IS WHY I CAME TODAY.

>> YOU HAVE A WHOLE ROOMFUL.

[APPLAUSE]

>> HEATHER: ANYONE ELSE?

>> MY NAME IS ROY TANAKA (PHONETIC). I'VE COME HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HEARING LOSS BECAUSE I HAVE MANY FRIENDS THAT ARE GETTING HEARING LOSS. MY LANDLADY AND A ROOMMATE ARE HAVING SERIOUS HEARING LOSS, AND I DEAL WITH THEM EVERY DAY. THE DOG NEXT DOOR... FOR ME, I'M HAVING SOME HEARING LOSS, NOT AS BAD AS A LOT OF PEOPLE I AM COMING IN CONTACT WITH. BUT I HAVE SORT OF THE OPPOSITE PROBLEM. I'M SORT OF LOSING MY SPEECH FACULTIES BECAUSE OF COMPLICATIONS WITH COPD. BUT I WANTED TO COME AND SEE WHAT OTHER PEOPLE ARE DOING TO LIVE WITH HEARING LOSS.

[APPLAUSE]

>> JENNA: ALSO FOR THE NEW PEOPLE, DID YOU ALL SIGN IN WITH YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

>> YES.

>> HEATHER: YES, PLEASE DO.

>> DIANE: ONE QUICK NOTE ABOUT THE CONVENTION SCHOLARSHIP. I JUST LOOKED IT UP ON THE WEB SITE AND DEADLINE FOR APPLYING FOR THE ROCKY STONE SCHOLARSHIP IS FEBRUARY 28. SO DO IT NOW. AND JUST GO TO THE WEBSITE HEARINGLOSS.ORG, AND THE EASIEST WAY I FOUND IT WAS TO EITHER LOOK FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE 2018 CONVENTION OR TYPE 2018 CONVENTION IN THE SEARCH BOX -- SCHOLARSHIP.

>> JENNA: ALSO YOU HAVE TO NEVER HAVE BEEN TO THE CONVENTION BEFORE, AND FINANCIAL HARDSHIP.

>> I THINK THERE IS ONE FOR VETERANS.

>> I WROTE IT FOR HER LAST YEAR. AND IT HAS TO BE YOU'VE NEVER BEEN BEFORE.

>> JENNA: BUT I MEAN VETERANS?

>> YES.

>> JENNA: SO VETERANS OR FOR FIRST-TIME PEOPLE. JUST GO TO THE WEBSITE. ALL THE INFORMATION IS THERE. YOU CAN ALSO CONTACT HLA A IF YOU ARE CONFUSED. I THINK IT'S MULTIPLE SCHOLARSHIPS. IT'S WORTH APPLYING. I APPLIED. IT'S WORTH A TRY.

>> TIM: ON THE WEB SITE I WILL PUT UP CONVENTION LINKS AS WELL. I WILL HAVE AN ARTICLE ON TO SUMMARIZE WHERE YOU CAN GO. CLICK ON IT.

>> HEATHER: THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THAT.

SO VALENTINE'S DAY HAS COME AND GONE, AND WE WANTED TO TALK ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS AND HOW HARD IT IS TO LIVE WITH HEARING LOSS WHEN YOU HAVE HEARING LOSS AND YOUR LOVED ONE IS HEARING, AND COMMUNICATION DIFFICULTIES THAT CAN HAPPEN WITH THAT.

SO WE WILL HAVE A LITTLE PANEL DISCUSSION. WE WILL HAVE QUESTIONS, AND WE REALLY, REALLY WANT OR HOPE YOU CAN JOIN IN AND

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES. SHARE MAYBE YOUR SOLUTIONS IF WE ARE TALKING ABOUT A SPECIFIC PROBLEM, MAYBE A WORKAROUND YOU HAVE COME UP WITH.

PURPOSE OF THIS DISCUSSION IS FOR US TO LEARN NEW THINGS TO HELP WITH YOUR RELATIONSHIPS AND ALSO TO SHARE SOME OF OUR FEELINGS HOW HARD IT IS TO LIVE THIS LIFE WITH HEARING LOSS.

I WANT TO FIRST INTRODUCE SOMEONE DEAR TO ME. MY DAUGHTER ANNIKA, SHE WILL BE PART OF THE PANEL. I DRAGGED MY TEENAGER HERE, I AM THE WORST MOM EVER. SHE AND I WILL TALK ABOUT HOW HARD IT IS, IN A HEARING/NON- HEARING FAMILY.

WHO ELSE --

>> JENNA: I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO HAVE THE PANEL --

>> TIM: I DON'T QUITE RECALL. WE CAN HAVE THE PANEL INTRODUCE THEMSELVES.

>> TIM, YOU ARE IN FRONT OF THE CAPTIONS.

>> TIM: IF EVERYONE WANTS TO COME UP. WE ARE TRYING TO SET UP THE CHAIRS IDEALLY. SO DON'T MIND US. I THINK WE WILL HAVE FOUR OVER HERE AND THREE OVER HERE. CAREFUL OF THE WIRES HERE. WIRES AND TRIPPING.

I WILL GET ONE MORE CHAIR.

YOU NEED THE CAPTIONS, RIGHT?

CAN ANY OF YOU HEAR THIS MIC AT ALL? ARE YOU KIDDING? REALLY? WOULDN'T IT BE NICE. IT'S TRULY A MIRACLE.

MARY CLARK AND MARK CLARK I THINK PICKED THIS ONE. IS THE QUALITY OKAY?

>> MITZI: IT'S A LITTLE ROUGH BUT UNDERSTANDABLE FOR ME.

>> TIM: THIS IS A GROUP DISCUSSION.

>> JENNA: CAN YOU ALL HEAR WITH THAT MICROPHONE?

>> DIANE: IT'S ACTUALLY BETTER HERE. IT'S A DEAD SPOT THERE.

>> TIM: DIANE, YOU WILL LEAVE YOU RIGHT THERE FOR THE REST OF THE MEETING.

I DON'T KNOW, JENNA, YOU WANT TO USE THIS?

>> TIM: I WILL HELP WITH THE MIC, PASSING IT AROUND.

>> JENNA: CAN YOU HEAR ME?

ALL RIGHT. ARE WE READY? ENERGY IN THE ROOM? COME ON!

I THINK BEFORE WE GO AND ASK OUR QUESTIONS, WE WILL ASK EACH PANEL MEMBER WHO THEY ARE, THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO WHO IS UP HERE WITH YOU, EXCEPT FOR TERI. SHE HAS HER OWN STORY.

INTRODUCE YOURSELVES AS A COUPLE. INTRODUCE YOUR HEARING LOSS AND GO AROUND THAT WAY.

>> DANNY: MY NAME IS DANNY TUBBS. I AM MARRIED TO THIS BEAUTIFUL WOMAN HERE, KATHERINE BURNS. FINALLY GOT HER TO MARRY ME COUPLE YEARS AGO. 15. WE ARE TWO OF THE SEVEN FOUNDING

MEMBERS OF THIS CHAPTER. WE'VE BEEN ON THIS PANEL BEFORE AND LOOKING FORWARD TO SHARING OUR EXPERIENCE WITH YOU.

>> KAT: HI. I'M THE BEAUTIFUL WOMAN. KATHERINE OR KAT. AND I HAVE A PROGRESSIVE HEARING LOSS. HAPPENED IN MY MID-30S AND GOTTEN PROGRESSIVELY WORSE. I JUST GOT A COCHLEAR IMPLANT ON MY BAD SIDE AND WEAR A HEARING AID ON MY RIGHT SIDE. STRUGGLING WITH THAT. BUT I'M VERY HAPPY TO BE HERE AND SHARE ANYTHING I CAN TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE IN A MIXED RELATIONSHIP. WE ARE STILL WORKING AT IT. BUT WE MANAGE NOT TO GET TOO FRUSTRATED AND TRY TO WORK THINGS OUT.

HOPEFULLY WE CAN SHARE SOME OF THOSE THINGS WITH YOU TODAY.

>> DIANE: HI, I AM DIANE. I'VE BEEN PART OF THIS ORGANIZATION FOREVER AND EVER, AND I ALWAYS THANK GRACE TIESSEN FOR TELLING ME ABOUT THIS CHAPTER RIGHT AFTER IT STARTED.

MY HEARING LOSS IS GENETIC, PROGRESSIVE, A CONDITION CALLED USHER SYNDROME THAT ALSO AFFECTS MY EYESIGHT. SO SOMETIMES I CAN'T TALK ABOUT ONE WITHOUT TALKING ABOUT THE OTHER. TODAY I WILL TRY TO STAY WITH THE HEARING LOSS.

I AM HERE WITH MY MOTHER, GRACE. WE SHARED A HOUSE FOR I DON'T KNOW -- PROBABLY TWO DECADES. AND IN A LOT OF WAYS, IT'S KIND OF LIKE THIS WEIRD MARRIAGE, WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOR SO LONG.

LET HER INTRODUCE HERSELF AND TALK ABOUT OUR STORY.

>> GRACE: I AM GRACE. I AM DIANE'S MOTHER. AND AS SHE SAID WE'VE BEEN -- ASIDE FROM HER EARLY CHILDHOOD AND TEENS, WE HAD A HIATUS WHERE WE DID NOT LIVE TOGETHER. AND NOW WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOR I GUESS OVER 20 YEARS. AND YES, IT IS ALMOST LIKE A MARRIAGE. WHEN YOU HAVE A THOUGHT IN YOUR HEAD AND HEAR IT COMING OUT OF SOMEBODY ELSE'S MOUTH, YOU KNOW YOU'VE BEEN LIVING TOGETHER FOR A LONG TIME. SO THAT'S WHO WE ARE.

>> TERI: MY NAME IS TERI AND I AM THE SINGLE REPRESENTATIVE ON THIS PANEL. I HAVE HAD HEARING LOSS -- ARE YOU HEARING, LIKE --

>> DIANE: TICK, TICK, TICK.

>> TERI: LIKE A REPETITIVE.

CAN YOU TURN THAT ONE OFF?

>> DIANE: THE MICROPHONE SOUNDS LIKE A TRAIN. I DON'T KNOW WHICH ONE IT IS.

>> TIM: TURN IT OFF, PRESS IT TOWN.

>> DANNY: I CAN'T READ THE BUTTON. IT'S A DIFFERENT ONE.

>> JENNA: IT'S THIS ONE?

WE ARE JUST GOING TO PASS AROUND THE MIC.

>> TERI: CAN PEOPLE HEAR ME? START OVER AGAIN. I'M TERI, I HAVE HAD PROGRESSIVE GENETIC HEARING LOSS SINCE I WAS BORN, AND I STARTED WEARING BILATERAL HEARING AIDS IN COLLEGE ABOUT THE AGE

OF 19. AND I AM ON ABOUT MY SIXTH PAIR NOW IN MY 50s. I AM DIVORCED, ABOUT 10 YEARS AGO, AND I HAVE HAD A SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP IN BETWEEN. AND BASICALLY SINGLE FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS, LONGEST STRETCH IN MY LIFE.

I AM HERE TO TALK ABOUT THE CHALLENGES OF DATING, IN THE DATING POOL WITH THESE GUYS WHO CAN HEAR.

>> HEATHER: I'M HEATHER, MY HEARING LOSS STARTED IN MY LATE TEENS AND PROGRESSIVELY WORSE. DID WELL WITH HEARING AIDS, 20s, 30s, 40s. AND IN MY LATE 40s TOOK A HUGE DIVE SOUTH. I'VE BEEN STRUGGLING FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS, AND THREE WEEKS AGO I GOT MY COCHLEAR IMPLANT, AND I WAS ACTIVATED YESTERDAY.

THANK YOU. YOU ALL SOUND LIKE ROBOTS TO ME RIGHT NOW. KIND OF MORE LIKE (INAUDIBLE).

SO THANKFUL TO THIS CHAPTER. I WOULD HAVE NEVER DONE THIS SURGERY WITHOUT YOU. I WAS SO TERRIFIED ABOUT IT, WORRIED ABOUT WHAT THE OUTCOME MIGHT B. KNOWING SO MANY OF YOU WHO ARE DOING SO WELL WITH A COCHLEAR IMPLANT, HEARING YOUR STORIES AND YOUR WONDERFUL SUPPORT OF ME DURING THE PROCESS HAS BEEN EXTREMELY HELPFUL.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

BUT MY HEARING LOSS HAS BEEN HARD ON MY FAMILY. YOU KNOW, IT'S HARD TO TALK TO ME. AND HAD A REAL PROBLEM WITH VOICE MODULATION. I HAVE NO IDEA HOW LOUD OR HOW SOFT I TALK. AND I OFTEN HAVE CONFLICTS WITH MY FAMILY BECAUSE I'M TALKING REALLY LOUDLY, AND THEY ARE LIKE BACKING AWAY FROM ME --WHY I BROUGHT MY BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER HERE SO SHE CAN TELL YOU HOW HORRIBLE I AM.

ANYWAY, I AM REALLY HAPPY TO BE HERE.

>> ANNIKA: MY NAME IS ANNIKA, I AM A SENIOR AT SAN MARINO HIGH SCHOOL. I HAVE A SLIGHT HEARING LOSS, LIKE IF I AM IN THE CLASSROOM AND NOBODY IS MUMBLING TOO MUCH I DO OKAY. HAPPY TO BE HERE.

>> JENNA: AWESOME. WE HAVE A GREAT MIX OF PEOPLE HERE. SO HOPEFULLY ONE OR TWO OF THESE SCENARIOS ARE RELATABLE TO YOU.

OKAY. THE FIRST QUESTION IS A TWO-PARTER, SO LISTEN HARD.

FOR THE HARD-OF-HEARING PERSON ON THE PANEL, IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE DEPENDENT ON YOUR PARTNERS OR YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS FOR ASSISTANCE FOR HEARING? THAT'S PART A.

PART B. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE TECHNIQUES YOU USE TO BECOME MORE INDEPENDENT? IS THAT CLEAR?

AND THEN FOR THE HEARING PARTNER, YOU RECOGNIZE WHEN YOUR HARD-OF-HEARING PARTNER DOESN'T UNDERSTAND A CONVERSATION IN A GROUP AND WHAT DO YOU DO TO HELP THEM?

WHO WANTS TO START?

>> KAT: HELLO. YES. I WAS RAISED TO BE A VERY INDEPENDENT WOMAN. AND IN MY 20S I WAS AN ARDENT FEMINIST AND HAD A CAREER AND EVERYTHING. WHEN I STARTED LOSING MY HEARING, IT BECAME HARDER AND HARDER TO BE THAT INDEPENDENT WOMAN. IN THE LAST 10 OR SO YEARS I DEPENDED A LOT ON DANNY IN SITUATIONS TO HELP ME OUT. PROBABLY TOO MUCH.

I WAS DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER IN LATE 2016, AND THERE WAS NO WAY I COULD HAVE GONE THROUGH THE MAZE OF HEALTH CARE, DIFFERENT DOCTORS, EVERYTHING, WITHOUT DANNY. I MEAN, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT; IT WAS SO DIFFICULT TO BE ABLE TO HEAR AND PROCESS EVERYTHING THE DOCTORS AND THE SURGEONS AND THE RADIOLOGIST AND EVERYBODY HAD TO SAY.

I KNOW I DEPENDED ON HIM. IT'S VERY FRUSTRATING WHEN YOU CAN'T HEAR WHAT A DOCTOR IS TELLING YOU ABOUT YOUR LIFE.

I REALLY DON'T THINK I COULD HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT DANNY. AND OF COURSE, IT WAS FRUSTRATING, TOO, BECAUSE THE DOCTOR WOULD TALK FOR FIVE MINUTES AND DANNY WOULD SUM IT UP IN A MINUTE. IT'S HARD FOR HIM TOO. HE ALWAYS WOULD HAVE TO BE THERE FOR APPOINTMENTS AND THAT TYPE OF THING WHEN HE KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING IMPORTANT GOING ON.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE SOLUTION IS, BUT I KNOW I WAS VERY DEPENDENT ON HIM, ESPECIALLY IN THIS PAST YEAR.

BUT I AM HOPING WITH THE COCHLEAR IMPLANT, WORKING ON IT, IT'S NOT PERFECT, BUT HOPING IT WILL WORK BETTER SO I WON'T BE THAT DEPENDENT ON HIM.

>> DANNY: IT'S NOT HARD FOR ME. I WANT TO BE THERE. I AM A PARTNER IN THIS AND WANT TO HEAR WHAT'S GOING ON AND RELATE IT TO YOU. BUT I AM OVERZEALOUS SOMETIMES.

DOCTOR WILL START TALKING. I WILL START TELLING YOU. YOU SAY "I WANT TO HEAR."

SOME MAN WAS TRYING TO DESCRIBE SOMETHING TO YOU. YOU SAID "PARDON ME," AND HE LOOKED FRUSTRATED AGAIN. HE SAID IT IN THE MOST SIMPLEST TERMS AND NOT LIKE YOU HAVE A HEARING LOSS BUT LIKE YOU WERE STUPID. AND I WANTED TO STRANGLE HIM.

SOMETIMES PEOPLE THINK HEARING LOSS PEOPLE ARE RUDE BUT THEY JUST CAN'T HEAR.

I'VE LEARNED A LOT FROM OUR FRIENDS IN THE CHAPTER, TO FACE HER, TALK SLOWLY. AND PEOPLE IN THE NORMAL WORLD ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THIS KIND OF THING. THEY DON'T REALLY REALIZE IT, AND I THINK WE NEED TO BE PATIENT WITH THEM.

>> WHEN I WAS FIRST ASKED TO JOIN THE MIXED COUPLES PANELS -- NEVER DONE THAT BEFORE. BUT THEN I REALIZED IT WAS HEARING AND NON-HEARING. SO...

>> DIANE: I FORGOT TO SAY THIS AT THE BEGINNING. I WORE HEARING AIDS UP UNTIL MY EARLY 50S. I GOT MY FIRST COCHLEAR IMPLANT WHEN I WAS 52 AND THE SECOND ONE WHEN I WAS 54. AND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HEARING AID AND IMPLANTS HAS BEEN MIRACULOUS. BUT THAT'S PART OF ANOTHER QUESTION.

>> GOOD OR BAD?

>> DIANE: AS FAR AS INDEPENDENT/DEPENDENT, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN VERY INDEPENDENT. AND SINCE WE HAVE BEEN LIVING TOGETHER, THE TWO THINGS I THINK THAT I HAVE MOST DEPENDENT ON MOM FOR IS 1, WHEN I HAVE TO GET UP. I USE A SHAKE-AWAKE ALARM CLOCK I KEEP UNDER MY PILLOW. BUT MOST OF THE TIME I SLEEP THROUGH IT. SO THIS IS MY ALARM CLOCK. AND THE OTHER THING IS IF A PACKAGE IS TO BE DELIVERED, I EITHER HAVE TO AGAIN, LET MOM LISTEN FOR THE DOOR OR KNOW SOMETHING IS COMING OR I HAVE TO SIT IN THE LIVING ROOM SO I CAN HEAR THE DOOR. ALSO I NEED TO GET A BETTER LAND LINE PHONE I CAN HEAR ON BECAUSE WE HAVE A SECURITY BUILDING THAT GOES THROUGH THE TELEPHONE SYSTEM, AND IT'S VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME TO HEAR THAT.

THOSE ARE THINGS I THOUGHT OF WHEN THE WORD "INDEPENDENT" CAME UP.

>> GRACE: ONE OTHER THING. WHEN DIANE GETS A CALL FROM -- GENERALLY FROM HER DOCTOR OR DOCTORS, IT COMES THROUGH THE LAND LINE. AND SINCE SHE CAN'T HEAR THAT WELL ON THAT PHONE, I HAVE TO KIND OF INTERPRET BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THE DOCTOR AND THE NURSE AND DIANE. OTHER THAN THAT, I HAVE TO SAY THAT SINCE SHE'S GOTTEN COCHLEAR IT'S ALMOST AS IF SHE DOESN'T HAVE A HEARING LOSS.

AND OUR LIVING SITUATION -- FORTUNATELY OUR APARTMENT IS SET UP IN SUCH A WAY THAT DIANE ALMOST HAS HER OWN APARTMENT -- ALMOST -- AND SHE'S LIVING MORE INDEPENDENTLY. AND FOR ME, I SOMETIMES FORGET THAT SHE HAS A HEARING LOSS.

>> HEATHER: I WANT TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU HAD THIS EXPERIENCE ABOUT BEING INDEPENDENT. I'VE BEEN HORRIBLY DEPENDENT ON MY HUSBAND. ONE OF THE WORST SITUATIONS FOR ME, HE'S BEEN WORKING IN ENTERTAINMENT AS A STUDIO EXECUTIVE. AND WE HAVE TO GO TO PARTIES. I WANT TO MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION, I DON'T WANT TO MAKE MY HUSBAND LOOK BAD. WE HAVE ALL THESE CUES THAT WE DO WHERE I AM STANDING THERE, AND SOMEONE WILL SAY THEIR NAME, AND I DON'T GET THE NAME, AND I SORT OF JAB HIM -- SORRY -- THAT MEANS I DIDN'T GET THE NAME SO JAB IN THE THIGH MEANS "REPEAT THE NAME." "OH, TOM, HOW ARE YOU?" SO I CAN GET THE FACT THAT THE GUY'S NAME IS TOM.

SOMEONE WAS TALKING AND I WILL SORT OF -- THIS IS "WHAT" IN SIGN LANGUAGE, AND HE WILL VERY QUICKLY GIVE ME A TOPIC, LIKE WHAT

ARE WE EVEN TALKING ABOUT? I DON'T KNOW. PEOPLE ARE TALKING, STANDING IN A GROUP.

WE SORT OF DEVELOPED THIS SIGN LANGUAGE THING TO KIND OF GET THROUGH THAT. AND I REALLY APPRECIATE IT.

HE WILL HAVE TO WALK AWAY TO TALK TO SOMEONE ELSE OR GET A DRINK OR SOMETHING, AND I AM STANDING THERE BY MYSELF OR IN THE GROUP, AND I AM IN A PANIC. NOT KIDDING. I WANT TO LEAVE, RUN TO THE LADIES' ROOM, BECAUSE I AM WORRIED SOMEONE WILL COME UP TO ME AND START TALKING, AND I WILL ASK THEM TO REPEAT THEMSELVES. AND YOU CAN ONLY ASK SOMEONE TO REPEAT THEMSELVES SO MANY TIMES. THEN I START FAKING IT. YOU ARE NODDING YOUR HEAD AND LAUGHING WHEN EVERYBODY ELSE IS. THEN YOU REALIZE, SOMEONE IS ASKING YOU A QUESTION. IT'S LIKE NO. NO QUESTIONS.

I FEEL LIKE -- AND I USED TO BE A VERY SOCIAL PERSON AND MORE AND MORE WHEN FRANK SAYS THERE IS THIS PREMIERE WE HAVE TO GO TO OR -- I JUST GOT MY COCHLEAR IMPLANT AND HOPEFULLY THAT WILL HELP ME. I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO HOLD ON TO HIS HAND LIKE A TODDLER WHO IS AFRAID TO HAVE HIM LEAVE MY SIDE.

I HAPPENED TO -- SORRY, LIKE AT THE GROCERY STORE, I MAKE YOU -- I MAKE THE KIDS -- AND THE CLERK IS TALKING TO ME, AND I LOOK AT THE KID AND I MAKE THEM TRANSLATE ALL THE TIME.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT?

>> ANNIKA: I DON'T REALLY CARE. IT'S NOT THAT MUCH EFFORT. THE ONLY THING I NOTICE IS LIKE TALKING ON THE PHONE, KIND OF LIKE AFTER SCHOOL WHEN I NEED TO CALL HER. I TEXT HER AND SHE DOESN'T RESPOND. AND I KNOW IF I CALL HER SHE WILL PICK UP AND THEN SHE CAN'T HEAR.

BUT I DON'T REALLY HAVE ISSUES WITH TRANSLATING OR DOING ANY OF THAT STUFF.

WHEN I GET EXCITED I TALK REALLY FAST AND SHE CAN'T HEAR ME, OR I DON'T ENUNCIATE ENOUGH BECAUSE I HAVE SPEECH PROBLEMS. AS FAR AS COMMUNICATION, I DON'T ALWAYS THINK ABOUT IT IS THE ISSUE, AND SHE GETS FRUSTRATED WITH ME.

>> JENNA: GOING TO ASK YOU A SEPARATE QUESTION.

THAT WAS A GREAT ANSWER, AND IT'S HELPFUL TO LEARN CUES AND TIPS AND THINGS WE CAN TAKE BACK TO OUR -- IF YOU HAVE A PARTNER IN SOME WAY, SHAPE OR FORM OR A FAMILY MEMBER, TO SHARE THESE THINGS. IT'S NOT A TYPICAL DISABILITY AND THE WHOLE WORLD KNOWS ABOUT IT WHEN YOU SAY, "I'M BLIND." WHEN YOU SAY "I'M DEAF," PEOPLE UNDERSTAND DEAF. BUT HARD-OF-HEARING IS A GRAY AREA WHERE PEOPLE ARE LIKE "I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS."

FEEL FREE TO RAISE YOUR HAND IF YOU WANT TO, AND ANECDOTES.

I WILL DO A SEPARATE QUESTION FOR TERI BECAUSE SHE'S SINGLE AND DATING.

I GIVE YOU HUGE PROPS BECAUSE THAT'S DIFFICULT. IT'S DIFFICULT TO BE A SINGLE PERSON.

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGE RELATING TO DATING AS A WOMAN WITH HEARING LOSS?

>> TERI: IT'S HARD ENOUGH DATING. BEING IN LA WITH ALL OF THESE GORGEOUS WANNA-BE ACTRESSES AROUND WITH ENHANCEMENTS. HAVING CHALLENGES WITHOUT EVEN FACTORING IN HEARING LOSS.

AND IT'S REALLY DIFFICULT TO JUST MEET SOMEBODY IN REAL LIFE. IF I DID, THAT WOULD BE A MIRACLE. THAT'S WHAT IM HOPING FOR. IN THE MEANWHILE, THERE IS ONLINE DATING, WHICH IS, OH, SO FUN [LAUGHTER].

YOU HAVE ALL THE BASICS LIKE IS THIS SOMEBODY I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN MEETING? COULD WE BE COMPATIBLE? I HAVE THE DEALBREAKERS. I DON'T WANT TO DATE SOMEONE WITH TATTOOS ALL OVER OR IF THEY SMOKE OR DO DRUGS. I AM ALSO VERY SPIRITUAL, BUT NOT RELIGIOUS.

LOOKING FOR A PARTNER COMPATIBLE THAT WAY, EACH CRITERIA I HAVE NARROWS THE OPTIONS DOWN. AND IT'S LIKE LOOKING FOR A NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK TO BEGIN WITH. THEN I MEET SOMEONE WHO MATCHES ALL THAT. THEN I GET TO TELL THEM, "OH, BY THE WAY, I HAVE THIS DEBILITATING DISABILITY THAT MAKES IT REALLY CHALLENGING TO COMMUNICATE. HOW DO YOU LIKE THEM APPLES?"

I THINK THAT'S PROBABLY MY BIGGEST CHALLENGE IS EVEN JUST TELLING NORMAL HEARING PEOPLE OUT IN THE WORLD THAT I HAVE THIS DISABILITY. AND THEN IT'S LIKE YOU SAID, NOW WHAT? HOW DO I DEAL WITH THAT?

>> DIANE: I HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU.

HAVE YOU GOTTEN INTO A SITUATION WHERE YOU ACTUALLY MET SOMEONE AND HAD TO TELL THEM ABOUT YOUR HEARING LOSS? AND IF SO, WHAT'S THE REACTION?

>> TERI: I THINK THAT WAS PROBABLY ONE OF THE FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS THAT JENNA WAS GOING TO ASK.

OF COURSE, I MEET PEOPLE ALL THE TIME, AND THEN I HAVE DONE -- I HAVE MET OR STARTED -- STARTING THE COMMUNICATION ON LINE WITH SOMEBODY I MET ON A DATING SITE, AND AT THAT POINT IT'S LIKE WHEN DO I DROP THE BOMB? I'M NOT PUTTING IT IN MY PROFILE. LIKE, HEY, DO YOU WANT TO DATE A HARD-OF-HEARING GIRL? THEN YOU START CHATTING WITH SOMEONE, AND THEN THEY SAY "LET'S TALK, CALL ME, HERE'S MY NUMBER." NO, I DO NOT WANT TO CALL YOU. I DO NOT WANT TO TALK ON THE PHONE. SO AT SOME POINT I HAVE TO TELL THEM WHY.

I THINK THAT'S KIND OF TOUGH. IS THIS MAN GOING TO BE KIND AND PATIENT AND UNDERSTANDING ENOUGH TO SAY, HEY, THAT'S OKAY. I UNDERSTAND. LET'S MEET FOR COFFEE OR LET'S TEXT, OR WHATEVER YOU ARE COMFORTABLE WITH.

I HAVE HAD INTERACTIONS WHERE I'VE ACTUALLY TOLD SOMEONE I MET ON LINE, YOU KNOW, I'M HEARING-IMPAIRED AND I CAN'T HEAR ON THE PHONE AND I REALLY PREFER TO START OFF EMAILING OR TEXTING AND THEN MEET IN PERSON. AND SOMETIMES THEY ARE JUST REAL JERKS ABOUT IT, AND THEY KIND OF TRY TO COERCE ME TO CALL THEM. AND AT THAT POINT, IF THEY ARE GOING TO BE LIKE THIS IN THE BEGINNING WHEN I'M ASKING FOR WHAT I WANT AND THEY ARE TELLING ME THEY WANT TO DO IT THEIR WAY EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T DO IT THEIR WAY, TELLS ME THIS IS NOT SOMEBODY I WANT TO BE WITH.

>> GEORGIA: I HAVE BEEN ON DATING WEBSITES FOR A LONG TIME. I HAVEN'T DONE IT LATELY, BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME. BUT IT'S A CHALLENGE WITH HEARING LOSS, AND I'VE DONE IT BOTH WAYS.

I DON'T PUT IT ON MY PROFILE THAT I HAVE A HEARING LOSS. AND THEN IF THEY CONTACT ME AND THEY ARE INTERESTED IN ME AND WE DO A COUPLE OF EMAILS, I SAY, BY THE WAY, I HAVE A HEARING LOSS. ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT? I FOUND OUT IF THEY ARE NOT INTERESTED IN ME, FINE. BUT I'VE DONE THAT. AND I'VE GONE OUT WITH MEN EVEN THOUGH I TOLD THEM I HAD A HEARING LOSS.

IF I GO ON A DATE AND MEET SOMEBODY FOR THE FIRST TIME MAYBE FOR COFFEE, NOT REALLY A DATE BUT MEETING FACE-TO-FACE FOR THE FIRST TIME. I WILL TELL THEM. SAY OH, BY THE WAY, I HAVE A HEARING LOSS. BUT SOMETIMES THEY PICK UP ON THAT ANYWAY WHEN THEY MEET ME.

IT JUST DEPENDS. OF BUT THEN I DON'T HEAR FROM THEM. AND THAT'S OKAY. BECAUSE IF THEY DON'T WANT TO GET TO KNOW ME, THEN THEY ARE NOT WORTH IT. I THINK THAT'S TRUE WITH EVEN HEARING PEOPLE. SO I HAVE TO THINK IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF MY HEARING LOSS BECAUSE I'M A GOOD PERSON. I'M WORTH GETTING TO KNOW, RIGHT? DON'T TAKE IT AS A -- I HAVE A HEARING LOSS AND NOBODY WANTS TO GO OUT WITH ME, BECAUSE THAT'S NOT TRUE.

>> MITZI: AS YOU KNOW, I'M NEWLY SINGLE AFTER A LONG MARRIAGE, AND I HAVEN'T BEEN ON LINE, HAVEN'T BEEN ON THE DATING SITES, BUT I WENT TO MY 50TH HIGH SCHOOL REUNION, AND BEEN GETTING SO MUCH FEEDBACK FROM THAT, AND A-LIST GUYS WHO DIDN'T TALK TO ME. AND I'M VERY UPFRONT ABOUT THE HEARING LOSS. I FOUND THIS OUT IN A MEETING WITH AEG A WHILE BACK. YOU COME RIGHT OUT WITH IT AT THE BEGINNING. AND IF YOU ARE WITH MEN OF YOUR OWN AGE, IT'S A RELIEF TO THEM BECAUSE THEY ALL HAVE HEARING LOSS.

THE AEG MEETING, THE ATTORNEY WE WERE IN AN ADVERSARIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH, IMMEDIATELY MELLOWED BECAUSE HE HAD JUST GOTTEN HEARING AIDS AND SO AFRAID HE WOULDN'T COPE AS AN ATTORNEY IN THE NEGOTIATION. AND THIS IS WHAT I'M RUNNING INTO, THESE GUYS CONTACTING ME. ONE PM'D ME ON FACEBOOK. I'M CRAP ON THE PHONE, TURNS OUT HE'S BEEN DEALING WITH HEARING LOSS.

MY EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN THE MORE OUT YOU ARE WITH IT AT THE BEGINNING, THE BETTER. AND BEING YOURSELF, BECAUSE LIKE YOU SAY, THAT'S WHAT THEY ARE GOING TO EITHER BE ATTRACTED TO OR NOT. AND IF THEY AREN'T, YOU DON'T WANT THEM.

>> WENDI: I DIDN'T GET YOUR NAME. AND I UNDERSTAND THE DILEMMA AND SITUATION. I AM NOT ONLINE DATING AT THE MOMENT. I'VE TRIED IT OCCASIONALLY AND DATED HERE AND THERE, AND I DO THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE TRUE TO YOURSELF, LIKE GEORGIA SAID.

I REMEMBER MEETING A GUY, I THINK IT WAS LAST YEAR, AND DURING ONE OF OUR PHONE CONVERSATIONS, WHICH I DO PRETTY WELL ON THE PHONE -- AND TELL YOU WHY AND MAYBE THAT WILL HELP YOU DEPENDING ON WHAT KIND OF HEARING AIDS YOU HAVE.

DURING THIS CONVERSATION I KIND OF LED INTO I LIKE FOREIGN FILMS BECAUSE OF THE SUBTITLES. HIS REACTION WAS SO STRONG ABOUT HOW HE HATED THOSE MOVIES AND COULDN'T STAND THEM, I KNEW THEN THAT WAS ENOUGH FOR ME TO SAY, OKAY -- ASIDE FROM WHY HE WAS SO OPPOSED AND WITH SUCH A STRONG REACTION.

MITZI IS A COURAGEOUS GIRL, AND I LIKE THAT.
AND I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE SINGLE AGAIN.

SOME OF US HAVE HAD TROUBLE SAYING THAT TO PEOPLE. SO I ALSO UNDERSTAND WHERE YOU ARE WHEN DO YOU SAY IT, HOW DO YOU SAY IT? EVERYBODY IS NOT UPFRONT. I STILL HAVE TROUBLE WITH THAT. YOU WOULD THINK IT WOULD BE EASY TO TELL THE WHOLE WORLD, HEY, BUT IT'S JUST NOT. IT JUST ISN'T. I CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE WITH THAT AND DATING AND THE SAME KIND OF THING. YOU UNDERSTAND. AND I THINK YOU'VE GOTTEN SOME PRETTY GOOD ADVICE AND HOPEFULLY YOU WILL FIND YOUR NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK.

>> AFTER YOU FIND SOMEONE AND TRY TO COMMUNICATE INTIMATELY, SOMETIMES YOU TALK SO LOUD PEOPLE COMPLAIN YOU ARE SAYING THESE THINGS OUT LOUD AND CHILDREN'S EARS AND -- THIS ONE GUY CAME UP TO ME AND SAID "DON'T SAY THOSE THINGS SO LOUD TO YOUR GIRLFRIEND." I SAID, "WELL, WE ARE SENIOR CITIZENS. WE HAVE TO." WE HAVE TO SAY WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY WHEN WE CAN. ONE DAY YOU WILL HAVE -- YOU LISTEN UP, LEARN SOMETHING.

>> MITZI: I HAVE TO ADD SOMETHING TO IT. ONE REASON I AM SO OUT THERE, MY RIGHT EYE WAS DAMAGED WHEN I WAS BORN, SO I WAS BLIND IN THAT EYE AND CROSS-EYED, AND DIDN'T DEAL WITH THAT UNTIL I WAS 26. IT WAS A GREAT FILTER. IT GOT RID OF THE CREEPS. AFTER I GOT IT STRAIGHTENED, I STARTED MEETING CREEPS. BEFORE THAT I HAD MY WEIRDOS THAT I DATED. BUT THEY WERE NICE WEIRDOS, EMPATHETIC WEIRDOS.

>> JENNA: THOSE WERE GREAT AND HELPS TO KNOW, ALL NAVIGATING THINGS DIFFERENT WAYS.

I AM GOING TO ASK FOR BREVITY IN YOUR ANSWERS SO WE CAN GET ON TO THE SECOND QUESTION. PRETEND YOU ARE ON MSNBC WITH RACHEL MADDOW.

WHO SUFFERS FROM DEPRESSION OVER THEIR HEARING LOSS? I DO. WOW. NOBODY SUFFERS FROM DEPRESSION --

>> MITZI: NOT OVER MY HEARING LOSS.

>> JENNA: SOME PEOPLE JUST NOT RAISING THEIR HANDS. A LOT OF US SUFFER FROM DEPRESSION EVEN THOUGH IT'S NOT ONGOING.

YOU ARE AT THAT PREMIERE AND FEELING PRETTY GOOD AND SOMEBODY ASKS YOU SOMETHING AND YOU CAN'T HEAR AT ALL, AND YOU SORT OF SPIRAL INTO A MOMENTARY DEPRESSION. I AM SO FRUSTRATED, WISH I WOULD BE LIKE ALL THOSE HEARING PEOPLE. MAYBE THAT'S JUST ME.

MY HEARING LOSS IS PRETTY NEW, SO I STILL HAVE PROBLEMS DEALING WITH THE REALITIES OF BEING A HEARING-LOSS PERSON. I HAD NORMAL HEARING MY WHOLE LIFE, BUT I KNOW THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE HAD HEARING PROBLEMS. WE ALL HAVE OUR DIFFERENT THINGS.

I WANT TO TOUCH ON DEPRESSION.

MY QUESTION TO THE PANEL IS HOW HAS YOUR PARTNER OR FAMILY MEMBER HELPED YOU THE MOST WHEN YOU HAVE HAD FEELINGS OF DEPRESSION?

IF YOU CAN'T RELATE TO THE QUESTION, YOU CAN PASS. NOT EVERYBODY NEEDS TO ANSWER EVERY QUESTION.

HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH DEPRESSION?

AND FOR THE HEARING PARTNER, HOW DO YOU HELP YOUR PARTNER DEAL WITH DEPRESSION, WHETHER IT'S, LIKE I SAID, MAYBE A MOMENTARY THING OR ONGOING THING.

>> KAT: I THINK -- I DEAL WITH CONSTANT FRUSTRATION, AND I DON'T KNOW IF I WANT TO CALL IT DEPRESSION. BUT I DO HAVE DOWN PERIODS WHERE I JUST THINK IT'S JUST SO UNFAIR THAT I HAVE HEARING LOSS, AND I LOOK AT OTHER PEOPLE, AND I GO, THEY'RE SO DAMN LUCKY THEY CAN HEAR, SUCH A SLIGHT THING THAT MAKES THEIR LIFE SO MUCH EASIER.

WHEN I AM IN THESE DOWN PERIODS, I MANIFEST IT BY NOT WANTING TO GO DO THINGS SOCIALLY.

DANNY HAS A HUGE FAMILY, AND THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF FAMILY EVENTS. I JUST DON'T LIKE TO GO BECAUSE OF MY HEARING LOSS, AND ALSO BECAUSE POLITICALLY THEY ARE NOT MY GUYS -- BUT I CAN ENDURE THAT, IF I CAN HEAR THEM. SOMETIMES I JUST SAY I DON'T WANT TO GO TO THIS PARTY, AND HE KNOWS WHY; IT'S BECAUSE I'M TIRED, I DON'T WANT TO GO, I DON'T WANT TO SPEND MY EVENING STRUGGLING. AND HE'S REALLY GOOD ABOUT IT NOT MAKING ME GO TO THESE FAMILY FUNCTIONS THAT HE REALLY ENJOYS, HIS FAMILY, EVEN THOUGH NOT POLITICALLY.

>> DANNY: I THINK IN OUR RELATIONSHIP, I REALLY WANT HER TO BE HAPPY, WHAT'S BEST FOR HER. SO I DON'T PUT ANY KIND OF PRESSURE, LIKE COME ON, COME WITH ME, YOU KNOW THAT YOU WANT TO GO. I WANT TO RESPECT WHAT SHE WANTS TO DO.

HOWEVER, ONCE IN A WHILE, A DOUBLE MARTINI WITH TWO OLIVES MIGHT HELP TAKE THE EDGE OFF, BUT WE GO, AND SHE JUST SMILES AND DOESN'T CARE.

>> DIANE: I'VE DEALT WITH DEPRESSION ON AND OFF FOR MY ENTIRE LIFE FOR MANY DIFFERENT REASONS, AND THERE WAS A PERIOD I WOULD SAY IN THE 80s AND 90s WHEN THINGS ABOUT MY HEARING LOSS REALLY, REALLY AFFECTED ME; AT TIMES I WAS JOB-HUNTING, EVEN WHEN I HAD A JOB. I COULD LOOK AT PICTURES AND SEE IN THE PICTURES I LOOK LIKE I AM HAPPY. BUT WHEN I SEE THEM I KNOW WHAT I WAS FEELING INSIDE. AND WHAT I HAVE LEARNED -- FIRST OF ALL, I LEARNED I CAN'T TAKE ANTIDEPRESSANTS BECAUSE THEY GIVE ME HORRIBLE MIGRAINES. I FOUND COPING TECHNIQUES WHERE I LIKE MY SOLITUDE. AND I WOULD SAY I FEEL TO GO BE MYSELF. SINCE I HAVE HAD THE COCHLEAR IMPLANTS I FIND IF I DO FEEL DEPRESSED, IT'S ACTUALLY NOT RELATED TO THE HEARING LOSS AS IT IS TO MY VISION LOSS. BECAUSE OF THE VISION LOSS I WON'T DO THINGS. I HAVEN'T BEEN TO THE CHRISTMAS PARTY IN A LONG TIME. IT'S DARK, TOO NOISY. I CAN'T COPE WITH BOTH OF THOSE AT THE SAME TIME. I HAVE TO PICK AND CHOOSE WHAT WORKS FOR ME AND WHAT DOESN'T WORK FOR ME. I CAN TELL IF I AM GOING TO FEEL DOWN, I WILL JUST AVOID THINGS UNTIL I FEEL I AM READY TO COPE WITH THEM.

>> GRACE: DIANE IS A PRETTY PRIVATE PERSON, AND SOMETIMES I'M NOT AWARE OF WHEN SHE'S FEELING DEPRESSED. AND IF SHE SAYS SHE JUST WANTS TO SIT IN HER ROOM AND WATCH TV OR WORK ON THE COMPUTER, I TRY TO BACK OFF AND LET HER DO -- I THINK I HAVE TO KEEP REMINDING MYSELF THAT ALTHOUGH SHE'S MY DAUGHTER, SHE'S ALSO AN ADULT AND ENTITLED TO MAKE HER OWN DECISIONS --

>> DIANE: A SENIOR ADULT.

>> GRACE: THAT HURTS ME BECAUSE IF YOU ARE A SENIOR ADULT, WHAT AM I?

[LAUGHTER].

I TRY -- I REALLY TRY TO BACK OFF AND LET HER DECIDE WHEN SHE WANTS TO DO SOMETHING AND WHEN SHE DOESN'T.

>> HEATHER: YOU KNOW, I DO KNOW. IN APRIL, I WAS HIT BY A CAR AS I STOOD AT AN ATM MACHINE, AND BOTH MY LEGS WERE CRUSHED. AND I SPENT THREE MONTHS IN A HOSPITAL AND BEEN IN A WHEELCHAIR SINCE THEN.

I'VE BEEN ABLE TO SEE DISABILITY FROM TWO DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW. I'VE BEEN HEARING-IMPAIRED AND BEEN A PERSON IN A WHEELCHAIR. I CAN TELL YOU 100% I WOULD RATHER TO BE IN A WHEELCHAIR. WHEN YOU ARE IN A WHEELCHAIR, AND YOU NEED HELP, EVERYONE STEPS UP TO

HELP YOU. YOU ARE TRYING TO GET UP A RAMP AND PEOPLE WILL COME OVER AND PUSH OR HELP ME OPEN THE DOOR.

PEOPLE ARE SO KIND AND HELPFUL TO YOU WHEN YOU ARE IN A WHEELCHAIR. AND ALSO IT DOESN'T CHANGE YOUR PERSONALITY AT ALL. YOU ARE YOU, AND THERE ARE SO MANY WORKAROUNDS. I LITERALLY HAVE NOT HAD AS MUCH TROUBLE BEING IN A WHEELCHAIR.

HEARING LOSS IS ISOLATING. YOU TELL PEOPLE TO HELP YOU AND THEY WON'T. "PLEASE FACE ME." YOU ARE STANDING THERE AND SO FRUSTRATED WITH THAT PERSON, AND ANGRY AND FEELING LIKE THAT PERSON ISN'T HELPING ME. OBVIOUSLY THEY DON'T KNOW HOW TO HELP YOU. I COME HOME AND GET DEPRESSED AT THE END OF THE DAY.

AT THE DINNER TABLE WITH MY FAMILY, THEY ARE ALL VERY ARTICULATE AND TALK A HUNDRED MILES AN HOUR AND TELLING ALL THESE JOKES. AT FIRST I TRY TO SAY, "WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?" BUT I WITHDRAW. I AM SITTING AT THE DINNER TABLE, AND MY FAMILY IS HAPPY AND HAVING A GOOD TIME, AND I AM SITTING BY MYSELF IN THIS CONE OF SILENCE. MAKES ME FEEL LEFT OUT. THEN I FEEL REALLY DEPRESSED ABOUT THAT ABOUT NOT GETTING HELP AND FEELING ISOLATED.

AGAIN, TALKING ABOUT PERSONALITY. I USED TO BE THE PERSON AT THE PARTY WOULD BE FUNNY, ENGAGED WITH PEOPLE; GOING FROM BEING THE SOCIAL PERSON TO THE BEING THE WALLFLOWER. I HATE THAT THIS DISABILITY HAS CHANGED MY PERSONALITY. AND THAT'S VERY DEPRESSING.

SO, ANYWAY, HEARING LOSS IS TOUGH.

>> ANNIKA: I'M NOT REALLY SURE WHAT TO SAY. I KIND OF UNDERSTAND. I MEAN I WASN'T HERE. LAST YEAR KIND OF DEALT WITH MY ISSUES, DEPRESSING. I AM ALSO KIND OF AN INTROVERT. MAKES ME FEEL (INAUDIBLE) LIKE HELPING STUFF.

I FIND THE BEST THING IS BACK OFF AND DEAL WITH IT OR KIND OF GET MAD OR WHATEVER. I DON'T KNOW, IT'S JUST, YEAH, SOMETIMES JUST DON'T THINK ABOUT THINGS AT DINNER, AND NOT BECAUSE WE ARE TRYING TO BE ANNOYING. IT GETS FRUSTRATING.

>> DIANE: ONE THING I WANT TO ADD ABOUT THE DINNER TABLE. I USED TO SIT AT THE TABLE AND NOT FOLLOW WHAT WAS GOING ON WITH THE CONVERSATION. I HAVE TWO SISTERS. THE MIDDLE WOULD SIT BETWEEN ME AND THE YOUNGER SISTER WHO ALSO HAD A HEARING LOSS, AND SHE WOULD HAVE TO INTERPRET FOR THE TWO OF US. EXHAUSTING FOR HER.

I WOULD BE LIKE HEATHER AT THE TABLE, JUST EAT OR JUST SIT IN MY OWN WORLD. AND ONCE I GOT THE IMPLANTS, AND THEY REALLY HELPED ME, I REALIZED ALL THAT CONVERSATION GOING AROUND ME WASN'T THAT IMPORTANT. A LOT OF TRYING TO KEEP UP WITH MY NEPHEWS, AND AGAIN, I AM SITTING AND JUST EATING BUT ALSO TURNING THE SOUND DOWN SOMETIMES. I LIKE BEING ABLE TO DO THAT.

>> TERI: WE WILL GET TO YOU AFTER THE QUESTION.

I KNOW I AM NOT PART OF A COUPLE. BUT IN TERMS OF THE QUESTION, I SPENT MANY, MANY YEARS IN MY TEENS AND 20s AND 30s, FEELING IT'S NOT FAIR. I CAN RELATE TO EVERYTHING YOU GUYS SHARED ABOUT COMMUNICATING AND DINNER TABLE CONVERSATION, ALL OF THAT.

AND AT SOME POINT I STARTED -- BECAUSE OF MY SPIRITUAL PRACTICE AND A LOT OF PERSONAL GROWTH WORK I'VE DONE, I STARTED LOOKING AT WAYS, WHAT IF THIS HEARING LOSS WAS -- WHAT IF I CHOSE IT AT SOME LEVEL, MY SOUL CAME IN AND SAID "YOU ARE GOING TO BE BORN THIS TIME WITH A HEARING LOSS." AND THERE IS A GIFT TO IT, AND WHAT ARE THE BLESSINGS? PLACE I'VE BEEN IN THE LAST 10 YEARS OR SO, WHAT ARE THE BLESSINGS? I MEDITATE. HEY, I CAN JUST TAKE MY HEARING AIDS OUT, AND I DON'T HEAR ALL THE NOISES, STREET NOISES AND TELEPHONE. I CAN BE IN MY OWN SILENT WORLD.

HAVING HEARING LOSS MAKES ME A BETTER LISTENER BECAUSE I THINK FOR ALL OF US, BECAUSE WE REALLY HAVE TO PAY ATTENTION AND FOCUS, ESPECIALLY IF WE ARE IN A ONE-ON-ONE INTIMATE CONVERSATION. AND NOT JUST BEING A BETTER LISTENER BUT HAVING COMPASSION AND EMPATHY FOR OTHERS BECAUSE WE KNOW WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE LEFT OUT AND ISOLATED.

THERE IS MORE. I COULD GO ON. BUT THAT'S HOW I MANAGED MYSELF TO SHIFT OUT OF THAT FEELING OF DEPRESSION OR FRUSTRATION, BEING DOWN ABOUT HEARING. WHAT A GIFT.

>> ALICIA: I STARTED LOSING MY HEARING A LONG TIME AGO, TILL ABOUT 30, AND THEN STARTED LOSING IT. AND AT THE TIME I WAS WORKING FULL TIME. EVERYBODY I WORKED WITH HAD KNOWN ME AS A REGULAR HEARING PERSON, AND I HAD A HORRENDOUS TIME GET -- GETTING EXHAUSTED; THAT I COULD NO LONGER DO MY JOB WITHOUT HELP. LIKE PHOTO SHOOTS, IT WAS VERY HARD ON MY EGO AND I HAD A HORRIBLE DEPRESSION. I TOOK A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM WORK. I SENT AROUND A MEMO EXPLAINING TO PEOPLE WHAT WAS WRONG WITH ME. MY DEPARTMENT WAS ABOUT 25 PEOPLE, AND ONLY ONE PERSON REACTED. NOBODY SAID ANYTHING. THEY JUST IGNORED IT AND CONTINUED TO BEHAVE EXACTLY THE SAME. SO IT WAS A VERY ROUGH GOING.

I HAD A HORRIBLE TIME (INAUDIBLE) I HAD A HORRIBLE TIME BUT I DID FIND OUT ABOUT DEPRESSION -- BIPOLAR, WHICH I DIDN'T KNOW UNTIL RECENTLY. I WAS BIPOLAR AND THEY PROVIDED MEDICATION.

I HAD A BIG SURGERY LAST SEPTEMBER, AND I TOLD THEM I HAD COCHLEAR IMPLANTS AND I KEPT THEM WITH ME. I WOKE UP IN THE ICU.

#1. I HAD A BAD REACTION TO BEING KNOCKED OUT. SO I WAS A LOONY, HAD NO IDEA WHO I WAS, WHERE I WAS, WHAT WAS GOING ON.

AND #2. THEY DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO PUT THEM ON ME. SO THEY WERE TALKING TO ME AND I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING AND I DIDN'T KNOW WHY. THEY ASKED MY HUSBAND TO COME IN TO PUT THEM ON ME. BUT HE BROUGHT MY DAUGHTER WHO WAS 10. AND I LOOKED A MESS AND

SOUNDED LIKE A LOONY. SO SHE STARTED FREAK OUT AND CRYING BECAUSE IT WAS REALLY, REALLY SCARY.

ONE THING THAT REALLY BOTHERS ME WITH MEDICAL ISSUES IS EVEN WHEN YOU TELL THEM, AND SAY "I REALLY NEED THESE" AND SHOW THEM, THEN THE NEXT GROUP OF PEOPLE COME IN AND THEY DON'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH IT.

I DIDN'T COME OUT OF MY LOONY PERIOD FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS. SO IT WAS DIFFICULT ALL AROUND.

OVERALL I DO WELL. I WILL CLOSE BY SAYING, AS HARD AS IT WAS TO LOSE MY HEARING, I MET SOME OF THE MOST FINEST PEOPLE I EVER MET, IN THIS GROUP, BECAUSE I LOST MY HEARING. IF I HAD TO DO A SUM, I WOULD SAY A POSITIVE, SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS ARE FROM HERE. SO IN THE LONG RUN...

[APPLAUSE]

>> WENDI: I AM MORE LIKE KAT. I DON'T FEEL DEPRESSED BUT I DO HAVE DOWN MOMENTS.

HEATHER'S POINT THAT MAKES ME --

I USED TO LIKE TO BE INCLUDED AND LEARN NEW THINGS AND DO THINGS. NOW I HAVE TO REMIND MYSELF, TAKING THAT CLASS, HOW MUCH OF A STRUGGLE WILL THAT BE TRYING TO HEAR THE PROFESSOR? AND WHAT IF THEY HAVE AN ACCENT? PUTTING ANY FURTHER PROFESSIONAL-TYPE DEVELOPMENT OUT OF MY MIND NOW. I GET SO TIRED. READ, READ, READ, READ CAPTIONING, READ THIS, READ THAT. SO JUST THE ABILITY TO LISTEN.

ONE OF MY BIGGEST REGRETS IS I LOVE LANGUAGE, AND IF I COULD HEAR BETTER I COULD LEARN LANGUAGES WHICH I REALLY, REALLY WISH I COULD DO. I DO FEEL THAT DEPRESSION AT TIMES.

BUT OVERALL I AGREE WITH ALICIA, THERE ARE SO MANY POSITIVE THINGS, PEOPLE I'VE MET AND THINGS -- I JUST WANTED TO SAY TO HEATHER I UNDERSTAND.

>> TIM: I THINK WE ARE RUNNING OUT ON THE CLOCK.

>> HEATHER: WE NEED TO TAKE A BREAK, I WANT TO THANK OUR FABULOUS CAPTIONER.

LET'S ALL TAKE A MOMENT TO GET SOME MORE COFFEE. HAVE A LITTLE CHAT TIME. QUICK BREAK, 10 MINUTES? THEN WE WILL COME BACK.

THANK YOU ALL PANEL MEMBERS FOR YOUR INSIGHT AND BEING HONEST ABOUT OUR SITUATION.

(BREAK)

>> HEATHER: HI, GUYS, SORRY TO CUT OUR SOCIAL TIME SHORT.

WE HAVE TWO POINTS OF BUSINESS THAT WE WANT TO TALK ABOUT TODAY HERE AT THE END OF THE MEETING.

THE FIRST THING IS, YOU KNOW, LISA LEFT, AND RAYLENE -- NO, JUDY. I'M SORRY. SO WE LOST TWO STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS OVER THE LAST COUPLE MONTHS.

AND JENNA, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

>> KEN TOO. WAS KEN ON THE STEERING COMMITTEE TOO?

>> HEATHER: NO, KEN HELPED A GREAT DEAL BUT HE WASN'T ON THE STEERING COMMITTEE. HE DID A LOT OF WORK, THOUGH.

WE HAVE TWO SPOTS THAT ARE AVAILABLE, JENNA, TIM, GARY AND I HAVE BEEN WORKING VERY HARD TO BRING PROGRAMS AND DO OUTREACH WORK. WE NEED TO FILL THOSE TWO POSITIONS.

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU REMEMBER, BUT WHEN WE MOVED TO THIS LOCATION, THE -- WE USUALLY DO THE NOMINATIONS AND THE VOTE FOR NEW STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN SEPTEMBER. AND WE ARE ACTUALLY GOING TO GO BACK TO THAT. WE DID LAST YEAR DO NOMINATIONS IN MARCH BECAUSE WE HAD A POSTPONEMENT IN SEPTEMBER BECAUSE WE WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MOVE.

THE WAY OUR BYLAWS WORK, WE CAN NEXT MONTH ELECT TWO INTERIM STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO WILL BE MEMBERS UNTIL SEPTEMBER, AND THEN HAVE ANOTHER VOTE AND DO THE ENTIRE GROUP AT THE SAME TIME.

MAKE SENSE?

I WOULD LIKE FOR EACH OF YOU TO THINK ABOUT WHETHER YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ON THE STEERING COMMITTEE. I'VE ALREADY HAD A NUMBER OF PEOPLE COME UP TO ME SAYING THEY WERE INTERESTED.

WE WILL TAKE NOMINATIONS --

SHOULD THEY EMAIL US WITH THE NOMINATIONS? THAT MAKE SENSE?

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING NOMINATED OR YOU WANT TO NOMINATE SOMEONE ELSE, COULD YOU PLEASE LET US KNOW? TWO PEOPLE ALREADY CONSIDERING IT ARE TERI -- PLEASE RAISE YOUR HAND -- AND SHARON -- PLEASE RAISE YOUR HAND, HONEY -- AND SHARON.

BOTH OF THESE VERY HARD-WORKING PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY APPROACHED ME ABOUT WANTING TO FILL THOSE SLOTS.

AND WHAT WE WILL DO THEN IS RIGHT BEFORE THE MEETING WE WILL HAVE A LIST OF WHO IS INTERESTED AND YOUR VOTE. AND THEN WE WILL VOTE NEXT MONTH. OKAY?

DOES EVERYONE UNDERSTAND? OKAY. GREAT.

HERE IS OUR NEXT THING WE WANT TO TALK ABOUT.

WE MOVED THE -- THE CHAPTER MOVED TO THIS LOCATION BECAUSE OF SOME ISSUES WITH OUR OLD LOCATION, AND I KNOW THAT THIS LOCATION HAS BEEN DIFFICULT FOR SOME PEOPLE. IT IS NOT VERY ACCESSIBLE. I KNOW FOR ME IT IS HARD FOR ME TO GET FROM THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING BACK HERE. AND A LOT OF THE PEOPLE FEEL OUR CHAPTER IS SO FAR TO THE EAST SIDE OF THE COUNTY MIGHT BE CUTTING US OFF FROM OTHER POSSIBLE MEMBERS SO WE HAVE BEEN RESEARCHING AND LOOKING AT A LOT OF SPACES TO SEE IF WE CAN'T FIND SOMETHING THAT IS BETTER FOR US.

I HAVE TO SAY IT'S A VERY DIFFICULT PROCESS. WE HAVE A LOT OF NEEDS. FIRST HAS TO BE ACCESSIBLE, SECOND WE NEED TO HAVE A BIG ENOUGH ROOM. THIRD WE NEED A ROOM THAT WILL ALLOW US TO BRING FOOD. THEN WE HAVE TO HAVE A ROOM THAT HAS A PROJECTION SYSTEM BECAUSE WE NEED TO HAVE CAPTIONING.

AND IT HAS TO BE A ROOM THEY WILL ALLOW US TO BOOK OUR MEETINGS FOR EVERY FOURTH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH.

SOME SAY YOU CAN'T DO THAT, YOU HAVE TO GO MONTH-TO-MONTH. AND IF WE HAVE ANOTHER EVENT LIKE A HALLOWEEN EVENT, NO, YOU CAN'T DO YOUR MEETING THERE.

WE WANT TO HAVE THE SAME PLACE EVERY MONTH SO PEOPLE KNOW WHERE WE ARE AFTER -- PERSONALLY SPENT THE LAST TWO WEEKS GOING TO PLACES IN GLENDALE AND BURBANK THAT DIDN'T WORK OUT. JENNA DID A HUGE AMOUNT OF WORK AND FOUND A WONDERFUL SPACE IN SHERMAN OAKS. THAT'S QUITE A WAYS AWAY FROM HERE, BUT IT IS PERFECT FOR US IN TERMS OF IT HAS PARKING. IT'S VERY ACCESSIBLE. IT'S A BEAUTIFUL ROOM. THEY WILL LET US BRING THE FOOD. THEY WILL LET US BOOK IT FOR EVERY TIME THAT WE NEED IT. AND THE BEST PART IS JENNA NEGOTIATED WITH THEM, AND THEY ARE GOING TO LET US BE THERE FOR FREE, WHICH IS REALLY GREAT FOR OUR CHAPTER COFFERS.

I WOULD LIKE JENNA TO COME UP AND TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE ROOM. SHE'S BEEN THERE AND -- WE WILL DISCUSS THIS. IF WE THINK THIS IS A GOOD IDEA OR HAVE ANY RESERVATIONS, WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A DISCUSSION ABOUT IT. BUT HERE IS JENNA --

I WILL SWITCH OVER TO THE PICTURES. WE HAVE SOME PICTURES OF THE ROOM, WHILE YOU ARE TALKING.

JENNA: HEATHER IS RIGHT. WE HAVE A LOT OF NEEDS. WE ARE A HIGH-MAINTENANCE GROUP. WE NEED -- I ACTUALLY FOUND A COUPLE SPACES, BUT THEY WEREN'T CARPETED, SO VERY LOUD AND ECHO FOR

PEOPLE WITH HEARING LOSS. WE NEEDED A CARPETED SPACE, A SPACE WITH SCREEN AND PROJECTION, EASY ACCESS, FREE PARKING, WHO WOULD ALLOW US TO COME IN EVERY -- WHO IS OPEN ON A SATURDAY. WE FOUND A BUNCH OF SPACES BUT THEY ARE MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY AND WE ARE A WEEKEND WARRIOR GROUP.

SO THERE WAS JUST A LOT OF -- WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A LONG TIME, AND WE WOULD FIND TWO OUT OF FIVE OR FOUR OUT OF FIVE. WHAT SORT OF CLENCHED IT, THEY JUST REDID THIS ROOM. EVERYTHING IS BRAND-NEW. IT REALLY WASN'T THAT EXPENSIVE. IT WAS \$250 WHICH WE THOUGHT MAY BE FEASIBLE. THEN I SAID DO YOU DO ANYTHING FOR NON-PROFITS? AND THEY CALLED ME TO INTERVIEW ME ABOUT HLA, AND I JUST RECEIVED AN EMAIL SAYING "WE WILL GIVE YOU THE ROOM FOR FREE."

WE KNOW WE HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO ARE PASADENA FOLKS. AND WE ALSO HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO ARE WESTSIDE PEOPLE, ACTUALLY THE GAL WHO JUST LEFT, JOLIE, REAL SWEET, SHE'S 21, AND SHE'S IN NORTHRIDGE, SO SHE'S FOR THE SHERMAN OAKS LIBRARY.

MY POINT IS, IT'S GOING TO BE A BIG CHANGE FOR SOME OF YOU WHO ARE OUT HERE, AND FOR OTHERS IT WILL BE MUCH, MUCH EASIER. WE KNOW IT'S GOING TO BE A DIVIDED VOTE, SO TO SPEAK. BUT I WANTED YOU TO -- IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, AND WE WANT TO SHOW YOU SOME PICTURES OF THE ROOM.

>> GEORGIA: ARE WE IN THIS ROOM OR GOING BACK TO THE OTHER ROOM?

>> JENNA: VERSUS NEXT DOOR? IT'S BEEN A LITTLE DICEY WITH THE HOSPITAL?

>> HEATHER: THEY JUST HAVE A LOT MORE INTEREST IN THE ROOMS THAN THEY USED TO. THEY PRIORITIZE. LIKE THEY HAVE EMT CLASSES, CPR CLASSES, LIKE HOSPITAL THINGS THEY PRIORITIZE OVER US. THEY'VE BEEN REALLY GREAT, I HAVE TO SAY. AND THEY HAVE GIVEN US THE ROOM EVERY

TIME WE NEED IT. THIS YEAR THEY WANT TO MOVE US AROUND A LITTLE BIT; EITHER BE HERE OR NEXT DOOR, AND THERE IS ANOTHER ROOM IN THE BUILDING NEXT DOOR WE MIGHT HAVE TO GO TO.

ISSUE WITH THIS, TOO, IS EVEN THOUGH THEY'VE BEEN VERY GENEROUS AND GIVEN US THE ROOM FOR FREE, THE PARKING IS EXPENSIVE. PARKING VOUCHERS COST US \$6 EACH.

IT WOULD BE NICE NOT TO HAVE TO BE DRAINING RESOURCES ON THINGS LIKE THAT SO WE CAN SPEND OUR MONEY ON OUTREACH ISSUES.

>> JOYCE: I AM VERY FAMILIAR ABOUT THE SHERMAN OAKS LIBRARY. ONE BIG ADVANTAGE OF HAVING OUR MEETINGS THERE IS PUBLICITY. PUTTING A SIGN UP IN THE LIBRARY, THEY HAVE LOTS OF BULLETIN BOARDS SAYING "HLAA MEETS HERE ONCE A MONTH, FOR PEOPLE WITH HEARING LOSS." I BELIEVE WE WOULD DRAW MORE PEOPLE TO OUR MEETINGS AND WE WOULD GROW. AND SO I PERSONALLY AM IN FAVOR OF AT LEAST TRYING IT FOR ONE MONTH OR TWO MONTHS IF WE DON'T WANT TO VOTE FOR PERMANENT CHANGE. BUT I WOULD CERTAINLY LIKE TO SEE US TRY IT.

>> MITZI: MY QUESTION FOR JENNA IS WOULD THEY ALLOW US TO INSTALL A PERMANENT LOOP?

>> JENNA: I WAS GOING TO APPROACH THEM ABOUT THAT, AND LISA YUAN TOLD ME THERE IS A GROUP, I THINK IT'S THE LIONS, SHRINERS OR WHATEVER, WHO WILL OFTEN PAY FOR A LOOP. SO IF WE SAY WE ARE GOING TO BE IN A COMMUNITY PLACE LIKE SHERMAN OAKS LIBRARY, WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO DONATE A LOOP OR HELPING, I THINK WE CAN GET THAT ACCOMPLISHED. IT'S ON OUR LIST.

>> DIANE: I LIVE IN TARZANA, AND I AM UNABLE TO DRIVE, SO FOR ME, SHERMAN OAKS WOULD BE IDEAL. IT'S BEEN KIND OF A HASSLE GETTING TO PASADENA. I SOMETIMES HAVE TO TAKE A HIATUS FROM THE MEETINGS BECAUSE EVERY MONTH I HAVE TO ASK PEOPLE ABOUT GETTING HERE, AND

THAT SENDS ME INTO A DEPRESSION. SO BEING IN SHERMAN OAKS WOULD BE MUCH EASIER FOR ME TO GET TO. AND ALSO, I HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING PUTTING MY NAME INTO NOMINATIONS FOR THE STEERING COMMITTEE BECAUSE I DO A LOT FOR THE CHAPTER ANYWAY. I HAVE HELD OFF DOING THAT BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTY IN GETTING HERE TO PASADENA. IF WE WERE TO MOVE TO SHERMAN OAKS IT WOULDN'T BE A QUESTION. I WOULD BE IN THERE IN A HEARTBEAT. SO I AM A VERY FIRM YES FOR THE MOVE.

>> PAT: I SEE A LOT OF NEW MEMBERS HERE. I AM PAT WIDMAN AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE GROUP. HAVING BEEN VERY INVOLVED WITH FINDING A SPACE FOR US TO HOLD OUR MEETINGS, WE ARE HERE BECAUSE WE COULDN'T FIND ANYPLACE ELSE AFTER ALL THE PROBLEMS THAT YOU GUYS HAVE ENUMERATED HERE. I THINK MOVING TO SHERMAN OAKS, WELL, OBVIOUSLY, THE DRIVE, IT'S REALLY IDEAL. IT'S CENTRAL FOR PEOPLE COMING FROM THE WESTSIDE. THE SANTA MONICA CHAPTER CLOSED. THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CHAPTER CLOSED. THE VENTURA CHAPTER CLOSED. ALL THESE PEOPLE LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO COME BUT DIDN'T WANT TO DRIVE ALL THE WAY TO PASADENA. TO ME IT'S KIND OF A NO BRAINER IF YOU HAVE A FREE SPACE MEETING THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS.

AND THE LIONS, LISA AND I WENT TO TALK TO THEM SEVERAL YEARS AGO. THEY ARE OPEN TO PROVIDING A SCHOLARSHIP OR GRANT FOR US TO HAVE A PERMANENT LOOP INSTALLED. DOESN'T HAVE TO BE PERMANENT. WE'VE ONLY MOVED TWICE IN THE 15 YEARS WE HAVE HAD A CHAPTER. SO WE ARE PRETTY GOOD AT STAYING LOCATED. THIS IS THE LEAST OBJECTIONABLE OF OUR CHOICES WE HAD.

CONGRATULATIONS ON FINDING A GOOD SPOT. I KNOW HOW HARD IT IS. SO WELL DONE, STEERING COMMITTEE.

>> NANCI: I GET CALLS PROBABLY TWO OR THREE TIMES A WEEK. WHEN I TELL PEOPLE IT'S IN PASADENA, PEOPLE SAY THAT'S NOT LOS ANGELES. IT'S CLOSER FOR PEOPLE FROM TORRANCE, EVEN PEOPLE FROM

VENTURA. SEVERAL OF US HAVE SEEN THE SPACE AND IT'S A GORGEOUS SPACE. ANOTHER THING I'VE LEARNED ON BEING ON THE DISABILITIES COMMISSION IN SANTA MONICA, THE LIBRARIES ARE TIED INTO THE CITIES, AND YOU WILL BE ABLE TO PUBLICIZE THE LIBRARY IN THE SHERMAN OAKS AREA. I THINK WE CAN DOUBLE OR TRIPLE THE SIZE OF THE CHAPTER.

>> JENNA: THE ROOM ISN'T BIG ENOUGH FOR THAT.

>> MITZI: WE WILL HAVE TO MOVE AGAIN.

>> I WAS JUST WONDERING IF WE HAD ACCESS TO THE ACTIVE MEMBERS OR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN SANTA MONICA, IF WE CAN DO AN OUTREACH, AND THROUGH EMAIL, EVEN BETTER THROUGH THE MAIL, POSTCARDS.

>> TERI: I WAS VICE-PRESIDENT OF SANTA MONICA CHAPTER. IF WE TELL THEM THERE IS NOW A CHAPTER MEETING IN SHERMAN OAKS, WE CAN GET A LOT. PLUS WE HAD A LOT OF PEOPLE COMING DOWN FROM SANTA CLARITA SAYING PASADENA WAS FURTHER THAN SANTA MONICA.

>> DID YOU CHECK THE SAN MARINO WOMEN'S CLUB THAT MEETS ALL OF THOSE -- ALSO ARCADIA SENIOR CLUB HAS PARKING AND ROOMS AND SAN MARINO HAS ALL OF IT.

>> HEATHER: YES, THANK YOU FOR SUGGESTING THAT. ACTUALLY, YES, I DID. I TALKED TO ARCADIA. THE PROBLEM WAS THEY HAVE A LOT OF SATURDAY EVENTS AND COULDN'T GUARANTEE US WE COULD HAVE THE MEETING ROOM ON THOSE DAYS. THE SAN MARINO WOMEN'S CLUB RIGHT NOW. I LIVE IN SAN MARINO AND I WAS ON THE COMMITTEE THAT MADE THE SAN MARINO LIBRARY PUT THE LOOP IN. SO THE SAN MARINO LIBRARY IS ALREADY LOOPED. KEN AND LISA AND I WENT TO THE SAN MARINO LIBRARY. IT'S A FABULOUS SPACE. MEETS ALL OF OUR REQUIREMENTS, HAS WONDERFUL PARKING, AND THEY WERE WILLING TO WORK WITH US WITH THE PRICE. BUT WE STEPPED BACK FROM THAT OPTION, BECAUSE AGAIN, IT'S SO FAR TO THE EAST SIDE OF THE COUNTY; WE FEEL THAT BEING OVER HERE

IS VERY DIFFICULT FOR A LOT OF THE REST OF THE COUNTY. IT'S EASY FOR ME. IF IT'S IN SAN MARINO I WOULD BE THRILLED. I COULD JOG -- WELL, WHEN I COULD JOG -- THE LIBRARY IS THREE BLOCKS FROM MY HOUSE. THE SAN MARINO LIBRARY WAS OUR OTHER OPTION, BUT WE WERE TRYING TO REACH THE MOST PEOPLE THAT WE CAN.

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT THIS WILL BE A HARD MOVE FOR ME, PERSONALLY, AND IF THERE IS ANYBODY WHO HAS DIFFICULTY DRIVING OR CAN'T GET OVER TO SHERMAN OAKS, I WOULD BE HAPPY TO PICK YOU UP. I WILL BE THE EAST SIDE BUS, AND YOU CAN GET HOLD OF ME AND SAY "HEATHER I NEED A RIDE," AND I WOULD BE HAPPY TO PICK YOU UP AND GET TO THE NEW LOCATION. IT'S SO MUCH EASIER FOR ME TO GET IN, JUST FOR ME.

I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE THAT MIGHT BE FEELING UPSET ABOUT THIS. BUT I THINK OVERALL IT SOUNDS LIKE A POSITIVE MOVE.

AND DO WE THINK WE ARE READY TO VOTE ON THIS YET OR WE THINK WE NEED MORE TIME FOR DISCUSSION?

>> DIANE: JUST ONE THING.

JUST TO SAY, ON THE OTHER SIDE, THE CONSIDERATION IS THE LIBRARY DOES HAVE A SMALL PARKING LOT, BUT THERE IS A LOT OF ACCESSIBLE STREET PARKING. SO IF WE MOVE THERE, MAYBE KIND OF GET IT INTO OUR HEADS LET THE PEOPLE WHO -- LEAVE THE PARKING LOT TO THE PEOPLE WHO CANNOT WALK AND LET EVERYBODY ELSE JUST TRY TO FIND A SPOT ON THE STREET. JUST A THOUGHT.

>> HEATHER: I DID TALK TO THE STAFF. YOU ARE RIGHT. THE ACTUAL PARKING LOT IS SMALL. THERE IS A LOT OF STREET PARKING VERY CLOSE BY. AND THEY ONLY HAVE TWO HANDICAPPED SPOTS WHICH WERE TAKEN -- THE ONE TIME I WENT.

THEY HAVE A LITTLE STAFF PARKING LOT ON THE SIDE, AND AS I LEFT I TALKED TO THE MAN -- I'M SORRY, I CAN'T REMEMBER HIS NAME. HE SAID IF YOU HAVE A HANDICAP PLACARD YOU CAN PARK IN THE STAFF LOT. THAT'S WHAT I DID. IT WAS EASY. THERE WAS A RAMP RIGHT THERE.

>> JENNA: I WAS GOING TO SAY, ALSO, ON THAT POINT, I DIDN'T COUNT THE SPACES. THERE ARE PROBABLY LIKE 20 SPACES. BUT KEEP IN MIND BECAUSE THE LIBRARY OPENS AT 9:30, AND MOST PEOPLE AREN'T SCRAMBLING TO THE LIBRARY AT 9:30. I AM HAPPY TO PARK ON THE STREET BECAUSE THERE IS TONS OF STREET PARKING IN FRONT OF THE LIBRARY AND THE SIDE. I THINK FOR PEOPLE WITH MOBILITY ISSUES, AS LONG AS YOU GET THERE BY 9:30, PROBABLY BY 10, PROBABLY YOU WILL GET A SPOT IN THAT LOT BECAUSE IT'S RIGHT WHEN IT OPENS.

WE WENT AT 11:00 ON A FRIDAY.

I DON'T THINK THE LOT WILL BE A PROBLEM. I THINK WHAT SOME OF YOU WERE SAYING IS TRUE, LET'S TRY IT. PEOPLE TEND TO NOT ATTEND SO MUCH AS THE SUMMER APPROACHES AND THROUGH THE SUMMER AND WHAT HAVE YOU. WE CAN CERTAINLY TRY IT. AND IF PEOPLE ARE NOT LIKING IT, THEN WE CAN COME BACK HERE OR GO SOMEWHERE ELSE.

>> MITZI: AS FAR AS THE PARKING, THE HEAR CENTER IS A SMALL PARKING LOT.

>> GEORGIA: WHAT'S THE CROSS STREET?

>> DIANE: MOORPARK NEAR VAN NUYS.

>> LIKE BEVERLY GLEN AND MOORPARK.

>> IT'S CLOSER TO HAZELTINE ON MOORPARK. IT'S A QUIET NEIGHBORHOOD. MY SISTER LIVES IN THAT AREA, AND HER HUSBAND WEARS HEARING AIDS. MAYBE I CAN RECRUIT HIM.

>> DIANE: AND THERE IS AN IN-AND-OUT BURGER DOWN THE STREET.

>> TIM: I DO ALL THIS SETTING UP. IF WE DO MOVE TO THE LIBRARY, THEY DON'T PROVIDE COFFEE. A LOT OF THE SET UP WE WILL NEED TO DO. IF ANY OF YOU WILL BE WILLING TO MAYBE HELP AT LEAST FOR A FEW MONTHS HELP GET A PROCESS IN PLACE TO GET THE PLACE SET UP, GET COFFEE. THEY HAVE A LOT OF TABLES AND CHAIRS. THE HOSPITAL LAYS IT OUT FOR US.

>> MITZI: ARE THERE KITCHEN FACILITIES THERE FOR DOING SO?

>> TIM: YES.

>> I THINK THERE IS A KITCHEN AREA. ALSO A PANERA RIGHT DOWN THE STREET.

>> HEATHER: I THINK WE CAN JUST DO ALL THOSE IN FAVOR. PUT ON THE TABLE THAT WE WILL VOTE ON TRYING OUT THE NEW SPACE THAT JENNA FOUND FOR US FOR A NUMBER OF MONTHS AND SEE HOW WE DO. IF WE ARE REALLY AGAINST IT WE CAN TALK ABOUT THAT TOO.

ALL IN FAVOR, PLEASE SAY AYE. OPPOSED?

THE STEERING COMMITTEE, WE WILL TALK ABOUT THIS MOVE AFTER THE MEETING RIGHT NOW, AND WE WILL KIND OF COME UP WITH A TIME LINE ABOUT WHEN WE WILL BE MAKING THE MOVE AND LET YOU KNOW ALL OF THAT ON THE WEB SITE AND ALSO THE YAHOO GROUPS.

>> DIANE: AND FACEBOOK.

>> HOW MANY MILES IS IT FROM HERE?

>> DANNY: ONE HUNDRED.

>> HEATHER: WE WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE MEETING FOR NEXT MONTH.

TERI, YOU WANT TO TELL US ABOUT THE MEETING NEXT MONTH?

>> TERI: WE DECIDED TO GET A SPEAKER. SOMEONE WAS AT THE CITY OF ORANGE MEETING. I MET HIM AND INVITED HIM TO COME BE OUR SPEAKER NEXT MONTH. AND HE IS A REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF OTICON, GARY DORF, WITH A VERY INTERESTING SLIDE SHOW AND

PRESENTATION ABOUT COGNITION AND HEARING LOSS, HEARING WITH YOUR BRAIN. IT'S A FASCINATING PROGRAM. SATURDAY MARCH 24, SAME TIME, DIFFERENT LOCATION, MAYBE.

>> HEATHER: I HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE.

>> JENNA: ONE LAST THING. NORMALLY GARY IS HERE TO DO THIS, BUT IT'S TAX SEASON, SO HE'S MIA. SO WE WELCOME DONATIONS FROM PEOPLE WHO COME. AND IF YOU FEEL LIKE THIS MEETING WAS WORTH EVEN \$2, OF COURSE, WE WILL TAKE MORE. IF YOU FEEL IT'S WORTH A COUPLE BUCKS AND YOU FELT LIKE YOU GOT SOMETHING OUT OF THIS MEETING, BECAUSE WE DO STILL PAY -- EVEN AT THE NEW SPACE WE WILL BE PAYING FOR COFFEE AND WHAT HAVE YOU AND TRYING TO DO INTERESTING THINGS THIS YEAR, I THINK WILL TAKE LARGER FUNDS. IF YOU FEEL LIKE YOU GOT SOMETHING OUT OF THIS MEETING, WE COULD USE DONATIONS. I WILL PASS THIS AROUND. DON'T FEEL PRESSURE.

>> TIM: YOU HAVE THE PARKING?

>> HEATHER: THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING. THIS IS REALLY FUN.

[APPLAUSE]

12:10 FIN