

ROUGHLY-EDITED REALTIME TEXT FILE
HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (HLAA)

Los Angeles chapter meeting

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>> TIM BROWNING: Testing the T-coil. Can you hear me? How is the quality of the sound, is it okay? Does my voice sound sexy or interesting?

>> All of the above.

[Laughter].

>> TIM BROWNING: I think we're -- okay, everybody -- hi, everybody. We're going to get started. Sorry for the delay. Everything is very informal, so we want to make sure that people get here and get situated. We have a loop system set up. So if you have a T-coil, make sure you turn that on. Hopefully the sound quality is okay enough to hear my voice. I have a soft voice, so raise your hand if you don't hear me well and so forth. Luckily, our presenter Jeff has a booming voice so that is not a bad thing. I'm going to go through the

agenda, it's a few slides and we're going to get started with Jeff and he'll do the presentation. So I want all of you -- can you see this okay? I know it's a little light. Is that the better?

>> Yes.

>> TIM BROWNING: How many are coming to the Walk4Hearing? Not everybody raised their hands so we're going to find your home and drag you to Long Beach. We would like to mention it because it's our primary fundraiser for our chapter. You don't have to be there to raise money. Some of the money goes to HOA national and to our chapter to support these meetings and the scholarship program that we're going to talk about later. It's pretty valuable for us and we can give you more information on the web site. It's on a Sunday, so there is not much traffic, it's along the ocean and you we talk about hearing-related topics. Did you have a question?

>> No, I need to block out the moving.

>> TIM BROWNING: Are the captions okay for you guys?

>> Uh-huh.

>> TIM BROWNING: We have the convention coming up. Who is going to the convention? This is going to be a harder sell because this is financially a little different you can go to hearingloss.org and learn more about it. The event is 3 days, so it's cheaper than the 4 days we have. It's a very inclusive event there is going to be 30 events and it's not too late to come. If you have questions, see me afterwards for more information. We have the HOPE meeting coming up. This is a support group it's confidential and very private that allows people to address questions and concerns with their hearing or with family members understanding their hearing loss it's a way to get together with others and offer advice.

Make sure you're signed up for our chapter e-mail because we have a meeting that goes to your inbox. On the 22nd of August, we have it here at the HEAR Center. The next presentation is going to be July 25th, it's the 4th Saturday of the month here and Noah Linder is going to do a presentation. Please stay tuned for an e-mail. You'll get more information on that. Also, since the pandemic ended, we're now back in person. We have a lot of opportunities to get people involved and help in outreach so we're always looking for volunteers for anyone to help us in any role, big or small. If you have an interest or question, see myself or Wendi or e-mail at info@HLAA-LA.org. There is a lot of rewarding opportunities and now we're having more social events so there is a lot of opportunities to reach out to people that have otherwise been secluded because of online meetings. One last thing I want to be sure to it cover I want to give a big thank you to the HEAR Center and Marisol Perez has been so kind to open and set up and it's greatly appreciated. Would you like to come up and share about the HEAR Center because we're partnering with them to benefit more people here.

>> MARISOL PEREZ: My name is Marisol Perez. I'm the new Executive Director that

just started on January 19th, so I'm excited to open our space to more community engagement. We hosted two events this past week. We had the demos and donuts event and our retirement celebration for our former Executive Director. We're going to continue to do more community outreach. We offer affordable audiology examinations and provide speech services to children. I'm excited about what is coming up. Housekeeping, if you walk out of this door to the right, there is the restroom.

>> TIM BROWNING: And we have a Walk4Hearing team, right?

>> MARISOL PEREZ: We do.

>> TIM BROWNING: It's going to be nice and cool to avoid the heat. Without further ado, Jeff has been in the world of hearing since what?

>> JEFF GRAMA: Since 1975.

>> TIM BROWNING: We can ask questions that you have about hearing aids, and he has a presentation and demos as well. He'll share more of that with you so without further ado, I'm going to turn my computer off and turn it over to Jeff. Do you want to take it over?

>> JEFF GRAMA: Sure. I'm Jeff Grama. I have been around for a long time. I got into this in 1975 when I graduated with my master's degree. I worked at a clinic in San Diego and a manufacturer for one year. I bought an office in 1983 in Hollywood, it was a tiny hole in the wall about 500 square feet, and everything has grown. We moved about 10 years and 22 years after that to my current position in Hollywood. I have seen so many changes in the hearing aid world. When I got into this, there was three transistors, it was pathetic. Today's world you're looking at artificial intelligence that have 330 million transistors so it's a huge evolution in technology. Are we having a problem with this?

>> It does not sound like it's on. Can you turn the speaker up?

>> TIM BROWNING: We're going to turn the volume up a little bit.

>> I took it off loop because I was hearing static. It was not as loud as it could be.

>> JEFF GRAMA: Does that sound okay? Well, the hearing aid world has evolved so much. I have been taking care of Wendi for a long time and the time we have been together the evolution has been remarkable. What is happening in the world today is artificial intelligence and everyone hears about it, but I'm not sure everyone understands what it is. So what they have done is sent out like a thousand people to take several thousands of audio samples in the world. And they record them and put them on a microchip so it's like 20 million sounds that are put on the microchip. And they took every speech sound of every language. So when a sound goes to the hearing aid, it goes to AI and it says this is speech or this not speech and it separates the two.

That is one part and the other part is AI because it's capable of modifying as time goes on so there is more sounds in the word. So when you're wearing your hearing aids with this technology, you're able to teach your hearing aids the noises in your environment and then the hearing aid said learn -- they compare them with similar sounds and they say

this is noise, this is not speech, so it separates it. It lets you hear everything. People think it's going to make it so there is no noise. That is not going to happen. We all hear noise. I heard your tapping things and I'm very blessed with good hearing. So there is no way that you can make that go away.

What you can do is still allow it to be the environment to bring the voice through, that is the idea of artificial intelligence. You don't want to live in a silent world except for speech. For example, if you're listening to music and somebody starts talking, you want the stereo in the background, it gives a spatial awareness of what is going on. AI so that is how this works. It's going to get better and better. The AI first came out in 2019 that was in a unit they called Moore and it was a huge upgrade. Their current product is second generation, and they have a new product out that is very tiny for people that are mentally, cosmetically challenged and don't want people to see the hearing aids.

There is a benefit to that that fit a 65 des about hearing loss it's really tiny. I brought these to show you later. They are in the second generation and there is 2 other manufacturers that have the artificial intelligence one is Phonak and they 2 systems sphere 70 or 90 and 90 is the premium product. And G nan ReSound. They have introduced a really nice unit called the ENZO IA for profound hearing loss I have fit a couple of people and it's been really good. The AI works a little differently. In the Phonak the full AI does not kick in till there is an adequate amount of noise and the ReSound works in a similar fashion but at a lower input level for noise.

The Oticon is real time full AI because there is more experience with it. The people have gone to this from conventional say it's life changing. That being said, not everybody is going to like the sound of the manufacturer, right Tim? Some people have brains that have acclimated to a certain sound quality. There was a company called Qualitone with a very mellow sounds like the 1940s radio and people liked that quality of sound. You could not hear anything with it, but it had nice sound, and people came in and said I wanted a Qualitone. So as hearing aids evolved over time, you're seeing huge differences in bandwidth it's like comparing an old transistor earphone to new Apple iPods.

Older ones went to 4,000 hertz but did not have the ability to separate noise. The new ones go to 12,000 hertz, so I get a cleaner picture of everything. You hear the overtone on pianos and speech is going to be cleaner. It gives more awareness of everything there.

>> So the qualities that you're describing, are they found in one program or is this when you change to get that?

>> JEFF GRAMA: Here is the nice thing about AI, for those that have hearing aids and programs for everything, don't need it. You got one program, It does everything. What I like to do for everybody, I have a surround sound in my office, and I have recorded noise of various sorts. When I record for a quiet environment, I turn it on and fine tune so you can hear what is in the background. Question?

>> Do you know anything about Starkey and I believe that the -- correct me if I'm wrong, the app does not preserve battery life?

>> JEFF GRAMA: It's 25 hours. I stay away from Starkey because they are hard to do business with, and there is so many issues with reliability. I understand people like them but I had too many failures the last set that I fit a guy brought them in and asked me to program them and they did fine and 3 months later they were bad. I can't sell products like that.

>> I know them. They do -- the foundation does amazing.

>> JEFF GRAMA: I'm not knocking the foundation.

>> This is a room full of potential customers.

>> JEFF GRAMA: I can't sell products that I have problems with. I carry nine manufacturers, but I concentrate on four. And the reliability issues are the reason that I cut the others out. I found that Oticon, ReSound, Phonak, and Wide X have good track records. If something happens to a hearing aid, we call them up and say I got a problem and they ship one out of New Jersey the next day and do a quick change out. All audiologists have their preference. 20 years ago, they were not that good, but they have the lead in performance.

>> What are the 4 that you said you used?

>> JEFF GRAMA: Oticon and Phonak and ReSound and Wide X.

>> Did they change the name of ReSound?

>> JEFF GRAMA: Nobody says the GN and nobody will because they have been sold to an Italian company, so I don't know what they call themselves. Because it has name recognition, they will continue to be called ReSound that happened about a month ago. So whatever you're using compared to what you had in the past, anything that you get in today's world is going to be better sound and battery wise. You're not going to see hearing aid batteries anymore. A lot of people say I want them. But have you tried to open the package? You need a bazooka to open it, it's horrible. I don't know why they decided to do that? How many children eat a battery? Not many, but it's a choking hazard.

>> I can tell you on those batteries if children swallow those it connected to the intestine and erodes it. They have to go to surgery and I'm a nurse for 25 years. So this is what they have done is childproof these batteries because it's bad for children. It's what it does to your bowel when it's in there. It's the same thing with magnets. They attach and cause holes. So that is why they have made them like that because there is too many kids that -- especially working with children that have hearing aids that swallow these batteries and have to go to surgery.

>> JEFF GRAMA: That is going in my next news letter.

>> Recently maybe a year and a half ago, I said get the rechargeable. I have Phonak and I'm going to tell you there is times when brand new batteries will go out instantly, so

what is good about rechargeable I have a case that I bring and you charge the batteries one at a time and no problem.

>> JEFF GRAMA: Part of the thing with the batteries --

>> They die out.

>> JEFF GRAMA: If you take the sticker off you have to wait a minimum because they changed God knows why, but they changed it that way several years ago like 8 to 10 years now. That has been a real hassle. People say my batteries are not lasting and I have a reader and I'm saying what are you doing with your batteries? I take the sticker off and put them in. You can't do that. In your rechargeable products and probably I'm selling 99% rechargeables the ones I don't are the non-AI products. The original ones went about 3 years. The new go about 5 years on recharging. The originals we can change in house it takes about 10 seconds to change it. In the new ones, they are sealed.

The reason they sealed them was to make sure that moisture could not get in there and cut down on the performance of the battery life, so they have gotten rid of that problem. But it's a problem because we can't change them. I used to build hearing aid kits back in the 1970s it was a big joke, and I burned up a couple of them so it's mostly rechargeables.

>> Can you change the firm ware.

>> JEFF GRAMA: Oh, yeah. There is maybe 2 major firmware changes and they don't do that till Apple makes a change on the iPhone. Because they go from 18 to 26. Anybody who has an intent product or a real product should get into see the audiologist. And the Oticons with the sphere.

>> Someone mentioned iPhone and I don't like them I have Android. So are you going into which hearing aids are better with androids?

>> JEFF GRAMA: Androids run different operating systems. Some will hook up with some hearing aids, and some won't. Phonak will hook up with anything.

>> Have one now and they hook up with the phone and nothing else.

>> JEFF GRAMA: How old are they?

>> Like 20 years old.

>> JEFF GRAMA: That is a problem. I get up at a quarter to 5.

>> I get up at 10:00 a.m. for meds and go back to sleep.

>> JEFF GRAMA: They are using that system that works with any system and it's way improved. I had a few problems with their -- not with the new ones. Not with the spheres, but previous products had dropping of one side versus the other.

>> You choose an ear --

>> JEFF GRAMA: It's supposed to transmit to the other side so there may be an antenna problem. The iPhones this lady hates do a faster connection to any of the hearing aids, and you can go back as far as iPhone 6 and you can connect. Their connection is much faster and stable. Because they designed the product when the manufactures said

iPhones are doing this so we're going to make that connection. Android is catching up and I'm told that any Android Samsung that is 25 or later is going to hook up to any hearing aid and it's fine. I have people that have 25 and 26 and they are fine. But the connection time is longer to do that.

>> Do most of the new hearing aids include T-coil and, Auracast?

>> JEFF GRAMA: No, T-coils take up a lot of space. Sphere does not have it. The Oticons do. Wide X does but they are not a full-time, real-time AI. GN, some do and some don't, depending on the product you're looking at. I agree that they should. You have to understand that people don't want big hearing aids, they want little ones. I would want to hear if I had hearing loss. But if you look at people with cochlear implants, they are big.

>> During my younger years aesthetically, they are not pleasing but you need hearing aids that help you hear and throw out the window the aesthetics. People can't tell I'm wearing Phonak.

>> JEFF GRAMA: They are pretty small now.

>> Mine are constantly breaking.

>> JEFF GRAMA: Are they waxing up? If you don't keep your hearing aids clean and you're lazy and you don't keep them clean they are going to fail because of ear wax. I founds online on Amazon I by Chinese tooth boxes they are big and easy to handle, and they are great. They run \$19 for a hundred, \$0.19 a piece. Those little ones cost \$0.50 and fall apart. We have handed these out since February and they work great.

>> Are you supposed to brush your hearing aids every day.

>> JEFF GRAMA: You clean them before you put them away.

>> I have the solution.

>> JEFF GRAMA: You can wipe the molding, But you don't have to worry about sterilizing the ear molds because you're not going to infect yourself. Wipe them on the filter, on the tip. Now, there is a variance in the filters if you look at them the vast majority use a filter that is convex, so when the wax gets in it fills up. So what I like about these is that it rolls off. You are probably going to see more companies coming up with that filter. I'm going to grab a couple of these and show you what they have done over the last years.

This monster is a high powered 84-decibel gain and goes about 30 hours with the battery. There is 3 price points 5, 7 and 9. I have fit a 5 and 7 and people love them. They have gone from products that are 3 years old and say my God what a difference. This is ReSound the ENZO IA. The disadvantage is it does not come with a receiver in the ear, it's tuned most people need to wear hearing aids with standard moldings and tubes.

>> This is BTE?

>> JEFF GRAMA: Yes. They have plastic and metal, and I choose metal because I can get more gain and it's more durable. Plastic strips and you get feedback. So it's terrible so that is the new ENZO. There is a smaller one called Nexia, it's an AI product.

>> That is BTE?

>> JEFF GRAMA: No, this is Nexia. The Oticon is a little bigger, but it's got more smarts and the battery life is up to 100-DB with this guy. Years ago, we were able to change the wires on the power molds. You just unplug and put a new one on, now they are using molds with embedded wire not happy about that. If someone comes in, I don't want to send the mold to New Jersey and wait a week that is crazy. There is lesser powered products and we change it out. You can ask for embedded, but I don't see why. Phonak makes them embedded for their power units as well. The other thing that is available and Oticon has this is a little rechargeable unit that is a premium product. Expensive as hell and fits up to 75-decibel hearing loss with full AI and has a rechargeable thing.

You cannot cut that it's to pull out of the ear and it's the antenna and holds it in the ear better. This is made from Kevlar like a bullet proof vest it's very strong don't need to worry, it's not going to break. There is nothing that is not replaceable with the exception of the wax guard. You can make a custom mold and the ones that I have fitted I have used the dome, and they don't need a custom mold. So it's interesting to see what a hard mold looks like. The vast majority of products allow us to use the dome fittings because most people are mild to moderate. For people that need more power, you should have a hard molding. It maintains more sound in the ear canal and controls feedback, but you get better fidelity. Are any of you using remote microphones?

>> STUDENT: The Phonak Roger it's the best thing I have gotten it's like \$2,500.

>> JEFF GRAMA: It's the best thing you can get.

>> So it has 3 settings you with point it at someone or place in the center of the table and you can program the microphones when I play pickle ball, I have the person I'm playing with clip this on their shirt. I lost mine and it was the worst day of my life. I found one on eBay for \$400.

>> JEFF GRAMA: You made a still on that. People say I want a Roger, but they cost thousands of dollars.

>> I use the Ray-Ban glasses, so it has a feature and the mic is directional, it increases the volume.

>> JEFF GRAMA: The guy that I bought the business from was a firm believer that you had to cut the tempo and put everything together.

>> I mean it works for me.

>> Is this caption glasses?

>> Yeah, it's eyeglasses with a microphone.

>> Is it connected to the hearing aid?

>> No, It's directional. I look at you --

>> JEFF GRAMA: It's a hearing aid.

>> They don't call it hearing aid because it's a medical device.

>> But if you take them off, you can't hear. So if you take your glasses off, you have to say don't talk to me.

>> It works with your hearing aid?

>> Yes.

>> You have eyeglasses and hearing aid?

>> No, I hear people talk with the glasses.

>> I never heard of that.

>> I tried the audio; it was not that good.

>> Did you get that from the audiologist?

>> No, it's a gift. But you can buy online. You can take pictures and receive photos. It's a Meta product. There is a new product with a microphone I have not tried them.

>> The captioning glasses, I heard of those.

>> There is a lot of competition.

>> People need to take turns talking because the Captioner cannot get it.

>> JEFF GRAMA: Okay, there is a lot of stuff -- question?

>> I got back from a trip, and I was on tours where you have the guide speaking and you plug it into -- it's very iffy with hearing aids.

>> JEFF GRAMA: You can unplug the headphones and plug the loop it and it works pretty well. I have 4 or 5 that tried it.

>> I don't have the T-coil at the moment.

>> JEFF GRAMA: You turn it on, it's a neck loop. It just goes around your neck and has a 3 and a half milliliter plug that you plug in and put your hearing aids on T-coil. Works great and run about 75 or \$80. It makes a difference for people.

>> Are you asking people if they use ReSound. It's Java.

>> JEFF GRAMA: That is ReSound.

>> When I'm on tours, I put this on and it's great and I take classes and the instructors are nice about it and it connects through the app but it has a T-coil.

>> JEFF GRAMA: That has two microphones in it, and one faces up and one that faces out. This is the same thing that Oticon has they have the same thing. It has twin mics and one is upward looking to pick up the voice of the person wearing and the other is outward for noise canceling.

>> I have not had good success with T coils.

>> JEFF GRAMA: I would say that that should not have been put in. That is the only hand-held mic with a T-coil. If you have an iPhone I know Oticon has it, but you can activate and put your --

>> Is that the live listen in?

>> JEFF GRAMA: Yes, It turns the microphone of the phone on. It's useful around the house. If your husband needs to tell you when to turn the breaker switch off, you can hold

his phone and he can hear what you're saying.

>> Do they work like a universal remote control?

>> JEFF GRAMA: No, they carry a different microphone transmitting frequency. The other thing that you may not be aware of, have you heard of Auracast? It's going to make the loop thing go away. It's going to be trash. Auracast is very small, this is the system here. It works in two ways as a Bluetooth or Auracast. My marketing man is wearing hearing aids that does not have Auracast we tried them at my house two weeks ago. I plugged it in the television, and we took a walk down the street. We went more than a 10th of a mile and he could still hear. You plug in the back of the TV and you turn on Auracast.

>> That is universal?

>> JEFF GRAMA: If you have hearing aids with Auracast.

>> I want to say more about that. Beyond having an external device it's Bluetooth and on buses and trains and theaters if you get an announcement, you will get that messaging. It's -- Apple is not interested in Auracast but they will see it's going to be great for us in a public setting.

>> JEFF GRAMA: I can tell you where it's in wide use. You go to Chicago, O'Hare Airport. The other thing that you're seeing with the hearing aids. And as Bluetooth evolves, you're going to have multichannel Bluetooth. So if you're looking at your phone, you will be able to maintain a connection with those that is going to be really nice.

>> TIM BROWNING: Can you take a time out?

>> JEFF GRAMA: I can go all day.

>> TIM BROWNING: I know you have more questions, but we want to give Sonya a time out to catch her fingers so we're going to take a 15-minute break. You're required to get a donut and when we come back Jeff, we can take more questions.

>> JEFF GRAMA: I have a sample of products and brought literature with me as well. Unfortunately, I can't get the Auracast to work with my computer. I hooked into the wi-fi, but I'm going to mess with it during the break and demonstrate to any of you that have Auracast.

>> That device is 66 bucks on Amazon.

>> TIM BROWNING: We're going to take a break and do chapter business. So we're going to meet up at 11:25.

[Break Taken].

>> TIM BROWNING: I'm going to get started again. We have a little bit of chapter business. Okay everybody, gravitate in. Okay, all right everybody, we are starting again. Real quick just before Jeff answers a few more questions before we go to chapter business, I want to make sure that people here if they would like to introduce themselves. We get new people from time to time that are coming to a presentation for the first time not to put you on-the-spot, but we would like you to introduce yourselves so anyone want to chime in? I think we have people out there enjoying the donuts. So if you're new, make sure you get

a chance to talk with us further.

I met Katie when she was at the HOPE meeting the month that I was not able to attend. So we can do Q&A for 10 more minutes, and then we're going to have chapter business items and we're going to close out.

>> JEFF GRAMA: I'm going to stay as long as you need.

>> I have a question. So you have shown us several models and talked a lot, can you give a price range for these late, great hearing aids so we can wrap our minds and purses around this?

>> JEFF GRAMA: Currently, I charge 3,600 for entry level and next up is 2,500 and next is 7,400 but I give discounts to people here.

>> When you say entry level, specifically the AI hearing aids?

>> JEFF GRAMA: There is three price points, and the differences are what I can do in a noisy situation. Entry level is three sets of adjustments for background and midlevel is 16 and high level is 64. It lets me do more fine tuning for the noise.

>> Would you say that the AI hearing aids are all premium.

>> JEFF GRAMA: No, there is 3 levels. ReSound is 9 and Oticon Premium is one and midlevel is two and entry level is 3.

>> What are the price ranges?

>> JEFF GRAMA: 7,400 less for your discount for Oticon.

>> What is considered the premium?

>> JEFF GRAMA: It's the Intent 1 mini right R, and you take the 101.

>> So that little one that has a thing that sticks out of the ear?

>> JEFF GRAMA: That goes to 75-decibel, you're worse than that. That is considered moderate to severe.

>> Thank you, Jeff.

>> JEFF GRAMA: Well, I know your hearing. I can tell you what your adjustments are. Is there another question? Usually, the smaller the product the less range it has as far as loudness for severity. But I will say, in a non-AI product Phonak puts out 70 decibels of gain but there is no Bluetooth. We used to fit probably 60 to 70% of in-the-ear products it's not 2% anymore.

>> So the premium products are AI and Auracast, is this considered first generation?

>> JEFF GRAMA: First generation is Phonak and second generation is Auracast. Yes?

>> I have a TV with a sound bar; did I miss what you said to improve the hearing?

>> JEFF GRAMA: You should use the Auracast. If you have a late model TV that is even 6 or 7 years old, they are going to have a fiber optic output. Fiber optic is the same that you have in the cable.

>> My TV is a year old.

>> JEFF GRAMA: You're fine.

>> Sorry I'm so talkative. I was sharing this with Wendi you can choose Bluetooth so mine goes to my hearing aid. I'm not saying it's 100% so look if you have Bluetooth output.

>> What is the external device called again?

>> JEFF GRAMA: It's called Auracast, A-u-r-a-c-a-s-t. That is the whole thing.

[Showing hearing aid].

>> Okay. And that is for TV?

>> JEFF GRAMA: Or a stereo or audio output.

>> The sound bars help but they are not --

>> JEFF GRAMA: They help but they increase the bass. You don't get that great of a sound quality, but if you have a Bose, you might. I use a Yamaha receiver with Bose. That would probably cost \$20,000 now.

>> Nice! Does that plug into the sound bar?

>> JEFF GRAMA: No. In the back of the TV, it's got a connector and usually back on the back of the TV. It goes in one way; you can't do it wrong. It snaps in and the other part snaps in the back.

>> So that by passes the sound bar?

>> JEFF GRAMA: It will. If you're watching TV with someone else, you hear what is coming through so you're not going to have people saying I can't hear the TV, but you can. That is not going to happen. It's nice. On the Auracast system, you can adjust the volume of the system, and it comes with a graphic equalizer so you can change the quality of the Auracast signal. So you can swoop that up or more bass you can make that adjustment to the sound quality. It's a slide control but it's the same thing and you can turn down the microphone sensitivity of your hearing aids, so you don't hear what is coming through the speaker at the same time. So it gives more variables. Very nice system.

I can't believe the quality of these, they are terrific. Okay, any other questions? Okay. If you have questions down the road, I have business cards and you're welcome to call me. I'm happy to talk to you.

>> I have one more question. What other applications does the Auracast work with at home?

>> JEFF GRAMA: It has to be plugged into something. If it's not getting a signal in, it's not going to put anything out.

>> So when you say it needs to be plugged into something, is that via USB or outlet?

>> JEFF GRAMA: It needs a power source. It's a USB that plugs into the TV.

>> It needs electricity and a USB; It's like a charger?

>> JEFF GRAMA: Yeah. Then you have input and output on the back of the television and there are several ways to do it. Some of them use an RCA jack or a 3 and a half milliliter cord. I prefer fiber optic because it's a longer cable, it's like 2 feet long. It's a thin

cable and it's super strong. There you go. Okay, thank you for having me.

[Applause].

>> TIM BROWNING: Give Jeff a big hand. We have few more items regarding the chapter before we end the day, so here is Jackie Gayer.

>> JACKIE GAYER: I'm a fast talker, so if I start talking fast, let me know and I'll slow down because I'm a fast talker. So we're preparing for next Sunday in Shoreline Park. Registration is at 8:30 and the walk starts at 10:45. So I have this on my phone. So for the Long Beach walk, it has raised \$20,175, We as a team on the LA Stars if you can't walk, that is okay, donate. A portion of this money that is raised we get a portion for the chapter and now our goal is 9,000 there and we're at \$8,661. If you can't walk, consider joining the team and you can donate yourself. Some accolades to the people that are in the top 3. Our Frank Bryant is number one. Our Wendi Washington, she's number two. And our Tim is number three. I'm number 4.

So it's fun and there is a ton of vendors, InnoCaption is there. I don't know if we're having a raffle, but it's a fun event to have happen to support everybody in the community and provide education for those that have hearing loss or those that are deaf like myself. So come out and engage with everyone. It's a great day, and that is my spiel.

>> Will there be an agenda?

>> TIM BROWNING: I went to my first walk in 2014 and was surrounded by several hundred people impacted by hearing loss. It's an awakening experience. So if you have not come before, just to see it is worth it. You got the Queen Mary, and there is tons of restaurants.

>> I have a question. What is the latest a person can arrive and participate in this?

>> TIM BROWNING: I think people start showing up at 8 o'clock.

>> But you can get there later?

>> When you come, there is a parking structure that you can park in and a parking lot, but you have to come early to get that parking lot but there is a structure. Is the Aquarium of the Pacific there?

>> I never been to Long Beach, so I don't know.

>> I became the captain, so the last two years I have not been, but I'm going to be the captain. I get there around 9 or 10 or 9:30 but you can come any time it starts at 10:45 and takes two to three hours.

>> If you got there at noon, you would not miss everything?

>> JACKIE GAYER: I don't think so. People at like 11:30 or 12 are coming back from the walk and finish so you should be okay.

>> TIM BROWNING: A lot of people do not walk. They stay and walk and mingle be careful there is a lot of cords there. I have the convention slide up do you want to talk about that?

>> ANNA RUBENSTEIN: Hi, I'm Anna the Vice President. Along with our Long Beach Walk4Hearing, we have our convention. I have been trying years to go, but unfortunately the way the dates are set up I cannot go, but I'm going to be there in spirit and I'm thankful for those that are going. It's supposed to be June 10th to the 12. This year it's in Louisville, Kentucky so I look forward to that. Maybe those that are going can take pictures or videos to bring to us. I'm thankful to all that are going. I think Wendi and Tim and I'm thankful for Faviola. She has a story similar to mine. I'm going to pass the mic to Wendi, and then I'm going to get into the agenda.

>> WENDI WASHINGTON: So our chapter is very happy to announce that we have a scholarship opportunity. It is the young adult ambassador scholarship. It's our way of connecting a high school graduate who is going to college or a freshman or sophomore in college with our chapter. We are offering a \$1,250 per year scholarship. And the program we have designed is a 2-year collaboration between the young person -- do you want to --

>> ANNA RUBENSTEIN: I think we're going to do the agenda after.

>> WENDI WASHINGTON: So we're looking for young people to be a part of our organization and take advantage of this college scholarship opportunity. This information can be found on the web site and the deadline is approaching but I believe we're considering extending it to get as many applicants as possible. It's a good opportunity for young people to know about us as a national organization and give them opportunities to exercise their skills and learn and grow. We need to get the word out. So I know none of you are going to be the recipients of this but maybe you know people or connected with organizations that might be able to disseminate this information for us. We would like to connect with a young person. Yes?

>> I'm working with UCLA interns, does the student need to have hearing loss?

>> WENDI WASHINGTON: Yes, they do. If you know anyone, or might know someone that might know someone, please pass along this information so we can reach these young people. We really want to give this money away and connect with them. Any questions? Okay.

>> If there is something that you can e-mail, I'm going to be connecting with the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Club at UCLA.

>> WENDI WASHINGTON: Thank you, that is awesome.

>> JEFF GRAMA: As a side, I got the Auracast working.

>> WENDI WASHINGTON: Jeff, can we share this with you? Can you pass that along?

>> JEFF GRAMA: Absolutely.

>> TIM BROWNING: Everything is on the web site and people are e-mailing me where can I find this? We have a web site so just FYI for you.

>> If you're on Facebook, the link for the walk I can update today so you can hit that and join or you can donate. So stay tuned.

>> TIM BROWNING: Thank you Jackie and we have a lot of people to thank.

Thank you Jeff for taking time out from your landscaping work and Sonya let's give her a big hand here. [Applause]. And we also want to give Jeff a gift for taking time to do this. Marisol is not here, but we want to thank her for opening the place up for us. I want to thank you for taking your Saturday and holiday weekend to come here and get well-informed and get to know people. I hope you join us next month and fly to the convention and go to the Walk4Hearing. You're going to get more information about the July 25th meeting. If you have not been on the list yet, please check it to receive information from us.

>> ANNA RUBENSTEIN: Make sure you're signed up on e-mails. If you have an issue, you can connect with Tim. Aside from our walk, and each HLAA convention, it's a fun way to connect with people around the world that are hard of hearing. Saturday June 27th, here as always is our next HOPE meeting so if you're new and don't know what it is -- you did? Okay we have our July meeting, I think Jackie said and August is our HOPE meeting on August 22nd. Thank you for coming, Jeff and Marisol and everybody. Make sure you're connected with us on Facebook, e-mails, phone numbers so you can get all of the updates.

>> TIM BROWNING: Thank you, everybody. We have a few minutes, if you have questions for Jeff. By some miracle, he got Auracast working. Check it out. Thank you, again.