

# ◊ Hear's the News ◊

*The Official Newsletter of the Iowa Hearing Association*

*Summer 2021*

## **Mark Your Calendar**



### **IHS Annual Convention**

August 12 – 14, 2021  
San Diego, CA

### **IHA Fall Conference**

September 24, 2021  
Sheraton  
West Des Moines, IA

### **IHA Spring Conference**

May 6, 2022  
Sheraton  
West Des Moines, IA

## **From the President's Pen**



This will be my last letter to all of you as I end my two years as your president. It's been two years unlike any other for me as well as you!

I have been in a reflective mood and was thinking about the term "skill sets" that is frequently used to indicate what we bring to the table when we interact with our superiors, colleagues and of course, our patients. As professionals I believe we need to develop that "sixth" sense – our intuition - about a patient. What is the patient telling us? Are we looking carefully at the patient and how they move?

Are they shuffling their feet? How do they settle in a chair: Do they rest their chin in their hand when they sit? Do they make eye contact with us? Is their breathing labored? Is their speech abnormally loud, soft, fast, or wandering? Are they happy, sad or indifferent? Could their hearing loss have played a role in the behavior they present to me today?



Beyond that here are skill sets I believe we should all have:

- Active Listening: giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions to make sure you understood properly and not interrupting.
- Oriented to Service: Actively looking for ways to help others.
- Public Speaking: Educating the public about hearing loss and the importance to correct your hearing.
- Reading: Understanding and applying the written word to your professional life.
- Social Perceptiveness: Which I alluded to earlier. Being aware of others' behavior, their reactions, and why they do or don't do what you'd like them to do.
- Critical Thinking: Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions to problems.
- Problem Solving: Identifying, reviewing, seeking out expert advice in order to know your options and implementing solutions.

I feel the Iowa Hearing Association is your tool to work on these skill sets. These are also skills that our association can address by bringing in speakers to help us learn at our spring and fall conferences. We are here to help on your journey to reach as many of the hearing-impaired out there as possible.

Annette Redman, Au. D.  
President of the Iowa Hearing Association

## Welcome New Members

**Martha Bennett**  
Sioux City, IA

**Amanda Gerst**  
Adel, IA

**Cameron Graykowski**  
Cedar Rapids, IA

**Katelyn Holub**  
Waterloo, IA

**Allen Parker**  
Bettendorf, IA

**David Tann**  
Clive, IA

**Anthony Wilson**  
Kasson, MN



## Membership Label

The membership gold label was put in the spring conference packets of each current member. If you did not receive your membership label and would like one, please call the IHA office at 515-440-6057 and we will be happy to mail it to you.

Anyone new to IHA will receive a new member certificate with the current year's label affixed along with a welcome letter.

## IHA Board of Directors

### President

Annette Redman  
Iowa Hearing Clinics  
2055 Kimball Ave., Ste. 300  
Waterloo, IA 50702

**President Elect**  
VACANT

### Treasurer

Steve Harrison  
Miracle Ear  
921 Blairs Ferry Road NE, Ste. 110  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

### Secretary

Angela Mollenhoff  
Mercy One ENT  
515 College Street  
Cedar Falls, IA 52402

### Past President

Cory Popelka  
Miracle Ear  
921 Blairs Ferry Road NE, Ste. 110  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

### Director at Large

Greg Moore  
Moore Hearing Clinic  
1317 Center Point Rd NE Ste 200  
Ottumwa, IA 52501

### Director at Large

Robyn Ritchey  
Wolfe Clinic  
309 E Church Street  
Marshalltown, IA 50158

### Director at Large

Laura Popelka  
Miracle Ear  
921 Blairs Ferry Road NE, Ste. 110  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

### Director at Large

Helen Royer  
Beltone of Iowa  
3717 Center Point Rd. NE, Ste 200  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

### Director at Large

Amy Melik-Israyelyan  
Hearing Doctors of Iowa  
1810 SW White Birch Circle, Ste. 104  
Ankeny, IA 50023

### Executive Director

Bev Thomas  
1001 Office Park Rd., Suite 105  
West Des Moines, IA 50265  
515-440-6057



## Directory Information

New 2021-2022 IHA directories has been sent via email to all current members. It is also included on the IHA website. Please review your information in the directory and if anything needs changed, please go to the website under members and use the link to edit your information.

We no longer send printed directories out through the mail.

## Cory Popelka Receives Dispenser of the Year Award



Each year at the Spring Conference an IHA member is chosen by his peers and receives the Dispenser of the Year Award. This award is presented in honor of outstanding characteristics and actions in the field of dispensing. This years recipient of the dispenser of the year award is Cory Popelka.

Cory began in 2003 with one store location. His group has grown over the years to 55 locations in Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska. They dispense over 5,000 hearing aids annually. Cory trains, coaches and oversees every employee to higher standards than the law requires. Cory is licensed to fit hearing aids in Minnesota, Nebraska and Iowa and is a Board-Certified Hearing Instrument Specialist. He now employs 35 HIS dispensers. He has donated over 200 free sets of hearing aids to children and seniors through the Miracle-Ear Foundation, 89 sets last year alone. Cory has been on the IHA board for 5 years and is a Past President.

Cory has provided outstanding service to the industry through committee memberships, teaching roles, research contributions, special projects, community involvement and ease of access for patient care. Cory continues to be a positive image and offers distinguished representation to the field as a whole.

## Calibration at Fall Conference

What could be more convenient - you're not at work, and your

audiometer needs to be calibrated - you attend the seminars and pick up your machine when the conference is over. Remember, you are required by the State Health Department to have your audiometers calibrated once a year. Bring your audiometers to the fall conference.



## Plan to Attend IHA Fall Conference

September 24, 2021

Sheraton Hotel • West Des Moines, Iowa

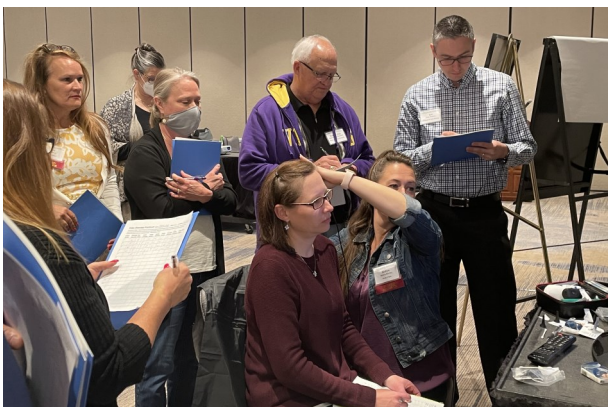
- ❖ Continuing Education
- ❖ Speakers
- ❖ Professional Networking
- ❖ Trade Show/Round Robin



# IHA Spring Conference

May 7, 2021

Marriott Hotel, West Des Moines, IA



## Board of Directors Positions

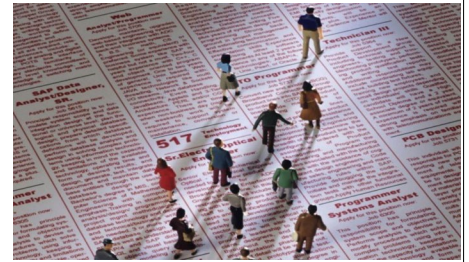
If you are  
interested in  
submitting your  
name to volunteer  
on the IHA board,  
send your name  
and information to  
the association  
office prior to  
July 20th.  
Email  
apmsthomas@aol.com  
or call  
515-440-6057.



## Forecasts From The Kiplinger Letter

### LABOR

Public schools may soon join the list of employers struggling to find workers. Nationwide, there are 900,000 fewer people employed by public schools either open or planning to return to in-person classes by this fall, schools may find themselves short-staffed,



It's more than just a shortage of teachers looming. It's all the support staff. Most teachers kept their jobs while school went online during the pandemic. Other workers...custodians, building maintenance personnel, etc...were more prone to getting laid off or finding work in other sectors when COVID-19 closed schools.

That means even more competition for scarce labor for other employers if schools go on a hiring scramble to staff up...not what hiring managers need.

### PAID

The debate over paid parental leave on Capitol Hill is heating up. Congress is considering a 12-week, federally run paid-leave program as part of President Biden's American Families Plan. In the meantime, several lawmakers have proposed stand-alone bills to address the issue.

Support among Democrats for a paid-leave program continues to grow.

Expect them to hold firm on including it in the American Families Plan, even as Republicans oppose mandates and tax increases to pay for the proposal. Note that such legislation is expected to pass along party lines...if it passes at all.

Businesses are also slowly warming to the idea, at least in theory, as a substitute for the current patchwork of state and local paid-leave laws, a headache for many companies. At least nine states (plus Washington, D. C.) have family and medical leave programs covering most private-sector workers.

### BUSINESS PROBLEMS

Problems businesses are now facing fall into these three major themes. Shipping woes...delays and rising costs. Not enough workers to hire. And shortages of needed materials and parts.

These complaints crop up again and again. Lumber, steel and other building materials, are hard or impossible to get, and very costly. Workers scarce, especially good workers. Wages rising fast, and still too few job applicants. All sorts of freight shipping issues: Not enough trucks or drivers. Ocean shipping rates soaring and service unreliable.

# Update from Lions Club

Greetings from the Iowa Lions Hearing Aid Bank! This past year has been a challenge for the HAB and I am sure it also has been for your business. The Lions Hearing Aid Bank, one of the five entities of the Iowa Lions Foundation that depend on donations from Lions Clubs, Lions members and the general public to cover operating expenses. Donations were down almost 50% this past fiscal year, many clubs did not meet or hold fund raisers for 6 or more months, we are hoping for a resurge for 2021-2022!

Thank you!

I thought this is a good time to review the policies of the HAB for eligibility, repairs and replacements of "Lions" hearing aids.

**Eligibility:** An individual can be referred to the program by your office, a Lions Club or themselves. An application is provided and that application is reviewed by a local Lions Club for eligibility. This club may or may not help the applicant cover the office fees for ear molds for BTE or other fees incurred. Those fees have loosely been agreed to be up to \$150/ear.

**Repairs:** Any hearing aid that has been dispensed by your office as Lions hearing aid is covered for the life of the applicant for repair. UNLESS it is not working due to misuse- pet chewed it up, melted in microwave or anything you feel is not normal wear and tear. To get the cost of the repair covered you will need to email me at [ialionshearingaidbank@gmail.com](mailto:ialionshearingaidbank@gmail.com) to get my approval, then they will need to be sent to either Starkey All Make or VIP/Score. If you do not follow this process and you incur an expense, I will not be able to reimburse your office for the repair. I have no cash flow; repairs are covered by the credit the HAB has on account from salvaged aids.

**Replacements:** When the dispensed aid is no longer repairable, the applicants hearing needs change or just not a good fit I can exchange for upgrade at your request. If they are in need of new ear molds, they are responsible for those fees, unless they seek help from a Lions Club for this. If a hearing aid is lost we do not replace until it has been two years from the date they originally received it, they are responsible for fees unless they also seek help for a Lions Club.

For those of you reading this article, and you are not aware of the Lions Hearing Aid Bank and would like to know more, please reach out to me at [ialionshearingaidbank@gmail.com](mailto:ialionshearingaidbank@gmail.com)

Lastly, I would like to invite each and every one of you to join the Lions Club in your area to make an even bigger impact on what you can do for your community! You can reach out to me and I can provide the contact information.

We Serve!

Chris Waring, Iowa Lions Hearing Aid Bank, Coordinator

## Support the Iowa Lions Hearing Aid Bank

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

**Iowa Lions Club**  
c/o Chris Waring  
924 Dohrmann Street, Jesup, Iowa 50648  
  
319/827-1395  
[ialionshearingaidbank@gmail.com](mailto:ialionshearingaidbank@gmail.com)



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