

HLAA-NYSA 2026 CONFERENCE / OCTOBER 2-4, 2026

Holiday Inn of Saratoga Springs

Conference Schedule

Friday, October 2

- 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Registration opens**
- 5:00 p.m. **Silent Auction begins**
- 5:00 – 5:30 p.m. **Exhibit Hall Opens**
Hors D'oeuvres; Cash Bar Open
- 5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Greetings from HLAA National Office:**
Barbara Kelley, HLAA Executive Director
- 6:00 – 9:30 p.m. **Opening Night Entertainment & Ice Cream Social:**
National Anthem and musical entertainment, “Horse Racing” Game, Line Dancing, Photo Booth open

Saturday, October 3

- 7:45 – 8:45 a.m. **Registration Opens; Continental Breakfast**
- 8:45 – 9:15 a.m. **Welcome & Keynote Speaker:**
Dr. Gerard Buckley, National Technical Institute of the Deaf (NTID) President Emeritus
- 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. **Session One: “Tune-In and Connect with the World Around You” – Wynne Whyman, Assistive listening system expert; founding Director of Communication & Advocacy, Center for Hearing Access. Moderator: Dan Brooks, HLAA Rochester**
- 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. **Break; Exhibit Hall & Demonstration Center Open**
- 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Session Two: “Enhancing Your Well Being While Living with Hearing Loss” – Katherine Bouton, Author, blogger, educator, Shari Eberts, Author, blogger, public speaker. Moderator: Dr. Meghan Fox, Licensed clinical psychologist**
- 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. **Box Lunch; Exhibit Hall Open**

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Session Three: “The Future of Hearing Technology” – Dr. Jeffrey Shannon , <i>Researcher, engineer, audiologist, owner – Hudson Valley Audiology</i> ; Dr. Jonathon Whitton , <i>VP, Global Program Head Genetic Medicines – Regeneron</i> . Moderator: Dr. Katrina Stidham , <i>Director, Westchester Medical Center Cochlear Implant and Balance Center</i>
2:30 – 3:00 p.m.	Break; Exhibit Hall & Demonstration Center Open
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Session Four: “Speak Up and Improve Yourself through Self-Advocacy” – Dr. Tina Childress , <i>Audiologist, late deafened adult, Director of Accessibility – InnoCaption</i> ; Toni Iacolucci , <i>HLAA New York City, member HLAA Healthcare Committee</i>
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Free Time: Socializing, visiting Saratoga Springs, Mineral Springs, Shops, Casino
5:30 – 6:00 p.m.	Cocktails (cash bar)
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Banquet (cash bar remains open)
7:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Kendra Jo Brook , deaf musician, actress and advocate; author & performer of <i>Back Float: A Very Hard of Hearing, Deaf-ish, Bluegrass-Forward Solo Show</i> ; Photo booth open
8:30 -- ???	Fire Pit open ; Optional: Saratoga Springs Casino
Sunday, October 4	
8:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Breakfast
9:30 – 9:45 a.m.	State of HLAA New York State – Steve Wolfert
9:45 – 10:30 a.m.	In Conversation with David Owen , <i>Author of “Volume Control” and staff writer – The New Yorker</i> . Interviewer: Jerry Bergman
	Authors’ book signing
10:30 a.m.	Silent Auction Winners Announced
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Optional Group Sightseeing in Saratoga Springs (by advance sign up only): <i>National Museum of Horse Racing & Hall of Fame</i> <i>Saratoga Automobile Museum</i>