



Consumers

How to Advocate for Hearing Loops

Juliette Sterkens, AuD

1. Consider supporting or donating towards a loop in your area.
2. Work with your audiologist or dispenser and ask them to put a small loop in the waiting room with a TV & DVD player or Computer for easy demonstrations.
3. Advocate for loops/T-coils at meetings of Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, Church groups, Aging Council, Learning in Retirement, Union groups, professional meetings, TOPS, Seniors Center etc. (Sertoma has a PPT or email me for a copy of my speech/PPT).
4. Use the loop advocacy cards. If you experience hearing difficulties in a situation you are likely not the only one and nothing will ever change if you don't bring it up.
5. Inquire, when you notice new construction going up (if it is appropriate), what is being done for those with hearing difficulties? Refer to local installers.
6. Encourage local audio installation companies to add hearing loops to their services. They will likely see an increase in business once they offer hearing loops. An electrician told us: he sees a business opportunity and meaningful a way to help his fellow man!
7. Use your connections: friends and fellow church members. Ask for their support. (Sometimes it is not *what* you know; it is *who* you know!)
8. Write letters to the newspaper, senior pages, Heloise or Dear Abby: reminding their readers that all kind of accommodations are made for those with low vision or blindness, those in wheelchairs. Why not for those with hearing loss? Explain how great loops are.
9. Once your P.O.W is getting a loop, contact your audiologist/dispenser. Ask him/her to be present during inauguration weekend to help parishioners figure out if they have a T-coil in their instruments. This is good PR for them and a great service for the church.
10. Email me for examples of church handouts or text in the bulletin to inform the whole congregation. Consider sending a letter to the church magazine.
11. Contact a Sertoma Service group if there is a local one near where you live. Offer to team up with one of its members to give hearing loop advocacy speeches.
12. Send a letter to the NP regarding the new "Wi-Fi for hearing aids" technology in such and such church. Keep a list of all looped places on local HLAA websites.
13. Help coordinate a Community Loop meeting

For articles, a sample of a community loop initiative and visit www.hearingloop.org

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