

Press Release: OR-CAP News for HLA Chapter/State Newsletters

Oregon CAP Is Born

Frustration and isolation: that's what those of us with hearing loss often feel when our impairment prevents us from participating in events where assistive systems are not available. Even if an FM, loop or infrared system is available at a, say, city council meeting, concert, live theatre performance, or movie, those of us with significant hearing loss may find that those systems are inadequate.

With these concerns in mind, Oregon Communication Project (OR-CAP) was formed in January 2010 modeled after a CAP in Washington State. Wash-CAP acts on behalf of their approximately 150 hearing-impaired members to gain compliance with Washington state and Federal disability law. They do this by working with organizations whose operations fall under Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or state regulations, starting with discussion, assistance and advice and negotiation and ending, if necessary, with legal action.

Captioning is the accommodation of choice for CAP. In contrast to infrared, loop or FM systems, captions benefit the full spectrum of hearing ability from mild loss to those who are deaf and even some who have normal hearing. Wash-CAP has had notable successes, for example, getting captioning in live theatre venues and the Washington State Ferries and has a legal case pending that deals with movie theatre captioning.

OR-CAP has developed a priority list of organizations with which to work and which are located in Ashland, Eugene and Portland with other locales to follow. The Advocacy Director and Counsel for Wash-CAP will serve in the same capacity with OR-CAP.

Membership in OR-CAP is open to those with an interest in access issues for hard of hearing individuals. For those who are interested in joining OR-CAP contact Elizabeth Archer (OR.CAP.MEMBERSHIP@gmail.com).

For further information about OR-CAP contact Clark Anderson (or.cap.comm@gmail.com).