



The Lions District 20K2 Lend An Ear Foundation has been working with Assemblywoman Michaele Solages in the 22nd District of New York State to create a Bill to be presented to the New York State Assembly and Senate that would mandate insurance companies to cover the cost of hearing aids for children and adults.

On Wednesday May 30, 2018 the Lions District 20K2 Lend An Ear Foundation headed to Albany to attend "Hearing Aid Advocacy Day at the New York State Capitol". It is part of a legislative lobbying initiative to expand hearing aid-related healthcare coverage across New York State. The event was sponsored by Assemblywoman Michaele Solages, Senator David Valesky and Senator Roxanne Persaud. Assemblywoman Solages is a Lion in the Elmont Club and Senator Persaud is a Lion in the Brooklyn Canarsie Club. Twenty-one Lions from districts around New York State joined us as we kicked off the day with a private guided tour of the Governor's Mansion. Among the attendees were Lion Gary Brown Past Council Chair and Endorsed Candidate for International Director, and his wife Lion Barbara Brown, Lion John McDonald District 20-Y2 Governor, Lion Theresa Whalen District 20-K2 Governor Elect, Lion James Conklin District 20-S Governor Elect, Lion Ed Stano Past District 20-Y2 Governor and his wife Lion Elizabeth and Lion Rick Brisee Chair of District 20-Y2 Hearing Preservation Awareness and Action and his wife Lion Florence.

The program included a meet and greet session with Assemblywoman Solages, Senator Valesky and Senator Persaud, an introduction to Albany with discussions on how to advocate for hearing aid insurance coverage with Legislators and was then followed by lunch.

The Lions then broke up into groups for scheduled meetings with Assembly members and Senators. The discussions that ensued were enlightening and productive. They helped to give us insight into what we still must accomplish to ensure the steps that we take lead to the passing of this Bill. After the meetings, we were invited into the Assembly Session. We had the honor of being introduced on the Assembly Floor by Assemblyman Ed Ra. He spoke about the Resolution the Assembly members passed declaring May 29th "Hearing Aid Awareness Day" throughout New York State for the past three years, and he stated they will continue to do so going forward. Our next stop was the Senate Session, where Senator Persaud was going to introduce us on the Senate Floor.

Our day concluded at 5:00PM as we walked through the beautiful historic Capitol building admiring the intricate details of the architecture. This was a day, three years in the making, and one we will not soon forget. We would like to extend a very big thank you to Assemblywoman Solages, Senator Valesky and Senator Persaud for coordinating and sponsoring this event for the New York State Lions. We have a lot of work ahead of us to continue on this journey in getting BILL NO. A08628A passed, but We ARE LIONS AND WE SERVE. For more information on how you can help email us at Lionslae@gmail.com

