



HLAA Fox Valley Chapter News

Volume 33 Issue 2~ April 2018

Meetings are held at
Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship/Appleton.
2600 Phillip Lane.
Map at www.fvuuf.org

NOTE: H.O.P.E. discussion group will meet at UUF on a different day of the month. See Page 4.

Regular HLA Chapter Meeting

Monday, April 9, 2018

6:30: Social Time & Orientation

7 PM: Announcements & Program

Program: Tinnitus "Ringing in the Ears"

Presenter: LeAnne Powers, AuD & Specialist in Tinnitus Therapy from Signa Hearing Aids

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control estimates that over 50 million Americans experience some form of tinnitus, often referred to as 'ringing in the ears'. In some cases it may be severe enough to be debilitating.

Tinnitus is the perception of sound when no actual external noise is present. Tinnitus can manifest many different perceptions of sound, including ringing, buzzing, hissing, whistling, swooshing, and clicking. Tinnitus can be an acute (temporary) condition or a chronic health malady.

Tinnitus is a symptom related to an array of underlying health issues, including hearing loss. While anyone can develop tinnitus, some people have a higher risk exposure due to age, occupational hazards and/or recreational activities, including excess noise. It is the most common disability reported by veterans returning from combat zones.

Dr. Powers has considerable experience in presenting at state and national events on this topic. Please join us to learn more about managing tinnitus.



Thank you to Jo and Mike Bailey for traveling to the Fox Cities from Bayfield WI to present our March program on misunderstandings with hearing loss.

Jo, the author of the clever book, "*Oh Kinky Turtle*" shared how, as a child with hearing loss, she thought the traditional hymn "Lead On Oh King Eternal" was about a 'kinky turtle'. She, and the audience shared many of the odd things we have misheard, and often acted on to the puzzlement of those around us. This was their first experience presenting to an HLA group. Both commented about how much they learned from us following the presentation.

NOTE: HLA is not affiliated with UUF or any other religious or political group. We appreciate being able to use UUF's communication accessible facility.

April: It's a Month Full! By Julie Olson, Chapter Leader

HLAA Fox Valley Chapter is one of the most successful and busy chapters in the country. Our calendars get full quickly; don't they? It takes energy, human resources, and participation to keep things going, and to meet the mission of this great organization.



Before HLA was 'born' in 1979, and came to the Fox Cities in 1983, few had heard of hearing loops, or assistive technology that goes beyond hearing aids. Cochlear implants were considered experimental. Amazingly, these things did exist back then, but no one was promoting them or funding their development.

Along Came HLA to stir things up a bit!

Because of HLA's mission at all levels; national, state and local, we now have a consumer based resource for information related to hearing loss. Prior to HLA, we were all lumped together with culturally Deaf people as a group. We live in the hearing world where we work, play, marry and socialize. We want to hear, and we promote all things that help us hear. We prefer oral speech to manual communication. **This is Us!**

Still, far too few people know HLA exists, so we ask YOU to spread the word. How fortunate we are to have HLA advocating for our unique needs! We are unique, and too often misunderstood. **We can change that.**

Hard of hearing people make up over 17% of the general population. Everyone knows someone like us, yet they don't understand us. Our disability has been stigmatized for so long that people are afraid to admit they have it or even talk to someone about it whom they know has it. **How crazy is that?**

Much of this comes down to those of us with 'it' opening up to talk about it, to learn what can be done about it, and be willing to speak up to advocate for what we need. **Can you do that?**

There are opportunities this month to step up to the plate. Do something to help yourself or help someone else. Please.

Mark Your Calendars & Join Us!

1. Fox Valley Chapter meeting on April 9th.
2. Fox Valley Chapter Cochlear Implant meeting on April 16th
3. HLA Legislative Day in Madison on April 18th.*
4. Fox Valley Chapter HOPE meeting on April 26th.
5. Join our Walk4Hearing team and be a Fox Trotter!
6. National HLA Convention registration is still open!

Specific information on these events is elsewhere in this newsletter. Please read it, and join us!

PS: Question: How many people with hearing aids have not been told about the potential of having telecoils in the hearing aids they have purchased? Are you one of them? People pay thousands of dollars for hearing aids. They deserve to know about every possible function their devices are capable of. Telecoils connect us to the technology we advocate for. Without them we are missing something big.

***HLA-WI wants legislation that requires disclosure of telecoils & assistive tech. for every hearing aid sold.**

The Chapter's Cochlear implant Discussion Group will meet on Monday, April 16th at Festival Foods Community Room in Neenah at 6:00 PM.

This group is open to people with cochlear implants, and to those who want unbiased information about them. There are 3 FDA approved manufacturers of CIs. This is a mixed group that is not brand specific. Get the scoop from people who have CIs. Contact Rhonda Clancey, CI group chair for more information:

rcrancey@hotmail.com Get on the CI e-mail list!



Some Cochlear Implant News....

\$10,000,000 Donated to John's Hopkins in Baltimore for Cochlear Implant & Hearing Loss Research

Cochlear Limited, Sydney, Australia, a global leader in cochlear implants and bone-anchored hearing aid solutions, has pledged \$10 million to the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore to establish the Cochlear Center for Hearing and Public Health. The Center—which will be led by Frank Lin, MD, PhD, one of the field's most respected researchers—will reportedly be a first of its kind at any academic institution focused on addressing hearing loss as a global public health priority.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there are 360 million people living with disabling hearing loss worldwide, and that number is projected to grow considerably due to population growth and aging. The WHO estimates one-third of people over age 65 are affected by disabling hearing loss, and based on the work of Dr Lin we know that hearing loss is connected to increased risk of cognitive decline and dementia.³ As the prevalence rates rise, the global cost of unaddressed hearing loss has been estimated at \$750 billion per year. *Dr. Frank Lin is a member of the HLAA National Board of Trustees.*

Yes, we do hope for a cure for hearing loss some day!

Cochlear Implants for Children....Time is of the Essence!

Statistics indicate that over 90% of children born with hearing impairment are born to hearing parents who have no experience with hearing loss, and don't know how to proceed to help their child. Cochlear implants are a godsend for these children, and it's extremely important for their parents to get unbiased information as soon as possible after diagnosis because these devices are especially crucial in the first three years of life, when the brain is hardwiring spoken language skills.

Many, but not all, deaf schools and organizations hold a preference for proliferating the cultural aspects of deafness that encourages sign language over medical intervention with cochlear implants. Adding to the confusion, many medical practitioners do not know much about cochlear implants.

Many people think that cochlear implants are only available to people who can afford them. However, children (and adults) who are good medical candidates for the surgery can almost always get their insurance — including Medicaid and Medicare — to cover the cost.

The earlier that kids can be screened, identified for services and have their families learn how to support spoken-language acquisition, the more likely children with implants will develop flawless language skills.

Donna Sorkin, the executive director of the American Cochlear Implant Alliance advises parents to dive into research about cochlear implants, from unbiased, credible sources like the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. HLAA also has answers. **Just don't delay — every second counts for babies and toddlers who need medical assistance to hear.**

NOTE: All three manufacturers of cochlear implants will exhibit and present at the upcoming HLAA National Convention in Minneapolis from June 21 – 24. It's a great place to learn. Registration information at www.hearingloss.org

Learn, Live & Enjoy Life...Don't Let Hearing Loss take away all the FUN!

If learning about hearing technology is your bag, there is still time to register for the 2018 National HLAA Convention. It's the best place on earth to learn about all things new from a consumer perspective. Yes, those who attend will bring back information to the chapter, but there is no substitute for getting it first hand! This year it's in our neighboring state of Minnesota. It will be several years before it comes back to the upper Midwest. Don't miss this opportunity. The HLAA website has information on speakers, events, exhibit hall and more. If at all interested, do take time to check out the possibilities. www.hearingloss.org

NOTE: The chapter has a small pool of funds left to issue grants to people who have not attended in the past. It's going fast, so let us know if you want to go!

Contact Christine Klessig: bommaklessig@gmail.com

Legislative Day in Madison is April 18th

Stats tell us: 46 million hard of hearing people in the USA; 2 million Deaf people. The hard of hearing crowd needs to show up in large numbers at this event to be heard! It's time that hearing loops and telecoils are standard. It's time for captioning to be available on request. It's time to be heard if hearing loss is part of your life, and you feel your unique needs are being minimized or totally ignored.

Change happens ONLY when people with a problem or concern become part of the solution. If you're too busy to be involved, please don't complain that those who are involved aren't doing enough. .

Information & registration (no fee) at: www.hlaawi.org/legislative-day.html

Contact Julie Olson if you are willing to travel to Madison on this date. We'll do what we can to arrange carpooling. julieo@athenet.net



Condolences...

With sadness we report the passing of David Conover, a past president of our chapter. Dave's presence has been missed for the past six years due to illness. He was a retired UW-Oshkosh professor. We remember him with respect and send condolences to Dave's family.



Team T-Shirts 2018

2018 Milwaukee Walk4Hearing
 Join the Fox Trotters!
 Our chapter's TEAM
www.walk4hearing.org
 Rhonda & Christine K.
 Team Captains



Milwaukee Walk4Hearing
 Date: Saturday, May 12, 2018
 Location: Greenfield Park, Area #3A
 2028 S. 124th Street
 West Allis, WI
 Time: 9 a.m. Registration
 10 a.m. Walk

Walk with us to eliminate the stigma
 It's a day of celebration, raising awareness in the community, and stepping up for hearing loss.
 Visit walk4hearing.org for more information

Walk Chairs:
 Caroline Ludka
carolineludka@gmail.com
 Becki Jump
msjump77@aol.com

Arrangements will be made for car pooling again this year. Contact team captains; Christine Klessig or Rhonda Clancey for details. bommaklessig@gmail.com rclancey@hotmail.com
 Everyone can help the team raise money for HLAA whether they walk or not! Ask us how!

- Here's what happens at an HLAA Walk4Hearing:**
- Everyone affected by hearing loss is empowered and inspired
 - Kids with hearing loss come and see there are others like themselves
 - Parents come and share stories and resources
 - Adults realize they are not alone with their hearing loss
 - Stigmas about hearing loss are tossed out the window
 - Walkers share their hearing loss journey & friendships are made

Oral health and hearing loss *Healthy Hearing March 15, 2018*
 Healthy teeth make for an attractive smile, but did you know a healthy mouth may also protect your hearing? While it might be difficult to understand how good oral health can prevent hearing loss, think of it this way: harmful bacteria that develops in your mouth as a result of bad oral health can enter your bloodstream and cause inflammation and narrowing of arteries and blood vessels – including those essential for hearing health in your ears and brain. Good hearing health relies on a rich supply of blood to the cochlea. Because circulation of blood is so important, good heart health is connected to good hearing. By Brande Plotnick (edited)

The Sponsor Program is Fox Valley Chapter's main fundraiser. Appeal Letters were sent to previous & potential donors in late January. Donations received prior to March 20th, when this edition went to press, are credited below. Names will be added as donations are received. Thank you to everyone who has supported Fox Valley Chapter this way. NOTE: If your name or business is not listed correctly, please let us know immediately. If you did not receive a letter, and would like to support the chapter this way, please send your check to: HLAA-Fox Valley Treasurer, P.O. Box 25, Menasha WI 54952.



Thank you !
2018 Chapter Sponsors

- Platinum Level (\$200 or More)**
Anonymous
Russ Brodtke
ENT Specialists of WI SC Katie Armatoski AuD, Mark Conradt AuD, Erin Krueger AuD, Kathy Driefuerst AuD, Tamara Mischka AuD, Tricia Roh AuD, Holly Rusch AuD
Fox Valley Hearing Center, Inc. Candy McGinnis AuD, Melissa Dintelman AuD, & Jody Jedlicka AuD
Douglas Grant MD
Haviland Hearing Aids Inc. Peter J. Zellmer, AuD & Kyle Martell, AuD
Hearing Clinics of Wisconsin, Inc. Robert Broeckert MS-CCC-A
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We are grateful to these Sponsors for their generosity and support of HLAA Fox Valley Chapter. Their support allows us to print & circulate this newsletter, to hold regular meetings in an accessible facility, to provide information & materials to those who attend our meetings, do outreach programs when asked, educate ourselves and others on new technology & so much more.

Meetings are open to the public, and are run by volunteers

Tax deductible donations can be sent to: HLAA-FVC Treasurer, P.O. Box 25, Menasha WI 54952-0025. The chapter is a registered 501(c)3 non profit. NOTE: We are also grateful to the members who contribute personal resources of time, energy, mileage and more, and to those who have made smaller cash donations to our treasury.

"I've learned.... That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in any other way."
Andy Rooney

2018 Chapter Calendar

April 09.... **"Tinnitus; those Noises in Your Head: Causes & Possible Solutions**

May 14.... **"Your Smartphone Can Caption Conversation!"**

June 11.... **"Dogs for a Better Life; Hearing Assistance Dogs**

July 09.... **Chapter Picnic: More information to follow.**

August 13.... **"Finding Financial Assistance for Hearing Aids"**

September 10 **"Cochlear Implant Option; Do You Qualify?"**

October 08 **"Hearing Loops at Home and at Work; Come Try Them Out"**

November 12 **"Hearing Loss Gotcha? Get Your Life Back!"**

December 10 **Holiday Party, Appleton Yacht Club**

Disclaimer—HLAA does not endorse products or services. Mention of such is intended to provide readers & those who attend meetings with information on products or services that might be of interest, & is not a recommendation or endorsement.

HLAA-Fox Valley Chapter

P.O. Box 25
Menasha WI 54952-0025

Our newsletter is available by regular mail or e-mail. Links are live in the e-mail version, which is in color.

Notice to Snowbirds & Summer Up Northerners....

Please let us know if you plan to have mail forwarded to a different address, even temporarily. Bulk mail is not forwarded, and is returned to us with a fee. We had to cover a substantial fee for the returns we received in March.

If you have your mail 'held', it will be there on your return.

Thanks to those of you who let us know in advance to send to a different address. Enjoy your time away.

2018 Chapter Leadership Board

Steering Committee:*

*Rick Fahrenkrug rfahr07@gmail.com

*Christine Klessig bommaklessig@gmail.com

*Julie Olson Julieo@athenet.net

Treasurer: Jane Young: YBLUEJAY@aol.com

Past Chair: Colleen Van Rooy: cvanrooy@yahoo.com

H.O.P.E. Chair: Nancy Gilbertson

nancy.gilbertson2@gmail.com

Cochlear Implant Group Chair/ Program Chair/VP:

Rhonda Clancey: rclancey@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Julie Olson: julieo@athenet.net

Phone Contact/Social: 'T' Van Asten 920-420-8462

Chapter e-mail: hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com

Off-Board Support Crew: Dave Gilbertson, Bob Opsteen, Jerry Van Handel, Gene Van Asten

Feel free to contact any of us personally.

***The chapter board is led by a 3 person steering committee, rather than by a chair, until further notice. The Board will continue to include a treasurer, committee chairs, and members at large.**

About the Hearing Loss Association of America

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, & support. Fox Valley Chapter is an affiliate of the national organization, as is HLAA-Wisconsin. Affiliates do not have dues. Instead, we encourage you to pay dues to national HLAA and to become 'members'. Dues are \$35/year for an individual; \$45/year for a family. HLAA at all levels is a 501c3 non-profit organization. This chapter receives a \$7 rebate for national dues paid by people in our region. By adding your name to the HLAA membership roles, you help HLAA help millions of people with hearing loss. National HLAA is located at 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814. Phone 301.657.2248 or visit hearingloss.org. HLAA members support advocacy, medical research, and medical intervention for hearing loss in people of all ages.



Attention Veterans!!

Russ Brodtke, a veteran and a member of our chapter is working on a project to reach out to veterans in the area. **Russ is looking for help to deliver information to the American Legion and VFW groups in the region.**

We know that veterans, as a group, have a high incidence of hearing loss and tinnitus. HLAA offers a one year complimentary membership to veterans. We want them to know about HLAA. If you can help, please contact Russ at:

2.rcbrodtke64@gmail.com

Enter as Strangers; Leave as Friends....

It is that moment you find out that your struggles are someone else's struggles; that you are not alone and that others have been down the same road. It is that feeling of having that something in common with everyone at H.O.P.E.; that feeling of, "I belong".

It does not matter how long we have lived with hearing loss. Most of us have lived only within the hearing world. No one we know has dealt with hearing loss and don't understand our frustrations and loneliness.

At H.O.P.E., we come together as equals, seated in a circle, supported by a hearing loop for all to hear. The gathering is informal, friendly and fun. All are encouraged to participate, but no one has to participate. We listen, offer comfort, understanding, practical advice, and suggestions for strategies professionals may not offer or even know about. We learn from each other.

H.O.P.E. meets in the afternoon, on the fourth Thursday of the month.

The next H.O.P.E. meeting is on Thursday, April 26th from 1-3 pm, and held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2600 Philip Ln, Appleton. Any questions, please contact me: nancy.gilbertson2@gmail.com



Nancy Gilbertson; H.O.P.E. Chairperson