



Tis the Season to

Jingle & Mingle

At the Appleton Yacht Club

1200 S. Lutz Drive

Monday December 12th

5:00 PM Cocktail Hour!!

6:00 PM Food & Fun!

It will be an Appetizer Buffet

**The Chapter will Provide:
A Few Appetizers & Dessert.**

YOU Bring:

- 1. An Appetizer to share**
- 2. A gift for a gift exchange**
(White Elephant, Silly, fun, etc.
\$5 max if purchased)

**Beverages must be purchased at
the AYC bar.**

Ugly Sweaters Encouraged!



*Don't get on Santa's
naughty list! The AYC kitchen is off
limits. Don't go there! Food will be
on the tables in the dining room.*



2023 Margaret Ferris Memorial Scholarship

Each year a scholarship is awarded to a high school senior with hearing loss who plans to pursue a post-secondary degree at an accredited college, university or technical college. Applicants must be hard of hearing students who use technology to participate in the hearing mainstream. One non renewable \$2000 scholarship will be awarded in 2023.



The deadline for application is March 1, 2023.
Apply at: <https://www.cffoxvalley.org/scholarships>

Margaret Ferris became an active member of our HLAA Chapter in retirement after many years teaching children with hearing loss. We miss her and remember her with kindness, love and gratitude.

2023
CONVENTION
New Orleans, LA
June 29 - July 1, 2023

**Needed: An HLAA
Convention Delegate**

The HLAA Convention is the nation's largest hearing-friendly event with accessible workshops and a trade show with the latest technology and services for people with hearing loss.

Anyone who has attended a national HLAA convention will tell you it's an amazing experience to join a large contingent of people with hearing loss to learn, socialize and build friendships. You will learn a ton!

Each chapter is encouraged to send a delegate who will bring information back to the chapter. HLAAFVC has set aside funds to support the chapter delegate's costs to attend. We prefer to give this opportunity to a member who has never gone before.

The 2023 convention will be held in New Orleans LA from June 29th - July 1st. If this is of interest to you, email the chapter board at hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com for details.

HLAA Fox Valley Chapter will not meet in January.

The Cochlear Implant Support group will hold a Zoom meeting on January 17th (See page 4).

Regular meetings and H.O.P.E. will resume in February.
Watch for the February newsletter for information.

Consider giving a gift membership in HLAA to a hard of hearing family member or friend. Your support matters!
Membership gives HLAA credibility in advocacy. Stories in the HLAA Magazine that comes with membership validate experiences. Membership info at: <https://www.hearingloss.org/make-an-impact/become-a-member-renew/>

November Chapter Meeting Summary by Christine Klessig



We thank Dr. Erin Krueger AuD for presenting at our November chapter meeting. 27 people attended in person & 13 joined us on Zoom! That is a post pandemic record! Thanks to all who joined us.

The topic, "*What's New in 22*", included basic information about hearing loss; the science, the psychosocial aspects, and the options for getting help. As expected, that led to questions & concerns about the October implementation of the Over the Counter Hearing Aid (OTC) legislation. Dr. Krueger emphasized that OTC devices are designed only for people with mild to moderate hearing loss, & recommended that anyone seeking hearing help start with testing by a hearing healthcare professional to determine their degree of hearing loss before purchasing aids of any kind.

Dr. Krueger predicted there will be a lot of trial and error concerning OTC devices to get a good fit. She advised potential OTC consumers to be vigilant about the trial and return policies associated with these devices since return policies were not mandated in the OTC legislation. (Nor were telecoils.) It is up to the 'consumer' to read the fine print specifics on the box of these new products.

The differences between prescription hearing aids, Direct to Consumer devices, Personal Sound Amplification Products (PSAPs), and Hearables (ear worn "smart" devices such as Bluetooth, wireless streaming, biometric tracking, etc.) were explained. Add associated accessories such as "smart" TV's and phones, remote systems, induction hearing loops, FM, etc. Long story short - there currently exists a very confusing TECHNOLOGY EXPLOSION.

HLAA is determined to educate its members by tapping the expertise of professionals like Dr. Krueger to help us navigate this complex and ever-changing landscape. Dr. Krueger firmly stated that as a professional audiologist it is her job to help people manage their hearing loss. Regardless of products they use, she stands ready and willing to assist however she can.

Dr. Krueger is a member of the audiology team at Audiology & Hearing Aid Center @ ENT Specialists of WI. We are grateful to her for presenting at our November meeting.

Help spread the kindness on MLK Jr. Day of Service

On Monday, January 16th, the Retired & Senior Volunteer 55+ program (RSVP) will celebrate civil rights leader, Martin Luther King Jr's life and legacy. MLK Jr. Day is celebrated annually as a "*day on, not a day off*". It is the only holiday designated as a National Day of Service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities.

This year, the Retired & Senior Volunteer 55+ Program extends a special invitation to members of HLAA to help assemble Kindness Kits for the villagers at Brewster Village, its nonprofit partner that provides short-term rehabilitation and long-term nursing services.

Join us any time from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 16, at The Grand Meridian.

Snacks and beverages will be available.

Preregistration is required at Volunteer Fox Cities at 920-832-9360 or rsvp@volunteerfoxcities.org.



The 2022 Chapter Sponsor Program



Thank you to everyone who became a 2022 'Sponsor'! The 2023 sponsor appeal letters will start in January. This is the chapter's only fund raiser. Sponsorships help us cover the costs incurred in our efforts to fulfill the mission of HLAA. HLAA is a 501c3 tax exempt organization. Your donations are tax deductible.

If you wish to donate this way prior to the end of 2022 for tax purposes, send your check to: HLAA-Fox Valley Treasurer, P.O. Box 25, Menasha WI 54952. Include instructions on how you wish to be listed. The new list will post in February.

2022 Chapter Sponsors

Platinum Level (\$200 or More)

Ascension Medical Group

Audiology & Hearing Aid Center @ ENT Specialists of WI

Nicole Auxier AuD, Mark Conrad AuD, Cathy Dreifuerst AuD, Andrea Federman, AuD, Jessie Grzeca AuD, Erin Krueger AuD, Tamara Mischka AuD, Tricia Roh, AuD, Holly Rusch AuD

Audiology & Hearing Center @ ENT Associates, SC

Kristen Borgen AuD, Beth Gabavics AuD

Fox Valley Hearing Center

Dr. Stephanie Long, Dr. Candy McGinnis, Dr. Brittany Uitenbroek, Dr. Melissa Dintelman, Dr. Jody Jedlicka, Dr. Lisa Esser, Dr. Susan Iwanski, Dr. Debra Engebos

Carol Konetzke Memorial Donation from her family

Haviland Hearing Aids

Peter J Zellmer AuD, Kyle Martell AuD

Rural Audiology Services, Waupaca WI

Cari J. Kramer Audiologist, Becky L. Franz Audiologist

Judy & Larry Benish, Jim Machalk, Tom & Linda O'Connor, Anonymous

Gold Level (\$100 - \$199)

Doug Grant Memorial, from his daughter Elizabeth Lewis Kevin Gossens, Jim Hemmen, Christine Klessig, Barbara Merry, Mike & Susan Landreman, Karen & Tom Schuppe, Carol Smokovich, Barb Soderberg, Jan & Diane Veenendaal, Dale Voskuil, Grace & Bill Zurovitch, Juliette Sterkens AuD & LeRoy "Max" Maxfield

Silver Level (\$50 - \$99)

Anonymous, Jim & Rhonda Bartelt, Suzanne Brown, Pat Boldt, Margaret Cariveau, Jo Kintopf-Crabb, Michelle Frisbie, Mary Fritsch, Robert & Betty Gehr, Joyce Hanneman, Charles Hastert, Karen & Gary Kasten, Julie & John Olson, Ione Muehlenbein (In memory of Paul), Patty Reimer, Sharon Salm, Phyllis & Lyle Sconzert, Kate Wiers, Jerome & Phyllis Van Handel

Bronze Level (\$25 - \$49)W

Lorna Hamilton, Katie Weber

We are grateful to everyone above and to all who have made smaller donations to our chapter treasury. We are grateful to those who contribute personal resources of time, energy, mileage & more. Your support is what makes our chapter successful.

Our Mission: To share information, educate, advocate and provide peer support to people with hearing loss who choose to remain in the hearing mainstream with technology.

Meetings are open to the public, and are organized and run by volunteers. Like most small organizations, we need more volunteers!

Editor's 'Edifications' by Julie Olson

Thirty nine years ago our chapter applied for chapter status from a new national organization called Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, Inc. (SHHH). FVC was an early bird among chapters. It was the 'dark ages' for hard of hearing people. SHHH identified hard of hearing people and gave us a voice. None of us had tech that went beyond hearing aids. There were no cell phones, no captions, no internet, no cochlear implants, no hearing loops & no American's With Disabilities Act. We had dreams of what technology might do for us in the future. Today much of what we have is taken for granted, but it did not just happen! People became involved in learning, educating, advocating and reaching out to help others. SHHH became HLAA in 2005 when the internet became the way people discovered organizations. SHHH needed a name people could find. Only a few of us are left from that charter group. I'm proud to be one of them. I encourage YOU to be proud of your involvement now. Good things will continue to happen. Technology is getting better! There may even be a cure for hearing loss in the future! Good things happen when people are willing to push for them. The following article brought back memories of how advocacy gave us the right to captions. Wow! I actually have one of those old decoders in my basement if anyone would like it! Hooray for HLAA & congrats to the millions of people with hearing loss who benefit from HLAA's mission!



Why Do All These 20-Somethings Have Closed Captions Turned On?

(Condensed from an article in the Wall Street Journal 9-17-22 by Cordilia James)

Closed captions are cool! Just ask anyone under 40. More viewers, especially younger ones, are using tools that transcribe dialogue in the content they're watching online. Closed captions have been crucial for years for many people with hearing loss. They're now very popular for plenty of people without hearing loss too.

Recent surveys suggest that younger generations are viewing content with captions more than older generations, despite reporting fewer hearing problems. In [a May survey of about 1,200 Americans](#), 70% of adult Gen Z respondents (ages 18 to 25) and 53% of millennial respondents (up to age 41) said they watch content with text most of the time. That's compared with more than a third of older respondents.

"People are often hesitant to ask for accommodations in the workplace because they don't want to stand out or make waves," says Barbara Kelley, executive director of the Hearing Loss Association of America. As more people adopt captions, she adds, it becomes easier to ask for those accommodations everywhere".

In recent years, Apple, Google and other tech companies expanded on-device auto-captioning options, while Netflix found creative ways to describe audio to viewers who are deaf and hard of hearing. The innovations—as well as the rising popularity of captions on social media—appear to have helped eliminate some of the stigma associated with hearing loss.

People turn on subtitles and captions for many reasons—to learn a language, perhaps, or decipher a heavy accent or muttered dialogue. A lot of people complain about background music making it harder to hear dialogue. Captions also facilitate multitasking and allow people to watch content in shared spaces without disturbing others.

Improving Accessibility

The National Captioning Institute, a nonprofit that provides captioning services, introduced the first prerecorded closed captions in 1980. A decoder box was needed to view the captions until the 1990s when the legislation fully supported by HLAA and other organizations for people with hearing loss, required electronics companies to build the technology into their TVs.

Initially, people had to manually transcribe a video's audio. More recently, artificial intelligence has helped put automatic captions in apps such as YouTube, Facebook, etc. After a hard push by HLAA members, Zoom agreed to provide auto caps. But they must be activated by the meeting host. We expect that will change soon so participants can activate them if/when they choose to. Meanwhile do request them!

Watch for more sophisticated caption apps in each new model of your smart phone. iPhone's new 'Live Captions Feature' uses machine learning that keeps everything on your device rather than sending it to Apple's servers for processing. New Samsung TVs will allow captions that can be moved to areas of the screen where they don't interfere with the viewing area. More people are complaining that loud background music makes videos difficult to hear, that foreign accents are a barrier, and that in some cases lighting is too dark to clearly see facial expressions. Captions come to the rescue.

Social-media apps such as Instagram generate captions on uploaded videos by default, and make them available to turn on within the videos. (Creators can choose not to have captions, or to add their own open captions instead.) Snapchat users can turn on auto-generated subtitles for the app's Discover page, and as of last year they can also use auto captions in their own recorded snaps.

There is no doubt that much of this is confusing to the older generations. Many of us remember those cumbersome caption decoders we had to buy to access captioning! They were wonderful though, a true blessing for millions of us. It seems a bit scary to think that young adults who don't present with hearing loss, are having trouble in noisy environments, that they find captioning helps them concentrate, etc. It's truly a sign of a different world of communication! If this all confuses you, ask your grandchildren or the kids next door.

You can still take advantage of Volunteer Fox City's Tech Ed for Adults Program that was featured at our October Chapter meeting. You may schedule free one on one consultation on smart phones and other personal technology with tech experts.

Contact Chelsea at Volunteer Fox Cities to schedule an appointment. Chelsea@volunteerfoxcities.org There is a review of the Tech-Ed program in our November newsletter posted at: <https://www.hlaawi.org/fox-valley-chapter.html>

Our newsletter is published 10 months of the year. Please share it with others. Help HLAA let hard of hearing people know they 'have a voice' & are not alone. You may receive it by e-mail or in print by regular mail. Let us know your preference. The e-mail version is in color and has live links. Send suggestions, comments and changes of address to hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com

HLAA-Fox Valley Chapter

P.O. Box 25

Menasha WI 54952-0025

Chapter Calendar

December 12 - Holiday Social at Appleton Yacht Club

January 17, 2023 CI Group on Zoom at 6 PM

NO CHAPTER MEETING IN JANUARY

February 13, 2023 HOPE Group & Chapter Meeting

Watch for the February Newsletter.

We look forward to programs, socials & good times in 2023. Please share your ideas!

Chapter Leadership Board

Officers:

President & HOPE Chair: Dale Voskuil* voskuild@gmail.com

Immediate Past President/Newsletter Editor: Julie Olson*
julieo@athenet.net

Treasurer: Michelle Frisbie* michellelfrisbie@gmail.com

Secretary: Christine Klessig* bommaklessig@gmail.com

Program Chair & CI Group Chair: Rhonda Clancey*
rclancey@hotmail.com

Newsletter Preparation: Jane Young* YBLUEJAY@aol.com

Social Committee: Christine Klessig*

Chapter e-mail: hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com

Phone Contact: Karen at 920-733-4853

Support Crew: Jerry Van Handel, Colleen Van Rooy,
Karen & Gary Kasten

Feel free to contact any of us personally, or use the chapter's e-mail address. We will respond as soon as possible.

***Designates Members of the Chapter's Board of Trustees.**

HLAAFVC Election

The Board slate, as presented, was approved at the November Chapter meeting. For the record, the same 6 people who have made up the board for the past few years are still leading the chapter. Bylaws allow the board to elect its officers. That was done at a meeting later. Dale Voskuil, past vice president, was elected president. Michelle Frisbie will remain as treasurer; Christine Klessig will remain as recording secretary, Julie Olson is now the immediate past president. Jane Young and Rhonda Clancey are both members at large.

NOTICE: To remain as one of the most successful HLAA chapters in the country, we must get a few new people on board. Bylaws allow us to make appointments to fill needs. Is it your time to step up? Let us know.

hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com



Cochlear Implant Support Group News

Hi folks! Every time our Cochlear family meets on Zoom we exchange a variety of information. It's fun to learn about different brands of cochlear implants, and about the short cuts for programming. That information comes from each person's personal experience.

At our last meeting we had a couple join us who listened and asked questions to help him make the decision whether or not to proceed with implant surgery. Thank you to audiologists Dr. Erin Krueger, Dr. Peter Zellmer & Dr. Juliette Sterkens for referring people to our CI support group.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 6 PM on Zoom. Watch for an e-mail message with the link to the meeting the week prior. If you are not on the CI e-mail list, please get in touch with me so I can add you to that list.

Happy Holidays & safe travels!

Rhonda Clancey, CI Group Moderator

rclancey@hotmail.com or hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com

H.O.P.E. Support Group News



I am pleased to report that the H.O.P.E. group has adapted very well to its new location & time, with attendance hovering around a dozen participants at each meeting held this fall. There is no set agenda. Everyone is encouraged to air questions and/or comments. In November we discussed how spouses handle dealing with a mate who has hearing problems, how to manage technology hurdles, & the benefits of a hybrid solution, i.e. a hearing aid for one ear & a cochlear implant for the other. It was surprising to learn that several participants had hybrid systems & were pleased with the results. That discussion has given me an optimistic outlook as I consider adding a compatible hearing aid to work with my cochlear implant.

I am continually amazed by how much I learn each time we meet. These meetings begin at 5PM. and run no later than 6PM, which gives us time to grab a snack & socialize before the chapter meeting starts at 6:30PM. Our next HOPE meeting will be held on February 13th. Come join us! It will be worth your while! Meanwhile, I hope to see you at the chapter's December social.



Learning from people who understand is HOPEful!!

Dale Voskuil, H.O.P.E. Moderator
voskuild@gmail.com