



2018 Late Summer/Fall

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DOJ Rules for Movie Theater Captioning and Audio Description Take Effect

July 15, 2018

As of June 2, movie theaters showing digital movies must provide a means for delivering closed captioning and audio description per rules issued under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by the Department of Justice (DOJ).

The [final rules](#) were issued in November 2016 and supplement provisions in DOJ's ADA regulations on provision of auxiliary aids and services. Movie theaters that show digital movies equipped with closed captions and audio description must acquire and maintain equipment for displaying captions and transmitting audio description.

Closed captions are displayed individually to patrons with hearing impairments at their seats. Open captioning displayed on the movie screen is not required. Audio description provides additional narration of a movie's visual elements to patrons with vision impairments and is typically transmitted by infrared or FM systems to wireless headsets. The rule specifies the minimum number that must be provided based on the number of auditoriums in a theater. The rule does not apply to theaters showing analog movies only. For further information, visit [DOJ website](#) or contact its ADA hotline at 800.514.0301 (voice) or 800.514.3083 (TTY). **It is up to patrons to ask for these devices. A venue may avoid ordering them unless they are requested.**



Bumps in the Road Versus Roadblocks

By Jerry Lapidakis, HLAA-WI President

A recent feature on CBS' Sunday Morning highlighted an art project in Chicago by artists with various disabilities. These artists are creating miniature lighthouses that express their individual art forms and are on public display on the streets.

The artists have various disabilities such as low vision, blindness, deaf and hard of hearing, Parkinson's, loss of extremities; you name it. One artist who was working on a lighthouse made a statement that resonated with me. He said, *"My disability is a bump in the road, not a roadblock"*.

That statement is so true for all of us with hearing loss. His disability doesn't limit his talent or his life. His disability doesn't hold him back or suppress his passion. It just requires some adjustment to cope with it. It would be too easy to let our hearing loss cause depression, lack of interest, and pulling back socially from those around you. I know that I have let myself go to this negative place occasionally. We can't let that happen. Each of us must confront our hearing problem, adjust our lifestyle to it, and go on living a full life.

Besides my family, the largest factor in helping me to live life with hearing loss are my HLAA friends. They provide a sort of "lighthouse" that keeps me on a good path and direction, focusing on my abilities, not my shortcomings. They bring me back to the reality, that I am okay, I just need to compensate by using good coping strategies for my hearing loss.

My HLAA friends and colleagues share the same feelings and obstacles I have. They encourage me to not focus on the negative aspects of hearing loss as I encourage them. HLAA has become a very important part of my life. The support, the education, the friendships all have helped me get over the bumps in the road.

I hope you take full advantage of what HLAA offers, too.

Jerry Lapidakis, HLAA-WI President

PS: You are invited to attend the HLAA-Wisconsin Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 27th. Election of officers and goal setting for the coming year will be on the agenda. The meeting will be held in Neenah at Festival Foods Community Room. Address: 647 S. Green Bay Road. The room is accessible and CART will be provided. The location is just east of Hwy 41. Winneconne Avenue exit.

**See a summary of decisions and discussions
from the July HLAA-WI Board meeting
on the next page.**

Summary of July HLAA-WI Board of Trustees Quarterly Meeting

The HLAA Wisconsin Association State Board of Trustees has been busy this year with several projects that will benefit people with hearing loss in our state. The July meeting was held in Milwaukee. The next one will be in Neenah.

Here are the Highlights:

- The Board approved a scholastic scholarship of \$1500 to be awarded to a deserving high school student with hearing loss. Watch for information on this scholarship in the Fall/Winter newsletter. It will also be posted on the website and circulated to our e-mail list. Christine Wiedmeyer AuD, a state board member will keep us informed.
- A “buck slip” of Information for veterans is in the final stages and is ready for printing. It will be used at our resource tables at events and will be distributed widely.
- Christine Wiedmeyer and Natalie Eberle continue to work on getting HLAA information into veterans hospitals.
- A new brochure, “Buying Hearing Aids” is now complete and ready to print. www.hlaawi.org
- The draft language for two bills we hope will be voted into law is being drafted by a small committee.
 - * One bill would require audiologists and hearing instrument dispensers to inform and demonstrate the benefits and uses of telecoils in hearing instruments at the sell point.
 - * The second bill would require installation of hearing loops in all public buildings.
- We are also involved with a committee, organized by ODHHS and a Milwaukee police officer, to have information in a data base to inform officers of persons with hearing loss or who are deaf.
- Emil Quast, our State Chapter Coordinator, has been busy meeting people and is actively assisting with the organization of HLAA chapters in at least two new locations. (See his full report in this newsletter.)
- Caroline Ludka, chair of the Milwaukee Walk4Hearing, reported that this year's walk event raised over \$51,000. Thanks to all who participated and donated.
- Forty-eight HLAA Wisconsin members attended the annual national HLAA convention in Minneapolis and came home with many new, exciting ideas for their chapters and communities.
- **The 2019 national HLAA convention will be held in Rochester New York from June 20th - 23rd, at the Hyatt Regency. SAVE THE DATES!**

A Link Between Migraines and Hearing Loss *Healthy Hearing January 30, 2018*

Having an annual hearing evaluation is a good idea no matter how well you are hearing, but if you suffer from migraine headaches it may be even smarter to keep close tabs on your hearing health. Studies show that those who suffer from migraine headaches have an increased risk of developing [hearing loss](#) than those who do not. Other studies indicate migraine sufferers are also twice as likely to suffer from sudden sensorineural hearing loss (SSHL).

Some Food for Thought...

Communication specialists have observed that people have become so dependent on computers & cell phones that we have neglected, or even lost, the art of conversation...of actually talking to one another. The problem is that up to 70% of the meaning of what we say comes from facial expressions, gestures & body language. If we take smiles & gestures out & only interact online, it's easy for the recipient of the message to get the wrong idea; especially if the sender writes poorly or uses abbreviations. Electronic communication has been a boon for people with hearing loss, but let's not let it remove us from people.

FCC Looks to Fully Automate Phone Captioning (Advocate Now!)

On July 18, 2018, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) published its intent to allow telephone captioning providers under their Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) to provide captions using fully Automated Speech Recognition (ASR) software. The proposed change is expected save a substantial amount of money by making the role of the human Captioning Assistants (CAs) optional.

Currently, captions are provided by CAs, who use software to assist in the quick delivery of accurate captions. Allowing the switch to software-generated captions is presented in the Federal Register filing as acting to “modernize and reform” captions, to save money. Making the role of CAs in providing captions optional could lead to significant cost savings.

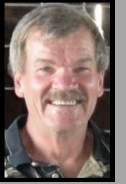
One of the challenges the FCC faces is ensuring that the switch to all-automated captions does not result in a decline in caption quality, in terms of either accuracy or timing, compared to the current CA-assisted captions.

The public comment period for the intended switch to automated captions has begun. It ends on September 17, 2018. PUBLIC COMMENT LINK HERE
[IP CTS Modernization and Reform](#)

Successful advocacy requires numbers. Imagine what changes could be made if even 25% of the 46 million people with hearing loss would join the HLAA movement to effect change! Legislators would have to listen to us!!!



A priority of HLAA-WI is to assist emerging chapters. If starting a chapter in your area interests you, please e-mail Emil Quast smokemil@mac.com Emil is HLAA Wisconsin's Chapter Coordinator. He will work with you or your group to help develop a new chapter.



Chapter Happenings.....Fox Valley Chapter

Fox Valley Regional Chapter, meets at 6:30 PM on the 2nd Monday evening of each month from March through December in Appleton. . Contact **Christine** or **Julie** : Phone contact: "T" 920-420-8462 E-mail: hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com Look for us on Facebook too!



The chapter's monthly newsletter, which is available on request via the link below, includes information about all meetings and events. It may be received online or by regular mail. Tell us how to reach you.

Let us know [HERE](#). Feel free to connect with us. **Put Newsletter Request in subject header.**

HLAA Fox Valley has 2 discussion groups; **H**earing **O**ther **P**eople's **E**xperiences (HOPE) & Cochlear Implants.

2018 chapter programs have included presentations on hearing dogs, ways to finance hearing aids, how smartphones can caption conversation, tinnitus & mishearing in conversation. The chapter holds 9 regular meetings during the year; including 2 social events. Seven meetings address educational topics of interest to people with hearing loss. See notice at left for information about subgroups.



Fox Valley Chapter's July social had a patriotic theme. Everyone who attended the social at the Appleton Yacht Club went home with a cute patriotic lantern created at the party. The room was decked in red, white and blue and a lot great food was enjoyed by all.

Milwaukee Metro Chapter

Meets at **HEAR Wisconsin**, 10243 W National Ave. West Allis, on the 2nd Thursdays at 6:30PM in April, June, August, October & December. See information on our website. <http://metromilwaukeehlaa.weebly.com/> <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Metro-Milwaukee-HLAA-Chapter/109895659071085>

Contact: "BJ" at BJEHLAAMKE@gmail.com



Several chapter members attended the HLAA convention in Minneapolis.



The 'Fox Trotter' team had fun at the Walk4Hearing.

You are invited to come enjoy our chapter. Our attendees hail from the Fox Cities, Green Bay, Central & Northeastern Wisconsin.

Madison Chapter

The Madison chapter meets at 6PM on the fourth Wednesday of the month at Ultratec, located at **4450 Science Science Drive, Madison WI**. For more information or to sign up for our email list, go to www.hlaamadison.com. For information Contact: John, 608- 695-3170 or jkinstler@me.com. Or Lisa (608)838-6617 izovar@hlaamadison.com

www.hlaamadison.com



Fox Valley Chapter Calendar....

September 10 - The Cochlear Implant Option:

Do You Qualify?

September 27 H.O.P.E. Discussion Group (afternoon meeting)

October 8 - Hearing Loops at Home and at Work

October 15 - Cochlear Implant Support Group (evening meeting)

October 25 - H.O.P.E. Discussion Group

November 12 - Hearing Loss Gotcha? Get Your Life Back with HLAA!

December 10 - Holiday Social at Appleton Yacht Club

Sign up [here](#) to receive the chapter's monthly newsletter & meeting notice by e-mail. Regular chapter meetings are held on the 2nd Monday evening of the month. Social time 6PM - 7:00PM, followed by the program. Meetings are held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on 2600 Phillip Ln in Appleton. Details about the HOPE and the CI groups are included in each newsletter. (HOPE = Hearing Other People's Experiences)

Chapter Happenings....

HLAA Madison

Members of HLAA Madison had a great idea for their summer social, but they didn't plan on Mother Nature to botch things up a bit. Still they had a great time that included handing out HLAA information and giving free hearing aid batteries to people with hearing aids who came to the game. Fortunately, the party started early. That allowed social time and the chance to meet many people as they entered the Madison Mallards' stadium. Unfortunately, the party ended after the 2nd inning when the rains came full blast, though not before a highlight of the game took place when 'Super Hearing Man' had the honor of throwing out the first pitch! A wonderful write up on this social event has been published on the national HLAA website in Spotlight on Chapters. Read about it at <https://www.hearingloss.org/chapters-state-orgs/blog/>



Linda Conlin & Jerry Lapidakis work the table.



The Madison Mallards have offered the chapter a 'do over' they will likely take advantage of next summer.

Peggy Troller works the crowd by handing out HLAA literature and giving away hearing aid batteries donated by Rayovac Corp. Thank you Rayovac! Thank you Peggy!



Super Hearing Man aka Emil Quast had the honor of throwing the first pitch of the game!

HLAA Metro Milwaukee

The M&Ms are Rolling!

We introduce the new, revised version of the HLAA - Metro Milwaukee Chapter, aka The M&Ms! A brand-new board is working hard to build on what Eloise Schwarz kept going to support people with hearing loss in the Milwaukee area through the HLAA mission. .

Metro Milwaukee Chapter board:

Co-leaders: Jim Goddeyne and BJ (Elizabeth) Ermenc

Secretary: Marie Elsner

Treasurer: Shirley Sharp

Outreach Chair: Pamela Martin (Creator/Chair: Luv2Hear)

Primary contact: BJ Ermenc (bjehLAAMke@gmail.com)

Currently, the board meets monthly to set goals, identify needs, and prioritize our activities. We're new to our positions, so we need your ideas, support, suggestions, and active participation. Everyone is invited to email ideas and/or attend board meetings. Our next meeting is Monday, August 27, at Wauwatosa Public Library, 2nd Floor Conference Room 1 from 6-8PM.

Going forward we will need your help with single volunteer tasks as well as ongoing projects involving Wisconsin State Fair Park and Summerfest and in supporting Wauwatosa Public Library's looping of the well-used Firefly Room. We will volunteer at the library to help educate people on the use of hearing assistive technology we have advocated for. The added benefit will be the opportunity to let people know about our chapter!

Finally, we need to get the word out about our existence and that we meet five times each year: the second Thursdays of April, June, August, October and December at HEAR Wisconsin, 10243 W National Ave, in West Allis. Doors open at 6PM. Meetings run from 6:30-8PM or later depending on questions for presenters and conversations among us. Light refreshments are provided, and the meetings are free!



Jim Goddeyne, Caroline Ludka, BJ Ermenc, Shirley Sharp & Pam Martin, chapter members, accept the 'Chapter on a Mission Award' at the National HLAA Convention in Minneapolis.

Let us know your e-mail address, and then watch for our emails. As ideas come in we're going to be doing more things throughout the area. We want to be where you are, so be sure to check out what we're up to!

Roll on M&Ms!

**Congratulations to this chapter for
being named "A Chapter on a Mission!"
Keep going and growing!**

State board elections are approaching. Applications & Nominations due by September 15th

The HLAA Wisconsin State Association Board of Trustees has notified the HLAA-WI Nominating Committee (NC) that four of eleven board members terms will expire in October. Those board members have the option of choosing to re up for another term. There is another board position that is vacant . Therefore, a total of 5 positions are up for election.

The State bylaws charge the NC with creating a slate for election at the annual meeting. This slate will also be circulated to all national HLAA members who reside in Wisconsin, via e-mail on or before October 1st, to allow absentee voting if you will not be at the annual meeting.

Expiring terms are currently held by: Jerry Lapidakis, Pam Martin, Juliette Sterkens, AuD and Sr. Elizabeth Segleau, SDS, LCSW.

Anyone on the NC can be contacted with a perspective nominee for the 5 openings. Nominations will close on September 15th. Shortly thereafter all HLAA members, for whom we have e-mail addresses, will be sent instructions and a ballot containing the list of people running for the board positions. Voting by ballot will occur via email or mail until 3 days before the October 27th Wisconsin State Board Meeting. Ballots will be accepted in person at the Oct meeting up to the time votes are tallied by the NC. Verification of membership in HLAA is required. Your membership number is on your magazine label. Announcement of the election results will occur at the Oct meeting.

You may apply for the board by filing the application form with an NC member. Self nomination is encouraged. You may also nominate an HLAA member whom you believe is willing to serve, but is unlikely to self nominate. Please be sure that person is agreeable to serving.

HLAA Wisconsin Annual Meeting:

Location: Festival Foods Community Room, 647 S. Green Bay Road, Neenah, WI 54956

Date: October 27, 2018

Time: 9:00AM - 1PM

Nominating committee:

Emil Quast, NC Chair, Board Member-at-Large smokemil@mac.com

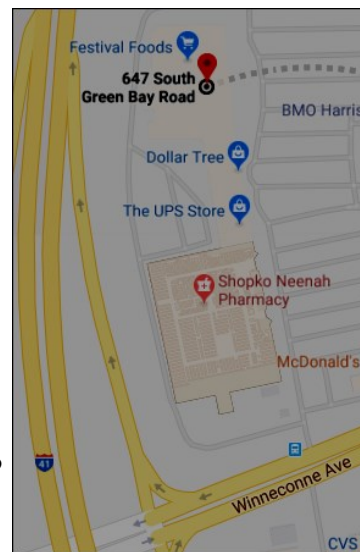
Julie Olson, Past HLAA-WI President julieo@athenet.net

Christine Klessig, Past Board Member bommaklessig@gmail.com

Neethi Magar MD, Board Member-at-Large n.magar@frontier.com

Below please find the "Application/Nomination to the HLAA-Wisconsin Board of Trustees" which can also be found on the State website. <http://www.hlaawi.org>

A ballot will be circulated by e-mail after September 20th. Watch for it! HLAA members in Wisconsin are eligible to vote. Your membership number is on your magazine label. You will need that number to vote.

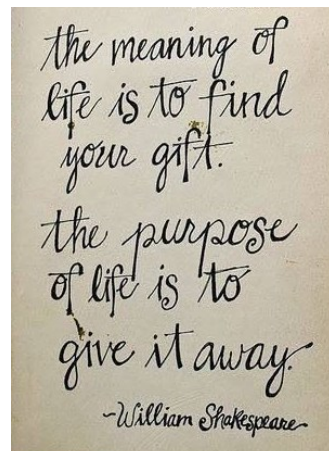


Application/Nomination form can be found at:
<http://www.hlaawi.org/state-meeting.html>

HLAA-WI has a working Board of 11 people. Outside the Board, there is a need for committee participants who have skills they are willing to share. We are all volunteers. Let us know if you are interested in helping HLAA-WI with your talents in areas like accounting, legal advice, advocacy, outreach, facilitating educational programs for outside groups, event & meeting planning, fund raising, etc.. If you have a special skill, and are willing to volunteer to share it, please let us know.

Attend the annual meeting. Get involved.

HLAA is about PEOPLE. PEOPLE who believe the invisible disability of hearing loss receives far less attention than it deserves. We believe that by working together to erase age old stigmas and misconceptions, we will make Wisconsin a better place for PEOPLE who do not hear well. You will be amazed at what we learn from one another!





Wisconsin was well represented at the national HLAA convention in Minneapolis this summer. We passed in the halls often, got together for 'happy times', and held a gathering for a photo op. Everyone had a great time meeting other HLAA folks and learning about advocacy, technology, chapter development, research and living well with hearing loss. We are people who do not hear well who don't allow our hearing loss to define us. If you don't yet know us, please let us know how to reach out to you! HLAA Chapters exist in the Fox Valley area, Madison area, and Milwaukee area. There is interest in chapter development in Ashland/Bayfield, Door County, & Central Wisconsin. If you want to be involved....get in touch with us! Emil Quast is Wisconsin's chapter coordinator. smokemil@mac.com

My HLAA Convention Experience....



I am thankful for the scholarship I received from HLAA Wisconsin to attend the National HLAA Convention this summer. It made it possible for me to even think of attending. One of the insights for me was the normalization of hearing loss. During the Convention I felt "normal" being hard of hearing. It was a good feeling. My husband attends the Chapter meetings with me so I spend most of my time with hearing people. There was a commonality among us with hearing loss and also many different ways of living with that hearing loss.

I enjoyed Mandy Harvey's presentation. She spoke well and meaningfully about her hearing loss and her love of music including singing her songs. She was thoughtful about hearing loss and her identity. She claimed her power to sing as an act of courage. Her story was difficult yet she persevered and in being persistent she has achieved standing and recognition for her gifts.

I was blown away by all the technology that is available. It was a lot to consider what would work for me.

The best was attending *West Side Story* at the Guthrie Theatre. I could understand most of the words! And with Open Captioning I could really catch every word. Amazing! I worked hard on trying to get The Overture Center in Madison looped 2 years ago. It was unsuccessful. My church is looped and I wish Overture Center was accessible. I wrote Guthrie a thank you letter and told them if they put in a permanent loop I would be back.

I went to the Advocacy Track workshops and learned a lot that I did not know about advocacy.

Thanks again for the scholarship,

Jeanne Tyler, HLAA Madison

My HLAA Convention Experience....



If you need to learn a lot about living with hearing loss and volunteering within an HLAA chapter in a short period of time, there is no better way to do it than to attend the annual convention! I was fortunate to receive two scholarships, which enabled me to attend starting Wednesday (sitting on the National Board Meeting as well as the chapter awards ceremony) through Saturday. My gratitude for these scholarships will pay dividends to Metro Milwaukee chapter, the state of Wisconsin, and our national organization, not to mention people with hearing loss.

Thanks to co-leader Jim and member/ODHH staffer Caroline for sorting through the workshops between Thursday's brunch and Expo grand opening so we could be sure to cover as many bases as feasible. The majority of mine were in the Growing a Chapter path, and wow, did I learn things! I have already been sharing about how we need to reach out to each generation of people in a different way, and found partners to help our chapter do so. Creating and prioritizing goals was a huge lesson that will come in handy with our brand new board. Realizing we cannot do everything yet capturing all good ideas is manageable thanks to that workshop.

I was astonished at how much I learned at the evening and breakfast award ceremonies - what people have done and the myriad ways we can support and educate people with and without hearing loss. This is a lifetime of work, which has me looking forward to retirement with energy and enthusiasm!

B.J. Ermenc, HLAA Metro Milwaukee Chapter

2018 HLAA-WI Board of Trustees



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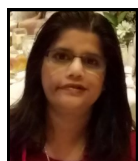
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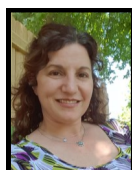
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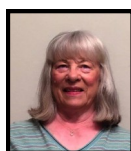
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**You!
In 2019?**

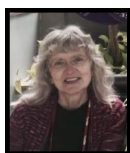
Off-Board Appointees



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Julie



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Lisa Zovar, Circulation Manager lzovar@hlaamadison.com

HLAA's National Public Policy and Advocacy Agenda

HLAA advocates for equal access for millions Americans with hearing loss. We work with industry & government to expand access to mainstream & assistive technologies, enforce existing disability laws, regulations & standards that impact lives. HLAA promotes self-advocacy & empowerment of people with hearing loss to ensure equal opportunity in telecommunications, employment, health care, education & community life. Full statement [HERE](#).

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

A Message from Emil Quast; HLAA-WI Chapter Coordinator



After being appointed HLAA-WI State Chapter Coordinator (SCC) earlier this year, I found members & leaders cheering me on, offering advice & providing lots of background information about HLAA & our chapters. I have become aware of the many HLAA movers & shakers & have discovered what a truly great & caring HLAA family we have here in Wisconsin.

Goals and ideas I'm working on:

Attend chapter & board meetings of each established chapter to get a feel for how each is run, what priorities they have, & learn what I can do to help them.

Encourage the development of new chapters in Wisconsin & work with people in areas where interest has been expressed. Those regions include Door County, Central Wisconsin, LaCrosse, & the Ashland/ Bayfield area.

Encourage chapters to develop programs to increase attendance & membership in HLAA.

Establish a group of outreach volunteers who will speak about HLAA to various organizations like VFW, service clubs, school groups, community organizations, assisted living centers, etc. to share information about HLAA & what it offers.

Develop a list of Professionals who are willing to serve as advisors & possible presenters to chapters & to HLAA-WI.

Work with the HLAAWI webmasters to develop pages on the website to store current & past brochures, flyers, notices & newsletters.

Encourage the HLAAWI Board to sponsor live streaming throughout the state that will allow virtual attendance of chapter meetings from any location with web access.

Encourage chapters to reach out to young people, listen to their ideas, & get them involved in HLAA leadership.

HLAA Chapters can make amazing differences in the lives of people with hearing loss. I am in awe of the HLAA volunteers that serve as leaders at the chapter, state & national levels.

I'm proud to be a member of HLAA. I hope you will provide support to HLAA so we can reach these goals.

Emil Quast, HLAA-WI SCC

If you think hearing loss is a problem that doesn't receive the attention it deserves; please become a part of the solution. Join HLAA.



HLAA-WI, a 501c3 non profit organization, is an affiliate of the national HLAA organization. HLAA-WI does not have dues, and is dependent on tax deductible donations and small fund raisers.

Please consider HLAA-WI in your annual giving. Send to: HLAA-WI % Tom O'Connor, Treasurer, 1149 Wedgewood Lane, Fond du Lac WI 54935. You can also donate online at www.hlaawi.org Thank you.

NOTE: HLAA-WI uses your donations to help defray the costs associated with our website, newsletter, captioning for meetings, and other projects. When possible, HLAA-WI provides stipends or scholarships to active members who wish to attend educational events related to hearing loss.

Board members of HLAA-WI are all volunteers who serve at their own expense because they know the HLAA mission makes a positive difference for people with hearing loss.

**Your tax deductible gift to HLAA-WI makes a difference!
Thank you in advance!**

My HLAA Convention Experience...

2018 HLAA National Conference in Minnesota: I am extremely grateful for the scholarship that allowed me to attend. There were more than 800 attendees from all over the United States and Canada.



The first-time attendee's session explained the purpose of the general sessions, workshops and special events i.e., Chapter Awards Celebration & Ceremony. The session for State & Chapter Leaders discussed how to tap into your energy/passion and use it to become the best possible leader you can be at the local level.

What I found to be most helpful was the ability to access sessions online after the conference. This information can be helpful for those (at the local level) who were unable to attend the HLAA National Conference in person. Hopefully I will be able to attend future conferences.

Shirley Scharp, HLAA Metro-Milwaukee Chapter

FEEL FREE TO PRINT, FORWARD & SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER.

Our goal is to reach hard of hearing people of all ages to let them know there is a consumer based organization that is working for them as an advocate & as an educator. Your support is appreciated.



About the Hearing Loss Association of America.... www.hearingloss.org

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), founded in 1979, opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support and advocacy. HLAA holds annual [conventions](#), produces [Walk4Hearing](#) events in 20 cities, publishes the bimonthly HEAR LIFE [Magazine](#), [advocates](#) for the rights of people with hearing loss, and has an extensive [network of chapters and state organizations](#) across the country. The national headquarters is located at 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200, Bethesda, MD 20814. Phone 301.657.2248 or visit www.hearingloss.org. To become a part of the national movement to make hearing loss an issue of concern go to: www.hearingloss.org/content/join Individual dues are \$35/year. Special rates for families and couples.

It costs less than a dime a day to support HLAA's mission through membership.

Membership numbers matter when it comes to advocacy and research. People who make decisions that are important to communication access, medical research, technology development and legislation are influenced by numbers and statistics. People who speak up are heard before those who do not. Please join us!

My HLAA Convention Experience....

The National HLAA convention, held in Minneapolis, was the very first that I have attended. It was a wonderful and informative experience. It is one of the few places I can honestly say that I had no issues in hearing, especially with the hearing loops and CART services provided. The sessions were educational and informational as was viewing the various products displayed by the exhibitors. In addition, I took back information that I can utilize in our chapter.



This is definitely a convention every person who has a hearing loss should experience. I wish I'd had access to this type of information years ago as I would have had additional tools to help me hear and understand better in so many settings. Also, it was great to meet others you can relate to while learning about things that help them cope with their hearing loss. I am grateful to have received a scholarship that helped cover the costs of attending the event.

Kathy Johnson, HLAA Madison Chapter

"The capacity to learn is a GIFT; the ability to learn is a SKILL ; the willingness to learn is a CHOICE."