



## Special November Chapter Meeting

**Monday, November 11, 2019**

**6:15 Social Time 7:00 Program**

**Presentation Topic: *The Value of Volunteers***

With the exception of national HLAA staff, everyone at the chapter and state level are volunteers for the organization. Without volunteer support, chapters would cease to exist.

Wisconsin is only one of 13 states that has been able to found and perpetuate a state level organization; again all volunteers. We can be proud of that!

November is Founder's Month; a time to remember how HLAA got started; why it was started, and the sacrifices many people made to make it happen when many said it couldn't be done. That was 40 years ago!

Five years later Fox Valley Chapter was founded; against some pretty big odds. Especially when the founder and a small group of people whom she gathered to discuss forming a chapter, were discouraged by hearing healthcare professionals. Why? Because we were told we were wasting our time and energy because hard of hearing people would never go public with their hearing loss. They were wrong!

**Let's celebrate US! We the PEOPLE of HLAA Fox Valley Chapter in November!** Come for special some treats, a very short program and a time of 'easy peasy' volunteer service as we put together materials for the state conference we volunteered to host, organize and co-sponsor.

**See you at our regular meeting place on November 11th!**



Regular chapter meetings are held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Appleton. 2600 Phillip Lane. Map at [www.fvuuf.org](http://www.fvuuf.org) HLAA is not affiliated with UUF. We appreciate being able to use their facility.



## "Shining New Light On Hearing Loss!"

An Educational Conference

**November 16, 2019**

**Bordini Center/**

**Appleton**

**Doors open at 8:15 AM**

Registration Deadline moved to 11/8. We are near capacity, but can take a few more registrations.

**Tinnitus. How to Manage Hearing Loss in a Healthcare Setting. Assistive Technology that Doubles the Value of Hearing Aids. Veterans Group. HLAA Advocacy. Lunch. Materials, Exhibits, Prizes and More!** [www.hlaawi.org](http://www.hlaawi.org) for details.

**Bonus:** You are invited to attend a social event on Friday night. You CAN have fun at a party! Info at: [www.hlaawi.org](http://www.hlaawi.org)

## Insurance & Medicare Coverage for Hearing Aids?

Anyone who has spent thousands of dollars on hearing aids will tell you that private health insurance rarely covers much, if any of the cost. How much of the cost do you think Medicare will cover when you turn 65 years old. **The answer is 'zero'.**

Currently, there is bipartisan support in both the U.S. House of Representatives & Senate to amend the Social Security Act to include coverage for hearing aids. It's a small step in a long process, but it's a start. HLAA is involved.

HLAA, our advocate and lobbyist, has been pushing for this for years. While HLAA speaks for all 46 million hard of hearing people in the USA identified by statistics, HLAA membership includes only a handful of that impressive number.

Please consider becoming a member & remember to renew when your membership expires. Numbers matter to legislators. Membership in HLAA is more important than simply being a statistic!

Barbara Kelley, the Executive Director of HLAA, will be the keynote speaker at "Shining New Light on Hearing Loss. Come join us to learn more about what HLAA is doing.

**A few openings for the conference remain.** If you've not yet registered, please do. You will find information at [www.hlaawi.org](http://www.hlaawi.org) Click on the 'registration tab' and scroll down to register online. Or send a check to HLAA Fox Valley, P.O. Box 25, Menasha 54952. **\$25 per person to attend is a bargain!** Please understand that we need numbers in advance to plan for food, etc.

## International Travel with Hearing Loss...

Bonjour! I recently traveled to Italy for a wonderful 2-week vacation! It was an amazing trip of a lifetime, where I traveled abroad for the first time, with near-strangers, and experienced traveling by train, plane, automobile, water taxis and mini tuk tuk vehicles!

It was quite the adventure! Especially for a person with hearing loss! But I survived! And thrived! I had booked a high-speed train tour to three cities over 6 days that included daily walking tours with headsets. I did plan ahead and told my travel agent as well as the tour company that coordinated all the accommodations and tours about my special needs.

Their "disability" dept. then emailed me with many standard, ADA-compliant questions that related more to the DEAF population, such as: will I need an ASL interpreter or special devices/alarms in my hotel room, etc. Even though I had previously told them that ALL I needed was for their tour guides to be aware and willing to wear MY device (mini microphone that's compatible with my cochlear implant), instead of their headset and earbuds, so that I could hear what they were explaining on the walking tours.

It took a bit of explaining initially, but I was pleasantly surprised that ALL the tour guides were very patient and accommodating, and I HEARD EVERYTHING they had to say!!! That was the best part! If I had not taken along my technology and asked for special treatment, I wouldn't have understood ANYTHING!

I'm SO grateful for the technology that's available today! I also experienced some vertigo/dizziness on the flights home, and luckily had some prescribed medication on hand from my physician that I got ahead of time since I had a similar episode a few years ago.

I also learned (after the fact, at the October HLAA chapter meeting), that there are special earplugs that one can buy over the counter at Walgreens, etc that help the ear canal adjust to changes in air pressure on flights.

It never ceases to amaze me, the things I continue to learn at this point in life, thanks to the HLAA meetings and annual conventions that share a wealth of knowledge to assist in our daily living.

Feel free to contact me if you'd like to hear more about Italy.



*Ciao For Now!!!*  
*Michelle Frisbie*  
Fox Valley Chapter Treasurer

## 2020 National HLAA Convention



### Think About Attending the National HLAA Convention!!!

**YOU could be our chapter 'delegate'\*** to the 2020 national convention! Or, you could just go to learn a ton about research, new products, great ideas, and to meet amazing hard of hearing people from all over the country. Thanks to grant money the chapter has received, there are stipends available to defray the costs of those who attend.

**To be considered for a stipend, apply in writing, to any member of the chapter board of trustees. (See e-mail contact information on page 2, or mail to our P.O. box.)**

**Deadline for stipend application is March 10th.**

You must register online at [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org) Early Bird discounted registration rates will open in mid January. We encourage those who go, to share rooms and travel costs if possible, but that is up to each individual to arrange. Talk to others from the chapter now.

Attending a national HLAA convention is an awesome experience. Many hard of hearing people say it's like going to a 'summer camp' where everyone understands your communication challenges and no one cares if you're different...because you're not!

Most who go once, want to go again. Think about it and let us know soon, if you are interested. We will try to let you know who else plans to go so you can plan together.

**New Orleans is an incredible convention city!**

**You may want to stay a few extra days!**

**Amtrak goes to NOLA! Are you getting the itch yet?!**

\* the chapter delegate will receive a stipend that covers the majority of his/her expenses. The delegate's responsibilities include attending the chapter development meetings, and bringing back positive ideas for chapter development to the board. We sincerely hope our 'delegate' will assume a leadership role in the chapter after enjoying this positive experience!



**Follow and LIKE us on Facebook!**

## October Program Summary...

WOW! Is what people were saying after the program at our October chapter meeting! We learned a lot about Meniere's Disease, and a lot about managing hearing loss. Chapter member Dale Voskuil shared his experience with Meniere's, while his wife Renee, shared her experience living with all that Meniere's has brought to their relationship...and it was all done with a great sense of humor that we all could identify with, and even laugh about!

Dr. Candy McGinnis AuD, shared her expertise and experience working with a support group for Meniere's Disease. Many insights on Meniere's management were shared.



Thank you to Dale, Renee and Candy for volunteering to present this program. We hope it will lead to similar sharing programs at future meetings.



Dr. McGinnis, Renee & Dale Voskuil

We said "Goodbye, God Speed, and Good Luck" to someone who has been a very special chapter volunteer for many years at the October Chapter meeting. "T" (Mary) Van Asten has taken many behind the scenes roles for our chapter. She was board secretary for several years, has been our social/refreshment chair for the past few years, and has also been willing to be our telephone contact. She has always been a 'helper' for special events. We are so sorry to see her leave Appleton, but happy for her as she returns to Upper Michigan where she grew up, and has family. "T" has always been a 'Yoooper gal' at heart.

She has promised to come back now and then, and we look forward to that when it happens. Take care "T", and thank you for all you have done for Fox Valley Chapter.



Julie Olson shares a token of our appreciation with "T" Van Asten at the October Meeting.

### Food for Thought and Action....

- I can be the chapter's telephone contact person.
- I am able to bring refreshments to a chapter meeting.
- I can present, arrange for or suggest a program or 2020.
- I can help plan the 2019 Holiday Social.

If you won't tell us; we don't know.

Let us know what you can do to help us.

[hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com)



## The Sponsor Program is Fox Valley Chapter's

**main fundraiser.** Names will be added as donations are received. Thank you to everyone who supports Fox Valley Chapter this way. NOTE: If your name or business is not listed correctly, please let us know immediately. **If you wish to be added to this list, send your check to: HLAA-Fox Valley Treasurer, P.O. Box 25, Menasha WI 54952.**

## 2019 Chapter Sponsors

### Platinum Level (\$200 or More)

#### ENT Specialists of WI Audiology

Katie Armatoski AuD, Mark Conradt AuD, Tricia Roe AuD, Cathy Dreifuert AuD, Tamara Mischka AuD, Erin Kruegar AuD, Holly Rusch AuD

#### Fox Valley Hearing Centers, Inc.

Candy McGinnis AuD, Jody Jedlicka AuD, Stephanie Long AuD, Melissa Dintelman AuD, Brittany Uitenbroek AuD

#### Haviland Hearing Aids Inc.

Peter J. Zellmer, AuD. Kyle Martell, AuD

#### Hearing Clinics of Wisconsin

Robert Broeckert MS-CCC-A

#### Rural Audiology Services

Kari Kramer AuD, Becky Franz MS CCC-A

**Judy & Larry Benish, Douglas Grant MD, Jim Machalk, Howard Porter, Raymond Smith, Thomas & Linda O'Connor, Janet Muhich & Sharon Ihrig (in memory of James Muhich)**

### Gold Level (\$100 - \$199)

Anonymous, Jo Kintopf-Crabb, Michelle Frisbie, Mary & Liz Ginke, Christine Klessig, Mike & Susan Landreman, Lyle & Phyllis Sconzert, Rosemary Smith, Carol Smokovich, Jan & Diane Veenendaal, Walt & Phyllis Ziemke

### Silver Level (\$50 - \$99)

Jim & Rhonda Bartelt, O.C. & Pat Boldt, Suzanne Brown, Charles & Judy Hastert, James Hemmen, Ione Muehlenbein (in memory of Paul), Julie & John Olson, Charles E. Rud, Joyce Rudolph, Sharon Salm, LeRoy Sauer, Karen Lindberg-Schuppe, Lyle & Phyllis Sconzert, Barb & Russ Soderberg, Aurelia Stampf, Jerome & Phyllis VanHandel, Paul & Harriet Zucker

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

Barbara Crusans, Kevin Gossens, Lorna Hamilton, Betty Lange, Patty Reimer, George Van Amber, Katie Weber, Ken & Mary Ann Walter

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 pay rent to hold regular meetings in an accessible facility, to provide information & materials to those who attend our meetings, to educate ourselves & others on new technology, to provide stipends for members to attend educational events, & so much more. Thank you!

We want to thank everyone who has made smaller donations to our treasury, & to those who contribute personal resources of time, energy, mileage & more.

Our meetings are open to the public, and are run by volunteers.

HLAA shares information, educates, advocates & provides support to people with hearing loss who choose to live in the hearing mainstream. [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org) for more information.

HLAA does not endorse products, providers or services. We share information that makes it possible for people with hearing loss to make informed decisions.

Our newsletter is available by regular mail or e-mail.  
The e-mail version is in color with live links.  
Let us know your preference if you wish to change.

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

### 2019 Chapter Program & Event Schedule

**November 8:** Registration deadline for State Conference  
**November 11:** Chapter Meeting & Volunteer Opportunity  
**November 15:** Annual Meeting of HLAAWI & Social  
**November 16:** HLAAWI State Conference in Appleton  
**December 9:** Holiday Social (Details: December newsletter)

### 2019 Chapter Leadership Board

#### Steering Committee Co-Chairs

\*Christine Klessig [bommaklessig@gmail.com](mailto:bommaklessig@gmail.com)

\*Julie Olson [julieo@athenet.net](mailto:julieo@athenet.net)

**Treasurer:** \*Michelle Frisbie [michellefrisbie@gmail.com](mailto:michellefrisbie@gmail.com)

**Program Chair & CI Group Chair:** \*Rhonda Clancey  
[rclancey@hotmail.com](mailto:rclancey@hotmail.com)

**Member at Large:** \*Dale Voskuil [voskuild@gmail.com](mailto:voskuild@gmail.com)

**Member at Large:** \*Jane Young [YBLUEJAY@aol.com](mailto:YBLUEJAY@aol.com)

**Newsletter Editor:** \*Julie Olson: [julieo@athenet.net](mailto:julieo@athenet.net)

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

**H.O.P.E. Chair:** Nancy Gilbertson [nancy.gilbertson2@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.gilbertson2@gmail.com)

**Chapter e-mail:** [hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com)

**Support Crew:** Dave Gilbertson, Bob Opsteen, Jerry Van Handel,  
Paul & Harriet Zuicker

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 Current Board of Trustees

**While Membership in HLAA** is not required to attend the events we sponsor through Fox Valley Chapter. We do encourage you to join the national HLAA organization that has been making a positive difference for people with hearing loss since 1979.

Membership information at:

[www.hearingloss.org/make-an-impact/](http://www.hearingloss.org/make-an-impact/)

### HOPE Discussion and Support Group

Provides an opportunity for you to share your experiences & ask questions of others who have hearing loss. H.O.P.E. gathers on the 4th Thursday afternoon of the month, in the sanctuary at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2600 Phillip Lane, Appleton, from 1-3PM.

Join us to 'Hear Other People's Experiences.'

Nancy Gilbertson is the moderator of H.O.P.E.

Contact Nancy at: [nancy.gilbertson2@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.gilbertson2@gmail.com)



### Cochlear Implant Support/Discussion Group Meeting

**Next Meeting: Monday, January 20th at 6:00 PM**

Meets quarterly in the Community Room at Neenah Festival Foods. That room is upstairs above the deli; and is accessible by elevator. This group is open to anyone with a cochlear implant, and also to those who are interested in learning more about them. Rhonda Clancey is the group's moderator. [rclancey@hotmail.com](mailto:rclancey@hotmail.com)  
Contact Rhonda if you'd like to be placed on the group's email list.



*"We LOVE to HEAR!"*

For the Conference we need: Greeters, Registration table help, HLAA exhibit table help, door prize drawing help, & general friendly hosting. Please contact Julie or Christine to let us know how we can count on you. Their e-mails are listed above!

*"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in an election only once or twice a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every single day about the kind of world you want to live in."* anonymous

Thank you to everyone who has registered, or volunteered to help with "Shining New Light on Hearing Loss". This is a major undertaking for state and chapter leaders. Thanks to everyone who donated raffle items, door prizes, or made cash donations. Join us as we wish for good weather and safe travels for all who attend.

### Conference Bonus!!!

Everyone who registers for the conference is invited to attend the Friday Night Party following the 5:30 HLAAWI annual meeting. In true Wisconsin tailgate tradition, we'll play some games, enjoy some great food, meet HLAA folks from around the state, and show our out-of-state guests that

**Wisconsin Rocks!!**

**Do us proud!** We want you there! we need you there!

We know you won't regret being there!

Get registered so we can count you in!!

**Friday Party, Saturday Lunch, Presentations, Exhibits, Prizes... All for \$25 bucks!!!**

**This is a rare opportunity.**

E-mail Julie if you need more info: [julieo@athenet.net](mailto:julieo@athenet.net)

It is all available at: [www.hlaawi.org](http://www.hlaawi.org)

Friday: Annual Meeting begins at 5:30; party follows.