



HLAA-WI 2019 SPRING/SUMMER EDITION

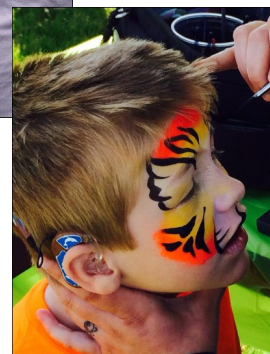
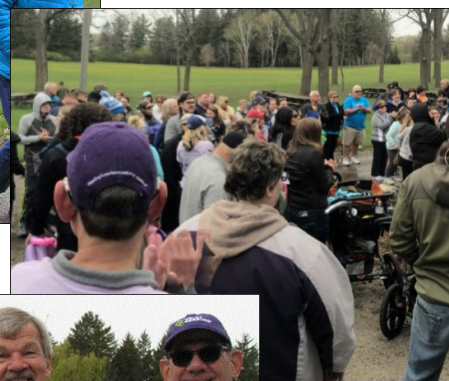
2019 Walk4Hearing...

Another successful Walk4Hearing event was held in Milwaukee on May 11th. Approximately \$40,000 was raised by teams from several organizations with missions that relate to hearing loss. This event does a lot to show the public that hearing loss is an issue that affects people of all ages. It's heartwarming to see families and small children enjoying the event each year along with many grandparents.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success. Special thanks to Christine Weidmeyer for captaining the HLAWI team! A very special thanks to Caroline & Andrew Ludka & Becky Jump for all the work they have done to make this an annual success. You are

all very much appreciated.

Let's hope this event continues for many more years.



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Save these Dates!

"Shining New Light on Hearing Loss"

HLAAWI State Conference

Saturday Nov. 16th

Bordini Center in Appleton.

The HLAWI annual meeting & a social with exhibits will be held on:

Friday evening, November 15th.

See page 3 for details.

Information will be placed on the HLAWI website as received.

www.hlaawi.org

Planning committee contact: [HERE](#)

HLAA-Wisconsin's President's Message...

From Sr. Liza Segleau, HLAWI Board President



The other morning I was in the kitchen having breakfast. I heard this clicking sound. For the life of me I could not figure out where it was coming from. I stood up and walked towards the refrigerator, I listened, but nope, it was not that. I walked towards the stove, but I knew it could not be the stove. I turned around and walked towards the window.

I listened...the clicking turned into a kind of chirping, then into a song, a song I recognized and remembered. Right in front of me, there it was! Up in a nearby tree, was a Cardinal singing his heart out as loud as he could. I had to smile and feel gratitude. I allowed the Cardinal's song to just wash over me. Once he had accomplished his mission, he flew away.

Many people around us are not so fortunate. They struggle to hear, to understand others, to find and locate sounds, and work very hard to keep relationships going despite their hearing loss.

Hearing Loss Association of America definitely has a crucial mission today, the mission of HLAA is to open the world of communication, to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support and advocacy. But unlike the Cardinal, we don't fly away. We do our best to continue to grow and reach out to as many people with hearing loss as we can!

HLAA in Wisconsin is growing, reaching and increasing efforts to provide a voice of support to all those with hearing loss, no matter how old, young, type of work or situation the person might be in. There is so much more work to be done.

Would you consider joining us? Would you consider joining the ranks to help us reach out? If so, contact us, search for a chapter near you and find your special mission in the Hearing Loss Association of America.

HLAA-WI is seeking board candidates. Each year there are 2-3 positions on the board that are open. Each year, there are spots available for people who are willing to work on committees. **The link to the nomination form is elsewhere in this newsletter.**

Please check the HLAWI.org website regularly for updates on HLAWI activities. Our biannual state conference* will be held in November in Appleton. I hope to meet you there!

* All programs at the HLAWI state conference will be captioned and the presentation room will be looped. Come hear with us!



Adjusting to Your First Hearing Aids...

Trying hearing aids for the first time can be a challenging experience. There's a learning curve that requires patience and adjustment. Most people with hearing loss wait too long



before getting hearing aids. In fact, research shows that the average 'putting off period' is seven years! By then, their brains have virtually forgotten what normal hearing is like. Consequently, voices and environmental noises can seem very loud when using a hearing aid for the first time. The brain needs time to readjust to hearing.

Here are some tips for first time hearing aid users:

- Don't compare hearing aids with glasses. When you put on your first pair of glasses, you see the difference right away. Hearing aids require adjustment. That is why state law requires a trial period of at least 30 days. Use that time wisely.
- Don't buy a hearing aid that doesn't have a built in telecoil component. Manual volume control is also important.
- You will have to work at adjusting to using hearing aids. Keep them on. Don't put them in the drawer if they irritate you.
- Try your hearing aids in many different environments and situations. Experiment with them. You are not going to break them by pushing their buttons!
- Find a place where you can try the telecoil feature. Look for locations with 'hearing loops' at www.loopwisconsin.com
- Fitting is an ongoing process. You need to have a good ongoing dialogue with the person who fitted your hearing aids. Tell them about your experience so they can make appropriate adjustments. If they are unwilling or hesitant to give you the time you need. Go elsewhere.
- For some people, wearing hearing aids for the first time involves a psychological process for acceptance. Sadly, stigma still surrounds hearing loss. Be prepared to beat that stigma. There are 48 million Americans, of all ages, with hearing loss. You are one of them, and you are not alone.
- **Best Advice:** Talk to other people who use hearing aids successfully. Share your experiences with them and discuss your concerns. Remember: Some people are chronic complainers. Don't go there to talk and don't become one. Find people who will talk positively about their hearing loss experiences. HLAA is a good place to begin! You can even 'start' there by learning what has worked for others who use hearing aids. HLAA does not endorse products or professionals, but members can surely tell you who has helped them and what has worked for them.

A Telecoil in a Hearing Aid Doubles its Value...

This tiny component allows the hearing aid to connect wirelessly to sound systems in places where hearing loops are installed. This is often described as having 'binoculars for your ears', as it brings the desired sound directly to the hearing aids while it bypasses the ambient noise in the room. Loops are installed in churches, performing arts centers, libraries, school auditoriums, and in many other listening arenas. Loops can also be installed in homes to be use with TV. If you are in the dark about hearing loops...expand your horizons! Learn! www.loopwisconsin.com www.hearingloop.org No, you won't use it all the time, but when you need it you'll be glad you have it.

PS: Telecoils do not add cost to hearing aids.



Shining New Light on Hearing Loss!



An Educational Conference

For people with hearing loss, & those who serve, work or live with them.

November 16, 2019

Appleton Wisconsin
Come Learn With Us.

Presenters...



Barbara Kelly, Executive Director of HLAA, former editor of the HLAA Magazine. *"It has been my life's work to contribute to the mission of this organization. It's been exciting to be a part of an organization that has had so much influence on public policy and people's lives."*



David Schible Sgt. First Class U.S. Army Ret. Co-Chair Veterans Across America Virtual HLAA Chapter. *"My personal mission is to use my story to send a clear & strong message to active military and veterans about the repercussions of hearing loss"*



Diana Ackerman AuD, Clinical Education Specialist will discuss Tinnitus, those 'phantom' noises in your head that can be debilitating. Tinnitus often accompanies noise induced hearing loss, but can present without it. Learn how to manage tinnitus.



Dr. Peggy J. Troller DNP MSMFT, RN UW Madison Dr. Troller is working to advance the training of healthcare professionals in communication with people with hearing loss. She brings her magic to many people in the UW hospital system.

Registration for the conference is now open, and will remain open until November 1st. We encourage veterans, medical personnel, & hard of hearing people of all ages to attend. Registration info on next page.

Conference Highlights...

- Tinnitus? Options Available Today. What Does Research Tell Us?
- Navigating Healthcare with Hearing Loss.
(Build your own personal hospital kit.)
- How Assistive Technology Doubles the Value of Hearing Aids.
- Apps That Help Us Communicate!
(Be sure to bring your smart phone.)
- Exhibits With the latest Technology, Services & Programs
- Meet People with Cochlear Implants Who Will Share Their Experience With You.
- Learn About the Launch of the Veterans Virtual HLAA Chapter & How HLAA Reaches out To Veterans.
- Learn more about what HLAA does for YOU.
- Learn in an Environment Where Hearing Loss is the Norm. Captioning & Loop Listening Rocks!



Emil Quast, HLAA Wisconsin Chapter Coordinator; Madison WI Law Enforcement Ret. & U.S. Army Reserves SFC Ret., is certified as an N-CHATT Assistive Technology Trainer. He will share his technology expertise.

The conference will be held at the Bordini Center, 5 N. Systems Drive., Appleton WI.
Saturday, November 16th (Limited to 120 Participants) \$25/person registration fee.
Lunch, Handouts, Door Prizes and More Included with Registration. Register online or by mail.

Doors open at 8:30 AM Event: 9:00 AM—4:00 PM

Hotel Rooms have been blocked under HLAAWI at the Appleton Hampton Inn
350 Fox River Drive. 920-954-9211. [LINK](#) (Reserve by October 15th.)

For more information:

www.hlaawi.org
hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com

This HLAA-WI event is planned & sponsored by HLAA Fox Valley Chapter.

Register Now for the 2019 HLAA-Wisconsin State Conference

Registration Deadline 11/1/19 (Limited to 120)
\$25/person
Includes lunch, handouts, door prizes & more!
Veterans will receive special recognition at the event.

Name(s) _____
Address _____

E-Mail _____

Send payment to:

HLAA Fox Valley Chapter Treasurer,
P.O. Box 25 Menasha WI. 54952.

You can register online [HERE](#)

Confirmation will be sent via e-mail unless otherwise request-

A hearing loop and real time captioning will
be provided at this conference.

You *will* be able to participate!



Come to the Party!



On Friday evening before the state conference, you are invited to attend the annual HLAA meeting and a special social event to welcome our guests.



The annual meeting of HLAA-Wisconsin will be held on Friday, November 15th at 5:30 PM at Bordini Center. This open meeting will be followed by a reception with food to welcome guests & conference presenters. Let's show our Wisconsin spirit by donning our Packer, Badger, Bucks or Brewer garb to enjoy a festive Wisconsin Tailgate Party, complete with bratwurst & a cash bar. We hope to have the exhibits open that evening.



All who register for the conference are invited to attend. No charge!
Come Show Your Wisconsin Spirit!



Invisible Disability Disclosure Option

Effective January 1, 2019, an applicant for a Wisconsin driver license, identification (ID) card and/or vehicle registration can choose to disclose on their driver license, ID card and vehicle registration record, that they have a disability that may not be immediately apparent to another person. Complete the Invisible Disability Disclosure form [MV2167](#) if you wish to make such disclosure and send it to the address below or present it at your local DMV Service Center.

The disclosure that you make will be available to law enforcement officers and employees of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT).

If you choose to make such disclosure and later want it removed, you may use the same Invisible Disability Disclosure form MV2167 to request that the Department remove prior information related to your disclosure of an invisible disability.

Medical Review & Fitness Unit
P.O. Box 7918
Madison WI 53707-7918

Email [Wisconsin DMV email service](#)
Phone (608) 266-2327
Fax (608) 267-0518

Listen Up! A Special Project and Story...

Emma Schaefer, daughter of HLAA member Leona Schaefer, a sophomore at Wisconsin Heights High School in Mazomanie, completed a research project for her Humanities English class on 'Hearing Loss in Youth'. She decided to sell T-shirts with the phrase "Listen Up for Youth Hearing Loss" to promote her project. A percentage of the T-shirt sales was donated to the HLAA Madison Chapter. Her article, titled "Listen Up" appears below.

Listen Up! By Emma Schaefer

Hearing loss is much more common of a condition than we let on. In fact, it is the third most common physical condition in the United States, behind arthritis and heart disease. With this shocking statistic, the importance of maintaining good auditory health is clear, especially in youth.

According to the CDC, 14.9% of America's youth aged 6-19 has some degree of hearing loss, which translates to over seven million children. Early detection is important when it comes to youth hearing impairment, as hearing loss can affect a child's social interaction and quality of life.

Signs of potential hearing loss in children include delayed speech or language, asking for repeated instructions, turning up the volume on the TV and repeatedly asking, "Huh?" or "What?" If you notice any of these signs in your child, have your child's hearing screened. The *Nursing2019* health journal recommends getting your child's hearing screened regularly. Not all schools perform basic screenings though, and Janice Sampson, DNP, RN, CNE, says that children should have their hearing checked at four, five, six, eight and ten years old. If a screening is failed, Sampson recommends having a full evaluation with an audiologist. Also keep in mind that babies should have their hearing checked at one month, and then have a full evaluation at three months. Stay safe, and get your child's hearing checked!



Emma shares her project and T-Shirts with Jack Spear, President of HLAA Madison. **We're all proud of you Emma!**



More cities are passing laws that require closed captioning on public TVs

Is it getting harder to hear the programs on TV? If so, you might want to lobby your city to follow the example of Seattle. Starting later this month, the city will require all public accommodations that display televisions (such as bars, restaurants, gyms, and stadiums) to program those television so that the closed-captioning feature is always on.

The law, which the Seattle City Council passed unanimously, is designed to benefit residents who are hearing impaired or elderly, as well as those with learning disabilities or autism, or who are learning English as a second language. Seattle's plan follows the lead of cities like Portland, Oregon and Ann Arbor, Michigan.

As the *Seattle Spokesman-Review* notes, federal and state law already requires establishments to switch on closed captioning when patrons request it.

However, "It's important to shift the onus from having to request closed captions (and) to instead create the expectation that folks have it in advance," Council Member Lisa Herbold, the law's sponsor, said in a statement.

Published by Considerable Staff May 9, 2019

HLAA Fox Valley Chapter Members Enjoy Live Theater with GalaPro!

The technology available to people with hearing loss today is amazing. We all owe it to ourselves to know what's available and to use it. Eleven members of Fox Valley Chapter took advantage of the group discount to attend the Broadway musical,



Come From Away at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center. They participated in the PAC's initial performance with Gala Pro technology in use. It is amazing!

The FCPAC in Appleton Wisconsin is the only PAC outside of New York City to have installed this! This PAC has always gone out of the way to accommodate people with disabilities. In fact, a committee of disabled citizens, that included HLAA members, was formed as an advisory committee before ground was broken for the facility. From day one, they have provided state of the art technology for all people with disabilities.

Gala Pro adds another dimension to the hearing loop. This captioning feature appears on Smart Phones with verbatim script during the performance. Due to the nature of the captions, they are not distracting to others. We were all impressed and hope to start an HLAA theater group within the chapter.

Now, it is up to us...we who need hearing support to be able to enjoy live theater, to take advantage of this wonderful technology and attend the Broadway musicals that come to the Fox Cities.

Take a minute to download the Gala Pro app on your phone. It's easy. Get tickets for an upcoming Broadway musical and enjoy! You'll be glad you did!



Everyone enjoyed the performance and was amazed at the GalaPro technology. The loop works great too!





www.hlaawi.org

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.



Active HLAA Chapters are Meeting in Appleton, Milwaukee & Madison



The Madison HLAA Chapter meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at The Congregational Church, 1609 University Avenue, in Madison. Meetings begin at 6:00 PM. This chapter also holds quarterly outreach meetings at different locations in the Madison area. The chapter has a website: www.hlaamadison.com and an e-mail circulation list. Join the e-mail list and check the website often for updates. Contact: Jack Spear 608—469-5233 or e-mail: madisonchapterhlaa@gmail.com



HLAA Fox Valley Chapter meets for educational programs on the 2nd Monday evening of the month, March—December, at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2600 Phillip Lane, in Appleton. Socials in July and December are held elsewhere. People come from all over the Fox Valley Region to participate. This chapter also has 2 discussion groups that meet at other times: H.O.P.E., meets to 'Hear Other People's Experiences' on the 4th Thursday. The Cochlear Implant Support/Discussion Group meets quarterly on the 3rd Monday; January, April, July & October. E-mail: hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com The chapter has a Facebook page. It also publishes a monthly newsletter/meeting notice 10 times a year that can be received by e-mail or by regular mail. We'd love to add you to our [mailing list](#) by request. Our meetings are accessible with CART (Captioning) and hearing loop technology.



The Metro Milwaukee Chapter meets at the Wauwatosa Library, 7635 W North Ave, Wauwatosa on the 2nd Thursday in March, May, July, September, November and December from 6:00 - 8:00 P.M. See the chapter's website for updated information on programs since information may be subject to change. www.hlaawi.org/metro-milwaukee-hlaa-chapter. This chapter also has a Facebook page. Contacts: "BJ" at BJEHLAAMKE@gmail.com or Marie at cochlearmarie@gmail.com.

Report from Our State Chapter Coordinator.... Two New Chapters in the Works!!

Here they come! The Door County group led by Stan Whiteman has submitted paperwork and the South West area (Platteville) group will submit paperwork shortly to begin the process of becoming HLAA Chapters. Lots of work put in by these folks to get to this point and lots more work coming up. If any of our Chapters can give any help or advice to these startups, it would really help them feel like they belong to the Wisconsin HLAA group. Send me an email and I'll get you in touch.

HLAA State is still working on the "virtual chapter" concept wherein members, due to great driving distances, would hold meetings on line using the "Zoom" video streaming app. Your Coordinator is working with both our State Association and ODHHS to figure out funding. Our great Northern Wisconsin folks and others in remote parts of the state would love to be able to attend meetings without driving 350 miles one way. Currently Zoom is used for the VET chapters set up around the country by National with great success so this idea is no longer experimental. Chapter leaders take note of the on line VET Chapters and the VET free one year membership and please promote this among your members especially at meetings by asking members to spread the word among friends. Every Chapter should have the VET buck slips with the application printed on the back, promote this with enthusiasm as we owe that to our VETS with hearing loss. Contacting VFW posts and American Legions in your area, explaining the program along with dropping off buck slips for them would be great.



Looking forward to the National Convention in Rochester in June as well as our State Conference this Fall. Hope to see many of you at both events. If anyone going to Rochester needs a ride or can offer a ride, please email me and I'll get people in touch with each other.

"At your Service" - Emil Quast. - smokemil@mac.com

Advocating for Accommodations in the Workplace; A Hearing Loss Story by Leona Schaefer



Hearing loss is a disability that requires the person who has it, and others to make accommodations both at home and in the workplace. Accommodations can be as simple as positioning oneself in the direct sight of a speaker, or as complicated as installing technology and equipment in large meeting rooms. The most important thing is to be informed about what accommodations are needed so you can take the steps necessary to put them in place.

As a physical therapist assistant since 1997, who used bilateral hearing aids to hear, I required face-to-face contact with my co-workers and my patients to understand speech. I required a captioned telephone for telephone communication. This was provided for me at my desk for outgoing calls at my request. I avoided answering the office phone because I knew I would not be able to understand the caller and provide the help they were seeking. I depended on my co-workers to answer the office phone for me. And, I let voice mail take a message if I was the only person in the office. Now that I have bilateral cochlear implants (since 2012), I no longer need a captioned telephone. I can use a cell phone, desk phone, or wireless phone to communicate with the nurses, doctors, and clinical staff members in order to perform my job. I answer the office phone when it rings and direct the caller or take a message for my co-worker.

When I moved to the Madison area, I found employment as a physical therapist assistant at a much larger hospital system than my previous job. In the past, I was able to hear well in a small group setting for team meetings. An ideal setting for me to hear and understand the speaker, when using only my bilateral cochlear implants, is a smaller conference room where attendees are seated around a large table and the speaker is within 30 feet of me. However, department meetings at my new job are frequently held in a larger conference room or a pit-style lecture room with a microphone system and room acoustics that make hearing very difficult, because the speaker is placed farther away from the seated area due to the layout of the larger conference room. I needed technology to hear well in this environment. I knew that a hearing loop would help me hear in these larger conference rooms, but it was not available. I knew what I needed, so I began the process of requesting an accommodation to allow me to hear in these large rooms.

The first step I took was to inform my manager of my difficulty hearing in the large meeting rooms. I explained that the best accommodation for my needs would be a hearing loop. It was suggested that I contact the audio-visual staff members at the hospital to investigate what equipment was already present in the rooms. After meeting with an audio-visual representative in one of the large meeting rooms, I determined that the current hearing assistive technology (ear buds with an assistive listening device) was not compatible with my cochlear implants. My manager provided the documents necessary to request the hearing loop, which I completed to the best of my ability. The documents required a statement from my medical provider acknowledging that I had a hearing disability, and how it affects my job, which my audiologist agreed to provide.

The second step was to meet with my manager and a representative from human resources (HR). The HR rep was my helper “behind the scenes”: She completed the research necessary to implement my accommodation request while my manager and I continued our daily tasks for our jobs. Some of the research that the HR rep completed was contacting the audio visual and construction managers to inquire of costs and the installation process, securing funds for the project, and choosing the most effective process that benefits both parties. During this process further questions were raised regarding the cost of hearing loop installation and the possibility that funds may not be available for the entire project. Due to my attendance at HLAA (Hearing Loss Association of America) meetings I knew of local businesses that install hearing loops and shared this information with the HR rep, and encouraged her to obtain additional quotes for installation of a hearing loop and compare that to the original quote. This was successfully completed, a bid was selected, and a date was arranged for installation in not only the original room that I requested, but two additional rooms that are occasionally used by my department.

The third step in this process was to wait. It took four months from when I asked my manager for the accommodation request until the request was approved, then four additional months for date of installation to arrive. I then waited for five additional months until I had the opportunity to use the hearing loop for the first time at an actual team meeting. I am happy to say that I have used the hearing loop three times now and the results are excellent: I am able to hear and understand the speaker in the large lecture pit-style meeting room without difficulty. This accommodation is not only helping me, but it is helping other employees who have a hearing disability and need this accommodation for themselves. The universal hearing loop signs are posted at the front of the room to alert others of the technology available.

I am fortunate to have a kind and compassionate manager and HR rep, as well as an employer with funds available to accommodate my request. Everyone’s experience is different. Here are some suggestions to make your accommodation request as smooth and easy as possible: but it is helping other employees who have a hearing disability and need this accommodation for themselves. The universal hearing loop signs are now posted at the front of the room to alert others of the technology available. *(Continued on next page.)*

I am fortunate to have a kind and compassionate manager and HR rep, as well as an employer with funds available to accommodate my request. Everyone's experience is different. Here are some suggestions to make your accommodation request as smooth and easy as possible:

- Know what you need and educate yourself on how technology can work for you. You may need to educate your employer on what your disability is, what job tasks are difficult at work, and how the accommodation can help you complete the work. Be patient, honest and think of yourself as a teacher, helping them learn about something they are unfamiliar with.
- Investigate local businesses that can provide the accommodation. If you have experience with this business, your employer may be more likely to seek bids.
- Offer suggestions. Many requests receive opposition. Most often it is due to lack of understanding of what is requested. Offer suggestions to help your employer have an open mind about trying new or different things. Perhaps they can see this accommodation already in place at a different location. Sometimes the financial cost is too great for your employer. Offer suggestions on what can be done in the workplace to raise funds, or how the accommodation helps other people, not just one person.
- Every two weeks send a polite email to your manager or HR rep to 'check' on the status of your request. Ask for a progress update if one is available.

Asking for an accommodation at work for a disability is not an easy task. When the research is completed ahead of time and the knowledge is shared kindly and honestly, the process becomes easier. It may take time to complete each step but having patience and working together as professionals to help complete the job tasks is the end result desired by all.

Good luck to others who are advocating for accommodations for hearing loss on the job!



Congratulations to Jerry and Karen Lapidakis on their royal rein as King & Queen of the 2019 Syttende Mai Celebration in Stoughton. This special celebration in is one of the largest Norwegian festivals in the country. These two are 'royal' to HLAA too!

Skoal!!!

In the Future....Brain Controlled Hearing Aids Could Cut Through Crowd Noise!

At a crowded party or a noisy restaurant, most people do something that is remarkable. Out of all the voices surrounding them, their brains pick out the one they want to hear and focus on what that person has to say. People with hearing loss are not so fortunate. Noisy situations are especially difficult for them. Hearing aids and cochlear implants provide minimal help because the technology either amplifies all voices or mashes them together so they are indistinguishable. Some resolution can take place with add on assistive technology, but how nice it would be to remedy this common problem with one device! It would be a rebirth of our social lives!!

Researchers refer to this dilemma as 'the cocktail party problem'. Those of us with hearing loss know exactly what that means. Not too many years ago the concept of solving this problem would have been laughed at. Today, it's being studied. There is hope for possibilities.



Those of you who enjoy science will find an article published by The Scientific American that shares this research study, worth reading. It's too lengthy to publish in our newsletter, but you can read it at the following link: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/brain-controlled-hearing-aids-could-cut-through-crowd-noise/?redirect=1> Enjoy!

NOTE: Research in this area has been motivated by commercial needs in smart speaker development, because Amazon Alexa & Google Home need to hear people from a distance in acoustically adverse settings. It will be challenging to integrate this technology into wearable devices, let alone tiny ones the size of modern hearing aids. But...nothing is impossible!

Due to rising costs, The HLAA Board of Trustees recently voted to increase membership dues by \$10 annually, as of July 1st. Dues can be paid at the current rate until that date. Dues have remained the same since 2008. This amounts to less than 90 cents a year since the last raise. Still one of the best deals around! By joining HLAA you support a movement to make hearing loss an issue of concern.

www.hearingloss.org

Effective July 1, 2019, the new rates for a one-year membership in HLAA are as follows:

Categories	Regular Membership	Online Membership
Individual	\$45	\$35
Couple/Family	\$55	
Professional/Nonprofit	\$80	
Corporate	\$500	
Student		\$25
International (Individual only)	\$55	

HLAA Advocacy in Wisconsin... Very Important!



Mini-Legislative Session June

This year HLAA-Wisconsin is participating in a “mini-session” rather than a large rally. We are not asking members to come to the Capitol in mass, but we do need your help in contacting your legislators to promote our proposals. Three members of the HLAA-WI Board; Jerry Lapidakis, David Seligman and Juliette Sterkens AuD, will present the proposals and respond to questions. The sessions are not mini in the respect that they are huge as our first steps to create awareness and get support for our draft bills.

HLAA Wisconsin, the Wis. Association of the Deaf (WAD), and WisRid (Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf), are collaborating to plan this opportunity to meet with legislators in Madison on June 6th. Three representatives of each organization will present their groups specific legislative initiatives. Legislators and their staffs are being invited to attend. Those who accept the invitation will attend one of three, one-hour sessions to hear our proposals. They will sign into the meeting room so we know who attended and can follow up with the remainder.

HLAA Wisconsin will present two draft bills for consideration. The telecoil bill will require audiologists and hearing aid specialists to inform and demonstrate to purchasers of hearing aids the uses of a telecoil in their hearing aid to allow access to clear sound in public and private venues such as businesses, theaters, churches and offices. The second addresses hearing loops, and will require all construction and renovation of state buildings to include hearing loops in rooms that accommodate 15 or more people. See full explanation of both bills [HERE](#).

Statistics show there are over 500,000 Wisconsin residents who have some degree of hearing loss. The large majority of that number are hard of hearing people who are represented by HLAA. A handful of HLAA members are working for the benefit of all. Please help them by contacting your legislators about these 2 bills we are promoting.

Find out how to contact Wisconsin legislative lawmakers at: <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/About/Contact>

Mayo Clinic Connect—A New Online Support Group for People with Hearing Loss

Mayo Clinic Connect is an online forum with more than fifty groups, each related to a condition or disease. There are discussion groups such topics as aneurisms, mental health, neuropathy, transplants, and many more. Together with the Ida Institute and HLAA, Mayo Clinic Connect recently launched a group dedicated to hearing loss. The Hearing Loss group is a welcoming and safe community where you can share your story, ask questions, and well... connect! Like all Mayo Clinic Connect groups, the Hearing Loss group is moderated by a team which includes volunteers and Mayo Clinic staff. “The experience of hearing loss is so diverse. Overcoming barriers of geography, people can connect online with others like them, build circles of trust and dissolve isolation,” says Colleen Young, community director of Mayo Clinic Connect. HLAA is proud to be part of this initiative with the Mayo Clinic and the Ida Institute. Connecting with others is a powerful mechanism to living well with hearing loss. Getting started is easy. Visit Connect.MayoClinic.org and click Join. Set up an account by entering an email and password and choosing a username. That's it!



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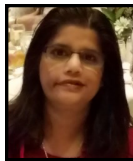
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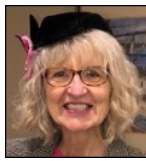
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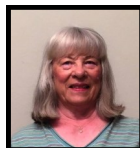


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HLAA at all levels, national, state and local, is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. HLAA is also a 'membership' organization, however, chapters and events are open to anyone interested in learning. We hope you will join our ranks because numbers matter to the decision makers who legislate laws that matter to us. When you join HLAA, you join the national organization. You become a part of a movement to make hearing loss an issue of concern. Your dues provide support to HLAA.

HLAA does not endorse or promote providers or products. Our mission is to educate, share information, provide peer support and advocate for people with hearing loss who choose to remain in the hearing mainstream. Our members are among the nearly 46 million Americans who are hard of hearing. Information about HLAA at: www.hearingloss.org

The members of the HLAA-WI Board are all volunteers who pool their energy and resources to make hearing loss an issue of concern in Wisconsin. The board meets quarterly at different locations in the state. Two board members sit on the Governor's Council for Deaf, Deaf/Blind & Hard of Hearing where they represent hard of hearing people. Others are working on a legislative committee to address the needs of people with partial deafness. A committee is working to explore mental health issues. Another is reaching out to veterans with hearing loss. More people are needed to work in these areas. Alone we can do so little; together we can move mountains! **Please connect with us if you would like to become involved.**

Would YOU like to serve on the HLAA-WI Board?

Please consider filing a special interest/nomination paper with us. Generally there are 1-2 openings on the Board of Trustees of HLAA Wisconsin each year. Terms are for 3 years.

We are always seeking support for committees and projects. We're always looking for your input, and for your ideas.

We are always looking for ways to raise money to support our projects. Obviously, we also appreciate donations.

Everything we do is depending on having people with passion who are willing to give of their time and energy.

Please contact our [Nomination Chairperson](#) if involvement is of interest to you. Let us know what you can do. We promise to get back to you!