



NOTICE!

The April 13th meeting has been cancelled.

Due to the Corona virus pandemic, HLA chapter meetings and sub group meetings will be cancelled until further notice. That includes H.O.P.E. and Cochlear Implant groups. The chapter board will revisit this decision in mid-April to determine our options for May and June.

Our meeting locations are currently closed to outside groups, so that will be a factor in our decision for upcoming months.

You are encouraged to like our Facebook page, and to follow the HLA Wisconsin website for updates. Our chapter does not have a website. Instead, we post information at: www.hlaawi.org under chapters.

We hope to be able to engage the presenters from programs we will be unable to hold due to cancellations in the future.

Please follow the guidelines for safety, stay healthy, and use the time on your hands to do all the things at home that you have been putting off.



Look for the silver lining!

*we're all
 IN THIS
 together*

Links to Information Provided by HLA National Staff 03/28

Communications & Medical Access in the Hospital During Disasters: Temporary Recommendations for Hospitals and Medical Facilities During the COVID-19 Pandemic

FCC Shares Resources About Accessible Televised Emergency Information

Q&A with Dr.. Michael Harvey: What Nelson Mandela and Others Teach Us About Coping with the Coronavirus and Isolation www.hearingloss.org on News & Media Link Newsroom.



**Joss Kendrick
 Featured Guest**

Q & A with Madame Prez:

MP: Tell me about yourself.
JOSS: I'm the American Girl Doll of the Year! My passions are surfing and competitive cheer. I was born partially deaf and am grateful that my hearing aid allows me to live well with hearing loss. HLA and American Girl have teamed up to erase the stigma of hearing loss.



MP: Any plans to visit Wisconsin? **JOSS:** I will be at the May 9 "virtual" Walk4Hearing event in the Badger State.

MP: What is a "virtual" event? **JOSS:** A "virtual" event is conducted on the internet instead of being held in a physical location. So instead of traveling to the Milwaukee lakefront, I will join other members of the Fox Trotters team at a specified time on 5/9 to celebrate HLA and its mission.

MP: Cool! Can you confirm the rumor that Madam Editor, (ME), this year's captain of the Fox Trotters Walk team, is creating a special HLA cheer routine to debut at the virtual walk? **JOSS:** All I can say is that it would indeed be kewl if FV members and friends would take advantage of their captain's skill set as a high school cheerleading coach. Who knew, huh?*



MP: Can things that are "very cool" to an older generation, also be "very kewl" to younger folks? **JOSS:** You betcha! The "virtual" Walk event is an awesome opportunity for multi-generational interaction. Grandparents, children, grandchildren - we are all in this together. The ongoing coronavirus pandemic brings that message home loud and clear. It benefits all of us to learn from each other, try new things and push past stereotypes.

MP: Thank you Joss. **JOSS:** Awesome.



Look for an update in next month's chapter newsletter. In the interim, **don't miss the 4/15 deadline to enroll your children or grandchildren in the 'Walk With Joss' contest.** The winner will receive a Joss American Girl Doll! More Information on Joss Contest at: walk4hearing.org

**Historical Fact: ME was cheer coach at MP's high school in her first year of teaching! How's that for a coincidence?!*

Preschool Teacher's Hearing May Be at Risk...

A Swedish study found that working as a preschool teacher increases the risk of [tinnitus](#), [hearing loss](#), [hyperacusis](#), difficulty perceiving speech and sound-induced auditory fatigue.

The study analyzed women aged 24 to 65 and consisted of 4,718 preschool teachers and 4,122 in a control group.

The study found a 60% increased risk of hearing loss (1.6 risk ratio) and 70% increased risk of tinnitus (1.7 risk ratio). The risk of having difficulty perceiving speech was nearly two-fold (1.9 risk ratio) among preschool teachers. The risk of having hyperacusis and sound-induced auditory fatigue was more than twice as high with risk ratios among preschool teachers of 2.3 and 2.4 respectively compared to the control group.

The study also found that 75% of the preschool teachers reported having to raise their voice due to noise at work, compared to 29% in the control group. Despite this, fewer preschool teachers reported use of hearing protection at work.

The study "Working in preschool increases the risk of hearing-related symptoms: a cohort study among Swedish women" was published in the International Archives of Occupational and Environmental Health. 02-27-2020

Source: International Archives of Occupational and Environmental Health

Broadway show at PAC canceled for now

We had planned to have an HLAA group attend "The Band's Visit", a Broadway Musical at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center on May 9th. The PAC offered us generously discounted tickets, but we had to sell a minimum of 10 tickets to get that pricing. We only had 4 members submit payment, but were trying get more. Now the PAC has postponed all shows through April 12 and will likely be postponing the May show. We have cancelled our group attendance for that show, and will send refunds to those who paid for tickets. Once the PAC shows are rescheduled, we will try again, and will let everyone know the price, show and date once we know. We hope we can get more than 10 people to attend, so we can experience (ie. hear!) Broadway shows like those with normal hearing can (and sometimes even better!)

The PAC offers us THREE ways to hear their Broadway shows: a hearing loop throughout the entire theater, closed captioning for Saturday 2pm performances, and the new GalaPro captioning app for smart phones! Let's show our support and appreciation when we get another chance!

Note: Many of our members expressed interest in the PAC outing, but had conflicts due to graduations and other events on May 9th. Some also hold season tickets and were not eligible to purchase from this block. We will try again. Let us know if you'd like to participate in a regular theater group that could get together for lunch prior to the play.



"Happiness is not the absence of problems, but the ability to deal with them." — Anonymous

Food for Thought: E-mail VS Print & Mail...

Chapter leaders have always been concerned about how they will notify people if and when a meeting or subgroup would have to be cancelled. You know, it's Wisconsin, and it's the weather, right? The weather issue is why the chapter doesn't hold regular meetings in January or February.

Suddenly, we have another reason to let people know about a change in plans. No one expected a virus would be a reason. Yet, here we are due to COVID-19. Obviously, we cannot meet in April. That includes both the Cochlear Implant group and the HOPE Group. May remains to be seen. The difficult question is: **HOW DO WE LET PEOPLE KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING?**

With that question, we encourage all of you to share your e-mail address with us. You may still prefer to receive the newsletter mailed in print in the future, but having your e-mail address gives us a chance to keep you informed. And yes, we understand that some people don't use computers.

This month's newsletter is ONLY being circulated by e-mail.

The procedure for printing, preparing and taking to the Post Office is difficult to do with the current directive to stay home and 'shelter in place'. It involves people working together. So, there will be no print version this month.

We post information on the chapter's Facebook page on a regular basis. It can also be found on the HLAA Wisconsin website: www.hlaawi.org under CHAPTERS. We will do our best to post timely messages in both online locations.

As soon as things settle down, we'll go back to publishing the print version. You can let us know which you prefer. Some have already stated e-mail as a preference, but we know others prefer the print version. One advantage of the online version is live links to other information. And, it's in color!

Please share this copy with others who may not be receiving it online. Stay healthy!

We will see you all soon!



Keep up with chapter information between newsletters. Also check www.hlaawi.org at Chapters.

The Chapter's e-mail address is: hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com

Laughing has not been cancelled!

Singing out loud has not been cancelled!

Sharing hope with others has not been cancelled!

Playing or listening to music has not been cancelled!

Let's Embrace what we have!

Let us know how you're making your time count!



7 Tips to Maintain Hearing Health Care Amid #COVID19

03.24.20

HLAA has partnered with *The Hearing Journal* to create this NEW Patient Handout for People with Hearing Loss: *7 Tips to Maintain Hearing Health Care Amid #COVID19*

https://journals.lww.com/thehearingjournal/Documents/000_HJ0420_Patient%20Handout_COVID%2019_R1.pdf

Hearing Loss in the Time of Coronavirus 03/20/20

Your rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act don't disappear in a time of emergency. Here's important information for people now required to work from home or attend classes online.

The coronavirus pandemic is upending everyone's daily life. Schools have been closed, people are working from home or are taking classes from home. If you are working from home or attending school remotely via online coursework, emergency or no emergency, you still have a right to meetings and online coursework that is accessible. You must be able to communicate effectively with your team, whether at work or school.

In short, your rights under the ADA do not disappear during an emergency. But the Hearing Loss Association of America advises, whether you are at work or school, to reach out first to make sure your access needs are known. Talk to your college disability coordinator or your supervisor at work to ensure access as soon as you can. They cannot know what you need unless you tell them.

There are many resources to help you navigate our upended world in this time of coronavirus. And now we are seeing more information specifically for people with hearing loss. One particularly helpful resource is the [Hearing Tracker](#). They have posted information about how to get captioning online, as well as how to communicate via video conferencing even if you don't need captioning, but do need to make the most of the audio connection. More at: <https://www.hearingloss.org/hearing-loss-time-of-coronavirus/>



Many thanks to Emil Quast, HLAAWI State Chapter Coordinator and N-CHAT Trainer, for presenting the March Program on New Innovations in Hearing Technology. Forty people came to learn. Emil shared information about many apps that work with cell phones.

He told us how BlueTooth differs from hearing loop technology, and why both are important. He offered to work with other organizations and with individuals who need more information. A lot of teaching and learning can be done online. We will give this topic more consideration in future programs. So much to learn...and some really cool stuff! **Thanks Emil!**

The Sponsor Program is Fox Valley Chapter's Main Fundraiser.

Names will be added as donations are received.

NOTE: If your name or business is not listed correctly, please let us know immediately. **If you would like to support the chapter this way, send your check to: HLAA-Fox Valley Treasurer, P.O. Box 25, Menasha WI 54952. hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com**

2020 Chapter Sponsors

Platinum Level (\$200 or More)

Ear, Nose & Throat Surgical Associates (Audiology) - Kristin Borgen, AuD; Beth Gabavics, AuD; Nicole Maxam, AuD

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Jody Jedlika, AuD; Stephanie Long, AuD; Brittany Uitenbroeck, AuD; Candy McGinnis, AuD

Haviland Hearing Aids - Peter J. Zellmer, AuD; Kyle Martell, AuD

Rural Audiology Services, Waupaca - Kari Kramer, AuD

Seeing the Word LLC - Margo Lucas, RPR, CRC, CRI Cart Reporter Douglas Grant MD

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Bronze Level (\$25 - \$49)

Anonymous, Richard Erickson, Kevin Gossens, Dirk & Maureen Fisher, Lorna Hamilton, Tom & Patty Reimer, Katie Weber

We are also grateful to everyone who has made smaller donations to our treasury, & to those who contribute personal resources of time, energy, mileage & more. We are dependent on them to make our chapter successful.

Our Mission: To share information, educate, advocate and provide 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!

You can Still Add Your Name to Our Sponsor List for 2020

We hope we can count on you as a 2020 Sponsor. Sponsors help cover the costs of facility rental, newsletter printing & mailing, convention stipends, and numerous other expenses the chapter incurs. HLAAFV is a 501(c)(3) registered non-profit. Donations are tax deductible, as allowed by law.

Thank you to everyone who supports HLAA Fox Valley Chapter this way .



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

2020 Chapter Calendar

April 13: Meeting Cancelled
May 9: Wisconsin's Virtual Walk4Hearing!
May 11: Today's Technology Made Easy
June 8: Hearing Loss and Relationships
June 18-21: HLAA National Convention in New Orleans
July 13: Summer Social at Appleton Yacht Club
August 10: Challenges of Hospitalization with Hearing Loss
September 14: Canine Companions for Independence
October 12: Balance, Vertigo & Other Issues
November 9: Stigma, Stress, Denial, Fatigue; H.L. Craziest
December 14: Holiday Social at Appleton Yacht Club

Details on programs and presenters will be on the front page of each month's newsletter/meeting notice.

Let us know if you can help plan either of the two socials this year; July & December. Themes, entertainment, food ideas, etc. We know you are creative, and we really need your help, and your ideas. Appleton Yacht Club is already reserved.

2019 Chapter Leadership Board

Officers:

President: *Christine Klessig bommaklessig@gmail.com

Vice President: *Dale Voskuil voskuild@gmail.com

Secretary: VACANT (Seeking Support & Phone Contact)

Treasurer: *Michelle Frisbie michellefrisbie@gmail.com

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

Member at Large & Newsletter Editor: *Julie Olson
julieo@athenet.net

Member at Large: *Jane Young YBLUEJAY@aol.com

Phone Contact/Social: Vacant...**Need Help Here!!**

H.O.P.E. Chair: Nancy Gilbertson nancy.gilbertson2@gmail.com

Chapter e-mail: 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.

H.O.P.E. Discussion/Support Group is cancelled until further notice. H.O.P.E., a subgroup of HLAA Fox Valley Chapter, provides the opportunity for you to Hearing Other People's Experiences and share your own. H.O.P.E. is open to all. **Please be sure Nancy Gilbertson has your contact information so she can let you know if plans change.**



Contact Nancy at: nancy.gilbertson2@gmail.com
920-832-9004

Cochlear Implant Support/Discussion Group April 20th Meeting Cancelled

Next Meeting: Monday, July 20th at 6:00 PM

We meet 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 Contact Rhonda if you'd like to be placed on the CI group's email list.

Ode to the Walk4Hearing

It's a virtual walk, without much talk
It's on the ninth of May
The time is now, we'll show you how
To join us on that day.

Get on the team, it's pretty keen
We cut right to the chase
So please sign up; you're needed, yup
We'll fox trot right in place!

Let's go for big, we'll dance a jig
With numbers in the zillions
We'll shout Hooray! And help HLAA
Raise pennies by the millions.

This Walk's for kids and grown ups too
It's multi generational.

You can walk from your car or wherever you are
No need to be congregational.

The bucks we raise will bring us praise
The world will know we care
That hearing loss is NOT our boss
And we are everywhere.

The bigger we grow, the more we'll show
That hearing loss doesn't defeat us.
So don't be mean; get on the team
Let's let the whole state meet us!

JuRu.MeC

