



HLAA Fox Valley Chapter News

Volume 35 Issue 4

June 2020

June 8th Chapter Meeting by ZOOM Online!

6:30PM. Sign up & Watch for e-mail link

TOPIC: Hearing Loss & Relationships

PRESENTED by : People Who Know Us & Us

Living well with hearing loss is a two way street. We all know that. But do we really know how our hearing loss modifies the relationships we have with others?

This is an opportunity to hear from people who live with hearing loss, but who don't have it; our children, our friends, our spouses, and others who are part of our lives. Invite a family member or friend to sit with you for this meeting.

As with most things related to hearing loss, it helps to validate our feelings when experiences are shared. We learn how much we have in common. We find out we are not alone, and that's a good thing! Enough said; come talk with us. Invite 'those others' to tag along!

It's tough on all of us to not be able to convene in our usual way, but we accept the reality that video conferencing is our only option now if we want to stay connected.

Here is how to connect & participate:

On or before **JUNE 7th**, let Julie Olson know you want to participate. julieo@athenet.net She will send you an e-mail message a link that will allow you to join the ZOOM meeting at 6:30 PM, on June 8th. Follow the instructions via the link and enter the meeting. NOTE: You may enter as early as 6:15, which will give you and the hosts, your chapter board members, time to say hello and get things started.

We are going to try to have online CART captioning at the June meeting. One more thing we have to learn. AND...we sure would love to have a tech guru step forward to help us.

Any help out there?



Thursday, June 18 and Friday, June 19, 2020

A Unique Two-Day Virtual Event, **FREE** for All!

Presented by



This event is captioned.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Research Symposium: Tinnitus
- Hearing Loss Webinars
- Q&A's with Hearing Loss Experts
- Virtual Technology Expo

For more information or to register:

<https://www.hearingloss.org/program-events/convention/>

<https://www.hearingloss.org/program-events/convention/>

While the 2020 national HLAA convention was cancelled, the opportunity to learn is still on the table. This is your chance to participate in convention level programs online. The opportunity is open to everyone at no cost.

Don't miss it! Go to the HLAA website, via the link above to find out what programs will be offered; day and time.

We regret the convention, which was to be held in New Orleans had to be cancelled, but truly appreciate the extra effort made by national HLAA staff, and the committed presenters to give us this virtual opportunity.

Tune in and let us know what you think afterwards!

Advance Registration is Required. Link is above.

National HLAA is holding biweekly Virtual Meetings by ZOOM to keep the hearing loss community informed and engaged. The next meeting is on Saturday, June 6th at 1 PM Central Daylight Time. The topic: **Advocacy & Impact: Effective Communication in Healthcare Settings**

Register in advance to participate.

<https://zoom.us/j/544612345>
<https://zoom.us/j/544612345>

Our Chapter's May Online Meeting....

Fifteen people showed up to communicate virtually at our first ZOOM Video Conference 'meeting'. It worked quite well, and gave us hope that we can continue to connect this way until the way is clear for us to all meet in person!

The 'meeting room' opened at 6:30. By 6:45 we were able to welcome participants and start discussion. There was no formal presentation. It was mainly an opportunity to experiment with the format, and help participants learn how to use it. We are grateful to Emil Quast, of the Madison HLAA Chapter, for helping us hold the meeting.

We hope more people will join us on June 8th.

Many people are already participating in one way video conferencing by watching their worship services online.

Our meetings are similar, but now you have the opportunity to be seen and heard as an active participant. You can also see others who are there too. (So don't show up in your pajamas!)

On the other hand, If you want to enjoy snacks or imbibe in a liquid refreshment during the meeting, treat yourself! Enjoy!

Let Julie know you will participate at: julieo@athenet.net Put **'June HLAA Meeting'** In the subject header. You will receive an e-mail in advance of the meeting. It will have a registration link that will allow you to sign in to the meeting. If you're new to ZOOM, try the link 10-15 minutes earlier than the meeting time, and follow any instructions you are given. It's simple.

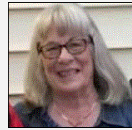


**Snapshot of the chapter's May ZOOM Meeting
Getting Organized.**

A few are not there yet!

WE CAN DO THIS!!

Let's get together soon even if it's not in person!



Editor's Edifications... by Julie Olson, Newsletter Editor

Years ago, when I was on the national board of the organization we now call HLAA, we could only dream about the kinds of communication opportunities we have today! We kept in touch by regular mail shared among board members who hailed from all over the United States! It took forever to get things done! No personal computers then. The phone didn't work well because we all had hearing loss.



Three plus decades later we have personal computers, e-mail, speech to text apps on Smartphones, live captioning at meetings, and now another way to stay connected called virtual teleconferencing, which means we can see and talk with each other over the internet. All I can say is WOW! Now we have a pandemic we never dreamed of, but people are able to stay connected visually and verbally over distances. Schools and businesses would be lost without this capability. Another WOW!

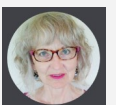
We know some of our members are hesitant to use computers. Many among us who did not grow up with computers, are uncomfortable using them although we have them.

We don't want to overwhelm you with ZOOM, or other means of virtual communication. But, we know this is the only way we can get together now. So we encourage you to try it.

FYI: Early issues with security that allowed outsiders to interrupt a meeting negatively, are not an issue with private meetings. This is why you are asked to register in advance. HLAA wants to stay in touch with you. We've shared several opportunities for participation in this newsletter; some from the chapter and others from our national HLAA organization.

A few helpful hints: When in a ZOOM meeting, explore the 'options' by moving your cursor around the perimeter of the screen. You can choose to see all participants, or focus only on the speaker. You can 'chat' via typed messages, to everyone or to a specific person in 'the room'. Your exploration will not disturb others. If you're in a ZOOM meeting you find doesn't interest you, you can leave the meeting without interruption.

A NOTE from 'Madam Prez': You may wonder why I am not hosting our ZOOM meetings. Imagine my dismay to discover that the privacy afforded by my rural residence comes with a downside : weak internet bandwidth that garbles my audio. I have attempted to fix this, but no luck so far. So, I've appointed our newsletter editor, Julie Olson, to serve as host at this time.



Thank you Julie for helping us out.

An Interview with Madame Prez...



Welcome to the second edition of a special column featuring a favorite hearing loop experience of one of our members. There are over 750 hearing loop installations right here in the Badger State. You can find them listed alphabetically by location at hlaawi.org/resources

June's featured hearing loop experience comes from U.S. Army Veteran Russ Brodtke, a member of HLAA Fox Valley Chapter.

Madam Prez: Please introduce yourself and share how hearing loops help you.

Russ: Hello, I'm Russ Brodtke from Appleton. My hearing aids are from the Veterans Administration (VA). They have built in telecoil switches that connect me to hearing loops. I am a founding member of the National Virtual HLAA Veterans chapter. *

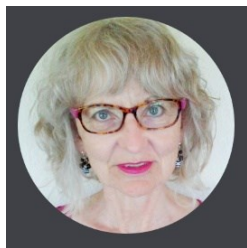


WHERE: I look for the international hearing loop symbol at all of the church funerals/memorial services where VFW Post 2778 provides an honor guard for deceased veterans. It has been my privilege to be a member of the honor guard corps.

WHAT: I have learned that many houses of worship in the Fox Cities area have installed hearing loops. In fact, church hearing loops compose the largest category of looped sites in Wisconsin. When I spot the hearing loop symbol, I use it as an opportunity to educate fellow veterans. If my honor guard companions wear hearing aids, I inquire if their aids have telecoils and if they do, to turn them on. It is surprising how many don't know about it.

WHY: Effective communication is crucial to living well. Hearing loop technology improves clarity of speech dramatically AND eliminates background noise. Hearing issues are the most common service-connected disability among American veterans. HLAA has helped me to do something about it.

Madame Prez: Thank you Russ for sharing your story. Everyone has a story to tell - because everyone's hearing loss journey is unique. We benefit from sharing our stories, and know how much it helps to learn we are NOT alone with our hearing loss.



To You: Do you have a favorite telecoil and hearing loop experience. Let's hear about it. Photos welcome!

Contact me at bommaklessig@gmail.com with your story.

Christine Klessig, Chapter President

* PS: Connect with the HLAA Virtual Veterans Chapter at this link:
<https://www.hearingloss.org/hearing-help/communities/veterans/>

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
Fox Valley Hearing Center - Melissa Dintelman AuD;
Jody Jedlika, AuD; Stephanie Long, AuD; Brittany Uitenbroeck, AuD; Candy McGinnis, AuD
Haviland Hearing Aids - Peter J. Zellmer, AuD; Kyle Martell, AuD
Helen Hardt Family Fund/Fox Cities Community Foundation
Rural Audiology Services, Waupaca
Seeing the Word LLC - Margo Lucas, RPR, CRC, CRI Cart Reporter
Judy & Larry Benish
Douglas Grant MD
Jim Machalk
Tom & Linda O'Connor
Howard & Charlene Porter
Raymond Smith

Gold Level (\$100 - \$199)

Ascension Audiology - Debra Engebos, AuD, Susan Iwanski, AuD, Lisa Esser AuD.
O.C. & Pat Boldt, Ival & Dorothy Grotegut, Charles & Judy Hastert, Christine Klessig, Mike & Sue Landreman, Jay & Babbette Robitshek, Carol Smokovich, Barb & Russ Soderberg, Jan & Diane Vennendaal, Dale & Rene Voskuil, Grace & Bill Zurovitch

Silver Level (\$50 - \$99)

Jim & Rhonda Bartelt, Russell Brodtke, Sue Brown, Jo Crabb, Michelle Frisbie, Mary Ginke, Joyce Hanneman, Betsy & Charles Hansen, James Hemmen, Ione Muehlenbein (in memory of Paul), Julie & John Olson, Sharon Salm, LeRoy Sauer, Stevie Schmidt, Karen & Tom Schuppe, Phyllis & Lyle Sconzert, Jerome & Phyllis Van Handel, Mike & Lois Vande Loo, Harriet & Paul Zuicker,

Bronze Level (\$25 - \$49)

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

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

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

Sponsors help cover the costs of facility rental, newsletter printing & mailing, convention stipends, and numerous other expenses the chapter incurs. HLAADFV is a 501(c)(3) registered non-profit.

Donations are tax deductible, as allowed by law.

Thank you to everyone who supports us this way.

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

June 8: Hearing Loss and Relationships Discussion on ZOOM

June 25: H.O.P.E. Group Meets TENTATIVE

July 18 & 19: Virtual HLAA National Convention (see page 1)

July 13: Summer Social CANCELLED

July 20: Cochlear Implant Group TENTATIVE

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.

We regret that our regular meetings are tentative at this time. We know you understand.

Stay Safe & Healthy Everyone!!!!

2019 Chapter Leadership Board

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

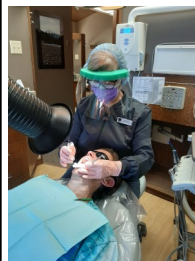
Support Crew: Dave Gilbertson, Bob Opsteen,
Jerry Van Handel, Paul & Harriet Zuicker

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.**

Salute to Rhonda! A Frontline Heroine!!

Our chapter's own Rhonda Clancey is our heroine. Rhonda retired from her job as a dental hygienist earlier this year. She was called back to work this month. Many routine medical appointments were cancelled or postponed due to the pandemic. However, life goes on and so do toothaches! She agreed to return to work on a part time basis after receiving special procedural instructions and plenty of personal protection equipment. Dental offices have had to install special equipment to protect personnel and patients. You are special Rhonda!!



Cochlear Implant Group Update...

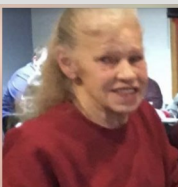
The CI Group's next meeting is supposed to be on July 20. We do not know if it will be possible to hold the meeting. The July newsletter will include an update. Meanwhile, to connect, contact Rhonda: rclancey@hotmail.com

Dear Friends,

I am sharing with you sad news about the recent death of Sandie Weist. Those of you who attend H.O.P.E. meetings knew Sandie. She did not have hearing loss, however, Sandie regularly attended H.O.P.E. meetings supporting her best friend, Linda Suprise.



When Sandie introduced herself at the beginning of meetings, she would always tell how she enjoyed coming to H.O.P.E because of the friendly and caring people, and appreciated all she learned about hearing loss. The H.O.P.E. group benefited greatly from Sandie's presence. She was so real, very caring, and sincere; loved her laugh.



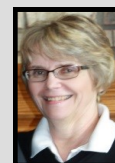
Chapter member Harriet Zuiker's words are so fitting of Sandie. "She was so kind and always made a point to speak with me before leaving the meeting. I would leave the meeting with such a warm impression of her. It is so wonderful the way she reached out to people." Sandie will be missed. We extend our deepest sympathy to Linda in the loss of her best friend, and to Sandie's family.

At this writing, it is not known if H.O.P.E. will meet on June 25th. I shall let you know if anything develops.

Hope....We all share the hope for better days. It is hoped you and your family are healthy and stay well during these current times.

Nancy Gilbertson,

H.O.P.E. Group Chair nancygilbertson2@gmail.com



Helpful Hints and Tutorials on ZOOM Technology

Zoom concerns have been addressed and procedures will be modified as Zoom continues to update their software. They had a security issue with open meetings. Closed meetings are not a problem. When you register for a closed meeting, a unique link is sent to you for a password protected session. This is why we have asked you to let us know you'll join us in advance. (See page 1).

Use a computer. If possible, attend the meeting on a computer rather than via a smart phone or iPad. This will give you the best layout to participate and explore other meeting features.

- [How to Install Zoom on MAC](#)
- [How to Install Zoom on PC](#)
- [How to See Closed Captions in ZOOM*](#)

Technology makes lives with hearing loss more bearable. It makes sense to learn to use it! NOTE: *Captions may be available. Zoom is working on this. Stay tuned.

Anyone can initiate a 40 minute ZOOM meeting for no fee at www.zoom.com. You need to enter e-mail addresses for people you want to zoom with. That will send them an invite with a link that's good for the next 40 minutes. Be sure to let people know in advance, to be ready to receive your e-mail with the link at a specific time. You'll be surprised how fast 40 minutes goes! The good news is that you can immediately re invite and meet for another 40 minutes. If you wish. The paid version has no time limit.

We're all learning to use technology that few of us dreamed would ever exist. Keep learning!



Brief Report on Wisconsin's 2020 Walk4Hearing

The annual Milwaukee Walk4Hearing was held virtually this year due to COVID19. The May 9th event raised just over \$17,000.

Our Fox Valley Fox Trotter's Team raised \$2045, which was enough to come in 3rd high of all 27 teams registered to walk.

Funds raised were less than the walk usually generates, but the people in charge feel it was successful. It was fun to see participants in costumes and team shirts on ZOOM cheering for HLAA.

Thanks to everyone who signed up as team members, and also to those who donated to those 'virtual walkers'!

Newsletter Update...

Until further notice, our newsletter will only be circulated by e-mail. Our volunteers cannot process the printed version for mailing while 'staying safe at home'.



We regret that a few on our regular mailing list will not receive it. However, we are pleased that we have been able to double the size of our e-mail list. Once this crisis is over, or at least settles down, we will return to print and mail for those who prefer to receive it that way. It will help us to know your preference once things settle down. The July issue will likely be online again.

Please share our e-mail version with others. If you wish, you can print and share it too. Thank you! Let's stay connected!

NOTE: We post our newsletters on Facebook and also at www.HLAAWI.org, our state website. Go to 'chapters' to find it.

We also post a variety of information on Facebook. Check it out and "like" HLAA Fox Valley Chapter's FB page.

Hearing Loss in the Time of Coronavirus

(From HLAA National)

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.

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 won't know what you need unless you tell them.**

There are many resources to help you navigate our upended world in this time of coronavirus. We are seeing more information specifically for people with hearing loss. One particularly helpful resource is the [Hearing Tracker](https://www.hearingloss.org/hearing-loss-time-of-coronavirus/). 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/>

For those of you who are 'Techies'. Please know that we are not locked in to ZOOM. We are also trying Google Meet as a video conferencing option. The Google program includes optional captions. We may try Google Meet for our next online meeting. We could sure use someone with experience in this area. If that's you; please connect with us! This is all new to us. We're learning! Stay tuned!

American Girl Doll Donated by HLAAFVC

The board of HLAA Fox Valley Chapter voted to use some funds raised through the 2020 Walk4Hearing to donate the new American Girl Doll named Joss Kendrick, to *Hear in the Fox Cities, Inc.* (HITFC). We've asked the organization to use this gift as a raffle item in their next fund raising event.

Colleen Van hoy, a past president of HLAA Fox Valley Chapter, is the co-founder and current president of HITFC. She graciously accepted the donation from the chapter.

Here is a thank you note received from Colleen and HITFC.

Thank you so much HLAA Fox Valley Chapter, for your donation of the Joss Kendrick, American Girl Doll with hearing aids!

Hear in the Fox Cities, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that funds hearing aids for kids under the age of 21 when their families cannot afford them. Since its inception in 2017, HITFC has helped 14 children by purchasing the hearing aids they need!

Your gift of this doll will be used for our next fundraiser, it will be raffled off and some lucky winner will get to take her home.

When I was growing up with hearing aids, a lot of kids thought my hearing aids were really cool! I would show kids how I put them on and take them off. Sometimes there would be a kid who wanted to try them on! Sometimes it's nice to share that with friends until one of them pushes you in the swimming pool while you have your hearing aids on. That happened to me once and I was terrified to tell my mom and dad why both of my hearing aids were not working!

During those years, I loved playing with dolls! I had so many dolls! I had freckles, so I loved the dolls with freckles but they only had like 3 freckles on each cheek. Well I had a lot more than 3 freckles on my cheeks! LOL. My other cheeks though, I can say I have no freckles on them... because that's where the sun don't shine!

Today many families with young girls are buying dolls that look like their child. The girls dress them up in clothes that are just like the clothes they wear. One time I had a doll with a red bandana on her head. And sure enough I was often seen wearing a red bandana on my head too. Thought I was the coolest kid in town. How cute is that? I wonder if I would still look cute in a red bandana on my head?

I am sure that whomever wins the Joss doll at our fundraiser, Joss will get lots of love and attention. It will help give a little girl the confidence that she might need, when she learns that there is a doll just like her!

So thank you so much for your donation and for helping make some other girl feel special too! It means a lot!

Colleen Van Rooy, President and Co-Founder
Hear in the Fox Cities, Inc.



Julie Olson (left) and Rhonda Clancey (right), share a special moment as they presented the Joss Kendrick American Girl Doll to Colleen Van Rooy.

Joss Kendrick's American Girl Story...

For the vast majority of "Girl of the Year" characters, American Girl has partnered with a charitable organization. American Girl researched hearing loss organizations and landed on Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) "as one of the nation's leading organizations representing consumers with hearing loss and also one of the few that addresses all types of hearing loss in children," says Julie Parks, American Girl spokesperson. "They also afforded many opportunities for us to help them promote education, awareness, and advocacy, as well as sponsor events like Walk4Hearing".

Joss comes with a variety of accessories, including hearing aids. The books make the point that hearing loss doesn't limit Joss. She's not afraid to put herself out there, as she involves herself in surfing and also in competitive cheerleading.

The partnership includes a \$25,000 corporate donation to HLAA. American Girl is also providing a Joss doll and book for each Walk4Hearing event being held in 2020 as part of the organization's prize giveaways. In cities hosting a walk and where there's an American Girl retail store, the company will also help cross-promote the event. Additionally, donations will be collected from customers online and at retail stores throughout 2020.

Tidbit of Interest: American Girl Dolls were first created by Pleasant Company in Middleton Wisconsin. Pleasant Co. is now a subsidiary of Mattel Company.