



## April Chapter Meeting & Presentation

Monday, April 12, 2021

Via Zoom Videoconferencing

Starts at 6:30 PM

**Presenter:** Dr. Brittany Uitenbroek AuD

**Program:** *Today's Hearing Technology Made Easy*

Technology has improved significantly over the last few years. Even today's basic hearing aids offer far more benefit than the best devices of previous generations. Newer features are also becoming available across all levels of technology. "Today's Technology Made Easy" will go over the real-world benefits of the latest hearing aid technology including noise reduction, Bluetooth compatibility, phone apps, rechargeable batteries, t-coil options, and more!

Dr. Uitenbroek is a local audiologist at Fox Valley Hearing Center in Appleton. She works with adults and children of all ages. We are grateful to her and her colleagues for their support of our chapter.

**New to hearing aids?** You don't want to miss this presentation. To get the most from hearing instruments in today's world, you need to know what they can do. **Seasoned hearing aid user?** You may be surprised at what is new and what is coming. Join us!

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE ON ZOOM:

1. Let us know, in advance, that you want to join us.  
Email us at: [hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com) so we can send you the 'registration' link.
2. When you register you will receive a link to enter the meeting. Use that link at 6:15 PM the night of the meeting to enter the meeting room.
3. If you are asked to sign up for Zoom, do it.  
Follow the prompts. If you've already done this you won't have to do it again.
4. Join with audio and also with video.
5. The host will let you into the meeting room.
6. ENJOY THE PRESENTATION !
7. Question and talk time will follow the meeting.

Living WELL with Hearing Loss: A Lifelong Learning Commitment.  
Enjoy Learning with US! Help US Teach Others How.



### HLAA Webinar...

HLAA has received permission from the FDA to hold an externally-led [Patient Focused Drug Development Meeting](#) on May 25. We will hold a webinar on April 8 with more information on the meeting. All are welcome to attend. This session will be free and open to all. Your access to the live meeting on May 25 between 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (US Eastern Time) will be on the HLAA website: [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)

It is exciting that HLAA can lead the charge here with the FDA who will attend and listen to what we have to say. We hope that patient engagement through a PFDD will go a long way in shaping future hearing loss treatments and creating a deeper understanding of the impact that hearing loss has on people's quality of life, their livelihood, and financial well being.

YOU are invited to participate in this exercise. Tune in to the April 8th webinar. You will find information on that, with the link to the webinar at [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org). Sign up there.

Sign up for the free HLAA E-News at the link below. This publication, circulated monthly, contains a wide variety of information. HLAA's mission to share information, to educate, to advocate and to provide peer support rocks!!  
<https://www.hearingloss.org/news-media/e-news/>

Some Information included in the current issue:

- More explanation about the PFDD mentioned above
- Helping Kids Explain Hearing Loss
- Preventing Hearing Loss Caused by Headphones
- Info about the virtual national HLAA convention

## Hearing & Learning in a Virtual World

By Michelle Frisbie, HLAAFV Chapter Treasurer



A positive outcome of the Covid-19 pandemic, is learning new things via the virtual world of videoconferencing. I have participated in numerous Zoom virtual meetings over the past year, during which I was able to hear even better than I would've in person, the latter would have required masks and social distancing. I've met new people from California, New York, Oklahoma, Florida, etc. that I wouldn't have met otherwise. Some of the things I learned during virtual HLA National and chapter meetings across the country are:

- I'm not alone. Everyone else in the world is struggling with this "new normal", but we can refuse to let this new normal make us feel isolated and alone. It's great to interact with others with hearing loss in a safe, unmasked environment, where we help each other cope, and even thrive. It's an interesting, and in some ways, a better way to communicate than in person now.
- Using mini-mic and neckloop technology (with t-coil on cochlear implants and hearing aids) allows for an amazing listening experience. It takes time to experiment, but everyone involved in these interactions has been kind and helpful.
- That many efforts are underway to Loop America, improve captioning in theaters, enhance listening to music for those with hearing loss, and participate in genetic hearing loss studies.
- That OTC (Over The Counter) hearing aids are coming, but are not yet approved by the FDA, which is dragging it's feet on issuing definitions, frustrating manufacturers and consumers. We all need to learn more about this new emerging trend, and ways we can help ensure that the proper technology is included (e.g. telecoils). Also that the aids are sold "unlocked", so they can be programmed by audiologists and hearing instrument specialists of our choosing. I'm grateful for the support from hearing healthcare professionals who have helped me over the years, and want to ensure that any new programmable devices can be programmed/adjusted by them.
- That HEAR Wisconsin is "hitting the road" starting this summer with a new Mobile Audiology Clinic. Very fascinating! They also help people apply for TEPP vouchers, which are discounts for purchasing communication equipment, including cell phones and ipads. Check out their website at: <https://hearwi.org/>

Not only is our chapter using videoconferencing, there are HLA chapters from all over the United States hosting virtual meetings with a variety of programs/presenters. Many are open meetings. To see what is available, check out the calendar being maintained by HLA chapter leaders at:

<http://new.hearinglosscentralma.org/HLAAVirtualEvents.html>

For HLA National events, please visit their calendar at: <https://www.hearingloss.org/programs-events/calendar/>

## Cochlear Implants: Another Chance to Learn...

### You are invited to an ACI Alliance Virtual Consumer and Parent Workshop

American Cochlear Implant Alliance (ACI Alliance) is [hosting a half day virtual workshop](#) and exhibit area on May 1, 2021. The workshop for parents, adult consumers and family members who have, or are exploring, cochlear implants. The workshop features internationally recognized cochlear implant scientists and clinicians who will share and engage on up-to-date research and clinical experience in an accessible manner via presentation, discussion, and question and answer sessions.

#### An example of what the workshop will cover includes:

- What benefits can I expect from a cochlear implant?
- What advancements have been made in the design of cochlear implants and how has this helped users?
- How do cochlear implants work with hearing aids and other technologies?
- How do existing cochlear implant users benefit from advances in the technology?
- Should I wait to receive a cochlear implant until I receive less benefit from hearing aids?
- What types of (re)habilitative activities and support should be pursued after cochlear implant surgery to maximize benefits and outcomes?

Registration is \$15.

Visit [www.acialliance.org/event/CI2021consumerworkshop](http://www.acialliance.org/event/CI2021consumerworkshop) for details and registration information.



The [Walk4Hearing](#) is the only nationwide event bringing attention to hearing loss and promoting the importance of hearing health. Participating in the Walk4Hearing means

joining thousands of people across the country who understand what it's like to live with hearing loss. It's about sharing our experiences, learning from each other, and taking a big step toward better hearing health.

The Wisconsin Walk, which is known as the Milwaukee Walk4Hearing, will take place virtually on Sunday, June 13th at 9 AM Central time. Wisconsin folks will join people from Tennessee and Michigan in a virtual event.

Rhonda Clancey, HLAAFVC board member, is our chapter's team captain this year. She invites you to join the **Fox Valley Fox Trotter's Team**. Please consider participating, or offering your support to team mates. **Register at:** [walk4hearing.org](http://walk4hearing.org) Milwaukee Walk, Fox Valley Chapter Team. Donations can be made online there too.

We hope that virtual walk events will return to in person events next year. We're keeping our fox tails and ears in safe storage for 2022. Meanwhile, this is a great way to support HLA at all levels.

## Become a Chapter 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©(3) registered non profit. Donations are tax deductible, as allowed by law. Those who donated late in 2020 are on the 2021 list, but were credited in our books for 2020. **Thank you to everyone who supports HLAA Fox Valley Chapter this way .**



## March Chapter Meeting Summary...

**"Identity Theft: Protect and Prevent"** was the timely topic presented by Jeff Kersten at the March 8 Fox Valley ZOOM chapter meeting. There were 23 folks in attendance to hear from this very knowledgeable speaker from the Bureau of Consumer Protection.

The #1 type of identity theft in 2020 involved stealing of government benefits. The scammers collect and collate personal information about individuals in order to file false Medicare claims and misappropriate benefits like Social Security and Medicaid checks. A multi million dollar dark web industry nabs a new victim every two seconds!

Jeff set forth strategies on how to protect yourself from both low tech and high tech identity theft attempts. He also provided several excellent brochures via email to our chapter President Julie Olson. Links to download those brochures have now been sent directly to all ZOOM participants. They are also listed below for those folks unable to attend the 3/8 meeting.

The big protection "take away" from Jeff's presentation was to treat your personal information (like your social security card, your drivers license, and your passport) the same way you do cash. Keep these items in a safe and secure place at all times.

Thank you to Jeff for educating us on how to avoid becoming identity theft victims.

You can access a large number of brochures and materials on ID theft and scams at this link: [DATCP Home Consumer Protection Fact Sheets \(wi.gov\)](https://www.datcp.gov/consumer-protection/fact-sheets) **It's definitely worth checking out!**



Save the Dates: June 24—26 More information at [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org) There is no charge to attend.

## The Sponsor Program is Fox Valley Chapter's

**Main Fundraiser.** Names will be added as donations are received. 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](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com)

## 2021 Chapter Sponsors

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

#### **Audiology & Hearing Center at ENT Surgical Associates**

Kristin Borgen AuD, Beth Gabavics AuD,  
Nicole Maxam AuD

#### **Ascension Audiology** - Debra Engebos AuD, Lisa Esser AuD, Susan Iwanski, AuD

#### **Fox Valley Hearing Center** - Melissa Dintelman AuD; Jody Jedlicka, AuD; Stephanie Long, AuD; Brittany Uitenbroek, AuD; Candy McGinnis, AuD

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

#### **Rural Audiology Services, Inc. (Waupaca)**

Becky L. Franz Audiologist, Cari J. Kramer Audiologist

#### **Jim Machalk - Tom & Linda O'Connor**

#### **Jay & Babette Robitshek**

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

Anonymous, Pat Boldt, Charles & Judy Hastert, Jim Hemmen,  
Christine Klessig, Mike & Sue Landreman, Howard Porter, Julie  
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### Silver Level (\$50 - \$99)

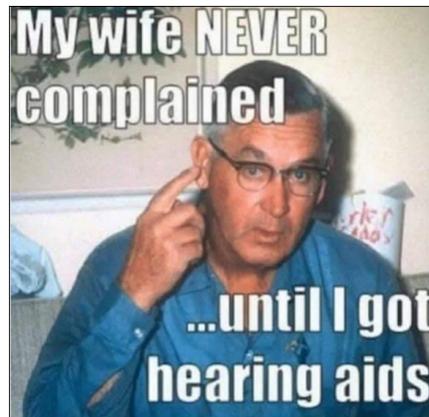
Anonymous, Jim & Rhonda Bartelt, Laurin Boushley, Suzanne  
Brown, Jo Kintopf Crabb, Michelle Frisbie, Liz & Mary Ginke,  
Kevin Gossens, Charles & Judy Hastert, Karen Kasten,  
Barb Merry, Julie & John Olson, Patty & Tom Reimer, Jerome &  
Phyllis Van Handel, Paul & Harriet Zuiker

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

Lorna Hamilton, Don Harteau, Fred Lilly, Robert Opsteen,  
Kenneth & Mary Ann Walter, Katie Weber, Kathleen Wiers

**We are grateful to everyone who has made smaller donations to our treasury, & to those who contribute personal resources of time, energy, mileage & more. You all help make our chapter successful.**

**Meetings are open to the public, and are organized and run by volunteers. Like most small organizations, we need more volunteers!**



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

## 2021 Chapter Calendar

**April 12:** "Today's Hearing Tech Made easy" 6:30 PM

**April 22:** HOPE Group Meets 1:00 PM

**May 10:** Enjoying Music with Hearing Loss 6:30 PM

**May 18:** Cochlear Implant Group Meets 6 PM

**June - December:** To be Determined

NOTE: Programs for the remainder of 2021 are still in the planning stage. Information will be in the newsletters.

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

## 2021 Chapter Leadership Board

### Officers:

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

**Vice President:** Dale Voskuil\* [voskuild@gmail.com](mailto:voskuild@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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

**Social:** Christine Klessig, Grace Zurovitch, Chris Moylan

**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 Board of Trustees.

We are still looking for telephone support. Please let us know if you might be the person who could do that for us

*"The CI support group members helped me feel confident with my decision to get a Cochlear Implant. They shared their experiences with Wisconsin hospitals, surgeons and choice of devices. This discussion group has been a big help to me." Dr. Rosemary Smith, Participant*

*Editors Note: Both the CI group and the H.O.P.E. group add a special element to our chapter. We are pleased they are part of FVC, and look forward to them both continuing.*

## H.O.P.E Group: Thursday, April 22nd



H.O.P.E. meetings are about peer-support. SHHH/HLAA founder Rocky Stone quoted, "Hard of hearing people can help one another, can be helped, and can participate successfully in society. Self-esteem and confidence rise through knowledge and shared experiences."

Everyone of us living with hearing loss has something to share to help others with hearing loss and something to learn. Please consider joining in on Thursday, April 22, at 1:00 pm. All it takes is a click on this link. <https://meet.google.com/dkv-dhfz-ihh>

H.O.P.E.'s first meeting was held in August of 2015. After six years, Dave and I are stepping down as facilitators of H.O.P.E. to spend more time with family and friends. We are very thankful for the friendship and memories with those in the H.O.P.E. group. May our paths cross again.

Fondly,

*Nancy Gilbertson*, H.O.P.E. Moderator (2015-present)

**Board Note:** We're shocked, but want to thank Nancy & Dave for all they have done for FVC. We HOPE to see you now and then at chapter meetings. You will be missed. We wish you the best. Safe Travels! H.O.P.E. will go on.



## Cochlear Implant Group will meet on May 18th...

We had another educational cochlear implant support group meeting in March. It's amazing how much we can discuss and learn when using Zoom, once we know how!



We had an interesting discussion about the equipment those of us with Cis use when participating on ZOOM. Some use only their cochlear implant processors with a preferred program setting. Others chose to plug their mini mic into their computers. Some prefer using neckloops with their telecoils.

There were a few difficulties with individual computers, but together we solved all the problems. We laughed and learned from trial and error. We also discussed ways to assure we can keep our processors charged when camping or in a place without electricity. We learned about using portable power banks or inputs in our cars to charge the batteries we need. This is a very resourceful group.



Want to learn more? Are you perhaps a candidate to get a cochlear implant? Come join us via ZOOM on Monday, May 18 at 6:00 PM. We hope to see you there with your ideas, thoughts and concerns.

Again, Happy Spring to you!!

*Rhonda Clancey*, CI Group Moderator