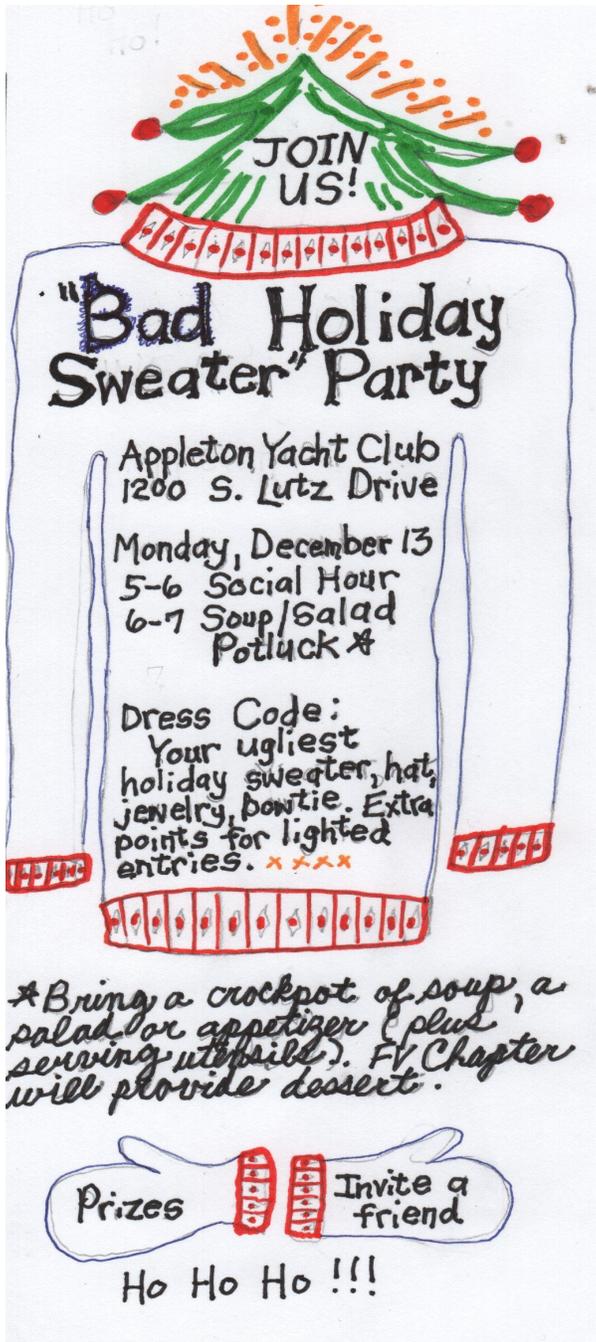




**HLAA Fox Valley 2021 Holiday Social**  
**Monday, December 13, 2021**

**Appleton Yacht Club 1200 S. Lutz Drive**

5-6 Social Hour 6 PM Soup, Salad and Side Dishes



**Would Your Organization, Agency, or Work Place Benefit From a Program on "Living Well with Hearing Loss?"**

Volunteer presenters from HLAA Fox Valley Chapter are available to present educational programs.

We have presented to service organizations, Learning in Retirement Programs, Lifelong Learning Institutes, and to schools, libraries, hospitals, and in workplaces.

Hearing loss and its effects are often misunderstood, not only by the person who is experiencing hearing loss, but by everyone with whom they associate.

There are many useful strategies and some unique technologies that can make a positive difference for a person who doesn't hear well. Learning more can make a very positive difference in someone's life and livelihood.

Nearly 46 million Americans are hard of hearing. Stigmas surrounding hearing loss create unnecessary barriers. Knowledge and understanding goes a long way in helping. We'd like to help you.

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

Subject: HLAA Presentations

**\*\* We have a few tickets for the Christmas Stars Variety Show at Appleton Xavier High School. XHS has a lovely performing arts theater, that has a hearing loop.**



Join us to show our appreciation for their installation of a hearing loop! If you'd like a ticket, contact us at: [hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com) First come, first get! We are not charging for the tickets. The date is Thursday evening, December 9th. 'Stars' is always a sell out. We hope you'll consider joining us. Contact us by Dec. 6th.



## U.S. House of Representatives Expands Medicare to Cover Hearing Aids 11/22/2021

HLAA is pleased to announce that the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Build Back Better Act of 2021 (H.R. 5376) that includes expanding Medicare to cover hearing aids and services. HLAA has spent years advocating for this.

This Act does not become law until both Houses come to agreement on the final language. We encourage you to write to your U.S. Senators to urge them to include Medicare coverage of hearing aids and hearing health care services with a bill that mirrors the one passed by the House. Tell them how this matters to you. More information about the parameters of this legislation as it relates to hearing aids and hearing services through Medicare is available on the HLAA website.

This is a bipartisan issue of great importance to people with hearing loss. Your voice matters!

You will find information on how to contact your U.S. Senator at this link. [U.S. Senate: Contacting U.S. Senators](#)



*Wishing YOU a  
Happy Holiday  
Season and a  
New Year  
Filled With  
Blessings!*



## Summary of our November Chapter Meeting

Our very "own" Juliette Sterkens AuD was the featured speaker at the Fox Valley Chapter's November meeting. Her presentation focused on hearing loop technology - what it is, why folks with hearing aids and cochlear implants love it, and how consumers can advocate for its installation.

Juliette shared "breaking news" about the new Superfecta style of hearing aid which has debuted in the last 90 days. In addition to featuring bluetooth streaming and telecoils, this new line of devices is small in size AND rechargeable. FINALLY.

In her capacity as HLAA's National Advisor on Hearing Loop Technology, Juliette is working to make hearing loop locations accessible via Google Maps. It won't be long before consumers can search for a Starbucks location that has a hearing loop drive through window. Bravo!

Thank you Juliette for leading the charge on hearing loops nationwide and in the Badger State. As of the last posting on [loopwisconsin.com](http://loopwisconsin.com), Wisconsin has 800+ public hearing loop venues listed by geographic location. The website contains a Get in the Hearing Loop Tool Kit, featuring downloadable brochures, handouts and checklists for hearing loop advocacy. This is an excellent resource for all things Hearing Loop.

Juliette also encouraged participants to join the Wisconsin Hearing Loop Committee as a way to "Get in the Loop." She reminded us that one person speaking up can truly make a difference and serve as a catalyst for change. Thank you Juliette and keep up the good work.

For more information contact Juliette at [jsterkens@hearingloss.org](mailto:jsterkens@hearingloss.org).



## HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**YES! I want to join or renew membership in national HLAA.** Membership entitles me to the magazine, *Hearing Life*; a number of discounts; and knowing I'm supporting advocacy for people with hearing loss nationwide.

Join  Renew

- Individual \$45     /Family \$55  
 Professional \$80     Corporate \$500  
 On-line only-individual \$35  
 On-line only-student \$25

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (home) \_\_\_\_\_

(cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Hearing Loss Association of America  
Suite 320  
6116 Executive Blvd  
Rockville, MD 20852

HLAA membership information can be found at:  
[www.hearingloss.org/make-an-impact](http://www.hearingloss.org/make-an-impact)

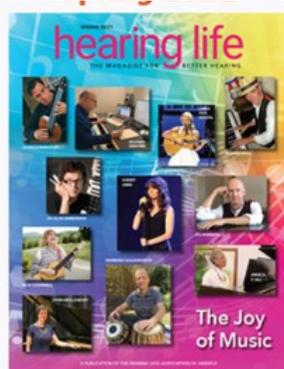


**A GIFT Membership to HLAA could be very special to someone you know!!**

*Hearing Life*, the quarterly magazine that comes with membership in HLAA, offers practical and useful information on a variety of topics to help support consumers with hearing loss along with their loved ones, family and friends.

***The mission of HLAA is to educate, share information, advocate and provide peer support.***

Who better to provide information, education, and support to people with hearing loss than those who are closest to it? Many of the articles in *Hearing Life* are written by people with hearing loss themselves. If you would like to submit an article, you will find instructions at [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)



**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.**  
[laafoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:laafoxvalley@gmail.com)



## 2021 Chapter Sponsors

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

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

**Audiology & Hearing Center at ENT Surgical Associates** - Kristin Borgen AuD, Beth Gabavics AuD, Nicole Maxam 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 Franz AuD, Cari T. Kramer AuD

**Larry & Judy Benish - Jim Machalk - Helen Hardt Fund**

**Tom & Linda O'Connor - Jay & Babbette Robitchek**

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

Anonymous, Pat Boldt, Charles & Judy Hastert, Jim Hemmen, Christine Klessig, Mike & Sue Landreman, Howard Porter, Julie Reisinger, Thrivent Match, Karen & Tom Schuppe, Lyle & Phyllis Sconzert, Carol Smokovich, Barb & Russ Soderberg, Dr. Juliette Sterkens & LeRoy 'Max' Maxfield, Grace & Bill Zurovitch

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

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

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

Barbara Abhold, 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.**

***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!

**2022 Margaret Ferris Scholarship** Eligibility: Graduating high school seniors from a public or parochial high school in Calumet, Outagamie or Winnebago counties who are planning to pursue post-secondary education at an accredited college, university or technical college. Applicants must be hard of hearing students with significant hearing loss who use technology to participate in the hearing world. One non renewable \$2000 scholarship will be awarded. Apply at: <https://www.cffoxvalley.org/scholarships/> Apply by March 1st.

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

## 2021-2022 Chapter Calendar

**December 13:** Holiday Social at Appleton Yacht Club  
**January 10:** H.O.P.E. Zoom Meeting 1:00 PM  
**January 18:** Cochlear Implant Subgroup on Zoom 6 PM  
**February 8:** Next regular chapter meeting. Stay Tuned.  
**March 1:** Deadline for 'Early Bird' convention registration.

Regular chapter meetings will continue on the 2nd Monday of each month in 2022. Except in January & August. Programs and places will be shared in the February 2022 newsletter. Watch for it. Meanwhile, share your ideas for programs with us.

## No Meeting or Newsletter in January

For the past several years, the chapter has not met during the months of January or February because the weather is so unpredictable then. The board has decided that 'going dark' for 2 months doesn't make sense when we can meet online.

We will take January off. The next meeting will be held on February 8th, topic to be determined. Watch for the February newsletter for more information.

**NOTE:** The Cochlear Implant group will hold a Zoom get together on January 18th at 6:00 PM. Let Rhonda know you want the link. [rclancey@hotmail.com](mailto:rclancey@hotmail.com)

## 2021 Chapter Leadership Board

### Officers:

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

**Vice President & HOPE Chair:** 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 Committee:** Christine Klessig\*, Grace Zurovitch,  
Chris Moylan

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

**Support Crew:** Bob Opsteen, Jerry Van Handel, Colleen Van Rooy, & 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.



## Cochlear Implant Group Update

We hope to see you at our next CI meeting on January 18th. Our November meeting had some new faces, and terrific updates from a couple of new CI recipients who shared their progress. Feel free to e-mail me with any questions and/or to get on our special CI e-mail list. [rclancey@hotmail.com](mailto:rclancey@hotmail.com) We will send the registration link for the meeting to everyone on that list. We hope to see you via Zoom on January 18th.

*Rhonda Clancey*, CI Group Moderator  
[rclancey@hotmail.com](mailto:rclancey@hotmail.com)



Our H.O.P.E. subgroup will kick off 2022 with a Zoom meeting on January 10th at 1:00 PM.

H.O.P.E. (Hearing Other People's Experiences) is a discussion group that brings people together to discuss experiences, problems, and solutions relating to hearing loss and is conducted without an agenda. We just talk! (One at a time!) I found H.O.P.E. to be especially valuable as I began my cochlear implant journey, while others find similar value in H.O.P.E. as they deal with their hearing loss and hearing aids. For those further along in their journey, the meetings serve to remind us that we are not alone,



and that our experiences can help others. One never knows what valuable bit of information will be gleaned from a discussion! Come join us. I miss my H.O.P.E. friends!

*Dale Voskuil*, H.O.P.E. Moderator [voskuild@gmail.com](mailto:voskuild@gmail.com)

E-mail me to get the link for the Zoom Meeting

We send condolences to Jane Young and her family on the passing of her father, Nordell Thomas Young, who passed away on November 18th at Brewster Village in Appleton. Many of us had the pleasure of meeting Nordell at our chapter socials. He was a fun guy who always wore a smile. May he rest in peace.



Jane is the member of our chapter board who assumes the responsibility of preparing this newsletter for mailing.