



**June Chapter Meeting**  
**Monday, June 14, 2021**  
**HEAR in the Fox Cities**

**6:30 PM - Zoom Room opens at 6:15**



**Colleen**

Find out what this new non profit organization is doing to help children with hearing loss.

Co-founded by former chapter



**Dr. Long AuD**

president Colleen Van Rooy, and former HLAAWI president, Dr. Stephanie Long AuD, HITFC raises funds to provide hearing aids for children whose families cannot afford them. Fox Valley Chapter supports their vision and their mission. We've asked them to share their story. Colleen and Dr. Long will present our June program.

- ♦ **See page 2 for information about the "Wine & Music" fund-raising event HITFC is planning in August.**
- ♦ **We will hold a drawing for a free 2021 HLA national convention registration after the program. Everyone in attendance will be eligible to win.**



**HOW TO PARTICIPATE ON ZOOM:**

- 1. Register in advance to participate at this link:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZluduytpjsiGdSKRZHl8S35cslf4V7rt62a>
- 2. If you get this newsletter in print, e-mail us at:**  
[hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com) We will send you the live registration link by e-mail.
- 3. All registrants will receive a meeting reminder the day of the meeting.**
- 4. Sign in at 6:15-6:20 so we can start at 6:30. (If you've not used Zoom before, you may have to sign up. Follow prompts. This is a one time thing.)**
- 5. Join with audio and also with video.**
- 6. The host will let you into the meeting room.**
- 7. ENJOY THE PRESENTATION!**
- 8. Time for discussion afterwards.**

**Don't Forget to Register!**

[www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)



**June 24—26**

**\* Early Bird Registration through June 15 is \$35.**

**From June 16th on, the fee is \$45.**

This is the world's premier event for people with hearing loss. It will be held virtually. This three-day event will be full of educational workshops, innovative HLA exhibitors, a research symposium, and networking opportunities that are typical of in person HLA Conventions.

**HLAA Convention Research Symposium**

***"Hearing Care for All: Innovations in Extending the Reach of Hearing Care" will be on Saturday June 26th.***

*This unique event is geared toward educating the lay audience of people with hearing loss about research. The 2021 Research Symposium is supported by the National Institute on Deafness & Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), National Institutes of Health (NIH).*

The 2021 HLA Research Symposium will feature talks by three national leaders in hearing care that bring a range of expertise and perspectives to meeting the hearing care needs of people of all ages. It will feature a panel of community-based health care providers who are the on-the-ground experts in this field.

There is also a unique exhibitor format that will allow you to enter a space and ask questions of exhibitors about products. Each year we learn about new innovative technologies and possibilities. We are consumers of these products. It pays to be informed.

*\* An error in the May issue said there was no fee to attend the 2021 virtual national convention. That was incorrect. We apologize.*

**Margaret Ferris Scholarship Recipient 2021**

Lauren Sorebo, a 2021 graduate of Xavier High School in Appleton is the recipient of the \$2000 scholarship given annually in memory of Margaret Ferris, a former teacher of deaf and hard of hearing students who dedicated many years of volunteer work to HLA Fox Valley Chapter. Lauren benefits from cochlear implants and other assistive technology. Congratulations Lauren!

## Veterans....Save this Date! VAAVC Zoom Meeting

### Veteran's Across America Virtual Chapter

**Date:** June 15, 2021

**Time:** 7 p.m. CDT

Meeting information with link to meeting will be posted on the HLAA website soon.

<http://www.hearingloss.org/?s=veterans>



If hearing loss has become a part of your life, you will find support at VAAVC. Sometimes it helps to know others in the same boat, have your back!



### Options for Independent Living Update...

Some of you may have used Options for services in the past, such as assistive technology or our durable medical equipment loan program. I'm writing this article to inform you of some updates and let you know that we are still here.

Options ILC has two offices. Our main office, a showcase model home, is in Green Bay. Our satellite office is located in the Thompson Center on Lourdes in Appleton. Options ILC provides services such as advocacy, peer support, independent living skills training, and information and referral. We are here to help anyone with any disability from age birth to death. Option's service area includes 17 counties in northeast Wisconsin.

Our biggest program for individuals with hearing loss is our Assistive Technology program. We have a set-up with amplified phones, signaling systems, along with other gadgets that can assist someone with a hearing loss. Many of these items are on display for people to try before purchasing them personally or through the TEPP program. Options is not a business and does not sell products.

During COVID, our services were altered and staff began working remotely from home. Starting June 1<sup>st</sup> we will be available **by appointment only** for some technology needs with basic safety protocols in place, including masking and hand sanitizing. Unfortunately, our durable medical equipment loan program remains closed until further notice.

If you're in need of services or have any questions, please call our main line at (920) 490-0500 to talk to any of our knowl-

edgeable staff about our services. We will be glad to assist! We look forward to getting back to a regular schedule soon.



*LeAnne Loveless*

Independent Living Coordinator/Options ILC

## Walk the Walk So We Can Talk the Talk!

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information sharing, education, support and advocacy. While raising funds to perpetuate the organization, the annual Walk4Hearing raises public awareness about the high incidence of hearing loss and how it affects people's lives. The HLAA Fox Valley 'Fox Trotters' have participated in this event every year since it has been held in Wisconsin.

Our participation raises funds for HLAA at all levels. For the chapter it helps with meeting room rent, maintenance of hearing assistive technology we use and loan, captioning for meetings, stipends for people to attend educational events, support for HLAA-Wisconsin, covering costs for our 2 annual socials, newsletter printing & mailing, etc. We are so fortunate to have people who are willing to participate and/or help with this event.

The chapter has no paid staff. Personal resources of time, energy, mileage and personal expense are a reality. We sure would love to have more of you involved. Join the team....be a member... donate \$10, whatever. As of the time this article is being written, your chapter TEAM and a few of their family members have raised \$2080, and is the 2nd place team in the state.

**Be proud! We are!! You can show your support at:** [www.walk4hearing.org](http://www.walk4hearing.org) Milwaukee Walk. TEAM: Fox Valley Chapter.



### Join us for the Virtual Walk June 13 at 8:45 AM



Hear in the Fox Cities, "Life is Meant to be Heard" fundraiser will be held at Whistler's Knoll in Hortonville on August 15, 2021 from 12 to 4 pm.

Enjoy the musical talents of Christopher Gold ([www.christophergold.com](http://www.christophergold.com)) and Adrian&Meredith (<https://spoti.fi/3xDlojx>)  
**Tickets can be purchased at:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/life-is-meant-to-be-heard-tickets-144129594497>

**Good wine! Good Music! Auctions! Raffles! Fun!**

## May Chapter Meeting Summary...by Christine Klessig



An impressive group of 35 people tuned in to our May ZOOM chapter meeting to learn about redefining their relationship with music after suffering hearing loss. Presenter Brad Ingrao is both an audiologist and a long time saxophone player. He provided a unique perspective on how appreciation of music changes after hearing loss.

Why does music we hear through our hearing aids or CI's usually sound distorted? Because music isn't speech - explained Dr. Ingrao. His powerpoint showed two audiograms of an identical bar of music.



The hearing aid audiogram was dramatically different from the un-amplified normal bar of music. Major efforts are underway to lobby the hearing aid industry to customize music via sound level meters. A number of App's are now available via streaming to alter the mixing ratio of recorded music.

Such customization takes time and practice - generally 12 to 18 months' of rehab exercises to train our brains to distinguish between rhythms and pitches of music. Dr. Ingrao is launching a website that will provide a baseline tutorial for HOH folks to determine the musical instrument they can most easily identify. (Participants in the May meeting heard the cello music best.) The website would start rehab with simple melodies and move forward to more complex pieces. Stay tuned to HLAA for more information on this.

Can we really enjoy music again? Absolutely. An affirmative response to that question was explained by Dr. Ingrao at our May chapter meeting. In addition, the Spring issue of "hearing life", a publication of HLAA national, features inspiring stories from eleven people who have refused to allow hearing loss to rob them of their enjoyment of music. Check out "The Joy of Music" spring issue.

Thank you Dr. Brad Ingrao for teaching us that our own brains are the best instrument to help us appreciate music again. Good luck on your musical journey!

## SENSORINEURAL HEARING LOSS EXTERNALLY-LED PATIENT-FOCUSED DRUG DEVELOPMENT MEETING

In our April newsletter we shared information about the opportunity to participate in this meeting. Did you take that opportunity on May 25th? A few of us did...And WOW!

It was a good day for people with hearing loss who want to hear better. HLAA led the charge to make it possible to share concerns with scientists & personnel within the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) in a 4 hour live webinar on May 25th. People shared their unique experiences and concerns; concerns that are misunderstood by people who make decisions about drug/product development. We hope that opening those FDA ears will lead to progress in the development of better technology and in medicine. Many hope for and believe that a cure is possible for sensorineural hearing loss. It has to be a priority.

It is important that decision makers understand the impact that hearing loss has on people's lives; that it is just not a simple inconvenience. We have seen amazing progress in technology. The concept of a cochlear implant was a dream just a few decades ago. Speech to text tech was science fiction. Participants said: "Manufacturers must make hearing instruments smarter, not smaller". "Let us get more involved as research subjects to help find a way to suppress the effects of genes you've identified that cause hereditary hearing loss." And more thoughts we'll share in the future. The transcript of the webinar is available at:

[Patient-Focused Drug Development Meeting led by HLAA - Hearing Loss Association of America](#) Comments can be made through 6/25/21.

## 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)**

**Ascension Audiology** - Debra Engelos 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 Franz AuD, Cari T. Kramer AuD

**Larry & Judy Benish** - Jim Machalk

**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, 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.**

***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!**



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 in Progress...

**June 14:** Learn what "Hear in the Fox Cities" is/does.

**July 12:** Summer Social at Appleton Yacht Club

**August—December:** To be Determined

NOTE: Programs for the remainder of 2021 are still in the planning stage. Information will be in the newsletters. We are waiting to see when we can meet in person, meanwhile, we will continue to meet via Zoom.

**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\*  
[rlancey@hotmail.com](mailto:rlancey@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:** Dale Voskuil\* [voskuild@gmail.com](mailto:voskuild@gmail.com)

**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.**

\* Designates Members of the Chapter's Board of Trustees.

### ...YOUR THOUGHTS...

- We hope to return to UUF when it's possible to meet in person. However, we are looking at other venue options.
- We ask you, our readers/members, to let us know if you know of any other venue possibilities.
- In the right setting, we could help a venue raise funds to install a hearing loop.
- We could use a small bit of storage space at the location.

**Preference:** Close to the Hwy 41 or 441 corridor.

**Please contact us:** [hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com) if you have ideas.



### Cochlear Implant Group Wrap Up from May 18th

Great news! We have three members of our CI support group who will be getting cochlear implants in the near future! It's so exciting to know how life will change for the better for them.

We had an interesting discussion about the decision making process that takes place prior to 'going for it'! Our chapter's CI group is not brand specific, so the group hears about all the options and differences.

We also talked a bit about some of the misunderstandings people have about cochlear implants which is always interesting.

This group has decided to continue meeting every other month on Zoom. It's working well for us.

**The next CI meeting will be Tuesday, July 20 at 6PM.**

Come ask your questions and share your experiences! Let's keep teaching and learning!



Meanwhile, we hope to see you at the July social at the Appleton Yacht Club. Watch for more in the July newsletter.

*Rhonda Clancey, CI Group Moderator*

If you burned your Hawaiian pizza..  
You should have used aloha temperature.

*July Social Committee Humor*



H.O.P.E. meetings will return with the return of in-person Chapter meetings. Plans are to hold H.O.P.E. meetings before the monthly chapter meetings with sufficient time in between for social gathering.

H.O.P.E. meetings have no set agenda other than to offer an opportunity for those with hearing loss to share experiences, concerns, or ask questions about hearing loss. People who participate in **Hearing Other People's Experiences** may be seasoned hearing aid or cochlear implant users, or folks who are new to the hearing loss experience who have questions.

I am honored to act as H.O.P.E. moderator. It is important to remind ourselves that we are not alone in our struggle to deal with hearing loss and H.O.P.E. does just that. Stay tuned, we hope to be meeting in person soon.



*Dale Voskuil, H.O.P.E. Moderator*