



March Chapter Meeting & Presentation

Monday, March 8, 2021

Via Zoom Videoconferencing

Program at 6:30 PM

Program: "Identity Theft: Protect and Prevent"

Identity theft continues to be the fastest growing crime in the United States. The more you learn about it, the less vulnerable you are. Jeffrey Kersten from the Wisconsin Bureau of Consumer Protection will explain the different types of identity theft, how to recognize it and how to prevent it – including information about Fraud Alerts & Security Freezes.

Join us to receive tips for safeguarding personal information and how to spot the red flags of a scam.

Learn how the pandemic has affected this issue.

Kersten, a former police officer and investigator for the bureau, travels around the state to educate the public, businesses, and law enforcement on data security and privacy protection.

E-mail us at hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com to receive the link to the meeting.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE ON ZOOM:

1. Let us know, in advance, that you want to join us. (see above.)
2. Click on the link you receive at 6:15 the night of the meeting.
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 !

The 2021 Winter Issue of the HLAA Wisconsin newsletter is available at the HLAAWI website. Lots of information. Be sure to check it out at: www.hlaawi.org It is only available via e-mail or online.

Our New Year Begins... #37, Actually!!

A year ago this month, HLAA Fox Valley Chapter held its last in person meeting. It featured a delightful program on assistive technology and was attended by 40+ people. Then the pandemic hit. We missed a month as we tried to gather our thoughts. We scrambled to learn about video conferencing. HLAA at all levels pivoted to stay in touch with its members, and suggested Zoom. We listened and learned.

Our first Zoom meeting was held in May 2020, and we've been meeting that way every month since, except in July when we cancelled our summer social. By December we realized we could, indeed, have a Zoom social. We did, and all who joined us had fun.

Zoom attendance has been averaging around 20, about half of in person attendance. We thank those of you who have participated. We hope more of you will try it. It appears we will continue to meet online for the unforeseeable future; although we have bravely reserved the Appleton Yacht Club for what we hope will be our in person summer social!

Your chapter board is working tirelessly to keep things going. Some excellent presenters and programs have been lined up. We've learned we can do things we could not do at the in person meetings; like bring in some very special speakers, and include folks from other parts of the state.

When it is possible, we will resume holding meetings in person. We just don't know when that will be. Meanwhile, stay healthy everyone....you matter! We really miss you!

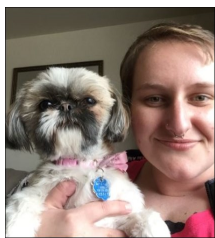
PS: The chapter could sure use a 'tech' person. Someone who understands video conferencing and is able to keep up with the changes in it. Any takers out there?



Try a Couple of Stress Busters...

- If you catch yourself in a negative thought pattern or feeling particularly stressed, turn your focus to the rising and falling of your breath. Even a few seconds of conscious breathing will help you reduce stress and increase calm and focus.
- **When washing your hands, think of three things you're grateful for.** Taking the 20 seconds to practice gratitude lowers your risk of infection and boosts positivity.

Getting to Know Us....By LeAnne



LeAnne & Lola

Hi there! My name is LeAnne and I was asked to share a little bit about myself. You may have seen me at HLAA meetings back when we were still able to meet in person, or maybe at the state HLAA conference in November of 2019. My hearing loss journey is a little different than a lot of chapter members, I was born deaf. I view this as a positive in my life, I don't know what I'm missing out on in terms of sound, so I've adjusted very well to having a hearing loss. I was also taught American Sign Language, which helped out with communication when a lot of modern hearing technology and devices didn't exist.

My parents decided to get me the best hearing technology they could when I was diagnosed in 1993. I had body worn hearing aids that didn't work well, They decided to try a cochlear implant.

Cochlear implant technology wasn't great back then, and I never used my implant until 2005 when I was given a Cochlear Freedom processor. I loved it! I never knew water made noise, or dog tags jingled, or that paper made a sound when passed around. After a lifetime of my peers and adults not being able to understand my speech, my speech started to pick up as well. By the time I was about 21 years old, I started noticing I didn't need to pull out my pen and paper everywhere to have a conversation with strangers. People were able to understand me for the most part now!

Growing up with a hearing loss wasn't easy. I grew up in a small town just outside of Green Bay. I was the first mainstreamed deaf student in my school and had to teach my peers and teachers about hearing loss, and advocate for myself. Advocacy turned into a passion of mine and led me to pursue a degree in Social Work at University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. After having several jobs and not feeling fulfilled, I found myself working at Options for Independent Living in Green Bay. My job as an Independent Living Coordinator perfectly combined all of my skills from advocacy, to assistive technology, to peer support.

When I'm not advocating or researching disability history and law, which is a hobby of mine, I enjoy cooking and baking cookies, watching documentaries, and spending time with my family. I also have three dogs, Holly, Lola, and Darrell along with several birds. There really isn't a better pet for me than birds since I can't hear them and get annoyed with them! I also enjoy listening to music and now that I have a cochlear implant and hearing aid that are connected via blue tooth to my phone, I don't have to worry about the volume being too loud for everyone around me. This is great because my preferred genres of punk rock and metal definitely aren't for everyone and sound best when loud.

I look forward to attending HLAA meetings for years to come to make new connections and learn about the exciting new technology and developments in the world of hearing loss!

LeAnne

A Tale of Two Hearing Loops



This article is the seventh in our series about hearing loop experiences of HLAA members. Lyle Sconzert and his wife Phyllis belong to the Fox Valley HLAA chapter. His story shows how one person can really make a difference.

Read on . . .

"The first time I heard about induction hearing loops was while attending a 'Learning in Retirement' lecture at UWGB in 2014. Gene Van Asten (former FV chapter president) and Juliette Sterkens (national hearing loop advocate, and chapter member.) gave a presentation there using a temporary loop laid out on the perimeter of the room's floor. Little did I suspect how much an impact the copper wire hiding under the blue duct tape would make in the quality of my life.

We were instructed to activate the telecoils in our hearing aids to connect wirelessly to the temporary loop. I pushed a button on my hearing aids to do so. WOW !!! What a dramatic difference in sound clarity and elimination of background noise. I was impressed.

Armed with informational brochures provided by HLAA, I proceeded to do additional online research of my own about hearing loops. I sourced a firm in the Fox Cities area to perform an on premise hearing loop assessment for my church. The associate pastor and I learned a lot about hearing loop technology that day. With his blessing, I next made a presentation to the church council in May. The church council approved installation of a hearing loop - provided that funds could be raised to pay for it.

So I made the same presentation on hearing loop technology to the congregation of my church - at all four church services. The end result? Funds were found and a hearing loop installed in my church in the fall of 2014.

The loop was a great help to me when I wore hearing aids. It worked even better after my first CI was implanted in 2015. And now with my bilateral cochlear implants, it works perfectly."

Thank you Lyle for sharing your inspiring hearing loop story, and for becoming involved in the chapter. Your story demonstrates all aspects of the HLAA mission: to inform, educate, advocate and support people with hearing loss. Well Done!



Lyle & Phyllis

Do you have a telecoil /hearing loop story to share?. Let's hear about it. Contact Christine Klessig at bom-maklessig@gmail.com. with your story. She will help you tweak it for publication. Photos welcome too. Christine is chair of the Wisconsin Hearing Loop Committee and also serves as secretary for the FV-HLAA chapter.



Become a Chapter Sponsor

The chapter's 2020 appeal letter was sent to previous and potential donors on February 1st. Sponsors help cover the costs of facility rental, newsletter printing & mailing, convention stipends, and numerous other expenses the chapter incurs.

HLAA-FV is a 501(c)(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 .**



Thank you to everyone who supported national HLAA's Giving Challenge! We are all constantly being asked to donate money and time. We also know that HLAA does wonderful work and deserves our support at all levels. Hearing loss is an issue that doesn't get much support from people who don't live with it. The giving challenge goal was to raise \$500,000. With support from 763 donors, HLAA raised \$721,699, way over the goal! To see how that money will be used to benefit chapters and people with hearing loss, read more at:

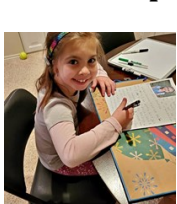
www.hearingloss.org/givingchallenge/



HELP NEEDED: Is there someone out there who could act as HLAA Fox Valley Chapter's telephone person? While most of our communication happens on e-mail, now and then a phone call is someone's only way to connect.

Your name and phone # would be listed in the newsletter in the chapter leadership column. Thanks for considering.

Girl's letter to lawmaker leads to proposed legislation for people with hearing loss 2/11/2021



11-year-old Ally Tumblin wrote a letter to her Congressman two years ago. Now, proposed legislation has been drafted in her name. This legislation would require insurance providers to cover the cost of hearing devices. When Ally wrote her letter to her local representative, Rep. Joe Neguse, D-Colo., she asked him to

mandate insurance coverage for devices like hers. Neguse [re-introduced the legislation last month](#) in the U.S. House of Representatives. Sens. Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., and Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., also introduced Ally's Act [last month in the Senate](#). "I think it's pretty cool," Ally said of seeing the legislation that her letter inspired. "I'm excited and I hope Ally's Act passes. I think kids deserve to hear." For more on this special story go to:

<https://abcn.ws/3aTexYH>

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

2021 Chapter Sponsors

Platinum Level (\$200 or More)

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

Jim Machalk - Tom & Linda O'Connor

Gold Level (\$100 - \$199)

Anonymous, Pat Boldt, Charles & Judy Hastert, Jim Hemmen, Mike & Sue Landreman, Julie Reisinger, Karen & Tom Schuppe, Carol Smokovich, Dr. Juliette Sterkens & LeRoy 'Max' Maxfield, Grace & Bill Zurovitch

Silver Level (\$50 - \$99)

Anonymous, Laurin Boushley, Suzanne Brown, Liz & Mary Ginke, Kevin Gossens, Charles & Judy Hastert, Karen Kasten, Barb Mer-ry, Julie & John Olson, Patty & Tom Reimer

Bronze Level (\$25 - \$49)

Lorna Hamilton, Robert Opsteen, Kenneth & Mary Ann Walter, Katie Weber, Kathleen Wiers

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.

January & February Zoom Review...

Frustration, fear and fatigue were identified as three of the ways that stress related to hearing loss affects the HOH population. Eighteen folks discussed the topic and shared stress coping mechanisms at **the chapter's 2/8/2021 ZOOM meeting.**

Fox Valley President Julie Olson moderated the discussion. She provided a brief history of hearing instruments/ads. Suffice it to say "We've come a long way, baby." But we also have a long way to go. The question raised was "Why do these ads stress invisibility?" Doesn't that market denial and encourage people to hide their hearing loss? Think about that.

A recurring sentiment expressed by participants was gratitude for HLAA as a resource for learning and equipping/empowering us with knowledge to live well with hearing loss. Peer support is important. In January, the Zoom meeting was pure discussion on a variety of topics..

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

March 8: "Identity Theft: Prevent and Protect" 6:30 PM

March 16: Cochlear Implant Group meets 6:00 PM

March 25: HOPE Group Meets 1:00 PM

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 27: HOPE Group Meets

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

Vice President: Dale Voskuil* voskuild@gmail.com

Treasurer: Michelle Frisbie* michellelfrisbie@gmail.com

Secretary: Christine Klessig* bommaklessig@gmail.com

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

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 Board of Trustees.

NOTICE!!

Your **chapter leadership team** consists of people who believe that HLAA makes a positive difference in the lives of people with hearing loss. None of them receive compensation. A couple, travel from outside the Fox Valley to participate. Two have been involved in the chapter for over 25 years. They are keeping the chapter together during very unusual times. Give these folks a pat on the back the next time you see them. They deserve it.



As I type this message on Feb. 15th, the afternoon temperature is +3. It is hoped by the time you read this, the continuous arctic blast is long gone and there will be a touch of spring in the air.

H.O.P.E. continues to meet monthly. March 25th is the next meeting date. Megan McKenna, the regional representative for Cochlear America, has asked to join in for an hour. If you have a cochlear implant, or if you are considering a cochlear implant, gather your questions for Megan. HLAA does not endorse products, providers or services. We share information that makes it possible for people with hearing loss to make informed decisions.

Please join in on Thursday, March 25 at 1 pm. All it takes is a click on this link, <https://meet.google.com/gyz-jjao-tnn>.

If you receive the newsletter in the mail, send me an email at nancy.gilbertson2@gmail.com. I will send you the meeting link. On March 25, around 1 pm, click the link in that email to join in. The meeting is on meet.google and has captions.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Nancy Gilbertson, H.O.P.E Moderator



Cochlear Implant Group will meet on March 16th...

Hi Everyone! I Hope you are in the process of getting your COVID immunizations! It's a nightmare of confusion, but it appears that online registration helps!



Mark your calendars for our next CI meeting; Tuesday; March 16 at 6:00 PM. Install the free Zoom program on your computer. Then all you have to do is follow the instructions (hit a button). Remember to say YES to audio when asked.

www.zoom.com

I hope that our fellow-CI member who just had his second implant will "ZOOM IN ON US" and share his experience. Also hoping Ken will tell us about his new AB processor. We are following the progress of Gary with his AB re-implant surgery. Kevin is still deciding which route to take on his CI journey. We all have stories to share! Our January meeting was such a great share & learn session.

Zoom makes it possible for our snowbirds to attend!

How cool is that? Those on the CI e-mail list will receive the CI meeting link. If you are not on the list, or don't receive it for some reason, e-mail to let me know so I can send it.

Rhonda Clancey

CI Group moderator & Chapter Program Chair
rclancey@hotmail.com



PS: I want to add that Fox Valley Chapter meetings have some interesting and informative programs planned. See the calendar. Programs will be added when scheduled.