



### Chapter Meeting on Zoom

**Monday, April 11, 2022 6:30 PM (CST)**

**Telephone Equipment Purchase Program & Much More on Assistive Technology!**

**Presenter: Laurie Flores; Director of Outreach & Technology at HEAR Wisconsin**

For 95 years, HEAR Wisconsin, located in the Milwaukee area, has provided critical services to children and adults with hearing loss throughout Wisconsin. Its mission is to help infants, children, & adults by eliminating communication & language barriers through personalized services, technology, & education.



MS Flores will explain the Telephone Equipment Purchase Program (TEPP) that will provide a substantial voucher to people with severe hearing loss to purchase equipment that makes telephone use more accessible. Vouchers can be used for a cell phone, landline phone, etc. TEPP, a public service, has no income requirements.

She will also share information about the HLAAWI assistive technology demo center and the new MAC mobile hearing testing unit that was just established recently.

You will want to learn all you can about HEARWI, TEPP, MAC, and other services provided. We are grateful to MS Flores for presenting this program.



**The link to join for the April meeting is on page 2.** After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with the link to access the meeting. **NOTE: We'll open at 6:15 PM. Please come early so we can start at 6:30 .**

If you receive our newsletter in print, rather than online, request the Zoom link by e-mail [hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com)

**Advance registration helps your chapter leaders plan for the meeting. See you on April 11th!**

### Were You With Us on March 14th?

A large group from all over Wisconsin joined us to watch "We Hear You: Now You Hear Us" at our March meeting. This documentary has received rave reviews & was awarded Best Film on Disability at the 2021 Cannes World Film Festival. It chronicles the challenges of our "invisible disability" through the experiences of four women across two continents who undertook the project to raise awareness of hearing loss & stop the stigma associated with it.

**The hearing loss journeys of all four women, although quite different, shared one thing in common. They all credited HLAA for empowering them to "come out of their hearing loss closets." Their collaboration to create the documentary was their way of saying thank you to HLAA. They decided to pay it forward with the film & definitely achieved their goal.**

Michelle Frisbie facilitated a discussion after the showing. Participants brainstormed about ways to promote this documentary. Options included viewing by community service groups, assistive living centers, ADRC offices, audiology colleges, film festivals, etc. The documentary furthers HLAA's mission to share information, educate, advocate and provide support to people with hearing loss.

Your chapter board, & state association plan to work together to find ways to share this documentary. If you have thoughts or opportunities for this, please let us know.

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

### Dinner and Gadget Night Is Coming!

#### Reserve Your Spot Now!

Lets celebrate "Better Hearing Month" by getting together at the Ground Round Restaurant in Neenah. Monday evening, May 9th. The program: a spontaneous sharing of gadgets that work for us.

**This event requires advance reservations due to limited seating. Reserve your place soon. Seating is limited to 30 people.**

You will order your own food and beverages off the menu, and cover your own costs. Specifics on time, etc. will be in the May edition of this newsletter.

**It will be great to get back together again!!**

**Reservations by e-mail to: [hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com)  
Put 'MAY RESERVATIONS' in the subject header.**



## Update on Our Progress

As this newsletter goes to press, the HLAAWI State Steppers Walk Team has raised just over \$2500 for HLAA. Julie & Michelle, from our chapter, have raised \$841 of that amount. We hope you will Join the team or donate to the efforts of everyone who is participating. You can do that at: [www.walk4hearing.org](http://www.walk4hearing.org) Milwaukee Walk. No amount is too small. Thank you!

Funds raised are earmarked for scholarships for hard of hearing high school seniors who use technology who are pursuing secondary education. Awardees will be announced in May. Scholarship information at: [www.hlaawi.org](http://www.hlaawi.org)

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE ON ZOOM:

- 1, Register in advance for April meeting at:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrf-6trDMtH9dcVFnaO8KyHNttKclbK0\\_n](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrf-6trDMtH9dcVFnaO8KyHNttKclbK0_n)
- 2.** If Zoom asks you to update, do so.
- 3. Sign in by 6:20 so we can start at 6:30. (If you are new to Zoom, you may have to sign up. Follow prompts. This is a one time thing.)**
- 4.** Registrants will receive a notice of registration, AND a meeting reminder the day of the meeting.
- 5. Join with audio and also with video.**
- 6.** The host will let you into the meeting room.
- 7. ENJOY THE PRESENTATION!** Save questions & comments until after the presentation. Thank you.
- 8.** Time for discussion afterwards.

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 from that address.



All plenary sessions, [workshops](#) and events will take place at the JW Marriott Tampa Water Street. All participants, exhibitors, etc. must show proof of COVID vaccination. See more on the HLAA website.

## I Love the Movies!

Submitted by Mary Fritsch



Do you ever look back and remember how much you once loved going to the movies? Since I was very young, sitting on the floor watching the Ed Sullivan Show every Sunday night, I've been hooked on 'the screen'; the bigger the better! A barrier to enjoyment though, has been my progressive hearing loss that made it more and more difficult to enjoy them. Thanks to technology, there is a way\*, and I am still hooked!

I always try to see every movie that has been nominated for the Oscars and other film awards too. I'm especially fired up right now about the movie CODA that is up for major Academy Awards, including Best Picture. CODA has already won the 'Best Film Award' from the Producers Guild, along with several SAG & BAFTA Awards. In fact it has already won 56 awards among 136 nominations. With that record, it has to be good!

CODA, which is a standard acronym for Children of Deaf Adults, is a heartwarming, tear jerking story of seventeen year old Ruby (Emelia Jones), who is the sole hearing member in a deaf family. Her life revolves around acting as an interpreter for her deaf parents (Marlee Matlin & Troy Katsur), and working in the family's struggling business. When she joins her school choir she discovers a gift for music with the opportunity to apply to a prestigious music school. She finds herself torn between the obligations she feels to her family and the pursuit of her own dreams. Matlin and Katsurr are both deaf themselves. Jones, is hearing and learned American Sign Language for her role in this film. They have all received rave reviews!



**I am hoping to hear..."And the Oscar for best picture goes to CODA"!!**

\*More on the technology that makes movies in theaters possible for me in the next issue!

**Editor's NOTE:** This article was published prior to the Oscars. We will soon know how well CODA does. Maybe we can arrange a movie date for HLAA Fox Valley Chapter! Anything is possible!!

### Last Call for National HLAA Convention Stipends!

Unfortunately, we do not have a delegate to the 2022 National HLAA convention. We do have the funding to cover a delegate's costs this year. Delegates are expected to attend workshops & events & to bring back information & ideas to their chapter. HLAA prefers that people who have never attended a convention before be delegates, however that is not a 'rule'. Many of your chapter leaders have attended more than once in that role. If this interests you, take a look at the info at [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org) Let us know ASAP if you'd like to represent HLAA Fox Valley Chapter. There is a timeline for registration.

# Volunteering is good for your health



Studies show that volunteering not only has a positive impact on your community, but it can bring meaning and purpose to your life. Volunteering also increases self-esteem and wellbeing, relieves stress and alleviates symptoms of depression.

The Retired & Senior Volunteer 55+ Program is part of Ameri-Corps Seniors, a national service organization. RSVP, which is sponsored by Volunteer Fox Cities, engages volunteers ages 55 and older into service at more than 60 local nonprofits in a variety of ways, including in-person and virtual roles. From tutoring adults and students, mentoring youth, building houses, sorting food, providing transportation to the elderly, visiting hospice patients, telephone outreach, serving meals to people who are homeless, helping at nature centers & providing office support, RSVP has flexible short & long-term opportunities.

If you are looking for meaningful ways to give back to your community, contact Jan at 920-832-9360 or [rsvp@volunteerfoxcities.org](mailto:rsvp@volunteerfoxcities.org).

Perhaps you already volunteer with RSVP? We'd love to hear about your experience, perhaps more of our HLAA members share common interests and would want to volunteer together.

HLAA Fox Valley chapter is collaborating with RSVP to cross-share information to our members/volunteers. We hope this affiliation, along with information sharing in our newsletters, will give HLAA opportunities to share information with the public at events. Your chapter leaders hope the outreach we can do by working with RSVP at community events will be a positive step to reach people who need the information that HLAA has to share. Please join us. Let's work together to help our community, & raise awareness about hearing loss & HLAA.

**Your Chapter Board:**  
**Christine, Rhonda,**  
**Jane, Michelle,**  
**Julie & Dale**



**Happy Spring to Everyone!!**

**Are you a Thrivent member?** If so, you may direct Thrivent Choice Funds to HLAA-Fox Valley. We are a Thrivent listed organization eligible to receive member directed donations. The Thrivent Choice Charitable grant program supports charitable activities, furthering Thrivent's mission and purposes. We have received Thrivent donations over the years and appreciate the program and the generosity of its members. Thank you for considering HLAA.

## The 2022 Chapter Sponsor Program

Thank you to everyone who has become a 2022 'Sponsor'! Names will be added as donations are received. This is our only fund raiser. Sponsorships help us cover the costs incurred in our efforts to full fill the mission of HLAA.

If you wish to support the chapter this way, send your check to: HLAA-Fox Valley Treasurer, P.O. Box 25, Menasha WI 54952. Include instructions on how you wish to be listed.

## 2022 Chapter Sponsors

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

**Ascension Medical Group/Audiology** Debra Engebos AuD,  
Lisa Esser AuD, Susan Iwanski AuD  
**Audiology & Hearing Center@ ENT Associates, SC**  
Kristen Borgen AuD, Beth Gabavics AuD  
**Fox Valley Hearing Center** Dr. Stephanie Long, Dr. Candy  
McGinnis, Dr. Brittany Uitenbroek,  
Dr. Melissa Dintelman, Dr. Jody Jedlicka  
**Carol Konetzke Memorial Donation** from her family  
**Haviland Hearing Aids**  
Peter J Zellmer AuD, Kyle Martell AuD  
**Rural Audiology Services, Waupaca WI**  
Cari J. Kramer Audiologist, Becky L. Franz Audiologist  
**Jim Machalk, Tom & Linda O'Connor, Anonymous**

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

Doug Grant Memorial, from his daughter Elizabeth Lewis  
Kevin Gossens, Jim Hemmen, Christine Klessig, Barbara Merry,  
Mike & Susan Landreman, Karen & Tom Schuppe,  
Carol Smokovich, Barb Soderberg, Jan & Diane Veenendaal,  
Dale Voskuil, Grace & Bill Zurovitch,  
Juliette Sterkens AuD & LeRoy "Max" Maxfield

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

Anonymous, Jim & Rhonda Bartelt, Pat Boldt, Jo Kintopf-Crabb,  
Michelle Frisbie Charles Hastert, Karen & Gary Kasten, Julie &  
John Olson, Ione Muehlenbein (In memory of Paul),  
Patty Reimer, Phyllis & Lyle Sconzert, Kate Wiers,  
Jerome & Phyllis Van Handel

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

Lorna Hamilton, Katie Weber

We are grateful to everyone above and to all who have made smaller donations to our chapter treasury. We are grateful to those who contribute personal resources of time, energy, mileage & more. Your support is what makes our chapter successful.

**Our Mission: To share information, educate, advocate and provide peer 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!

**HLAA, at all levels, does not recommend or endorse products or providers. We share our experiences with them.**

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

## 2022 Chapter Calendar

**April 11:** TEPP Program by HEARWI—Telephone Equipment Purchase Program for people with hearing loss.

**April 19:** H.O.P.E. At 1 PM. (Request the link.)

**May 9:** Share Your Gadgets Night & Dinner OUT!

**May 17:** Cochlear Implant Support/Discussion Group

**June 13:** Cochlear Implants & Aging by Author/Presenter

**REQUEST MEETING LINKS AT: [hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com)**

**Watch for upcoming newsletters for more information.**



**Regular chapter meetings & socials will be on the 2nd Monday of each month. Except in January & August.**

**Our subgroups; H.O.P.E. and Cochlear Implants, will alternate months for the time being. That may change after we are able to meet in person again, as H.O.P.E. prefers to meet monthly. CI prefers to bi monthly.**

## Cochlear Implant Support Group



Our March 22nd meeting included 16 people from Fond du lac, Chilton, Madison, DePere, & the Fox Cities area. It included CI recipients of all three major brands, and one who is anticipating CI surgery. The discussion was interesting and helpful. We just keep learning as we compare our experiences. Holding our meetings on Zoom has made it possible to reach a more people, but we miss those who have chosen not to participate via Zoom. In time, we will try to hold hybrid meetings so everyone can join us.

The next CI meeting will be held on Tuesday May 17th at 6 PM. The meeting link will be available upon request at: [hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com) in May. Contact me to get on our CI e-mail list.

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

## 2022 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 Zurivitch,  
Chris Moylan

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

**Support Crew:** Bob Opsteen, Jerry Van Handel, Colleen Van Rooy, & Paul & Harriet Zucker

**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.

**H.O.P.E. Notes:** from Dale Voskuil, Moderator

Our next H.O.P.E. meeting will be held on Zoom on Tuesday, April 19th at 1:00 PM. Request link in advance at: [hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com)



H.O.P.E. is the perfect place to ask basic questions, whether you are just beginning your hearing loss journey, or are well experienced at it. We are all about **Hearing Other People's Experiences**. Share your successes and your frustrations. It really does help to talk to people who understand.

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

Feel free to e-mail me at: [voskuild@gmail.com](mailto:voskuild@gmail.com)

## HLAA Plans Legislative Effort Support Needed

An effort to make full disclosure of the options needed to connect to the technology that provides the 'communication access' hard of hearing people are guaranteed through the Americans with Disabilities Act to is once again in the discussion stage.

To follow through on this project, HLAAWI is seeking people in the state who have connections with our state legislators; Assembly and Senate. Please, if you know any of our legislators personally, or have had contact with them, let the members of the state committee know. If you might work with HLAAWI to move this forward know you are needed This is a bipartisan issue that needs support from both sides of the aisle.

Contact Jim Rau, HLAAWI President at [hlaawistate@gmail.com](mailto:hlaawistate@gmail.com)

## Screening for Hearing Loss in Primary Health Care Settings

HLAA supports the inclusion of a standardized approach to screening for hearing loss in primary health care settings that includes both a subjective and objective component in all adults during routine physicals; the "Welcome to Medicare" assessment; and Medicare annual risk assessments, that are done in primary care settings.

**Be open about your hearing loss, and tell your providers about HLAA. We have materials you can share with them. Ask us for them. We will see that you get them.**