



## HLAA Fox Valley Chapter News

### Volume 37 Issue 1

### February 2022



### Chapter Meeting on Zoom\*

**Monday, February 14, 2022 6:30 PM (CST)**

### **"Loving, Living & Laughing with Hearing Loss"**

Join us for a discussion on how hearing loss affects, not only the people who have it, but the people with whom they associate. Family, friends, spouses, co-workers, etc.

How do they handle us? How do we handle them? Are we, and others, doing all we can to eliminate barriers and hurt feelings?

Let's listen to participants from both 'sides' of this topic on a panel as they share what works for them, and maybe what doesn't. Everyone will have time to share their thoughts and experiences after the panel is done.

Invite your spouse, friend, child, significant other, co-worker, etc. to what we expect will be an enlightening meeting with a lot of positive suggestions.

Bring on the chocolate or your favorite candy! After all, it's Valentine's Day. You know we'd have it for you if we could meet in person.



**Everyone in attendance will be included in a drawing for a gift certificate from Willmar's Chocolates in Appleton!**



**\*See ZOOM instructions on page 2.**



December Social at the Appleton Yacht Club brought food, fun and friends together!



Thank you to Chris Moylan and Christine Klessig for planning our December social. And thanks to everyone who brought soup, salad and other goodies. Several crazy holiday sweater owners went home with prizes. (Photos compliments of Rhonda.) Next time we're going to get a group picture! **HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!**

Fourteen of our chapter members enjoyed seeing Xavier High School's production of 'Christmas Stars' the week before the social. We all enjoyed being able to participate in excellent theater with the hearing loop installed there. Thank you to Julie Olson & Michell Frisbie for arranging this opportunity, and to all who joined us.



Interested in attending the 2022 HLAA National Convention? We need a chapter delegate, preferably someone who has never attended before. Expenses will be covered. We also have a few \$500 stipends available. You must be a national member of HLAA, and show interest in being involved in our chapter. Let us know ASAP. [hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com) Registration deadline is March 1st.



A bill proposed by the New York City Chapter of HLAA to require the city's movie theaters to offer weekly open-captioned screening for every film, was overwhelmingly passed by the City Council in December. The groundbreaking bill culminates years of efforts by the deaf and hard of hearing communities to address problematic access to movies via the use of closed-caption devices as required under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Special thanks to HLAA-NYC Chapter members Katherine Bouton, Ruth Bernstein, and Jerry Bergman. The successful effort in support of the bill's passage was led by Bergman and John Waldo, a disability rights attorney with profound hearing loss and a veteran advocate for cinema accessibility.

The bill is expected to be signed into law soon by Mayor Eric Adams and will take effect 120 days later.



When we work together to effect positive change under the umbrella of a respected organization like HLAA, we can, and will, make good things happen. Watch for opportunities to work towards legislation in Wisconsin. Your voice matters! Lend your voice to HLAA by becoming a member.

#### HOW TO PARTICIPATE ON ZOOM:

- 1. Register in advance for our meeting at:**  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlode-gpj0tGdPTeENiNYGdMPa\\_mk6dLaao](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlode-gpj0tGdPTeENiNYGdMPa_mk6dLaao)
- 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 only 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.

## Two Chapter Subgroups; Each With it's Own Purpose

HLAA Fox Valley Chapter offers two sub support groups, Cochlear Implant Group and H.O.P.E. which stands for "Hearing Other People's Experiences". Both groups provide the opportunity to ask basic questions and to share personal experiences.

The CI group is primarily for adult CI recipients and potential CI candidates. We are not 'brand specific', and have implant recipients representing all three major manufacturers; Cochlear Americas, Med El and Advanced Bionics. They also come from a variety of hospitals that provide cochlear implantation

CI group members answer questions to help potential candidates with decision making, surgery (pro + con), and expected outcomes. Impromptu discussions that include problem solving with devices/equipment, new information released from manufactures, and coping strategies for improved communication are typical. Sharing our stories inspires hope as it gives help.

The H.O.P.E. support group provides an opportunity to learn the basics of living well with hearing loss. So often people who are diagnosed with hearing loss are confused about what to do, what to buy, and what to expect. We educate by sharing information. We focus on providing peer support while encouraging everyone to reach out to others. H.O.P.E. encourages spouses, partners, family members and friends to participate. H.O.P.E. provides a free-floating discussion that will benefit people who are just beginning or who might be stuck in their hearing loss journey. People who have had hearing loss for years who want to reach out to help others are also involved in H.O.P.E.

We talk about hearing tests, degree of hearing loss, assistive technology and how to access it, among many other things that people with hearing loss don't often get from the professionals. H.O.P.E. provides mutual support as we share our experiences, both good and not so good. New people are always amazed to learn they are not alone with these experiences. We know that hearing loss affects the whole family, whether you have the "listening challenges" or someone close to you does. We are NOT experts, but we have experience living with hearing loss ourselves. We believe that helping others is central to living WELL with hearing loss. We know because others helped us!

Until the end of the pandemic, CI and H.O.P.E. will alternate every other month via ZOOM. When the chapter can meet in person again, H.O.P.E. will return to it's original schedule of meeting before the monthly chapter meeting, with ample social time between the two. We subgroup facilitators will work to keep the meetings to a reasonable length. At that time, the CI group will likely continue to meet every other month via ZOOM. Our subgroups will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, except when that Tuesday falls during the same week as the chapter meeting. In that case, they will shift to the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday.

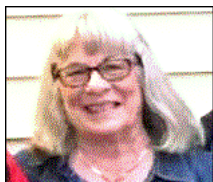


Rhonda Clancey  
CI Facilitator



Dale Voskuil  
HOPE Facilitator

**Mark your calendars: Cochlear Support Group Tuesdays at 6:00 PM ( March 22/ May 17/ July 19/ Sept 20/ Nov 22. H.O.P.E. Tuesdays at 1:00 PM (February 22/ April 19/ June 21/ August 16/ October 18. Watch for e-mails from Rhonda or Dale and in newsletter.**



## This Is YOUR HLAA!

### President's Message From Julie Olson

How did you learn about HLAA? So many who attend our meetings for the first time ask why no one ever told them about us. We don't know the answer, but we all wish that HLAA wasn't such a 'well kept secret'. That can change if we all take some ownership in making that happen. Tell others about HLAA. Take a copy of this newsletter or one of our brochures\* to your healthcare providers. Explain that you've received encouragement from HLAA. Let them know we exist.

Do you know that HLAA represents all people with hearing loss? You don't have to join HLAA to be represented. That is a choice you make if you decide you want to support a national movement to make hearing loss an issue of concern; a movement to promote improvements in technology and advancements in medicine, and a movement to erase age old stigmas and myths that keep millions of hard of hearing people from seeking help.

HLAA advocates, educates and works to share information that can positively change the lives of people with hearing loss. At the chapter level, especially, HLAA provides peer support. We talk about 'it'! We understand how 'it' affects us. We learn we are not alone. The value of that alone is worth its weight in gold!



Life has been different these past two years. We miss holding our meetings in person but we've adapted. Meeting online works well. We've been able to host presenters from other parts of the country. We thank everyone who has joined our virtual meetings. Because of you, Fox Valley Chapter has the energy to keep going. Your participation tells the chapter leaders our time spent is worth it. "Thank you!"

For more information about HLAA, we strongly recommend that you explore the national HLAA website. [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org) There, you will find many things, including a list of recorded webinars available to view. Among them:

- Best Practices for Landing a Job in a Virtual Environment
- Hospital Safety Program
- Psychology of Hearing Loss
- We're All Ears: Person Centered Hearing Care
- Hearing Accessibility and the Law: Your Rights
- Direct link: [HLAA Webinars, an educational way to connect and learn \(hearingloss.org\)](http://www.hearingloss.org)



You can sign up to receive HLAA's free bi-weekly national newsletter. And maybe you might even be motivated to 'join' the national organization that has made such a difference in so many of our lives.

\* We will mail you or your provider a packet of brochures on request. [hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com) Subject header: Request for brochures.

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

## The 2022 Chapter Sponsor Program Has Begun!

Appeal letters to those who have participated in the past are being mailed now. Names will be added as donations are received. Those included in this edition were received in late 2021. We are very grateful to everyone who supports the chapter this way. It is the only fundraiser we have.

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

## 2022 Chapter Sponsors

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

Jim Machalk

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

Doug Grant Memorial, from his daughter Elizabeth Lewis  
Jim Hemmen  
Christine Klessig  
Barbara Merry  
Jan & Diane Veenendaal

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

Charles Hastert  
Michelle Frisbie  
Julie & John Olson

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

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 support to people with hearing loss who choose to remain in the hearing mainstream with technology.***

*Thank you!*

We send condolences to the families and friends of two of our long term members who passed away recently.



LeRoy Sauer passed at age 91 on November 14th. He and his wife Sylvia, also deceased, were actively involved in our chapter for years.



Carol Konetzke passed at age 89 on January 10th. Carol was the chapters original 'fund raising' chair. Her projects helped us grow.

Both LeRoy and Carol jumped into active involvement in the chapter in the mid 1980s, serving as officers, committee chairs, and helpers whenever and wherever they were needed. Their volunteer spirit was precious and contagious. Bless them!

Rest in Peace LeRoy & Carol.

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

**February 14:** Regular chapter meeting. (see page 1)

**February 22:** H.O.P.E. At 1 PM

**March 1:** Deadline for 'Early Bird' convention registration.

**March 14:** Regular Chapter Meeting-Showing of documentary *"Now Hear Us"* plus discussion. (More in March NL)

**March 22:** Cochlear Implant Group at 6 PM

**April 11:** TEPP Program by HEARWI (telephone equipment)

Balance of year to be determined.

Regular chapter meetings will continue on the 2nd Monday of each month in 2022. 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. (See article on page 2.)

We are 'sitting on pins and needles' meanwhile, due to the uptick in the Omicron COVID Variant. This will pass, and we will meet in person again. Meanwhile, stay connected. Our Zoom meetings work. Zoom also makes it possible for people from outside our region to join us. It's good to see everyone, even if it's only on a computer screen!  
You all look GREAT!

*"A bend in the road is not the end of the road unless we fail to make the turn!" Helen Keller*

## 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 Zuicker

Feel free to contact any of us personally, or use the chapter's e-mail address. We will respond as soon as possible.

## Text to 911 Now Available in Some Wisconsin Counties

Text to 911 is now available in Outagamie County. Google 'text to 911' to see if it's available in your county. It's a great way for those needing help to send a text to a dispatcher. When you send a text, it rings like a 911 call.

When texting in an emergency, Enter 911 in the To field. (no dashes). Give your exact location and type of emergency. Keep it brief, be prepared to answer questions and follow instructions. Do not use emoji's, and don't abbreviate. Text to 911 is for texting only, you cannot send photos or videos but that will be possible in the future.

My neighbor, Lt. Meghan Cash, explained that it has been very successful in situations of domestic violence and other violent crimes. She said, "The Text 911 capability available at Outagamie County is an excellent step in improving accessibility for members of our community to contact emergency services. The use of this tool already has been positive, and we look forward to seeing the additional ways it will impact the level of service we can provide to our community."

I believe this could be lifesaving for some of the deaf and hard of hearing community, also for those with speech difficulties. There are many situations where '911' can save lives. It is another form of 'access' for individuals with disabilities. Think about it: There could be a car crash, a fire, or if you are injured, it's good to know it is now a little easier to get help! I understand that Text to 911 was used when two kids texted from the backseat of the car and reported their Dad was driving drunk. Another example was a deaf woman texted 911 because she accidentally locked her kids in the car. If you have used Text to 911, please share your experience with us -

**Submitted by: Colleen Van Rooy** [cvanrooy@yahoo.com](mailto:cvanrooy@yahoo.com)



## 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. NOTE: HLAAFV has contributed funds to provide a second scholarship in the amount of \$1000 to the Ferris Scholarship, in the event there is more than one applicant who applies and meets the criteria for the Ferris award in 2022.