



2022

Summer Edition

www.hlaawi.org

In This Issue....

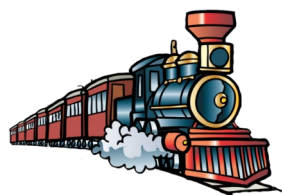
- Page 2 President's Message - Board Application
- Page 3 You CAN support HLAA! Here's how!!
- Page 4 Convention Report
- Page 5 **Contact Us.** Board & Committee Members
- Page 6 Our Legislative Efforts + Food for Thought
- Page 7 Tips to Combatting Isolation
- Page 8 HLAA Chapters in Wisconsin
- Page 9 Some Very Special Recognition
- Page 10 Ways & Reasons to Connect with HLAA

2022 HLAA Wisconsin Annual Meeting and State Conference

Friday & Saturday, October 14 & 15, 2022

Madison, WI

Hop On Our Train to Better Hearing!!



Join us the evening of Friday, October 14th for the Annual State HLAA Meeting, which will include the board election. HLAA members & their guests are invited!

The educational HLAA WI State Conference will be held on Saturday, October 15th from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM, and is open to the public!

- ♦ Tour the innovative Mobile Audiology Clinic "MAC" Truck sponsored by HEAR Wisconsin!
- ♦ Learn from knowledgeable guest speakers!
- ♦ Enter to win fantastic prizes in the raffle!

Lunch is included. A block of hotel rooms will be reserved for those who plan to stay and play in Madison for the night.

Join us to connect with old friends, meet new friends and socialize in an accessible environment.

You'll learn more about the latest in technology, and discover the power of accessibility!

**The meeting & all presentations will be captioned.
A hearing loop will also be in place.**

There will be a registration fee to cover costs. More information about registration will be sent by a follow up e-mail later this summer. Information will also be posted at www.hlaawi.org



Michelle Frisbie, HLAA Fox Valley, Katherine Rybak, HLAA Madison, Jim Rau, HLAawi State President/Iron River, and Pamela Martin/HLAA Metro Milwaukee attended the 2022 National HLAA State Convention in Tampa Florida in June. The 2022 convention featured a variety of presentations exhibits, and social events. Read all about it on page 4 of this newsletter. The 2023 convention will be held in New Orleans.

HLAWI President's Message by Jim Rau



Spring finally arrived, buds burst and things are growing. Similar things happened in HLAA WI. We are having some in-person meetings going on in WI, the SW WI Chapter is re-starting, we just had a very successful Walk4Hearing (see below), and we awarded a scholarship. Our State Association activities are picking up again after 2 years of COVID. More importantly our spirits are up.

Where are we headed from here? Well, that is sort of up to you. We are planning an Annual meeting and Conference for this fall where important elections will be held. Read about that below. We are renewing our legislative efforts and will be asking for each one to help. Read the Legislative report below. Go to your local chapter meetings and become involved in our activities.

So go out and enjoy your summer and keep active (IN HLAA). Remember you ARE the HLAA. Nothing happens unless WE do it. And one last thing, a big thanks to everyone who made the Walk4Hearing a big success with your participation or donations.

I hope to see you all in October!

Jim

Jim Rau
Iron River, WI
E-mail - jimrau@cheqnet.net



Nominations Open for HLAWI State Board

Interested in getting involved in HLAA-WI? There are two board terms expiring this year and two current vacancies on the Board. Consider running for one of the positions and help lead Wisconsin HLAA. The Nominating Committee will present the slate of candidates at the annual meeting on October 14 to be voted on by the total membership.

The state board meets four times a year at various locations or online. Become a part of this team that sets the policy and direction of our state organization. Go to the HLAA-WI website to download the application at this [LINK](#). Submit a completed Application/Nomination form as indicated by September 1.

If you have questions, contact any of the members of the nominating committee:

Jack Spear, Chair	jhspear@gmail.com
Pam Martin	mmmiracle4me@aol.com
Colleen Van Rooy	cvanrooy@yahoo.com
Jerry Lapidakis	jlapidakis@gmail.com



Do Your Share....Show Your Care!



This personal experience is shared by an anonymous HLAA Member: "I hadn't attended a drive in movie for years, and was apprehensive about going with my friend. I downloaded the app *Subtitles Viewer* on my iPad, set it up on the car's dash just under view of the big screen, typed in the movie name, (*Topgun Maverick*), and there was a script, white letters on a black background, ready and waiting. I pressed start at the beginning of the dialogue and it kept pace with the movie extremely well! Considering how new the movie is, I was really impressed. It was great being able to go to the drive in again!"

Have YOU used this App or another one that made life with hearing loss easier? Share with us!!
Hearing Other People's Experiences = H.O.P.E. Technology is there for us if we know about it!



**The Milwaukee Walk4Hearing
Was held on Saturday May 21st
at Veteran's Park in Milwaukee.**

**The HLAAWI "State Steppers"
had fun supporting the HLAA mission
At Wisconsin's Walk4Hearing event!**

Walkers Step Up and Step Out *by Jerry Lapidakis, Captain/State Steppers*

It was a sunny early morning at Veterans Memorial Park in Milwaukee when the HLAA State Steppers Team joined other HLAA, agency, company, and corporate teams for the first in-person Walk since 2019. Adults, kids, parents, dogs had a great morning of coming together, sharing their friendship, and raising awareness about hearing loss. You could feel the excitement as we met and socialized with new and old HLAA friends we hadn't seen in person for over two years. That was a big part of the day's experience.

Our State Steppers Walk Team raised the second highest total of pledges for a total of \$4,439! Team members reached out to family and friends and made personal donations to reach that total. The Walk raised a total of \$23,966. Wisconsin HLAA will receive 40% of the proceeds for our efforts. This amount will go towards our high school scholarship and to support other programs. Nationally, the funds are divided with 50% to national HLAA, 40% to participating organizations. 10% goes to pay costs associated with publicity and other costs related to holding the event.

Our team members played a large part in helping Ann Rancourt, National Walk Chair, and our Walk Day chair, pull off a very successful Walk. Ann coordinated the Walk from her office in Bethesda, Maryland. To help her, we identified local HLAA members who received the materials and supplies for the Walk. Ann shipped all the supplies and materials to Jim Goddeyne and BJ Ermenc who got them to the park by 7 a.m. Neethi Magar, Pamela Martin and Deb Spear worked the registration table. Neethi's family put up banners on the tents among other tasks while Juliette Sterkens and Max Maxfield put up the signs around the park. Caroline Ludka and her family assisted in the various event tents. Jack Spear, BJ and Jerry staffed the HLAA resource table. It was a team effort that made the Walk successful.



For our members, and me personally, it signaled the end of the pandemic and a chance to reconnect with people we haven't seen in person for the past few years. The event lifted our spirits and raised needed funds. Thank you to all who took active roles the day of the event, and also to those who donated.

Jerry Lapidakis,
State Steppers Team Captain



**Thank
YOU
Everyone!**



2022 Convention Memories...

This convention report includes a mixture of comments provided by the 4 Wisconsin HLAA members who attended the 2022 national convention. It's impossible to share all the information they provided. Here are some comments from our delegates. We will hear more at the HLAAWI state conference in October.

According to Jim Rau, HLAA Wisconsin President, approximately 450 people from all over the country attended the 2022 national HLAA convention in Tampa Florida. Un-masked faces were in the majority at this first in-person convention in two years.

The research symposium on Cochlear Implants "Now and in the Future", emphasized that CIs have made great technological advances, and that many more people could and should benefit from them than do.

A breakout session on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), included our own Pamela Martin as a panelist. Some of the most heartfelt and passionate statements of the entire convention were made in this session. Audience participation was huge. Pamela explained: "There are populations that have barriers to hearing help due to lack of insurance, unavailability of services, and the high cost of available services and technology solutions. Our organization is encouraged to work to include these diverse populations". We expect to hear a lot more about DEI issues in the future.

Jim said that travel accentuated his need for captioning because he was unable to understand announcements in airports and on the planes. "The session on captioning with respect to the source of desired sound, speed vs accuracy, numbers of speakers, ASR vs CART vs Hybrid, timing, readability etc. was most interesting". It is worth noting that all events at HLAA conventions feature Computer Assisted Realtime Translation. (CART), and hearing loop technology. FACTS: CART was first introduced as a form of communication access at a national convention in the 1990s. Loops have been used by HLAA since 1980.

Katherine Rybak, from Madison HLAA says: "As a new member of HLAA, this was my first national convention. I am so glad I went. Not only did I have the opportunity to attend informative and entertaining sessions, I met many others who deal with the struggles we, with hearing loss, all face." She mentioned attending the "Parenting Journal as a Deaf/Hard of Hearing Adult" that explained how important it is for hard of hearing parents to teach their children how to help them. One parent said she had taught her 4 year old how to put her cochlear processors on in an emergency. She emphasized the importance of having family members understand our technology.

Katherine enjoyed "The Psychological Nuts & Bolts of How to Form a Resilient Identity" that identified the psychological impact that hearing loss has on our mental and emotional well-being. She mentioned other workshops like "Yoga for Every Soul & Sound System" that discussed accommodation strategies for participants and promoted Yoga as an exercise that helps us manage listening fatigue, and tinnitus. "Hearing Loss, Workplace Inclusion & Career Success" shared a great deal of helpful information, including the resource, **Job Accommodation Network** (JAN). Explore JAN at <https://askjan.org/> Katherine is already planning to attend the 2023 national HLAA convention in New Orleans.

Michelle Frisbie, delegate from HLAA Fox Valley Chapter, who has attended several conventions in the past, shared her enthusiasm for a presentation on "Genetics & Hereditary Hearing Loss" and another on Hearing Loops and New Bluetooth LE (low energy) technology. She was impressed by the keynote speaker at the opening session who explained how artificial intelligence (AI) will power the next generation of hearing devices. Michelle mentioned that the exhibit hall, which included over 40 exhibits and vendors was worth attending several times.

Michelle says: "The best part of attending an HLAA Convention is about the PEOPLE, feeling 'at home' with others who experience hearing loss, meeting new friends and reconnecting with people I've met before. It's wonderful to not feel alone. I felt welcome and included by everyone I met! Plus, I could hear all the presenters thanks to the technology used to help us hear!"

Some stipends were provided by HLAAWI and individual chapters with support from involved HLAA members. The 2022 attendees expressed gratitude for that support.

Stipends will be offered again in 2023. Information will be posted at www.hlaawi.org and via chapter communication.

We look forward to hearing more at the 2022 HLAA Wisconsin Convention this fall.

HLAA Wisconsin Board & Leaders



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HLAA Virtual Veteran's Chapter
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Secretary
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Milwaukee Chapter
sharpdiva1209@yahoo.com



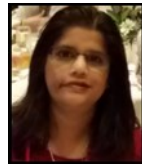
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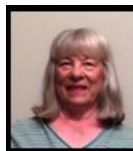
Juliette Sterkens AuD
HLAA Loop Advocate
Oshkosh
jsterkens@hearingloss.org

Vacant. Let us know if you're interested.



Jean Tyler
Member at Large
Madison

Off Board Support



Julie Olson MS
Appleton
Newsletter Editor
julieo@athenet.net



Colleen Van Roy
Appleton
Webmaster/Circulation Manager
cvanrooy@yahoo.com

Seeking Committee Support

Might you help us in these areas?

Veteran's Committee
Loop Committee
Fund Raising
Legislative
Mental Health Committee

Contact Jim Rau if willing to help.

jimrau@cheqnet.net

**TEAMWORK
MAKES THE
DREAM WORK**

*The mission of HLAA at all levels is
to share information,
to educate, to provide peer support
& to advocate.*

Help Us Loop Wisconsin!

The Wisconsin Hearing Loop Committee is seeking members.

Advocacy Advisor: Juliette Sterkens AuD

jsterkens@hearingloss.org

Technology Advisor: Mike Mair

mike@myhearingloop.com

Committee Chair: Christine Klessig

bommaklessig@gmail.com



Virtual Conference for Musicians With Hearing Loss

Learn how to make and listen to music despite hearing loss in this virtual conference.

The Association of Adult Musicians with Hearing Loss is hosting "Variations on a Theme" on July 16 and 17.

[Schedule-at-a-Glance](#)
[Conference Registration](#)

Registration is \$20 per person and includes access to presentation recordings for seven days after the conference. For more information, email Wendy Cheng at hohviolist@gmail.com

Governor's Advisory Council Seeking Members

The Wisconsin Governor's Council for Deaf, Hard of Hearing & Deaf/Blind is seeking applicants. This 9 member advisory council currently has 4 vacancies, and is hoping to recruit 2 Deaf members, 1 hard of hearing member, and a Member at Large. The M.A.L. may be a parent of a child with hearing loss. Currently, 2 council members who are active in HLAA, are on this council. They are Tom O'Connor/Fond du Lac and David Seligman/Madison.

Applications can be found at this link: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dhncouncil/index.htm>

The Council is following legislation and supports HLAA's legislative initiatives regarding assistive technology, hearing loops, telecoils, etc. It has stated that it is extremely important that, prior to selecting a hearing aid, every potential hearing aid purchaser in Wisconsin is informed & educated by their licensed hearing health professional about the benefits of t-coils for communication access in both public and private settings. This includes telephones, hearing loops & other assistive listening devices.

Editor's Edifications & Food for Thought by Julie Olson



During the past 30 years, and especially the last two when a pandemic held us all in its grip, technology has played a huge role in keeping people together.

Video conferencing is amazing, but without automatic speech recognition (ASR), many people with hearing loss could not participate fluidly. While speech to text has been in development for years, it had not become accurate enough to be effective. People with hearing loss, many inspired by HLAA and the hearing assistive technology that has been developed since HLAA was founded in 1979, pushed for ASR to improve, and it has. It is not verbatim like CART, but it's good enough to use in many situations when you know how to use it. It pays to learn.

For years, the only way to meet other hard of hearing people was in person at meetings and conventions held by HLAA. Back then many communicated on bulky landline text telephones. Into our lives came the internet, cell phones, e-mail, Facebook, Google, Zoom, etc. Meeting in person is still the best way to learn about coping with hearing loss but technology has given us other options.

Upon discovering HLAA, people are astounded to learn they are not alone with hearing loss. Meeting others who understand is therapeutic and inspiring. Feelings and frustrations are validated. Now, we often see this same reaction in online discussion groups. No matter how you meet others who understand...it helps!

A new Facebook discussion group called "Hearing Loss: The Emotional Side" started recently. It's fascinating to read people's stories which echo the same emotions most of us had before becoming involved in HLAA. Enlightening, albeit sad, is the reality that few who join the discussion know about assistive technology that goes beyond basic hearing aids, and even cochlear implants. **Why is that?** Is the 'commercial delivery system' failing us?

The emotions and frustrations people share are identical to those I had before HLAA and technology became a part of my life. **It's clear that we, who have benefitted from HLAA and who believe in the organization, must do more educating, advocating and outreach.**

What HLAA does matters to millions!



Our enlightening advice column is managed by Diane Koosed, an HLAA member from Ashland WI. She says "We are 'Hard of Hearing Allies (HOHAs)'" who can help others in a fun way by sharing our

experiences. So let's help her do it!

Here is the latest communication from our advice columnist, she states:

"Sadly, no HOHAs had any advice to offer "Solemnly Swearing," who had received a jury summons and had been asked if she needed accommodations. She did send in an update: "I asked for CART. No one contacted me. I received a date to appear. I called the court. I was told not to worry; almost all cases are settled out of court, and surely this one would be too. End result -- no progress made <sigh>."

So we move on...to this month's question:

Dear HOHAs,

My wife and I have been married for over half a century. We're in our seventies and both very active. She's particularly outgoing and loquacious. I am hard-of-hearing; she is not. Here's the problem: She constantly talks to me from another room. Or, sometimes when we're in the same room, one of us has our back turned when she talks to me. I've asked her over and over to make sure we're in the same room and facing each other. I've explained how essential this is for me to have the best chance of hearing and understanding her. Nothing seems to help. I'm getting frustrated and angry. I hope you have some suggestions for me! **Truly Frustrated**

Please send your suggestions to [Diane Koosed](#) and she will pass them on to me. Thanks in advance. Please send your questions too!

HLAA Veterans Across America Virtual Chapter Meeting

July 19, 2022 @ 7 PM CDT

Veterans with hearing loss are invited to attend the **Veterans Across America Virtual Chapter Meeting (VAAVC)** online using Zoom.

<https://hearingloss.zoom.us/meeting/register/>

Legislative Committee Activities... Picking up where we left off over 2 years ago when our proposals failed, we licked our wounds and remembered the lessons we learned. Starting anew, we are planning another attempt at securing "communication access accommodations" for hard of hearing and deaf people. That's right, I said deaf people. Deaf people and hard of hearing people share a common need; to communicate; although in different ways. Sometimes we use the same ways such as captioning, speech to text apps, and SMS messages.

The Legislative Committee had a meeting with State Senator Janet Bewley (Senate Minority Leader) about how to get things changed. She pointed out that change in our State Government is brought about in two ways, legislation and the State budget. Also that change is better brought about by incentives than by force.

We must find ways to make our needs known in a way that builds support for our proposals. Nothing will become law (legislation) or be implemented in the State budget without bipartisan support. We need to reach out to more legislators to build that support. **This committee is revising our "talking points" sheet. It will be made available to all of you so that we, as a group, can put forth the same message to our State Senators and representatives in the State Assembly, and also to community leaders and civic groups.**

This will be in time to bring to all candidates in the upcoming elections who should be receptive to issues brought up by anyone who votes. It will be the perfect time to speak up. Your voice will be needed. **This information will be sent out to all on the HLAAWI Mailing list & will be posted at www.hlaawi.org when available. The bottom line is that this effort will not be accomplished by the legislative committee alone. It will take all of us together to make contacts with and bring our needs to the attention of legislators, civic leaders, theater managers, etc. in order to get anything implemented.**

If you believe that 'communication access' is important, Please work with us to assure its availability. Thank you.

Combatting Isolation: Tips to Stay “In the Loop,” Regardless of Hearing Ability by John Kinstler



One of the most common concerns shared by people with hearing loss is a feeling of isolation, particularly living through our recent periods of social distancing. Connections with others help add joy and a sense of community to our lives. Consider these simple, proactive measures you can take to combat isolation, regardless of your hearing level.

Attend Virtual Events

Virtual events are a great way to enjoy things like lectures, sporting events, plays and more even if you can't be together in person. Online events often provide live or pre-recorded captions, depending on the service used. Ask the meeting host to turn on the captions. You can also interact with fellow attendees in typed back and forth “chat” sessions, rather than relying on hearing. You could also call into the event with a captioned telephone.

Become a Regular in a Hobby Group or Forum

What are you passionate about? Whether it's photography, sports, woodworking or myriad other things, there are thousands of people who share the interest with you. To find them, search on Google or Facebook for your interests with terms like “forum” or “group.” You will instantly find communities to trade tips, ask questions and chat with like-minded folks. Check with your area's [HLAA Chapter](#) about local special interest groups. If meeting in person, use mobile apps that will help translate voice into text.

Call Friends and Family with a Captioned Phone

Phone conversations with hearing loss have traditionally been challenging, but a captioned telephone makes it easy to stay connected to friends and family no matter the distance. The phone shows you live, word-for-word captions of everything your caller says, letting you hear what you can and read what you need to. You can enjoy phone conversations, confident that you'll catch every word.

Use Hearing Assistive Technology

There are so many new technologies designed for people with hearing loss, it's hard to keep up. Whether it's sound-filtering headsets for TV viewing, rear-window captioning for attending movies or plays, amplified speakers for video chats on your computer or laptop, Bluetooth devices that direct sound to hearing aids, the list goes on and on. The trick is to find and personally try new devices that match your interests. A good starting point is the Assistive Technology catalog by Diglo (formally Harris Communications) found at [diglo.com](#).

Connect the Old-Fashioned Way

Sometimes we forget, there are ways to stay in touch with the people we love that don't require any technology! Take the time to write a letter or card to a friend or family member or exchange small gifts through the mail. Everyone loves to have a pen pal!

We all feel isolated from time to time but taking simple proactive steps and incorporating some new technologies can help keep you “in the loop” with the important people and activities that add joy to your life. At all life stages, communication and good hearing health connect us to each other, our communities, and the world. Hearing loss should not keep anyone from reaching their full potential.

Learn more about early intervention measures at [HearWellStayVital.org](#).

CapTel Captioned Telephone, Inc. is an [HLAA Hear for Life Partner](#). CapTel is teaming with HLAA to promote hearing health and encourage more Americans to act on their hearing. We are pleased to share a guest blog post from CapTel's Outreach Marketing Manager, John Kinstler. John is a member of the HLAA Madison Chapter.

Mention of goods or services in this blog post does not imply Hearing Loss Association of America endorsement.

Office for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Job Posting

Job Posting Announcement

The Division of Public Health (DPH) is recruiting for the Program and Policy Analyst position. This position is a full-time position with the Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Applications will be accepted through July 13, 2022.

If you have questions about the position, contact [Caty Bulgrin](#)

HLAA Job Opening: Data Base Coordinator and Chapter Engagement Manager

<https://www.hearingloss.org/hlaa-position-chapter-engagement-manager/?>



HLAA is seeking applicants for these positions at the HLAA National Office in Rockville MD. Specifications and qualifications can be found at the link above. Also at [www.hearingloss.org](#)

HLAA Madison Chapter

HLAA Madison Chapter recently had an in-person meeting, the first since August of 2020. In an effort to reach more people, chapter members are trying something new, and that is to have the chapter meetings in different locations.



In May the meeting was held in Black Earth to celebrate Better Hearing Month. Organized and managed by Leona Schaefer, the meeting welcomed current chapter members and 4 new people. Leona discussed several issues regarding assistive devices, hearing loops and telecoils, the TEPP and TAP programs, and other resources available to people with hearing loss. There was also considerable discussion by the attendees about advocating for oneself. Finally there was a most enjoyable series of Bingo games with prizes, made accessible by the presence of CART and the hearing loop.

Although undecided, future chapter plans include meetings in other localities of Dane County and may also include monthly breakfast gatherings depending on COVID precautions.

There are definite rewards to be had by becoming involved, and there are no requirements other than a desire to live and thrive despite having a hearing loss. Please say "Yes!" and respond to us at: information@hlaamadison.org

We look forward to hearing from you.

HLAA Metro Milwaukee

Meets the 2nd Thursday in March, May, July, September, November & December, in Wauwatosa. **Contact:**

BJ: BJEHLAAMKE@gmail.com Jim jgoddeyne@gmail.com

HLAA Fox Valley Chapter



The chapter meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:30 PM. Social in July. No meeting in August. In person meetings to resume in Sept.!

We publish a monthly newsletter/meeting notice 10 times a year. Join our distribution list at: hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com

August and January are 'off months' when we don't meet.

Like our Facebook Page! We post things there too!! No website, but we post at hlaawi.org/chapters

We have 2 popular subgroups that meet regularly. One is a non brand specific Cochlear Implant group that meets every other month. It's a great place to learn about CIs whether you have one or are thinking about getting one. People from all over the state join us so we plan to continue using Zoom for our meetings. E-mail us to request "the link".



Our HOPE (Hear Other People's Experiences) group meets, just to talk, ask questions and share our experiences. HOPE will meet prior to our regular chapter meetings, in person, starting in Sept.

All the information you need to join us is in our newsletter, which can be received online or in print. Just let us know your preference. We'll be glad to add you to our distribution list.

HLAA Fox Valley is currently collaborating with Volunteer Fox Cities to find ways to get information out to all who can benefit from HLAA.



The SW Chapter began hosting in-person monthly meetings in March 2022 after being inactive during the pandemic. The Chapter meets at the Platteville Senior Center the last Wednesday of each month, and features presenters who educate and inform attendees about resources for people who live with hearing loss.

Everyone is welcome to attend meetings at: The Platteville Senior Center, located at 155 W. Lewis St. Meetings are scheduled from 10:00 – 11:30 AM on the last Wednesday. Coffee and baked goods are served at every meeting.

The recent May 25 featured guest presenter Kathy Kopp who spoke about her personal experiences dealing with her own hearing loss while working in her former position as Executive Director of the Platteville Regional Chamber and now as member of the Platteville Common Council and Grant County Board. Kathy and the eight people who attended the May meeting agreed that speaking up was important to alert people that we live with hearing loss. The group expressed their appreciation to Kathy for her own "speaking up" by sharing her story with us. Here is a link to a youtube video from Kathy Kopp https://youtu.be/GANhLeC_Xxc

For more information about the HLAA SW Chapter, call Jackie Mihelcic (608) 642-0008, or e-mail: hlaaswwi@gmail.com



HLAA Door County—We have no current information about the Door County Chapter. Prior to the pandemic, they were holding meetings in Sturgeon Bay. Contact: Stan Whiteman: swwhiteman46@gmail.com Please connect with us if you have information.



2022 HLAWI Scholarship Winner Announced

HLAA-WI is pleased to announce the recipient of the 4th annual HLAA-Wisconsin scholarship. This is a scholarship awarded to a Wisconsin high school senior with hearing loss who uses technology to offset the challenges presented by the hearing loss. The \$1500 one-time award is to be used toward the expense of post-secondary education. If you know a student who will be a senior next year who meets these requirements, please spread the word that next year's application deadline is March 31, 2023. The application is posted on the website (hlaawi.org) by November 30th.

This year the scholarship committee had many highly qualified applicants, making the selection especially difficult. Maggie S. from Milton High School near Janesville, was selected as the 2022 scholarship winner. Maggie has a bilateral severe low frequency rising to mild high frequency hearing loss diagnosed at the age of 4. She wears hearing aids in both ears, which she says "have become a part of her".

Like many kids, living with a low incidence disability like hearing loss, means that Maggie was the only student in her class with hearing loss. Unlike many kids with hearing loss, though, she learned she had to develop a strong self esteem in order to advocate for her needs, rather than "try to blend in" with her peers. She states that *"advocating and educating [others] allows me to set myself up for success."*

Because of this quality and her inclusive personality, she has often helped mentor younger hard of hearing kids. Her hearing loss does not define her, though. Maggie has enjoyed a very active role in 4-H for the past 12 years, including being secretary for 3 years, and has attended the Youth Leadership Conference. Maggie has also helped coordinate community service projects for 4 years through the Interact Club. She is a member of the National Honor Society, and is active in her church. She is planning to attend UW- Stevens Point in the fall, to become a clinical laboratory technician. HLAA-WI would like to wish Maggie and all the applicants the best as they pursue their career goals.

Actress Marilee Matlin Comments on the Academy Award Winning Film, CODA*....

Until the 2022 Academy Award night, [Marlee Matlin](#) had been the only deaf person to receive an Academy Award when she won an Oscar for her role in the 1987 film *Children of a Lesser God*.

That streak broke at the 94th Academy Awards, when Troy Kotsur, Matlin's costar in the movie "CODA," earned a best supporting actor Oscar for his role, becoming the first deaf man to win an Academy Award for acting.

"CODA" also won the Oscar for best picture, an historic win for the deaf community and the first film distributed by a streaming service, in this case Apple TV+.

"I'm so happy because finally, this validates that everyone is respecting our work as actors in every way," Matlin told ABC News' Lara Spencer backstage after CODA won for best picture. "It's been 35 years and I've been waiting for another deaf actor to join me."

"I've been waiting for another movie with this message similar to ours to come out, and it hasn't happened," she said. "I just am hoping this opens the floodgates."

CODA is being adapted into a stage musical by [Deaf West Theater](#) in Hollywood. **Matlin & Kotsur Backstage**

*CODA is the acronym for Children of Deaf Adults.

National HLAA Award Goes to Emma Schaeffer



Emma & Leona Schaeffer

We share the great news that national HLAA awarded Emma Schaeffer, daughter of HLAA Madison Chapter member, Leona Schaeffer, the **Alice Marie Stone Family Involvement Award**, at the 2022 National Convention.

This award was to be presented 2 years ago, but the convention was cancelled that year.

Here's the scoop: Emma chose a research topic and action plan for her Humanities English class her sophomore year that featured "Youth Hearing Loss Awareness". Emma's mother has hearing loss, so she focused on that story, along with researching to learn more about how important it is for young people to protect their hearing.

Emma used the theme "Listen Up, and designed a T-shirt with that message to create awareness and raise money which she donated to HLAA Madison Chapter. As chapter president, Jack Spear said, "Emma learned about youth hearing loss, raised money for HLAA and best of all, honored her mother.

Congratulations to Emma on this very special recognition!

Having Trouble with Closed Captioning on TV?

Closed captioning (CC) gives people with hearing loss access to television programming, and also provides critical links to news, entertainment, and information by displaying the audio portion of broadcasts as texts on the TV screen. It isn't always perfect, but it sure helps in most instances. CC has not always been available. It took a lot of educating and advocating to make it as available as it is today. Still, it can be troublesome sometimes. If you are unhappy with the quality of captions on a specific program, you can make your voice heard by filing a complaint with the FCC. Here is the link to do that. https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov/hc/en-us/signin?return_to=https%3A%2F%2Fconsumercomplaints.fcc.gov%2Fhc%2Fen-us%2Farticles%2F202701124-Closed-Captioning-on-Television



Mayo Clinic CONNECT is an online community where people ask questions & share their experiences with a variety of health issues, hearing loss is one of them. HLAA supports MCC. HLAA members often share information on MCC. Might you have experiences to share, or questions to ask? <https://connect.mayoclinic.org/>



HLAA's Statement of Strategic Intent

HLAA seeks to enable people with hearing loss to live life fully and without compromise. Success will be achieved when:

- Stigma withers away. Hearing loss is no longer considered shameful.
- People take action. Effective, affordable, and easy-to-use hearing devices are routinely worn by people with hearing loss.
- Costs come down. Medicare and all other insurance plans cover a full range of hearing technology and aural rehabilitation programs.
- More public spaces are communication accessible. High-quality assistive listening devices and captions are available in theaters, transportation, government buildings, and houses of worship.
- Consumers have know-how. People understand how to successfully cope with their hearing loss, and how to access, obtain and use the technology and therapies they require.
- Providers follow best practices. Clinicians offer a wide spectrum of devices and treatments, know how they work, and base care on an assessment of each person's hearing and lifestyle needs.
- Technology works seamlessly. Audio devices, including mobile phones, easily connect to one another without glitches, incompatibilities, or additional devices like streamers.
- Hearing loss is recognized as a key public health issue. Healthy hearing is deemed essential to human physical and psychosocial health **so that screening for hearing loss occurs routinely in primary care.**
- Hearing loss prevention is routine. School children are taught how and why to protect their hearing. Laws limiting noise levels in public spaces are enforced.

Whether you are a 'member' or not, HLAA represents all 48 million hard of hearing Americans.

If hearing loss is a 'problem' for you, join the HLAA movement to make hearing loss an issue of concern. Help us advocate for support and the technology we need to have effective communication access. Numbers matter. Together we will make good things happen.

WWW.HEARINGLOSS.ORG

TO join HLAA: Visit the Make an Impact Link [HERE](#)

STAY CONNECTED

Follow us on social media.



GET HLAA E-NEWS

Learn about current hearing loss issues and how HLAA is working for you.

[SIGN-UP](#) This is a free service from HLAA.

HLAA, at all levels, offers a variety of opportunities for people with hearing loss to come together to learn & discuss issues & concerns related to hearing loss. Check out opportunities on the national HLAA website. Regionally, on the hlaawi website.

COVID was difficult, but it also introduced us to videoconferencing that has given us the opportunity to bring in presenters and participants from out of our immediate region. Still, we plan to get back to in person events. Hopefully hybrid meetings where we can include Zoom.

Whether we meet in person or on Zoom, come learn with us. All of our events are captioned! Providing 'communication access' with technology is vital to our success.

We'd love to have you join us!

www.hearingloss.org www.hlaawi.org

Several webinars that have been sponsored by HLAA at different levels are available on the HLAA website.

This [LINK](#) will take you to many interesting learning experiences.

Disclaimer: HLAA does not endorse products or providers. HLAA advocates, educates, shares information and provides peer support.