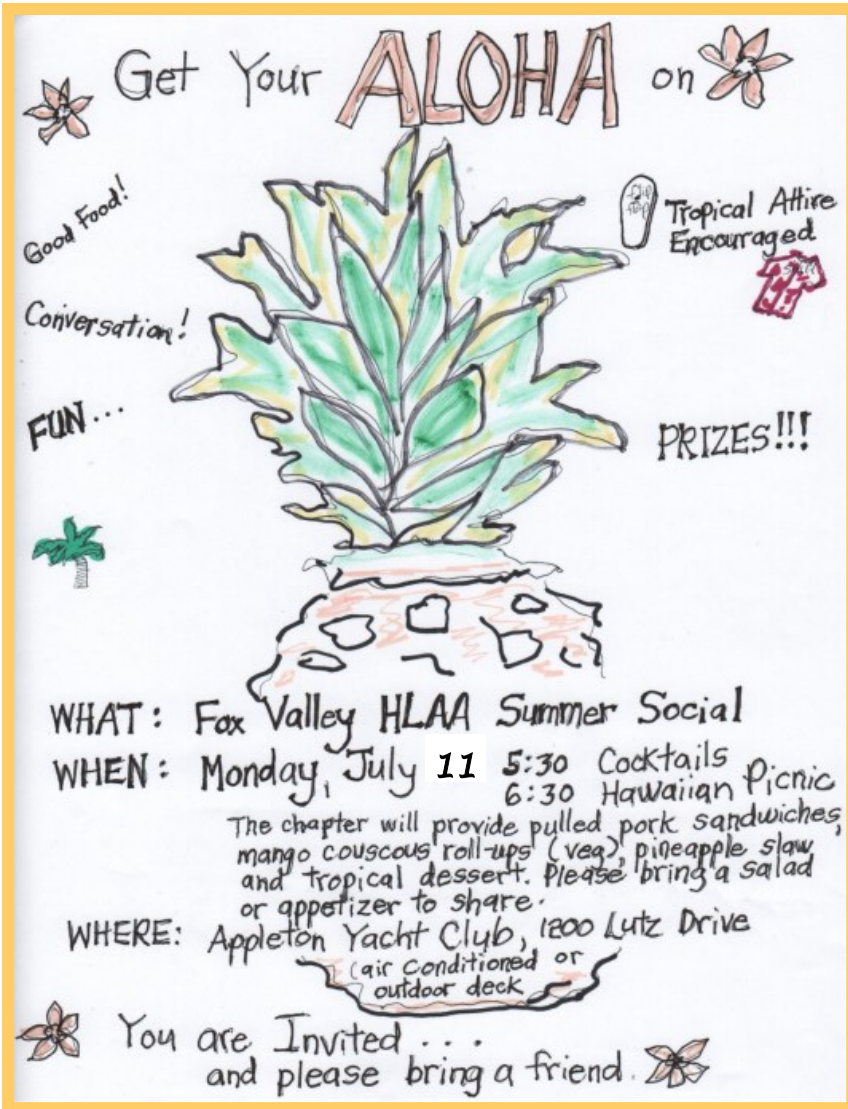




HLAA Fox Valley Chapter News

Volume 37 Issue 6

July 2022



Get Your **ALOHA** on

Good Food!
Conversation!
FUN...

Tropical Attire Encouraged

PRIZES!!!

WHAT: Fox Valley HLAA Summer Social
WHEN: Monday, July 11 5:30 Cocktails
 6:30 Hawaiian Picnic
 The chapter will provide pulled pork sandwiches, mango couscous roll-ups (veg), pineapple slaw and tropical dessert. Please bring a salad or appetizer to share.
WHERE: Appleton Yacht Club, 1200 Lutz Drive
 (air conditioned or outdoor deck)

You are Invited...
and please bring a friend.



Wisconsin HLAA Members Attend National HLAA Convention

Report from Our Chapter Delegate,
Michelle Frisbie.

I've attended a number of National HLAA Conventions, This year in Tampa was another testament that HLAA National works hard for all of us across the country to educate & energize it's members while heightening awareness about hearing loss.

Workshops shared information about genetics and hereditary hearing loss, hearing loops & new Bluetooth LE (Low Energy) technology, & how AI (Artificial Intelligence) will power the next generation of hearing devices. I was reminded that we all need to ensure that hearing loss has a seat at the table whenever DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) is being discussed. We must ensure that HLAA meetings & leadership are diverse & inclusive. I enjoyed a half day Research Symposium about cochlear implants & recent research studies about utilization & outcomes, based on cultural & ethnic differences. I toured the Exhibit Hall numerous times. There were 40 exhibitors sharing information about hearing aids, CI's, captioned phones, & other assistive devices. I spent time at the Cochlear exhibit, chatting with Cochlear reps about my recent upgrade to the N7 & Apple iPhone. I brought home brochures & information I will share with chapter members.

The best part of attending National HLAA Conventions, is about the people, feeling "at home" with others who experience hearing loss, meeting new friends & reconnecting with people I've met before. It's wonderful to not feel alone, even though I traveled there alone. I felt welcome & included by everyone I met! Plus, I could hear ALL the presenters. Workshops were ALL looped with wonderful technology to help us hear!

Look for more details & personal stories by me & other state leaders in the next HLAAWI state newsletter. Watch Facebook for member recaps, & visit the national website www.hearingloss.org for more information. Consider attending next year's convention in New Orleans. It's a most worthwhile event that everyone with hearing loss should experience! Feel free to email me for more information or with any specific questions, or let's chat at the July social. Thank you, Fox Valley Chapter, for providing a stipend to help defray my costs to attend this year.

Michelle

Let's Do It Again!

- Last year's July social was so much fun We're going to stay with the same theme this summer.
- This is a relaxing event. Time to visit, enjoy good food, celebrate summer, and enjoy getting out and about!
- Please bring a salad or appetizer to share.
- You can purchase the beverage of your choice at the Appleton Yacht Club bar.
- Share HLAA with a friend. Bring them along!

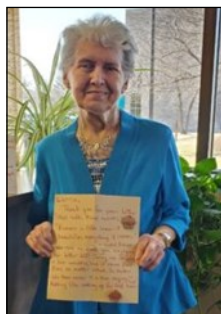
HLAA was Shared at a Volunteer Fox Cities Event!



Dave & Russ

Christine & Lorna

Many HLAA members volunteer for other organizations. It was special to see some of them at this event.



Lorna Hamilton, a longtime member and volunteer of HLAA Fox Valley Chapter, also volunteers with the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program. She has been involved in a special Pen Pal Program that started during the time when vulnerable populations were facing loneliness due to COVID isolation. Her pen pals live at Brewster Village, a short-term rehabilitation and long-term care community in Grand Chute.

During the pandemic RSVP looked for safe ways to continue to engage volunteers. This program was safe, and also beneficial to the recipients of the letters. The volunteers have experienced the joy of getting letters back from them. As many of us know, it's nice to get a personal letter, something that doesn't happen often these days.

Congratulations to Lorna for her recognition in the recent RSVP newsletter.

Volunteers interested in writing letters/cards for the Pen Pal Program can contact Kara Patterson, RSVP program assistant, at 920-832-9360 or by email at kara@volunteerfoxcities.org.



The Wisconsin Office for Deaf & Hard of Hearing will hold a 'Community Connect'

event on July 7th. From 12:30—1:30 PM. The topic of this meeting will be on assistive technology that is used by people with hearing loss. Communication access will be provided by captioning and by an ASL interpreter.

Laura Plummer from the Department of Health Services will discuss assistive technology (AT) used by people who are Deaf and hard of hearing. She will share information about WisTech, Wisconsin's assistive technology program, that has devices available for demonstration and loan. You'll learn where to find AT devices and the funding programs available to help pay for them. Laura is happy to answer questions and also likes to get input on what gadgets or apps you currently find the most helpful.

Zoom Link: <https://dhs.wi.zoomgov.com/join/1616207865>

If you have any issues joining the meeting, [email ODHH](mailto:email@odhh.wisconsin.gov).

Did you know Fox Valley Chapter has it's own "Walking Encyclopedia"

among its members? What the heck is that? The dictionary defines a walking encyclopedia to be a person who has an impressive knowledge of facts about a topic.



That is certainly the case for Julie Olson, founder of HLAA Fox Valley Chapter. Julie was elected to our organization's first national board in 1984 and served 2 terms as national president. She remained on that board for 14 years during HLAA's early development years. After nearly 40 years of involvement in HLAA at the local, state and national levels, she has amassed a comprehensive understanding of all things HLAA, including it's fascinating history. She currently serves as our chapter president and is the newsletter editor for both HLAA Wisconsin and HLAA Fox Valley.

In recognition of her extensive knowledge and continuing



dedication to this organization, the chapter board surprised her with a cake and vintage desktop encyclopedia set at the May chapter gathering. Julie celebrated her 80th birthday in

May, so a rousing chorus of ♪ Happy Birthday ♪ honored her as well. Thank you Ms. J -- our very own Walking Encyclopedia of HLAA!

The Chapter Board & Friends

Response & Thankyou from Julie...

It has been my pleasure and my passion to support HLAA, the organization which gave hard of hearing people a voice, along with peer support while promoting technology and medical research. I believe that research will some day cure sensorineural hearing loss!

The support I've received from people I've met through HLAA, has given me more than I can ever repay. Thankyou for the honor of celebrating my entry into the "octo decade"!



My hope and goal is to see HLAA and this chapter continue to help people live well with hearing loss through learning, accepting, and reaching out to help others for years to come. I am very grateful to all the people who have participated as leaders in our chapter over the years.

HLAA showed me I was not alone with my early adult onset hearing loss and introduced me to a whole new group of wonderful friends who understood. In turn, that helped me explain it to my family, friends and employers. Feeling honored, blessed and grateful. Thanks everyone!

Julie

Happy Independence Day!





SYNOPSIS OF OUR JUNE CHAPTER MEETING

Submitted by Christine Klessig

"Hearing Loss & Aging . . . with Technology" was the timely topic presented by Beverly Biderman via ZOOM on 6/13/2022.

Profoundly deaf as a teenager in the 60s, Biderman lived in a world of near silence until 1993, when she received a cochlear implant (CI). She now has bilateral implants. Her hearing continues to improve as her brain continues to adjust to her CI's and incorporates HAT technology (such as hearing loops and Bluetooth streaming).

CI's are not totally miraculous, cautioned Biderman. But, in her opinion, the human brain is truly miraculous. Her quality of life definitely improved over pre-implant days when bluffing, intense lip reading and over compensating rendered her exhausted much of the time. She stressed the need for realistic expectations about CI implants and the importance of the rehabilitation work required to make them effective.

MS Biderman has authored a book about her hearing journey titled *Wired For Sound: A Journey Into Hearing*. Her primary motivations for writing the book were acceptance of her own deafness and education of others. It is excellent reading for anyone needing to make an informed choice about CI's, for parents of children with hearing loss, as well as for teachers, doctors, therapists and audiologists.

Thanks to MS Biderman for joining us via ZOOM all the way from Canada for an informative evening. She fielded many questions from the 25 attendees after her presentation. Kevin Gossens was the lucky winner of the raffle of her book sponsored by FV Chapter.

NOTE: This book is available on Amazon.



Get Tech-ED

Do you have questions about your electronic devices? Would you like to learn more about phone settings, Facetime, Google or Zoom?

Make an appointment with Tech-ED for Adults and you will be connected to an instructor who will meet with you one-on-one. Bring your own mobile device – laptop, tablet or cell phone – and we will work with you to achieve your goals – at no cost to you. Contact Chelsea at 920-832-9360 or chelsea@volunteerfoxcities.org.



HLAA, at all levels, is a 501c3 non profit organization. We do not recommend or endorse products or providers. We willingly share our experiences with them. Our chapter does not have dues.

We encourage people to support the HLAA movement to make hearing loss an issue of concern by joining the national organization at www.hearingloss.org Numbers matter!

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.

HLAA is a 501c3 tax exempt organization. Your donations are tax deductible.

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 Aid Center of ENT Specialists of WI Nicole Auxier AuD, Mark Conradt AuD, Cathy Dreiferst AuD, Andrea Federman, AuD, Jessie Grzeca, AuD, Erin Krueger AuD, Tamara Mischka AuD, Tricia Roh, AuD, Holly Rusch 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

Judy & Larry Benish, 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, Suzanne Brown, Pat Boldt, Jo Kintopf-Crabb, Michelle Frisbie, Mary Fritsch, Robert & Betty Gehr, Joyce Hanneman, 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)W

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!

Did you know that the concept of H.O.P.E. discussion groups started in HLAA Fox Valley Chapter? Many chapters throughout the country followed our lead and now hold H.O.P.E. discussions.