



Chapter Event — IN PERSON!!

Monday, May 9, 2022

5:30 PM



HATs Off to Better Hearing Month!



Put on your favorite fun HAT and join us at our May get together! If you have a favorite "Piece of HAT", bring that too! Now that you're totally confused, let us explain!



Hearing Assistive Technology is referred to as HAT (One more acronym to remember!)

Our May gathering has been called 'gadget night' too. **Bring your favorite piece of HAT to share with others.** It may surprise

us at the different assistive technologies people use to hear better. It will be a learning experience.

Isn't that what HLAA is all about?

We will meet in the Joe Bowers Room at The Ground Round Restaurant at 1010 Cameron Way in Neenah. Take the 114 exit East off Hwy 41. Food & beverages, at your own expense can be ordered off the menu.

It will be good to see our HLAA friends in person as we share what we know and learn from one another.

Seating is limited. Reservations needed by May 7th.

Reserve your spot at hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com

Put **MAY RESERVATIONS** in the subject header. We look forward to some cool HATs and great HAT!



See YOU There! You may even win a prize!

Synopsis of Our April Program

Those who joined our ZOOM chapter meeting on April 11th learned about TEPP - the Telephone Equipment Purchase Program. Presenter Laurie Flores from HEAR Wisconsin gave us the skinny on one of Wisconsin's "best kept secrets". She then asked participants to spread the word about TEPP so more HOH people will take advantage of this little known opportunity.

TEPP provides an \$800 voucher to people with documented hearing loss that allows them to buy equipment to help with telephone use. Recent updates to TEPP coverage includes purchase of iPhones and iPads that allow streaming. Updates also allow voucher purchase of pocket talkers and vibrating alarm clocks. Both of these latter items have consistently been rated as extremely helpful quality of life contributors.

Paperwork associated with these grants is not complicated. Ms. Flores suggested we work with **Options For Independent Living** (offices in Appleton and Green Bay) at www.optionsil.org or **HEAR Wisconsin** (office in the Milwaukee area) www.hearwi.org when applying for, or using a grant.

Grants are available for reissue every 3 years. There is no income level requirement for application. There is a \$100 copay for an \$800 voucher when it is used. If someone is unable to cover the \$100 co-pay, as separate program called TAP is available to cover that grant. (Telephone Assistance Program) That is income specific.

We will have TEPP application brochures available for pick up at our May 9th gathering.



Margaret Carriveau, collected her February meeting prize at the chocolate store! She sent us this picture and says thank you to HLAA and also that she is really loving the chocolate!

Who will the prize winner be at our May gathering?



"A device can bring you back into the world of sound. HLAA brings you back to a world of people."

...Barbara Kelly, HLAA Executive Director



UPDATE!!

So far, the HLAAWI Walk Team has raised over \$3199 for HLAA. Julie,

Christine & Michelle, from our chapter, have raised \$1425 of that amount. We hope more chapter members will consider joining the team or donating to the efforts of everyone who is participating. Do that at: www.walk4hearing.org Click on the Milwaukee Walk, and follow the prompts. No amount is too small.

Funds raised by the State Steppers are earmarked for scholarships for hard of hearing high school seniors who are pursuing post secondary education. The 2022 scholarship winner will be announced later this month.

Many non profit organizations, unrelated to HLAA that have missions related to hearing loss, participate in HLAA Walk events. They receive a portion of the funds they raise, HLAA receives 50%. That is how Walk events work. Besides raising money, walk events create public awareness of the health issues they focus on.

The Walk4HEaring, and the support of people who understand how important it is to make hearing loss an issue of concern, helps HLAA work for all of us.

Your support truly matters. Thank You!

Are Hearing Issues Related to COVID Vaccines?

The World Health Organization has examined rare reports of hearing loss and other auditory issues following Covid-19 vaccinations.

In a newsletter posted on its website, the international public health agency said that it has been made aware of sudden hearing problems, particularly tinnitus, or ringing of the ears, that may be associated with Covid vaccines. **The WHO reported 367 cases of tinnitus and 164 cases of hearing loss globally among people who had received a Covid-19 vaccine, usually within a day of the shot. That's out of more than 11 billion doses of Covid vaccine given worldwide, so the hearing problems seem to be extremely rare**

There is no proof that the vaccines may cause hearing problems of any kind.

Up to 10 percent of the U.S. population is estimated to experience tinnitus. So far, there is no known cure, although considerable research is being done. Since excess noise is often considered a harbinger of tinnitus, hearing protection appears to be the the best means of avoiding it.

It is unlikely the COVID vaccine causes hearing issues.

A Message & a Challenge by Julie Olson, Chapter President

HLAA Fox Valley Chapter is at a turning point. We've been here since 1983 & hope to keep going for years to come! COVID changed the game a bit, but we dug in & learned a new way to hold meetings. It has been a joy to see faces, even if they've been online. It's been special to have people from far away places join us because they could. We now face the challenge of what to do next.



We hope to return to in person meetings in the fall. The June meeting will be via Zoom. July is our traditional summer social. We 'go dark' in August. Our goal is to start in person meetings in September. Keep your fingers crossed!

The ability to reach out to people who don't live in the area is a plus, so your chapter leaders are exploring & learning about hybrid meeting formats that will allow both in person & Zoom participation simultaneously. So hang in there & say a prayer or two that will work. More information about 'where and when' will be in the June newsletter.

We have other issues to address. New board officers will be elected in November. It would help stabilize the chapter if a few people will agree to serve on committees. Among those committees are: social, program planning, newsletter editing & preparation, outreach/publicity, special event planning, technology, 2023 Walk4Hearing Team Captain, public speaking, etc.

We need to get the word out about our chapter. People don't know about HLAA. How do we reach them? How did you learn about HLAA Fox Valley? Did your hearing healthcare provider share HLAA information with you? Did your primary care physician ever talk to you about your hearing? Did you even tell them you have hearing loss?

Have you ever shared a copy of this newsletter with your providers? Do you tell your friends about HLAA? Do you have a few HLAA brochures on hand to share? If not, pick some up at the next in person meeting. There are many ways to do outreach. But the HLAA PEOPLE have to do that outreach.

HLAAFOX is working with Volunteer Fox Cities and RSVP to share each others information. There will be some opportunities to participate in community events. Will you sit at an exhibit table to promote HLAA & share our materials along with your experience with HLAA?

The mission of HLAA is to share information, to educate, to provide peer support, and to advocate. We do all these things in many ways. Together we can do much more.

We, hard of hearing folks, all want better technology. We don't like paying a fortune out of pocket to get it. We all want insurance & Medicare coverage for equipment we depend on. We also want better counseling from providers, and we want the silly stigmas about hearing loss to go away so people will stop hiding it!

It's easy to sit back & complain about how hearing loss affects our lives. It hits us hard, and in the beginning most of us have no clue what to do about it. Now, it's a personal choice to get involved to help make a difference for others. How do you feel about this?

Pick up a few HLAA brochures at our May event & help get the word out about this very special organization. Each one, reach one (or more)!!



See you all soon! *Julie*

ElderMatch = Companionship for Older Adults



Do you have a parent or sibling age 60+ who is living in their own home or apartment in Outagamie County who may benefit from a friendly visitor? ElderMatch Fox Cities can provide a caring, compassionate volunteer to visit them in their home.

This free, confidential visitation program not only gives friends and families of older adults peace of mind, it provides social opportunities for folks who are staying safe in their own home. At least once a week, a trained, vetted AmeriCorps Seniors volunteer with the Retired & Senior Volunteer 55+ Program will visit the older adult to play cards, engage in a board game, read together or simply chat.

The goal of ElderMatch is to assist older adults to remain healthy, safe and independent in their own home. If you – or an older adult in your life – could benefit from this program, contact Jan at 920-832-9360 or rsvp@volunteerfoxcities.org.

CODA Wins Best Picture

In our last newsletter, HLAA member, Mary Fritch shared her love of movies. The film CODA was up for best picture at 'The Oscars'. We're pleased that CODA received that major award, along with two other awards. Hard of hearing people often stop going to movies. We need to know there are ways to enjoy the theater. It's that HAT again; you know, those gadgets that so many don't know about. Let's learn more about this at our May gathering.



Here is a statement from the HLAA National website along with a link where you will find more interesting information.

The Apple TV+ film "CODA" captured the hearts of many and was recognized as Best Picture at the Oscars. The Oscars are presented annually by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. This moving story about a Child of Deaf Adults (CODA) made me laugh and cry. The performance of the Joni Mitchell song "Both Sides Now" by actress Emilia Jones, who plays Ruby Rossi, perfectly captures the emotional tone and themes of the film. More information at:

[The Power of "CODA" - Hearing Loss Association of America](#)

Would you be interested in watching this film as a group at an HLAA Chapter event? Let us know.

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

HLAA is in no way associated with a hearing aid provider called "HearingLife". *Hearing Life* is the name of the HLAA Magazine. Don't be confused by this similarity.

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
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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

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Anonymous, Jim & Rhonda Bartelt, Suzanne Brown, Pat Boldt, Jo Kintopf-Crabb, Michelle Frisbie, Mary Fritsch 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!

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

May 9: Hats, HAT & Gadget Night + Dinner OUT!

May 17: Cochlear Implant Support/Discussion Group

June 13: Cochlear Implants & Aging by Author/Presenter

June 21: H.O.P.E Support/Discussion Group

REQUEST MEETING LINKS AT: 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 will change after we begin holding chapter meetings in person. We plan to have H.O.P.E. meet prior to chapter meetings with time in between for food & a social break.

CI prefers to meet every other month on Zoom.

Cochlear Implant Support Group



Our next CI support Zoom meeting will be Tuesday, May 17 at 6:00 pm. We have been sharing experiences and trading educational information. We represent all three major brands of cochlear implants and have implantees attend from Milwaukee, Madison, Green Bay, and Rochester NY. Please come if you are considering a cochlear implant or if you already have one and would like to share and receive information.

You can register in advance for this meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqfuqhrz8vH92LGEyGjlf_t43K69pKpj2](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqfuqhrz8vH92LGEyGjlf_t43K69pKpj2)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. You may also request the registration link [at hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com)



Rhonda Clancey, CI group Moderator

2022 Chapter Leadership Board

Officers:

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Chapter e-mail: hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com

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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

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.



Our recent meeting generated quite a bit of conversation among those in attendance.

The next H.O.P.E. get together will be on June 21st at 1:00PM. The Zoom link will be in the June newsletter and available by request at hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com When in person meetings start, we will meet prior.

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



Hearing health care is in the midst of unprecedented change. Hearing loss is finally getting much-deserved attention—in local communities, nationally, in the press, and in the halls of government. But the changes haven't happened on their own. Since day one HLAA has been at the forefront of change. Through our advocacy efforts, events such as the Walk4Hearing and the HLAA Convention, our various communication vehicles, including *Hearing Life* and *Hearing Life e-News*, and most importantly, *you*—our members, the HLAA name has become synonymous with effecting changes that benefit consumers with hearing loss. **Become a member at:** www.hearingloss.org

You'll find considerable information about what HLAA is doing at the national website www.hearingloss.org You will learn what's going on in hearing health care and can also get the latest updates on national HLAA events. By becoming a member of HLAA, you support all that HLAA does at all levels. You validate the HLAA name. **Think about it: Before HLAA existed, we were all labeled as Deaf. Hard of hearing people didn't have an identity. There was little focus on technology. We've come a long way since 1979! Thank you HLAA!**