



HLAA Fox Valley Chapter News

Volume 37 Issue 7

September 2022

IN PERSON AND ON ZOOM!!

September 2022 Chapter Meeting

Monday, September 12, 2022 at 6:30 PM

Presenter: Susan McFadden Ph.D

Susan H. McFadden, Ph.D., is Professor Emerita of Psychology, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, where she taught undergraduate and graduate courses on adult development and aging, led seminars on dementia, and supervised students doing service learning in care communities.



She retired from the University in 2012, and now volunteers in many capacities for Fox Valley Memory Project (FVMP) www.foxvalleymemoryproject.org, a nonprofit she co-founded in 2012. Dr. McFadden presented an outstanding program for our chapter several years ago. We are delighted to have her back!

NOTE: Studies from Johns Hopkins, Stanford, and other research institutions indicate that *untreated* hearing loss can lead to loneliness, depression & cognitive decline. Hearing help is important!!

Might this be the time to bring your spouse, friend, or someone you know to our September meeting?

Everyone is welcome.

To join our September meeting via Zoom, register via the link below. You will receive a confirmation e-mail containing information about joining the meeting.

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckceyvvrD4oHtyRAnSV_530OdKc9Jl1bmj7s

The Zoom room will open at 6:15. Please come in early.

HLAA, at all levels, is a 501c3 non profit organization. We do not endorse or recommend products or providers. We willingly share our experiences with them. Fox Valley 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 The HLAA mission is to share information, to educate, to advocate and to provide peer support.

Get Ready to Celebrate With Us!!

Join us as we return to in-person monthly chapter meetings! We have a new meeting place too! Join us at Bordini Center, the same place where the 2019 HLAA state conference was held. 5 N Systems Drive, across from Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton.

The room has an excellent hearing loop. CART captioning will be in place too.

Our H.O.P.E. support and discussion group will be held, prior to our chapter meetings.

There will be a break between the 2 meetings for socializing. You are encouraged to bring a bag lunch. The chapter will furnish water and dessert. Vending machines are also available.

The past two years, when chapter meetings were held on Zoom, drew many people from outside the Fox Valley area. We want to continue to include them by using the hybrid Zoom technology available at Bordini Center.

Know that this is our first time trying this hybrid system. We ask for your patience and help as we experiment with this new technology. We definitely want your feedback! And support!

We are looking forward to this, and are really excited to see you all, whether it's in person or via Zoom. Here is our timeline:

H.O.P.E. Discussion 5 - 6 PM (in person only)
Social/Snack Time 6 - 6:30 PM
Zoom/Tech Set up & Chapter Business 6:30PM
Educational Program & Discussion 6:45 - 8PM

Hop on Our Train to Better Hearing!



HLAAWI Annual Meeting & State Conference

October 14 & 15 in Madison

Plan to join us the evening of Friday, October 14th for the Annual State HLAA Meeting, which will include the board election. Share your ideas and let the state leaders know your thoughts.

The HLAA WI Educational State Conference will be Saturday from 8:30am to 4:00pm and is open to all.

**Learn from knowledgeable guest speakers!
Win fantastic prizes in the raffle!**

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

Join us to meet with old friends, make new connections, learn the latest in technology, & discover the power of accessibility!

Information about registration, location, presentation topics & speakers, can be found at: www.hlaawi.org

We can discuss car pooling at our September & October meeting for Fox Valley Chapter members interested in attending the conference.

Appleton Noon Lion's Club

23rd Annual Senior Living Expo

Wed., Sept. 21st at Player's Choice/Appleton

Free Admission 8:00 AM - Noon

HLAA Fox Valley Chapter will participate in this event with a display table full of information and a spin wheel to win prizes. We encourage you to attend this worthwhile event.

HLAA Fox Valley has arranged for the Mobile Audiology Clinic (MAC), from HEAR Wisconsin (Milwaukee) to be there to offer free hearing screenings.

There will be presentations of interest. A hearing loop will be in use for those presentations.

Lots of prizes, raffles and valuable information as the Appleton Noon Lion's Club celebrates *Life after 50!*

Player's Choice is located at County Rd JJ (Edgewood Drive) 1.5 miles east of Appleton North High School.

Come spin the HLAA wheel and win a prize!

We hope to see you there!

Help the Lion's give sight and hearing to those in need. Used hearing aids and eye glasses will be collected for recycling.

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!

Top-10 interventions that have the largest impact on sustained quality of life

1. Reconstructive orthopaedic surgery
2. Mental health interventions
3. Cataract surgery
4. Early stroke intervention
5. Kidney stone removal
6. Pacemaker implantation
7. Coronary angioplasty
8. Non-malignant gynaecology
9. Cochlear implants
10. Cancer surgery



Cochlear implants are the 9th best procedure in medicine! Courtesy: Dr. Marcel Levi, University College London Hospitals.

Cochlear implants are now the standard of care for treating severe and profound hearing loss. They are routinely covered by insurance. The article linked below explains how you can navigate the financial side of getting a cochlear implant. How much does a cochlear implant cost without insurance? For self-pay patients, we provide tips on how to minimize the cost of a CI. In terms of cost, a CI is about the same as a knee or hip replacement. <https://www.chadruffinmd.com/blog/how-much-do-cochlear-implants-cost>

Google Maps Adds Hearing Loops to Website for Hearing Aid Telecoil Users

Google Maps is now including hearing loops in the accessibility information on its website. This should prove useful for users of hearing aids, cochlear implants, and other listening devices that employ a telecoil. Although this has received little notice from the national medias, it represents good news for people who are hard of hearing and use hearing aids and other devices that employ a telecoil, according to the consumer advocacy group [Loop New Mexico](http://www.loopnm.com/?utm_source=hearingtracker.com) (LNM). http://www.loopnm.com/?utm_source=hearingtracker.com

NOTE: If you're confused about what telecoils are, how they work, and why they are so important, do check out the link in the message above. REALITY: A telecoil adds less than \$15 to the cost of a hearing aid, but it doubles the hearing aid's value! Insist on it. More info at Loop Wisconsin www.loopwisconsin.com



HLAA marks 32nd Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and calls for more progress on hearing accessibility.

48 million Americans have hearing loss, many still don't have accessible communications required by ADA.

ROCKVILLE, Md.– HLAA was instrumental in getting accessible communications, such as captioning and assistive listening systems, included in the ADA. There's no question that accessibility has improved over the last 32 years, but there's a long way to go, especially when it comes to accessibility for invisible disabilities like hearing loss. People don't know that public places are required to provide 'communication access' as well as mobility access. That includes public places like movie theatres, lecture halls, stadiums, etc. According to HLAA advocates, equipment is often missing, broken or non-existent.

The ADA requires both employers and health care providers to provide accessible listening systems or captioning to people with hearing loss on request. HLAA notes that accessibility does not always mean providing a sign language interpreter since the majority of people with hearing loss do not use American Sign Language (ASL). These people need technology such as hearing loops, FM, or infrared systems and real-time captioning that provides the spoken word.

After 32 years, it's time to demand more. People with hearing loss, and all people with disabilities, deserve to have equal access to public spaces, work, school, and healthcare, however, people with hearing loss themselves must know their rights and file complaints if they don't get access.

HLAA urges people to learn what accommodations are available, and to take steps to file a complaint if they are not provided. Check out this link:

hearingloss.org/KnowYourRights

Suggestion: Ask your hearing healthcare provider about communication access. Explain to them how important it is to you. Become an advocate yourself.

Our newsletter is published 10 months of the year. Please share it with others. Help HLAA let hard of hearing people know they 'have a voice' & are not alone. You may receive it by e-mail or in print by regular mail. Let us know your preference. The e-mail version is in color and has live links. Send suggestions, comments and changes of address to hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com

HLAA-Fox Valley Chapter

P.O. Box 25

Menasha WI 54952-0025

2022 Chapter Calendar

September 12: Cognitive Decline and Aging

October 10: To Be Announced

Oct. 15 & 16 - HLAWisconsin Conference in Madison

November 14 - Dr. Krueger AuD will present the program

December 12 - Annual Holiday Social

2022 Chapter Leadership Board

Officers:

President & Newsletter Editor: Julie Olson* julieo@athenet.net

Vice President & HOPE Chair: Dale Voskuil* voskuild@gmail.com

Treasurer: Michelle Frisbie* michellefrisbie@gmail.com

Secretary: Christine Klessig* bommaklessig@gmail.com

Program Chair & CI Group Chair: Rhonda Clancey*

rclancey@hotmail.com

Member at Large: & Newsletter Preparation: Jane Young*

YBLUEJAY@aol.com

Social Committee: Christine Klessig*, Grace Zurivitch,

Chapter e-mail: hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com

Phone Contact: Karen at 920-733-4853

Support Crew: Bob Opsteen, Jerry Van Handel, Colleen Van Rooy, & Paul & Harriet Zuicker, Karen & Gary Kasten

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.

FDA Approves Over the Counter (OTC) Hearing Aids

This new category of hearing aids is expected to be on the shelves by mid-October, and may provide a good place to start getting hearing help for adults with mild to moderate hearing loss. So what should you know before you buy? A major key to success with any purchase is a good return policy, which the FDA did not require. Therefore, it is up to you, the consumer to check this critical feature. It is important to also understand that your hearing is unique to you and that what works for one person may not work for another. You must also understand that hearing aids are not like eye glasses, where instant results take place. Your brain will take time to adjust to listening to sounds in a new way. Look for a comprehensive return policy on the box, and do some research online. If an OTC device has significant problems, file a complaint with the FDA or call 1-800-FDA-1088. Don't give up. If a product doesn't work, return it and don't hesitate to try another.

Check the national HLAA website for more information.

www.hearingloss.org Be proactive.



Cochlear Implant Support Group News

Great CI zoom meeting in July! A cochlear implant surgeon was in attendance because he was interested in learning about the value of information sharing and the peer support our group provides. He told us that the medical professionals, (surgeons and audiologists), don't have the time to spend on counseling. Now that he knows about our CI group, he plans let his patients and colleagues know about HLAA, our chapter, and our CI group.

Note: The CI support group will continue meeting on zoom because we reach many people from outside our geographical area. It was suggested that we meet for a luncheon, in person, sometime this fall so we can get to know one another as friends. Watch for a date in Sept or October. If you're not already on our e-mail list, contact me so I can add you to the CI list. It is separate from the chapter's large list.

Rhonda Clancey, CI Group Moderator

RClancey@hotmail.com

H.O.P.E. Support Group

H.O.P.E. discussions are the perfect place to ask basic questions, whether you are just beginning your hearing loss journey, or are well into it. For those who are 'well into it', your experience shared with the new folks provides support they won't receive elsewhere. Learning from people who understand is HOPEful.



Join us on September 12th at Bordini Center in Appleton. We'll start our discussion group at 5 PM. There will be time between HOPE and the regular chapter meeting to visit in a quiet environment.

The September chapter meeting features a program well worth attending. The loop works great in the meeting area, and captioning will be provided for that meeting. We look forward to seeing everyone at this first in person meeting since COVID. Questions? Feel free to contact me.

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

voskuild@gmail.com



The 10 page HLAA Wisconsin summer newsletter is posted on the HLAWI website. It contains lots of excellent information.

Subscribe to the HLAWI email list on the website home page to receive important information as it becomes available

www.hlaawi.org