

February Chapter Meeting
Monday, February 13th at 6:30 PM

A Webinar: On ZOOM Only This Month

**Topic: Bluetooth Technology
Where Is It Going?**

This meeting is on Zoom only because we have the opportunity to participate in a webinar that shares information about new assistive technology that is being explored. It's a bit futuristic, but it's fascinating. Technology will continue to evolve in the future, and people with hearing loss don't want to be left behind. We need to be aware of possibilities that may be forthcoming.

Representatives from consumer advocacy groups like HLAA, vendors, manufacturers, and representatives of the hearing industry are collaborating to ensure that all new standards meet the growing need for consistent audio access accessibility.

Bluetooth® technology has introduced Auracast™ broadcast audio, a new capability that enables an audio transmitter to broadcast to nearby Bluetooth audio receivers. This technology is intended to enable public locations to stream high-quality, stereo audio directly to visitors with a variety of 'hearables' and hearing instruments. This webinar is sponsored by a Bluetooth Special Interest Group (SIG).

In this webinar, Chuck Sabin, Senior Director of Market Development at the Bluetooth SIG will discuss how Auracast™ broadcast audio hopes to enable the next generation of assistive listening systems, along with helping drive broader adoption of hearing assistance at public locations.

* HLAA advocates for inclusion in research and development. Our goal is to educate people with hearing loss about options and possibilities. We do not know if/when this technology will be available, but are intrigued by its possibilities.

We hope you'll join us for this HLAA Showcase Technology Webinar. REGISTER IN ADVANCE at the link below. If you receive our newsletter in print, request the link at hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZMoc-CsrjotHtYvsPHC9N7IGIMeqWyzw5Rr> Sign in at 6:15.

Important Hearing Tech Tidbits

by Michelle Frisbie, HLAA FVC Chapter Treasurer

I love learning about new hearing technology, websites, cellphone apps and other ways that we can improve our hearing experience! Here are some of my favorites, along with a few gems that I've discovered recently & want to explore more:



- Since I'm a bilateral Cochlear Americas* cochlear implant (CI) recipient, I'm only familiar with Cochlear's assistive technology. *(I'm sure the other CI brands have similar tech, and would love it if YOU would share them with me, so we can include info in the future.)* I love my mini microphone which I put by my TV speaker to "stream" sound and not have to rely on captions as much. I also use it by my computer speaker when watching webinars and zoom meetings. The Cochlear CoPilot app, has lots of great tips for setting up a new processor with the phone features, training videos and good aural rehabilitation practices. apps.apple.com/us/app/cochlear-copilot/id1554939737
- Here's a great site that has a TON of Information by the great Dr Tina Childress: <https://tinachildressaud.com/>
- Shari Eberts' has a website, blog, podcast and Facebook page, where she shares tips and tricks for living skillfully with hearing loss. She has also co-authored a book, check it all out on her website: <https://livingwithhearingloss.com/>

Tech Tidbits (continued on page 2)

* HLAA does not endorse products or providers. Our organization does share information about them, including our experiences with them. The HLAA mission is to share information, to educate, to provide peer support and to advocate.

Chapter President's Message from Dale Voskuil



My introduction to HLAA Fox Valley Chapter was through the H.O.P.E. support group. At that time I was experiencing a rapid loss in my ability to hear due to Meniere's disease. That ultimately resulted in me needing surgery for a cochlear implant.

Discussions held at H.O.P.E. and at the chapter meetings gave me the opportunity to interact with Chapter members. That helped me shed my anxiety over having the surgery. It also provided a solid knowledge base not just for the surgery, but for the activation & rehabilitation afterwards. In other words, those interactions with the people who attend HLAA meetings sponsored by HLAA made all the difference in the world in terms of my attitude and success with the implant.

I am grateful to have found HLAA when I did. I encourage anyone out there who is struggling with hearing loss to connect with HLAA. You'll be amazed at what you will learn.

Dale Voskuil, Chapter President

NOTE: Dale, a retired teacher of physics and math at Chilton High School was elected chapter president in November 2022. His main hobbies are motorcycling & gardening. He also moderates H.O.P.E.

Tech Tidbits by Michelle (Continued)

- I don't recall how I came across this site, but two audiologists in Illinois have developed a website and free podcast (listen on Spotify or YouTube, or with captioned video using a computer) to listen to others' hearing loss journeys. Did you know that listening to captioned podcasts is a form of aural rehabilitation?
<https://hearingwellnessjourney.com/>
- Dr Cliff Olson has many videos about hearing loss, technology, options, etc. All are interesting. <https://www.youtube.com/c/DoctorCliffAuD?app=desktop>

Those are just a few resources. If you'd like to share your favorites, please send them in an email to: hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com and we'll include them in future newsletter articles.

Is Someone You Know Having a Hard Time Accepting Their Hearing Loss?

Tell them about HLAA. You and they may be surprised at the positive change that could make in their life.

People who discover HLAA often wonder why no one told them a national support organization existed. It's a shame they don't. Give them a copy of our newsletter.

HLAA shares unbiased information and provides support.

www.hearingloss.org

www.hlaawi.org

Chapter Sponsor Program 2023 Begins Now!

The 2023 sponsor appeal letters were mailed to those who have supported us in the past, after our February 2023 copy deadline. We hope to be able to list many more donors/sponsors in the March issue. Those listed in this issue donated prior to January 15th. Copy deadline for the March issue is February 15th.



BECOME A SPONSOR

The Sponsor Project is HLAA Fox Valley Chapter's only fund raiser. Sponsors make it possible for us to cover the costs incurred in our efforts to fulfill the mission of HLAA. That includes circulating our newsletter, renting meeting space, providing stipends for educational events, and much more. HLAAFVC is a 501c3 tax exempt organization. Donations are tax deductible, according to Wisconsin law.

To be a chapter sponsor, send your check to: HLAA-Fox Valley Treasurer, P.O. Box 25, Menasha WI 54952. Include instructions on how you wish to be listed.

2023 Chapter Sponsors

Platinum Level (\$200 or More)

Carol Konetzke Memorial Donation from her family

Gold Level (\$100 - \$199)

Kevin Gossens, Charles Hastert, Julie & John Olson

Silver Level (\$50 - \$99)

Margaret Carriveau, Richard Erickson, Mark Oldenburg

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

Thank you to everyone who supports HLAAFVC this way. We also thank everyone to gives in other ways via time, energy, mileage and program presentations. That 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!

2003 Margaret Ferris Memorial Scholarship

Each year a \$2000 scholarship is awarded to a high school senior with hearing loss who plans to pursue a post-secondary degree at an accredited college, university or technical college. Applicants must be hard of hearing students who use technology to participate in the hearing mainstream.

The deadline for application is March 1, 2023.

Apply at: <https://www.cffoxvalley.org/scholarships>

Margaret was active in our HLAA Chapter for many years after she retired from teaching children with hearing loss. We remember her with kindness, love and gratitude.



We all had a good time. We had a few camera shy people who aren't in the picture. Maybe they were afraid they'd break the camera!

Jingle & Mingle = Fun for All!

Everyone who came to our annual holiday social at the Appleton Yacht Club enjoyed the evening.

Thanks to everyone for bringing appetizers, both heavy and light. No one went home hungry!

Beautiful 'ugly sweaters' and a few costumes made for a holly jolly good time.

White elephant gifts gave us a few good laughs. Again, thanks to all who joined in the fun.

Let's do it again in December '23!

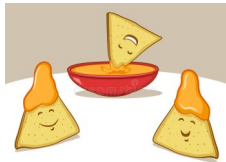
There were several requests for Rhonda's Beer Dip Recipe. Here it is! Enjoy!!!

BEER DIP

- 2- 8 oz cream cheese
- 1 envelope dry ranch mix
- 2 c. fine shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/3 c. beer

Soften cream cheese & beat ingredients together.
Best when served with pretzels.

(Note: drink remaining beer) Thanks Rhonda!



JUST RECEIVED At DEADLINE

HLAA Wisconsin Scholarship for a High School Student. Apply Now.

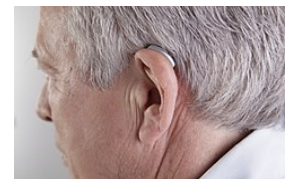
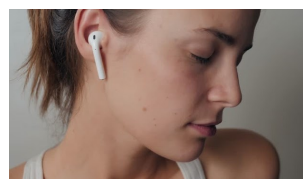
HLAA-WI will be awarding their 4th annual scholarship to a Wisconsin high school senior with hearing loss who uses technology to offset the challenges presented by their hearing loss. The \$1,000 one-time award is to be used toward the expense of post-secondary education. If you know a high school senior who meets these requirements, please encourage him or her to apply. The application deadline is March 31, 2023. The scholarship application is on the state website hlaawi.org under the "Resources" tab.

**FOR EVERYTHING
YOU'VE LOST,
YOU'VE GAINED
SOMETHING ELSE.
APPRECIATE WHAT
YOU HAVE TODAY.
LIFE DOES
NOT HAVE
TO BE PERFECT
TO BE WONDERFUL.**



We caught these two Elves sneaking a peak at Santa's Book!

THINK ON THIS...



**WHY IS ONE TECHNOLOGY 'COOL'
AND THE OTHER IS NOT?**

**They both help us hear things
we want and need to hear.**

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

2023 Chapter Calendar

February 13 - ZOOM ONLY: HLAA Technology Showcase Webinar: Bluetooth Technology & Auracast. Here's What's Coming Next in Assistive Tech.

March 13 – Scams We Should Be Aware Of by Jeff Kersten, State Bureau of Consumer Protection

April 10 – Current Information on Cochlear Implants- Dr. Lisa Ambrosius of Prevea Health/Green Bay

May 8 – Hearing Loss and Dementia – Kristen Felten

June 12 – Becoming Hearing Empowered – Katherine Rybak, HH/D educator. Member HLAAWI Board

July 10 – Road trip to Options Accessible House in Green Bay

August – Vacation Month—NO MEETING

September – TBD

October 9 – Buying Hearing Aids – What's the Scoop on Non Prescriptive Devices?

November 13 – The Emotional Side of Hearing Loss

December 11 – Annual Holiday Social at Appleton Yacht Club

**We want your ideas
for programs, socials and projects!
Please share your ideas with us.**

Chapter Leadership Board

Officers:

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

Immediate Past President/Newsletter Editor: Julie Olson* julieo@athenet.net

Treasurer: Michelle Frisbie* michellefrisbie@gmail.com

Secretary: Christine Klessig* bommaklessig@gmail.com

Program Chair & CI Group Chair: Rhonda Clancey* rclancey@hotmail.com

Newsletter Preparation: Jane Young* YBLUEJAY@aol.com

Social Committee: Christine Klessig*

Chapter e-mail: hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com

Phone Contact: Karen at 920-733-4853

Support Crew: Jerry Van Handel, Colleen Van Rooy, Karen & Gary Kasten

* Designates chapter board members.



Cochlear Implant Support Group News

Hi Everyone!

Our January meeting was well attended and led to lots of interesting shared experiences. The CI world is expanding! One of our new participants has single sided deafness. Some of us have bilateral CIs and others are binaural users of both a hearing aid and a CI.

Many people are opting to have cochlear implants instead of struggling with hearing aids that no longer meet their needs. We all have different degrees of hearing loss. There are several medical facilities in the state of WI that offer cochlear implants. Please join our online CI support group for advice and answers to your questions. Whether you're just exploring the CI option, or are a new or experienced CI user, we'd love to have you join us.

Our next CI zoom meeting will be Tuesday, March 21 at 6:00 pm.

If you are not on the CI e-mail list, please get in touch with me so I can add you to that list. Links to our Zoom meetings go out via e-mail.

Rhonda Clancey, CI Group Moderator
rclancey@hotmail.com or hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com

H.O.P.E. Support Group News

Our Chapter has a new and wonderful meeting facility in the Bordini Center, which allows us hybrid in person meetings and also joining by Zoom.



However, we have decided that H.O.P.E meetings will be held in-person only because this provides more personal interaction and gives people the opportunity to get to know other members during the social time. It's more personal, and that is what H.O.P.E. is all about.

Due to the program, the February chapter meeting will only be held on Zoom, so H.O.P.E. will not meet this month. I encourage you to participate in the chapter's February Zoom program.

Beginning in March, H.O.P.E meetings will start at 5:00 p.m. and end precisely at 6:00 p.m. to allow everyone to participate and enjoy the social time prior to the Chapter meeting at 6:30 p.m. See you in March!

H.O.P.E. is about Hearing Other People's Experiences

Dale Voskuil, H.O.P.E. Moderator
voskuild@gmail.com

