



## Let's Get Social!!

Monday, July 10th at 1:00 PM

Join us on a bus trip to Green Bay! We will visit Options Showcase Model



Home. This is an amazing place that is accessible to people of all disabilities. It's a model for builders, renovators, & anyone interested in creating a functional home and/or workspace for people with unique needs. HLAA members, who have served on the Options Board made sure that communication access is included.

The bus departs from the Bordini Center, where we hold our regular meetings, at 1:00 PM. You can park in the Bordini lot.

Following the tour at Options, we'll head over to the Lambeau Field District to catch a bite at Kroll's Restaurant, a Green Bay landmark of it's own.

**The bus trip is free. Everyone is on their own at Kroll's.** Kroll's has a senior menu along with appetizers and a full bar. We expect to be back in Appleton by 5:30 PM.

**If you're not already signed up, please do so now.**

Call 920-733-4853 or e-mail: [hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com)

**There is limited space on the bus.**

**Reservations will be accepted until the bus is full\*. We have about 10 vacant seats on the bus right now.**

**We encourage our Green Bay friends to meet us at Options at 1:45 PM.**

\*Last time we took this trip we had a full bus & a lot of fun. It's a 35 minute ride to learn & enjoy. Please join us!

## Important Announcements

- ♦ The Chapter will not meet in August. No August newsletter.
- ♦ Our July bus excursion takes place of the summer social we have held at the Appleton Yacht Club for years. The December social *will* be held at AYC.
- ♦ The next regular chapter meeting will be held on Monday, September 14th.
- ♦ The September meeting will be a daytime meeting, beginning at 1 PM at the Bordini Center. Our goal is to include more people. Mark your calendars! More in Sept. NL.
- ♦ Due to the above, the H.O.P.E. Support Group will not meet in July. H.O.P.E. will resume meeting in September with a new timeline, after the regular meeting.
- ♦ The CI Group will meet in July on Zoom

HLAA Fox Valley Chapter has touched the lives of thousands of people in this area. We want to continue that outreach. Many of you have suggested we consider meeting in the daytime. We have the option to try that now, so plan on daytime meetings in September and November. Let's see how it goes.

The chapter is celebrating 40 years! We want to keep up the good work. To do that we need to know more about what you want. Tell us at: [hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com)

**Join us on July 10th. Let's talk.**



**Fox Valley Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America is a vibrant, diverse group of people with hearing loss dedicated to helping others with hearing loss lead more satisfying & productive lives. At our meetings, speakers address topics such as hearing aids, cochlear implants, assistive technology, the emotional side of hearing loss, coping strategies, advocacy initiatives & more. Information about our chapter can be found on the HLAA Wisconsin website.**

**[www.hlaawi.org/chapters](http://www.hlaawi.org/chapters) Subscribe to this newsletter at [hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com)**

## June Chapter Program Summary....By Christine Klessig

Many thanks to Katherine Rybak for her presentation *"Becoming Hearing Empowered"* at our June meeting. She shared her personal hearing loss journey. It inspired her to combat the stigma of hearing loss and empower others to do so as well.



Ms. Rybak teaches children and adults ages 3-21 to develop confidence and skill sets to become their own hearing loss advocates. She distributed copies of worksheets from her lesson plans to help us recognize different types of hearing loss disclosure.

There is quite a wide variety including non-verbal lapel buttons reading 'Please speak clearly. I am hard of hearing.' as well as technical disclosure via use of a mini microphone and Bluetooth transmission of speech. Working through this interactive exercise allowed participants to think about new strategies to improve their personal communication skills.

The program was a most enjoyable interactive session with many follow-up questions and comments. It's safe to say that participants took home some new tips to assist them on their own hearing loss journeys.

Katherine founded Hearing Out Loud, an organization with a mission to move people with hearing loss forward in their lives as strong self-advocates who celebrate their identity, embrace technology & implement ways to improve communication skills.

Ms. Rybak recently authored a book entitled *"Becoming Hearing Empowered: a Guided Journal for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing"*. It is available on Amazon at this link.

<https://a.co/d/1dbgE6c> Price: \$32.61.



*"Can She HEAR This Cat's Meow?"*, the book created by Fox Valley Chapter founder, Julie Olson & her granddaughter, Colleen Cline is available on Amazon for \$15.99 at this link [CatsMeow](#) To purchase it directly. contact Julie at: [catsmeow2167@gmail.com](mailto:catsmeow2167@gmail.com)

**Quantity orders available at a discount.**

**Readers point out,** "Audiologists, primary care specialists & pediatricians should recommend this book to their patients who struggle with hearing loss."

**Purchaser's Review:** "If living with hearing loss is part of your life, you know that support and understanding from others is priceless. This true story explains how a small child adapts to a grandparent's hearing loss without knowing why she has to do things differently. It leads to creativity on both sides and some excellent strategies for both kids and adults."

## Chapter Sponsor Program

Thank you to everyone who has joined our Sponsor List. This project is our chapter's primary fundraiser. 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, establishing a scholarship for a student with hearing loss, providing stipends for educational events, & much more. Deadline for the Sept. issue is Aug. 15th.

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

*thank you!*

### Platinum Level (\$200 or More)

**Audiology & Hearing Center @ ENT Associates** Beth Gabavics AuD & Danica Noskey AuD

**ENT Specialists of WI/Audiology** Nicole Auxier AuD Tricia Roh AuD, Kristin Borgen AuD, Mark Conradt AuD, Cathy Dreifuerst AuD, Andrea Federman AuD, Jessie Grzeca AuD, Erin Krueger, AuD, Tamara Mischka AuD, Holly Rusch AuD

**Fox Valley Hearing Center** Melissa Dintelman AuD, Lisa Esser AuD, Susan Iwanske AuD, Debra Engebos AuD, Stephanie Long AuD, Candy McGinnis AuD

**Haviland Hearing Aids** Peter Zellmer AuD, Kyle Martell AuD

**Carol Konetzke Memorial Donation** from her family

Noreen French, Jim Machalk, Tom & Linda O'Connor, Howard Porter, Dale & Renee Voskuil

**Rural Audiology Services** Becky L Franz AuD, Cari J Kramer AuD

### Gold Level (\$100 - \$199)

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

Lorna Hamilton, Bob Opsteen, Ken & Mary Ann Walter, Katie Weber, Sue Stone & Claudia Zins

**Thank you to all who support HLAAFVC this way. We also thank everyone who gives in other ways via time, energy, mileage, program presentations, and more. That is what makes our chapter successful.**

**Meetings are organized & run by volunteers. Everyone is welcome. Join us to learn how to beat 'the invisible hearing loss monster!'**

**Want to Volunteer? Contact us:** [hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com)

**HLAA does not endorse products or providers. We do share information about them, including our personal experiences.**

**The HLAA mission is to educate, share information, provide peer support and to advocate for communication access.**

**Goal: Make the world a better place for people with hearing loss.**



## New FCC Requirements Include Videoconferencing Captions

On June 8, the FCC voted unanimously to [require videoconferencing platforms](#), such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams & Webex, to include accessible features for people with disabilities, including captions with a proposal for American Sign Language (ASL) support. HLAA has been working with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Congressional sponsors and other consumer organizations to support the **Communications, Video and Technology Accessibility Act (CVTA)**, which updates and amends the [21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act \(CVAA\)](#) of 2010. FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel specifically acknowledged HLAA and others for our joint efforts on behalf of people with disabilities.



## HLAA Works to Increase Air Travel Access

HLAA is also fighting for safer flights for people with hearing loss. We are advocating to get the Air Carrier Access Amendments Act (ACAAA) included in an upcoming reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) by Congress. We are pushing for better assistive communications, such as captioning and other provisions that would make flying more accessible for passengers with hearing loss or other disabilities, at airports and in-flight. Congressional committees are finalizing the FAA reauthorization, so stay tuned for updates throughout the summer.

## Did You Know... Discrimination against travelers with disabilities is illegal

The [Air Carrier Access Act \(ACAA\)](#) is a 1986 law—predating the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by four years—that makes it illegal for airlines to discriminate against passengers because of their disability. The Department of Transportation is responsible for enforcing the ACAA, which applies to all flights to, from, or within the United States.

[One of its provisions](#) is that anyone self-identifying as a passenger with a disability, who needs additional time or assistance, must be allowed to board the airplane before other passengers. Hearing loss is considered a disability under the ACAA, just as it is for the ADA.

**Editor's Note:** Through advocacy, over 45 years, HLAA has achieved remarkable results for hard of hearing people. Prior to HLAA's founding in 1979, communication access was defined as sign language. Then, along came captioning, hearing assistive technology, and research bodies that discovered that the large majority of people with hearing loss do not use sign language. Thanks to HLAA's advocacy & education, most of us are able to remain in the hearing mainstream. HLAA deserves our support!

## President's Message by Dale Voskuil

### Our hearing loss journeys never end.

They vary among us, but have many similarities. Mine began with Meniere's Disease that created vertigo and loss of hearing in both ears. Thankfully a cochlear implant partially restored hearing in one ear to the point where I was able to hear and communicate with reasonable success. However, it plateaued. At a H.O.P.E. meeting this year, I realized that several of the cochlear implant recipients supplemented their CI with a compatible hearing aid in their other ear. I was encouraged by them to learn more.

The effects of Meniere's tend to 'burn out' over time, and mine has done that. Meanwhile, my ear that was not implanted or aided was picking up sound slightly better than it had been. I was decided to consult with my audiologist about getting a compatible hearing aid, and was immediately rewarded with what I considered to be a 20 to 30% increase in hearing quality. A few weeks ago, I was tested and learned my word recognition in that nearly deaf ear had increased to 75% with the new hearing aid. Testing also showed sentence recognition with the implant alone was in the 90% range. I was not tested with both technologies for sentences but am sure that would have shown even greater improvement.

Hearing tests are interesting. Why there is such a score difference between single word recognition and the higher score with sentence recognition? In sentence recognition tests, we are able to use context to help select a difficult word. For example, boat, goat, coat used in a sentence. Even so, we spend considerable energy figuring it out. The downside in conversation is that we work so hard to figure it out that we miss the next sentence. That energy spent trying to keep up results in a very real phenomena called 'auditory fatigue'. That is something we need to understand and be able to explain to others.

To hear well, we may have to ask a speaker to slow down so we have time to interpret and participate in the conversation. Helping people understand these things, and to learn how to improve their ability to comprehend is one of the reasons why HLAA exists. That is worth far more than the time and energy it takes to participate in HLAA! Teaching and learning from one another definitely improves lives.



## AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers to be honored

Five AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers who have served 20 years with the Retired & Senior Volunteer 55+ Program re-

ceived the Governor's Service Award in June. **Lorna Hamilton**, also a long time member & volunteer for HLAA, has provided office support at more than 20 agencies, including Children's Hospital of WI-Fox Valley, the Community Blood Center and the Fox Cities Convention Bureau. She also helps assemble race packets for the American Cancer Society's Sole Burner. Lorna likes to stay busy. She has accumulated 5,025 lifetime service hours through RSVP.



**Way to go Lorna! How do we clone you?**



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](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com)

HLAA-Fox Valley Chapter

P.O. Box 25

Menasha WI 54952-0025

## 2023 Chapter Calendar

**July 10** – Annual Summer Social is a Road trip to Options Accessible House in Green Bay

**July 18** - Cochlear Implant Support Group on Zoom

**August** – Vacation Month—NO MEETING

**September 11** – Tips for Traveling with Hearing Loss

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

**November 13** – The Emotional Side of Hearing Loss  
Julie Olson MS, Hearing loss Support Specialist

**December 11** – Annual Holiday Social at the Yacht Club

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!** We are going to try a new time-line in September & November. Same meeting place, but meetings will be held from 1—4 PM in the afternoon. More info coming. We sincerely hope this will bring some who don't drive at night to our meetings. This will help determine plans for 2024.

## Chapter Leadership Board

### Officers:

**President & HOPE Chair:** Dale Voskuil\* [voskuild@gmail.com](mailto:voskuild@gmail.com)

**Immediate Past President/Newsletter Editor:** Julie Olson\*  
[julieo@athenet.net](mailto:julieo@athenet.net)

**Treasurer:** Michelle Frisbie\* [michellefrisbie@gmail.com](mailto:michellefrisbie@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Christine Klessig\* [bommaklessig@gmail.com](mailto:bommaklessig@gmail.com)

**Program Chair & CI Group Chair:** Rhonda Clancey\*  
[rclancey@hotmail.com](mailto:rclancey@hotmail.com)

**Newsletter Preparation:** Jane Young\* [YBLUEJAY@aol.com](mailto:YBLUEJAY@aol.com)

**Social Committee:** Christine Klessig\*

**Chapter e-mail:** [hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com)

**Phone Contact:** Karen at 920-733-4853

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

\* Designates chapter board members.

## Cochlear Implant Support Group News

Our CI support group is open to everyone. We meet on Zoom to be able to reach many folks from outside the Fox Valley area.



Our open format gives everyone the chance to ask questions and share information. Please come share your thoughts and experiences. It's a great way to learn and to meet other CI folks!

Join us on Tuesday, July 18th at 6:00. An e-mail invitation with a link to the zoom meeting will be sent out to everyone on the CI list a week in advance. If you are not on that list, please e-mail me so I can add you to it. These meetings are open to all CI users, and also to those who may be considering the CI option.

See you on July 18th!

*Rhonda Clancey*, CI Group Moderator

[rclancey@hotmail.com](mailto:rclancey@hotmail.com) or [hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com)

## H.O.P.E. Support Group News



The H.O.P.E. discussion group will not meet in July due to our social event this month.

As noted on the front page, HLAA Fox Valley Chapter does not meet in August. The board needs a break!

Our next H.O.P.E. meeting will be held in September, in tandem with the September chapter meeting.

Fox Valley Chapter's board has been looking at ways to make the HLAA experience available to more people.

Fox Valley Chapter plans to hold a daytime meeting in September. It will start at 1 PM at the Bordini Center location.



H.O.P.E. will follow the chapter meeting rather than precede it. Watch for more information in the September newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you in September, and encourage you to bring friends and family members.

*Dale Voskuil* [voskuild@gmail.com](mailto:voskuild@gmail.com)

Chapter President & H.O.P.E. Facilitator

## Get a Customized Local Hearing Loop List

HLAA's Get in The Hearing Loop (GITHL) community program has created a database of hearing loop locations throughout the U.S. and Canada. Venues include concert halls, theaters, museums, libraries, places of worship, airports and other public buildings. GITHL will provide a customized list to any group or individual request: % Wynne Whyman at: [loop.locations@hearingloss.org](mailto:loop.locations@hearingloss.org)



## Do you enjoy writing?

How about writing an article about your experiences with hearing loss for this newsletter? We are looking for helpful, positive stories. We reserve the right to edit to fit the HLAA mission to educate & provide peer support. Send your ideas/articles to Julie at: [julieo@athenet.net](mailto:julieo@athenet.net)