



HLAA Fox Valley Chapter News

Volume 38 Issue 2

March 2023



Special Announcement!!!

To celebrate our chapter's 40th Anniversary, the chapter has established a scholarship that will be awarded to either a high school senior, or a college student in their first two years of college studies.

To qualify for this \$1500 scholarship, applicants must be mainstreamed students with hearing loss who use hearing aids or cochlear implants.

Applicants must reside in the greater Fox Valley region which covers the variety of communities in which our chapter participants reside. We are counting on chapter participants to share information about this opportunity in their area.

The scholarship winner will be invited to join us at our June chapter meeting to share a bit of their hearing loss journey with us. They will also be encouraged to promote HLAA.

This scholarship is possible because of the generosity of donors, including invested funds from gifts and bequests received over the years from people who have supported this chapter since its founding in 1983. We hope to be able to make this an annual award.

The application form, with specific instructions is available at: <https://hlaawi.org/fox-valley-chapter.html> The application can be requested at hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com

The deadline to apply is April 15th. All instructions are included in the online application form. Feel free to contact us if you have questions.

March Chapter Meeting & Program

Topic: Scam Awareness—Be Informed

Presenter: Jeff Kersten

Monday, March 13th

at Bordini Center, 5 Systems Drive in Appleton

H.O.P.E. Support Group 5-6 PM

Social Time 6-6:30 PM

Chapter Meeting begins at 6:30 PM

Hybrid Zoom Option for 6:30 meeting only.

Zoom Link Below

Jeff Kersten from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection will share information about common scams that abound in our society right now. Many of us have received scam requests via e-mail or phone. The best way to protect ourselves and those we care about from these scams is to be aware and know what is going on.

Mr. Kersten spoke to our chapter several years ago. His presentation was excellent and well received. **We can't overstate how much it means to be able to participate in presentations where communication access is provided. The Bordini loop system is great & CART Captioning will be provided on Zoom & in person.**

We hope to see you in person, but you can also join us on Zoom. For Zoomers: The meeting begins at 6:30 Please come in early so we can start on time.

Registration is required. If you get our news in print, request the link at hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpfuqgpj8vHtdwer_zyr54ApD4tO+L3tWN

Chapter President's Message from Dale Voskuil



One of the primary functions of HLAA is education. Our monthly programming focuses on that objective along with participation in one of the two sub-groups. Often it's during the question and answer period after a presentation by a speaker, or at a discussions held in the CI or H.O.P.E. groups that we pick up tips that can make a real and practical difference in our ability to hear and communicate. I had mentioned in the last newsletter that I had been prompted by a discussion in our H.O.P.E group to consider a hearing aid to complement my existing CI. That has come to fruition with the addition of an aid in my left ear that is paired electronically with the CI in my right ear. I am happy to report that the additional aid has enhanced my hearing ability beyond my expectations, especially in noisy conditions!

One would think that after my 6 plus years with HLAA I would have learned all there is to know. On the contrary, our journey toward better hearing is a constant process, given that the technical advances are coming at us at an increasing rate. **I know for certain that becoming involved in HLAA has been a real benefit to me and to those who have to communicate with me in my day-to-day activities.**

That, after all, is the objective.

I hope to see you at the March meeting *Dale*

February Meeting Summary... Our first meeting of 2023 was held on Zoom. It featured a webinar that explained some new Blue Tooth technology called 'Auracast'. This is a universal technology that will relate to 'receivers' of all kinds, including hearing aids, airpods, & other devices that bring sound direct from a sound source to a person using a device. Imagine this in airports, sports bars, and all venues where background noise interferes with sound clarity. While this sounds wonderful, it will likely not displace hearing loops & other tech we HH folks use in the near future. We must definitely keep our eyes, ears & minds open for the future of Auracast. Remember, 'speech to text' wasn't for real a decade ago. The meeting was well attended. Thanks for joining us!

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

Thank you to everyone who has become a sponsor of HLAA Fox Valley so far. It's not too late to get your name on the list. We hope many more will join us. We'd love to be able to list many more donors/sponsors in the April issue.

Copy deadline for the April issue is March 15th.

The Sponsor Project is HLAA Fox Valley Chapter's only 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, scholarships, 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)

Audiology & Hearing Center @ ENT Associates

Beth Gabavics AuD & Danica Noskey AuD

Haviland Hearing Aids Peter Zellmer Aud, Kyle Martell AuD

Carol Konetzke Memorial Donation from her family

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

Gold Level (\$100 - \$199)

Kevin Gossens, Steve Hangartner, Charles & Judy Hastert, Jim Hemmen, Christine Klessig, Mike & Susan Landreman, Barb Merry, Julie & John Olson, Julie Reisinger, Lynn Schneider, Juliette Sterkens & "Max" Maxfield

Silver Level (\$50 - \$99)

Rhonda Bartelt, Clarice Belling, Pat Boldt, Susan Brown, Margaret Cariveau, Barb Crusan, Richard Erickson, Michelle Frisbie, Karen & Gary Kasten, Mark Oldenburg, Patty & Tom Reimer, Phyllis & Lyle Sconzert,

Bronze Level (\$25 - \$49)

Lorna Hamilton, Bob Opsteen, Ken & Mary Ann Walter, Katie Weber

Thank you to everyone who supports HLAAFVC this way. We also thank everyone who 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!

thank you!

Support our Performing Arts Center! They Support Us!!



CATS
oc Saturday, March 25 • 2:00 p.m. Sunday, March 26 • 1:00 p.m.
Search for GalaPro to download the app
GALA PRO Google Play App Store



Hamilton
oc Saturday, May 13 • 2:00 p.m. Sunday, May 14 • 1:00 p.m.
Download the app, search for GalaPro
GALA PRO Google Play App Store



Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations
oc Saturday, June 24 • 2:00 p.m. Sunday, June 25 • 1:00 p.m.
Search for GalaPro to download the app
GALA PRO Google Play App Store

Three HLAAFVC leaders attended the recent meeting of Fox Cities Performing Arts Center's Access Committee. Our PAC has given support to people with hearing loss from the time it was being built. We are grateful. We encourage people to support the PAC. There's a quality loop system, One matinee from each Broadway series is open captioned (OC). Another is signed. The GalaPro captioning system is available for all Broadway performances. How could we ask for more? SUPPORT FOX CITIES PAC! They support us!! NOTE, the graphic show the dates for the open captioned and ASL performances.

Google Fox Cities Performing Arts Center for all performance dates and ticket information.



What is GalaPro?
GalaPro is a free app you can download to your smartphone or tablet. It will let you see captions of a Broadway theater production during the performance, from anywhere in the theater. It's designed not to bother others when you use it. Amazing tech! Fox Cities PAC was the first to install this technology in the Midwest. It is only available for the Broadway performances. **Download the app prior to attending. You can tune in once the play begins.**

FACT: Amazing technologies like those we share with you didn't happen by magic. They are there because HLAA advocated for them, & educates about them. Good reason to support HLAA!



HLAA 2023 CONVENTION
Hearing Loss Association of America
New Orleans, LA
June 29 - July 1, 2023

Discounted Early Bird Registration ends on March 31st.

A couple people from the chapter plan to attend. There remains a stipend option for a chapter delegate. Let us know ASAP if this is of interest to you. Delegates are expected to gather information & ideas from other chapters they will share with Fox Valley chapter. Delegates should also be willing to take a volunteer role in the chapter.

Connect with us at: hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com or 920-733-4853

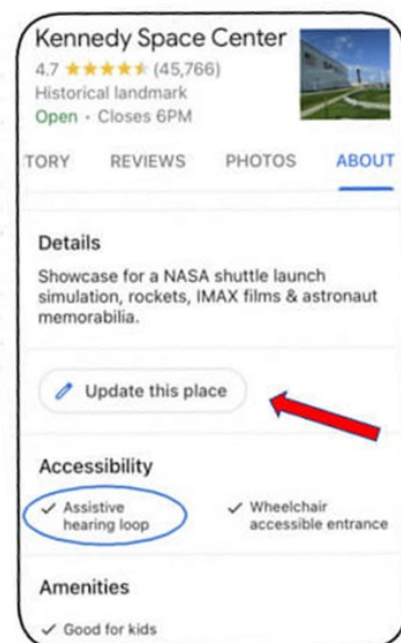
Find hearing loops on Google Maps! Here's How.

Thanks to a joint effort by HLAA's Get in the Hearing Loop (GITHL) program and Google, we can now use the Google Maps App to find out if a hearing loop is available at a business or venue. Having easy access to hearing loop locations will hearing aid & cochlear implant users find communication access when they venture out in the world. GITHL committee members are helping Google Maps add loop locations to its database. They need your help to update information.

For now, the easiest way to find hearing loops is by using a smartphone, open a Google Maps listing, under the photos, scroll to the right to find the "ABOUT" tab. Then click on "About" and scroll down to reveal the Accessibility Attribute; if the facility offers an assistive hearing loop, it will be listed under details.

To learn more visit: www.hearingloss.org/programs-events/get-hearing-loop/hearing-loop-toolkit/

Members of the GITHL Committee are all volunteers. Please help them keep venues up to date! Thank 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

HLAA-Fox Valley Chapter

P.O. Box 25

Menasha WI 54952-0025

2023 Chapter Calendar

March 13 – Scams We Should Be Aware Of

March 21 - Cochlear Implant Support Group 6 PM

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 – Annual Summer Social is a 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 - Julie Olson MS, Hearing loss Support Specialist

December 11 – Annual Holiday Social at Appleton Yacht Club

Cochlear Implant Support Group News

Hello, March! Goodbye, February!



"Today is one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light and winter in the shade" ...Charles Dickens

Hello CI members and those interested in learning! We are so fortunate to have each other to discuss and learn about our cochlear implants. Each of us have to admit we learn something new at each meeting. I hope many were able to participate at the February chapter meeting that discussed the Blue Tooth (BT) technology Auracast which will be coming our way in years to come. It's a fascinating concept.

Our CI support group is open to everyone. We will continue on Zoom to be able to reach so many folks spread throughout the state. **Join us on Tuesday, March 21 at 6:00. Watch for an email invitation a week or so prior.**

Cheers to Spring!

Rhonda Clancey, CI Group Moderator

rlancey@hotmail.com or hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com

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.

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* michellelfrisbie@gmail.com

Secretary: Christine Klessig* bommaklessig@gmail.com

Program Chair & CI Group Chair: Rhonda Clancey*
rlancey@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, Mary Hatfield,
Colleen Van Rooy, Karen & Gary Kasten

* Designates chapter board members.



H.O.P.E. Support Group News



Our next H.O.P.E. meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m. on March 13 at the Bordini Center. Dealing with hearing loss is a bit easier when one can share their experiences in a group whose individuals are confronting the same challenges that hearing loss presents.

Warning: New and valuable friends will be made, laughter will abound, and your life will be made a little better, so join us for an hour of discussion and fun, followed by a half hour social time prior to the regular chapter meeting.

H.O.P.E. provides a great opportunity to Hear Other People's Experiences.

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



**Volunteers Don't Get Paid.
Not Because They Are Worthless...
It's Because They Are PRICELESS!**

HLAA does not endorse products or providers. We share information about them, including our personal experiences with them. The HLAA mission is to educate, share information, provide peer support and advocate for communication access. Goal: Make the world a better place for people with hearing loss.