

Chapter Events - Monday May 8th at Bordini Center, 5 N Systems Drive in Appleton

H.O.P.E. Support Group 5-6 PM
Social Break 6-6:30 PM
Chapter Meeting begins at 6:30 PM



Presentation: *Exploring the Correlation Between Hearing Loss & Cognitive Decline*

Presenter: Kristen Felten MSSW

Kristen Felten is employed by the Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services/ Aging & Disabilities Resource Center. She created the Dementia Care Specialist Program, and is directing a BOLD public health grant award from the CDC where she provides leadership for the Wisconsin state plan for dementia. She has a BA degree from Ripon College, a Certificate in Gerontology from the WI Institute on Aging, and a MS degree in social work from UW Madison. She is tuned in to ongoing research being done at several research institutes on the relationship between hearing loss and cognitive decline. Let's hear what she has to say.

This meeting will be held in person and also on Zoom videoconferencing. Register in advance to participate on Zoom. Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84451234567>
[tZlodOuorDgqHtCVTL5SsVRz4cr8R8IXfnpl](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84451234567)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

***NOTE: You can receive this link by e-mail request at:**
hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com

The 'Zoom Room' opens at 6:20. Please be on time.

HLAA Fox Valley Chapter News

Volume 38 Issue 4

May 2023



April Meeting Summary!

Thank you to Dr. Lisa Ambrosius AuD, from Prevea Health in Green Bay for presenting at our April meeting. Dr. Lisa practices basic audiology and programs cochlear implants at Prevea.



thank you!

The topic for the April meeting was "Cochlear Implants for WHO?" This was an excellent opportunity for people who are exploring the CI option as well as for those of us who have CIs to learn about current and expected advances in CI technology. We learned that the requirements for candidacy for CIs have been lowered. Consequently, more people, including those who have single sided deafness are now eligible to have insurance and/or Medicare coverage for cochlear implantation.

Dr. Lisa shared information about the transition from hearing aids to cochlear implants. She spoke of the development of cochlear implants, the basics of the surgery, and the predicted results. She had actual implant devices we were able to pass around.

Cochlear implants have come a long way since being considered 'experimental' only a few decades ago. They were expected to only bring back basic sound to deaf ears in the early years. Today, thanks to research and development and the many CI 'pioneers', many of whom belong to HLAA, CIs are capable of keeping most recipients in the hearing mainstream.

We are fortunate to be able to have presenters like Dr. Ambrosius share their knowledge with our chapter.

For further support on the CI front, we suggest you attend the CI group's Zoom meeting. (See page 4)



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 Subscribe to this newsletter at hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com

Hearing Aid Accessories Can Make a Positive Difference!



It's likely there are situations where you don't hear as well as you'd like, even when using sophisticated personal technology. Most often, it's background noise typically found in restaurants and social settings that make it hard to understand conversation. The distance between you and the desired sound is also an issue.

Accessories that work with hearing aids and cochlear processors can be extremely helpful. You owe it to yourself to ask questions and learn about these products.

Determine your specific needs, where and when you have the most challenges hearing and learn what's available to help. **Talking to people at an HLAA Chapter meeting is a good place to start. [HLAA's resources](#) online is another place to learn.**

Most modern hearing aids can connect to cell phones via Bluetooth (BT) technology, whether directly or through a wireless streamer worn around the neck. BT can deliver customized music to your ears and connect to your TV.

Hearing aids with activated telecoils can connect you to sound systems in large venues that have installed hearing loops, FM or Infrared systems for communication access. FM and IR in large venues add the need for a personal neckloop that will accommodate your telecoil. That neckloop can also connect to myriad other audio devices such as computers, iPads, portable radios, etc. It's worth buying!



Other options include captioned telephones, remote microphones, table microphones for use in meetings, and automatic speech to text apps for cell phones.

**New technology is in the development stage.
We plan to keep our eyes and ears on it!**

Come learn with us.



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 will add names if/when more donations come in. Deadline for the June issue is May 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)

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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

A "Purrfectly" Delightful Tale

Review Submitted by Christine Klessig

Can She HEAR This Cat's Meow?

Julia Mettenich Olson
Colleen Julia Cline



Living with Grandma's Hearing Loss
From a Kid's Perspective

Readers of all ages will enjoy a new book co-authored by longtime HLAA enthusiast, Julie Olson. Together with her granddaughter Colleen Cline, the pair tell the story of living with hearing loss from a kid's perspective. A recent meeting with them shed light on how "Can She HEAR This Cat's Meow?" happened.

Julie: "The idea to write this book began years ago when my co-author and illustrator was five years old." "Hearing loss affects all relationships, but it's different with small children. They figure out they have to get our attention to interact with us, and it's perfectly normal."

Colleen: "Grandma was different than Mom, but it didn't matter . . . Simple things worked, like getting her attention before talking, making sure my hair was out of my face or gently nudging her to make sure she knew it was time to listen."



The authors adopted feline personas created by Colleen, to make their story appealing to children as well as adults. Julie & Colleen resemble super heroes (think Cat Women), as they combat the Background Noise Monster & Auditory Fatigue Foe. Hearing assistive technology & coping strategies are cleverly illustrated by both of these cool cats.

The focus of this book is on the joy of remaining in the hearing mainstream, along with sharing resources that are helpful. It documents the authors' journey & continuing close relationship. It shares an upbeat message of hope for the hard of hearing population.

Julie & Colleen are headed to the 2023 HLAA National Convention in New Orleans this summer for a book signing.



We predict they will have a "purrfectly" delightful time!

"Can She HEAR This Cat's Meow?" is available on Amazon.

[Amazon.com : can she hear this cats meow](https://www.amazon.com/can-she-hear-this-cats-meow/)



Let's All Step Up for
Hearing Health!
Sunday June 11th

Veterans Park
1010 N. Lincoln Memorial Dr.
Milwaukee, WI

www.walk4hearing.org
Milwaukee Walk
State Steppers Team

The HLAA Fox Valley Chapter Board encourages you to participate in the 2023 Milwaukee Walk4Hearing. We, as a board, have decided to support the HLAAWI state team rather than having a team of our own. This worked well for us in 2022, and were proud to say we raised close to \$2000 for HLAA.

Fox Valley Chapter is the host chapter for the 2024 HLAAWI State Conference that will be held in April next year. We can help a great deal with costs associated with that conference by participating in the Walk.

It's a fun event to attend for people of all ages. But if you cannot be there, you can still participate. HOW? You can become a 'phantom walker'; a team member who simply helps raise funds but cannot, for whatever reason, be at the event. Or, you can make a donation to a registered walker. If you prefer, you can support organizations other than HLAAWI. For example, CaptionCall and CapTel sponsor teams, as do other organizations whose missions relate to hearing loss. Info at: www.walk4hearing.org

Most important: this event is intended to create awareness of the importance of hearing health and the understanding of all things related to living with hearing loss for people of all ages.

Thanks in advance for your support!

The Board Members of HLAAFVC & HLAAWI

ODHH Community Connect celebrates Mental Health Awareness Month with an online presentation that will provide an overview of Mental Health & Behavioral Health Services available to Deaf & Hard of Hearing people in Wisconsin. The next meeting is on May 4th from 12:30 – 1:30 PM. Captioning and ASL is provided

Katy Schmidt Hagmeyer is a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) in private practice, Deaf Inspire, LLC, which provides assessment, diagnostic services, psychotherapy and consultant services primarily for the deaf community. Katy has a special interest in trauma work. She is located in the Milwaukee area, but serves clients from all over the state of Wisconsin.

email [ODHH](mailto:dhsodhh@dhs.wisconsin.gov) at dhsodhh@dhs.wisconsin.gov for the Zoom link in advance if interested.

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

May 8 – Hearing Loss and Dementia – Kristen Felten

May 16 - CI Group meets on Zoom 6 PM

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 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 Appleton Yacht Club

Cochlear Implant Support Group News

Our next CI Support Group meeting will be Tuesday, May 16 at 6:00 pm. We use an open format that allows everyone to ask questions or share information. Please come to share your thoughts and experiences. Sharing helps everyone.



Our CI support group is open to everyone. We meet on Zoom to be able to reach many folks spread throughout the state. **Join us on Tuesday, May 16th at 6:00. Watch for an email invitation with the Zoom link a week or so prior.**

Hope to see you on May 16th!

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

IMPORTANT: 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 to people on the list.

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*
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 H.O.P.E meeting for April served as a reminder to me as to why our members work so hard to make our Chapter a success. We spent most of the hour advising and encouraging a new participant who was considering a cochlear implant. Our members gave honest and, I think, accurate assessments of the process and their degree of success with their implants. Our goal is to help those with hearing loss bring about an improvement in their ability to hear and communicate. I truly believe we were able to give that individual a head start in his journey toward better hearing.

I felt optimistic after the chapter meeting. The program was well received and our audience numbers were up substantially. Excellent audience participation was a plus. All that work is beginning to pay off! Thank you to LeAnne Loveless, Matthew Hooyman & Margo Lucas for helping us get the technology set up.

It remains a challenge where we **truly need a tech guru to volunteer their support.** Are there any takers out there? Please let us know!



Dale Voskuil
Chapter President & H.O.P.E. Facilitator
voskuild@gmail.com

Help Needed!

Could You Sit at the Welcome Table to Greet those who join us & hand out HLAA info? Thank you to Karen & Gary Kasten for taking this role in April!

We also need a tech guru who can help with the hybrid system at Bordini.

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.