



**November Chapter Meeting & Program**  
**Monday November 13, 2023 at 1:00 PM**  
**H.O.P.E meets *after* the program**  
**Bordini Center 5 N. Systems Dr. Appleton**

**Afternoon Meeting in Nov.**

**Topic: The Emotional Side of Hearing Loss**  
**Presenter/Discussion Leader: Julie Olson**



Julie Olson is the founder of HLAAFVC. She has chaired HLAA at all levels, including as president of the national organization's board. She has degrees in education with a masters degree in human services.

When hearing loss comes into our lives, things change. Often we don't understand why, and other people don't even come close to understanding. Therein comes what we refer to as 'The 3 F's of Hearing Loss'. Those F's are Fear, Frustration and Fatigue. All three are difficult to explain to people who don't know what is going on with us, even to those who are close to us.

This presentation is designed to explain some of the typical changes that affect people with adult onset hearing loss. Why is it different for us than it is for kids who are born with hearing loss? To us it's a true 'loss'. To many of them it's a 'difference'.

Let's talk about how hearing loss affects us and what we can do to make those effects less troublesome. The HOPE discussion group, which will follow the program this month, will be a place to gain further insight.

**Is there an emotional side to hearing loss?** That is for you to decide. Most important are the decisions we make that can counteract the negatives. Positive thinking helps!

If you can't join us in person, you may attend on Zoom. Register [HERE](#) in advance. Sign in to the meeting prior to 1:00 PM so you don't interrupt the meeting.

**PS: Read the HOPE article on page 4 regarding plans for 2024 meeting timeline. We need your input!**



**SAVE THE DATES!**  
**APRIL 26—27 2024**  
**STATE CONFERENCE**  
**BORDINI CENTER**  
**IN APPLETON**  
Open to the public.  
Registration required



**Professional Speakers!**  
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**Food!**  
Information at:  
[hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com)  
& [www.hlaawi.org](http://www.hlaawi.org)  
Registration will begin in early 2024.  
If you struggle with hearing loss, you don't want to miss this.

**Shine New Light on Hearing Loss**

## **IMPORTANT!!**

**HLAA Fox Valley chapter will host the 2024 HLAawi State Conference. We need help with outreach.**

- \* We want to invite people who have hearing loss.  
Can you help us reach them?
- \* We want to invite medical professionals who need a better understanding of the barriers that prevent fluid communication with us. Patients often express frustration because providers don't know what hearing loss does to us. Hearing loss barriers are invisible, but fixable when they are understood.

Can you help us by telling your providers about this event? We will have flyers and materials available for you to share with them. You can make a positive difference for many if you will spread the word and encourage people to attend this conference. **Help us create a mailing list that will reach as many people as possible.** Email us at: [hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com) or sign up at a meeting. We also need help in other areas. Let us know if you're in!

## Synopsis of Our October Program by Christine Klessig

**"FDA\* Regulations for OTC Hearing Aids"** was the topic of our October chapter meeting. We viewed a video from HLAA National hosted by expert audiology consultant Thomas Powers. He explained that the Over the Counter (OTC) Hearing Aid Movement began in 2009. It's been a long journey.

OTC devices covered are for individuals with mild to moderate hearing loss only. The law does not specify decibel levels, so the determination of degree of loss is dependent on an individual's perception. OTC devices are not intended for children.

There are consumer protections required by the OTC regulations including receipts, return periods, trial periods and warranties. In addition, labeling is required outside of the product box, inside the product box, and on the device itself, as part of the software, and technical specifications. Yes, it is confusing.

Prior to purchasing an OTC device, it is recommended the following steps be taken: 1) Get a thorough hearing test from a licensed professional so you know where your loss lies on the spectrum. 2) Make a list of places where you have difficulty hearing 3) Consider what style of device is right for you; BTE = Behind The Ear, RIC = Receiver In Canal, Custom = Earbuds, etc. 4) Decide what features you want; T-coil, rechargeable batteries, Bluetooth streaming, etc. 5) Decide what type of technical support you want; in person, app, live phone/telehealth, online, etc.

OTC devices now sell at a variety of retail stores, pharmacies and online. At some point they may be available from hearing healthcare professionals. Powers cautioned to be sure you're purchasing OTC devices - as opposed to PSAP's (personal amplification devices) or HEARABLES that are intended to amplify sound in the outdoors. He also recommended that purchasers check company reviews to ascertain how long the company has been in business, etc.

\*It is important to know that FDA regulations do not assure the capability of OTC devices, they protect consumers from devices that may be harmful.

HLAA's [OTC 101 – Ask the Expert Webinar Series](#) will help demystify this new class of products. Although this technology has the potential to benefit millions of Americans, consumers are understandably confused. On November 1, a panel of experts & audiologists from the U.S. FDA will answer questions.

Advanced registration is required. [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#) HLAA webinars are recorded and available on the website a few weeks afterwards. [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)

HLAA does not endorse products or providers. We share information about them, including our personal experiences. The HLAA mission is to educate, share unbiased information, provide peer support & to advocate for communication access & the development of better products. Goal: To create an environment where people with hearing loss are included.

## 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.

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. NOTE: Sponsors who donate to the chapter at this time of year will be included in the 2024 Chapter Sponsor List.**

*thank you!*

## 2023 Chapter Sponsors

### 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 Dreifuert 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, Judy & Larry Benish

**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, Fred Lilly, 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, & more. You are the reason our chapter is successful.**

**Meetings are organized and run by volunteers.  
Everyone is welcome.**

**We are seeking additional grant funding to help cover the costs of hosting the 2024 state conference because we want to keep the registration fee low. Registration details will be announced in January.**

## Hearing Assistive Technology Tidbits!

### *The Joy of a Home Loop System*

Submitted by Margaret Cariveau



I want to share my experience with a teleloop that I use to hear television in my home. Several years ago, when I was using two hearing aids, I was gifted a Field teleloop amplifier manufactured by Phonic Ear. It is a simple system that has 100' of wire, and a small box, that sits on our tv stand. It has wires that plug into the back of the TV. My husband was able to run the wire behind the TV, down through the floor into the basement. He fastened the 100' of wire to the basement ceiling to encompass the perimeter of our living room, while returning the wire back up through the floor to create a "loop" that connects both ends to the box.

My hearing aids were equipped with telecoils so I was able to get the TV sound directly into my hearing aids by using the telecoil mode. It has been an incredible device that has enabled me to hear the TV clearly. I used this home loop system with telecoil equipped HA's before receiving a cochlear implant (CI) 2 years ago. Now I can stream TV via the telecoils in both the CI and the hearing aid I use. It works great!

I am not promoting this particular product over others on the market, but I want people to know that watching TV and hearing well without captions at a volume that works for me is a joy!

**Editors Note:** Thanks to Margaret for sharing her tech experience. We want to hear from others about theirs. Too often, Hearing Assistive Tech (HAT) that goes beyond our personal devices is not explained or demonstrated to us by providers. These items should not be kept secret. They work. Sharing with others is what HLAA is all about. Share your experiences at [hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com). We may publish your experience in our 'Tech Tidbits' Column.

## Reasons to Participate in an HLAA chapter

1. Chapters provide a comfortable space to share your experiences openly.
2. You learn you are not alone with hearing loss & meet other people who understand what you experience.
3. It's empowering to be able to talk about how hearing loss affects your life without having someone say you should be glad it's not something worse.
4. You find out that there's an organization that goes to bat for the hard of hearing population, and you wonder why no one ever told you about that organization.
4. You learn about assistive technology & options that are rarely explained to you otherwise.
5. You learn you can reach out to others in a way that helps them enjoy life more. That kind of help comes back to you tenfold.

## Why on Earth is HLAA Such a Well Kept Secret?



## HLAA has a Seat at Many Tables October 5, 2023



Barbara Kelley

Hearing loss, an invisible, often misunderstood disability is getting attention thanks to HLAA's advocacy and education over the past 45 years. That advocacy includes involvement in the establishment of the National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), within the National Institutes of Health (NIH), in 1988.

Prior to the founding of HLAA in 1979, little research was done on partial deafness. A research institute within NIH was a huge step forward.

Now HLAA has a seat on the prestigious NIH Council of Councils. HLAA Executive Director Barbara Kelley's appointment is a big step forward for people with hearing loss. NIH is the world's foremost medical research center. With hearing loss and hearing health now having a 'seat at the table', it will mean breaking down barriers and bringing hearing health issues into the mainstream.

This is an eight-year appointment so there's plenty of time to contribute and gauge how hearing loss is considered. Congratulations to Barbara Kelley and to HLAA. We are grateful for all the work HLAA does for us. [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)



HLAA Fox Valley Chapter will have an exhibit table at this Volunteer Fox Cities event. Events like this provide an outreach opportunity for us to share HLAA information.

If you'd like to help by sitting at our table, let us know. We'll do a bit of socializing afterwards. 8 pairs of tickets to see CLUE at the Performing Arts Center will be given away in a drawing sponsored by Thrivent. Come learn how generous our area is!

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

**November 13** – *The Emotional Side of Hearing Loss*

Julie Olson MS, Hearing loss Support Specialist  
HOPE will meet AFTER the chapter meeting.

**The afternoon meeting begins at 1:00 PM**

**November 21** - CI Group On Zoom 6 PM

**December 12** – Annual Holiday Social at the Appleton Yacht Club 5:30 PM (Note date change)

**The Dec. social date has been changed to TUESDAY, December 12th due to the Monday night Packer game.**

## Cochlear Implant Support Group News

Join us on Tuesday, November 21st at 6:00. The 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, e-mail us so we can include you. These meetings are open to all CI users, & also to those who may be exploring the CI option. All CI brands are discussed

Our open format encourages everyone to ask questions & share experiences. It's a great way to learn and to meet other CI folks! See you in November!

*Rhonda Clancey*, CI Group Moderator  
[rclancey@hotmail.com](mailto:rclancey@hotmail.com) or [hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com)



## 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\* [michellelfrisbie@gmail.com](mailto:michellelfrisbie@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.

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

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

We tried a daytime meeting in September. It generated similar attendance to our evening meetings. In October the evening meeting was not well attended. Was it the presentation topic or was it the Monday night Packer game?

This month we will meet in the afternoon. The H.O.P.E. group will meet AFTER the chapter program. The program topic is one that should generate some good heartfelt discussion.

We have to make some decisions about our meeting timeline for 2024. If you would take a few minutes to let us know how you feel it would help. Email us at [hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com). Better yet, come to the November meeting and/or the December social. Friends and family are always welcome.

**I hope to See you at 1:00 PM on November 13th at Bordini Center!**

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

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



**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) It is available electronically or in print.**