



September Chapter Meeting & Program

Monday, Sept. 11, 2023 at 1:00 PM

Bordini Center at 5 N. Systems Dr. Appleton

“LIFE IS LIKE A SAFARI!”

(Traveling with hearing loss)



Join us for a captivating presentation by our very own HLAAFVC member, Michelle Frisbie. She will share her international travel adventures, & amazing wildlife pictures from her recent African Safari adventure!

Michelle grew up with a mild high frequency hearing loss. She started wearing hearing aids in her twenties, and joined our local HLAA chapter, to help cope with her “new normal”. As her hearing got progressively worse in her 30’s, she explored cochlear implants after attending an eye opening National HLAA Convention in Seattle. She got her first cochlear implant in 2001 and a second one in 2016 – they have been life changing!

Michelle doesn’t let hearing loss stop her from enjoying all that life has to offer, including adventurous travel! She has traveled the US (hiking National Parks and the Grand Canyon, boating the Mississippi, riding jeeps through the red rocks of Sedona AZ) and to many international destinations (Mexico, the Caribbean, Europe, Bali-Indonesia, and most recently to Africa). She will share helpful tips for traveling with hearing loss and ways to prevent vertigo when flying.

Michelle says “Life is like a safari, full of adventure, especially with the challenges that hearing loss brings”. Join us and bring your travel questions to learn how to be a savvy traveler, despite having hearing loss. **You may also join us on Zoom. Link [HERE](#)**

(Michelle served as chapter president in the early 1990s when we were still known as SHHH. She currently serves as chapter treasurer.)

Daytime Meeting in Sept.

- ♦ **Goal: To include more people. Mark your calendars! Tell others about us.**
- ♦ **Due to the above, the H.O.P.E. Support Group will meet *after* the chapter program.**

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. Plan on daytime meetings in September and November. October will be in the evening.

Our 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. Please tell us: hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com We’re listening!

To continue as one of the oldest and most successful chapters in the country, we need more active participants. Don’t feel badly if YOU cannot be more active. YOU are active if you attend & share your ideas. Of course we need people who are able to do more.

You help a lot when you tell other people about our chapter & bring them along. You all know people who struggle with hearing loss.



“Celebrating Life after 50”, the Senior Expo sponsored by the Appleton Noon Lion’s Club,

will be held at Player’s Choice, W3035 Edgewood Tr. in Appleton on September 20th from 8 AM – Noon. Over 600 people attended in 2022. The Expo features seminars, exhibits, health screenings, & PRIZES. **No fee to attend.**

Fox Valley Chapter will sponsor a booth to share information about hearing loss. We encourage YOU to attend. If you’d like to help at the chapter’s booth, contact Christine: bommaklessig@gmail.com Come take a spin on our chapter’s prize wheel!

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) published a Bill of Rights in July 2022, which describes the fundamental rights of air travelers with disabilities under the [Air Carrier Access Act](#) (ACAA or Act).

HLAA advocacy helps make things happen!

Review of our July Social by LeAnne Loveless Photos

courtesy of Rhonda Clancey

In July, members of HLAA took a field trip to Options for Independent Living in Green Bay to tour Option's Accessible Showcase Model Home, and learned



a lot about the services Options provides, including advocacy, information & referral, peer support &



independent living skills training. Those who took the chartered bus to Options, met at the Bordini Center.

Option's house was very neat to see, with many things in the building being accessible for people with a variety of disabilities. We were able to connect to the hearing loop in their conference room to learn from Option's staff. We got to see different pieces of accessible technology in different "rooms"; living room, kitchen, & accessible bathrooms. More information about Options at:

www.optionsil.org

Options has a display of amplified phones that can be tested, along with "smart home" technology. The kitchen and bathrooms were modified to show how people with limited mobility can modify their home to be more accessible. Staff at Options can assist people with hearing loss in selecting a variety of hearing assistive technologies, including that provided by the state's TEPP* program.

After the 2 hour tour of Options, we went to Kroll's restaurant to enjoy their fare. The majority of us enjoyed their classic hamburgers, & we were all given a special surprise blueberry cheesecake dessert! A big thank you to Kroll's for providing that yummy dessert.



Thank you to everyone who joined us to learn. And thank you to Options and to Kroll's. A good time was had by all.

*The TEPP Program provides vouchers for people with hearing loss to purchase accessible phone equipment, including both cell and landline phones. [PSC Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program \(TEPP\) \(wi.gov\)](http://PSC Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program (TEPP) (wi.gov))

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 Oct. issue is Sept. 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, Judy & Larry Benish

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

Gold Level (\$100 - \$199)

Kevin Gossens, Steve Hangartner, Charles & Judy Hastert, Joyce O. Hannamen, Jim Hemmen, Christine Klessig, Mike & Susan Landreman, Barb Merry, Julie & John Olson, Julie Reisinger, Lynn Schneider, Karen & Tom Schuppe, Barb Soderberg, Juliette Sterkens & "Max" Maxfield, Jan & Diane Veenendaal, Bill & Grace Zurovitch, Marilyn Rock

Silver Level (\$50 - \$99)

Rhonda Bartelt, Clarice Belling, Pat Boldt, Susan Brown, Barb Crusan, Margaret Cariveau, Jo Kintopf Crabb, Richard Erickson, Michelle Frisbie, Mary Fritch Hatfield, Karen & Gary Kasten, Mark Oldenburg, Patty & Tom Reimer, Sharon Salm, Phyllis & Lyle Sconzert, Carol Smokovich, Jerry & Phyllis VanHandel

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, 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

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.

The Truth About a Special Non Profit Organization by Michelle Frisbie, HLAAFVC Treasurer

Many of us spend a ton of our personal time supporting HLAA, but that's the nature of a nonprofit, unpaid volunteer support - we do it because we care about the HLAA mission. We want to help people with hearing loss and do all we can at the local level to share information and provide mutual support.

The National org. does many things local chapters cannot do. They advocate for us at the federal level and have succeeded at changing laws that make life better for us. They host webinars on timely topics that are open to all. HLAA is the recognized voice for nearly 48 million hard of hearing Americans. We need that voice! Definitely worth supporting. NOTE: Our chapter does not have dues. Instead, we encourage people to join the national organization. We have found other ways to raise the funds we need.

I'm sharing the link to join HLAA or renew your membership [HERE](#). While there, take time to look at other links for very valuable information. I encourage you to sign up for everything HLAA offers. There is a wealth of information there and you don't have to be a member to access information on the HLAA website. But I personally think paying \$45 is certainly worth letting HLAA staff and volunteers know we care about and support what they work so hard to achieve.

You will help keep one of the oldest organized chapters (us) well and respected, by becoming a member.

SAVE THE DATES!

The 2024 HLAAWI State Conference will be held in Appleton. April 26-27

We'll shine a lot of light on hearing loss!

More Information Coming Soon!!

Scholarships for Students with Hearing Loss

Cochlear Corp. offers several prestigious scholarships in honor of the amazing innovators who developed their hearing solutions.
Deadline 09-30-2023



- Available to graduated high school seniors, and undergraduate or graduate students that have applied to or will be enrolled in an accredited college/university
- Scholarship applicants must be a Cochlear Nucleus, Baha, or Osia recipient
- Applicants must be a citizen of the United States or Canada

Application information [HERE](#)

Request link at: hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com

Information about scholarships awarded annually for students with hearing loss by HLAA Fox Valley, HLAA Wisconsin, and the Fox Cities Community Foundation will be published in our December newsletter, or when information is available. All scholarships have strict application deadlines.

Food for Thought based on Fact...

Fact: The majority of people over age 65 who know they are experiencing hearing loss do not disclose that to their doctors. Nor do doctors ask about it. **Why?**

Could this be related to stigmas associated with poor hearing? You know, all those jokes about absent minded professors & others who misunderstand things & respond out of context. Jokes about getting old & not being as 'with it' as we used to be? Is it time to address it? HLAA Chapters provide the place to do that. Join us for our H.O.P.E. discussion time & for our educational meetings. We are PEOPLE first. Hearing loss is just a small piece of us unless we let it control our lives. You won't regret making time to come to our meetings.

Enlightenment guaranteed!

Win a \$25 Gift Card for Your Input!

Gift Card
GIVEAWAY!

Help us plan future meetings by giving us feedback these 2 topics.

1. Your experience with Over the Counter (OTC/non prescriptive hearing aids. HLAA National Information [HERE](#)
2. Healthcare visits. Have you had trouble at medical appointments or in hospitals? What accommodations did you request and/or receive? What will you do next time? National HLAA Information [HERE](#)

These are hot topics right now. Sharing personal experiences helps others. We will compile your responses anonymously and share them in a future newsletter. If you are willing to sit on a panel to share your experiences at a meeting, we'd love to know that too. Connect with us at: hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com

We will compile your responses on either or both topics and place your name to a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate. **Your input must be received by September 22nd to be eligible for the drawing.**

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

September 11 – Tips for Traveling with Hearing Loss

October 9 – Buying Hearing Aids – What's the Scoop on Non Prescriptive (OTC) 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

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.

Cochlear Implant Support Group News

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



Join us on Tuesday, September 19th 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 me so we can include you. These meetings are open to all CI users, & also to those who may be considering the CI option.

See you on September 19th!

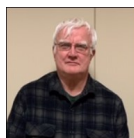
Rhonda Clancey, CI Group Moderator

rlancey@hotmail.com or hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com

H.O.P.E. Support Group News



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



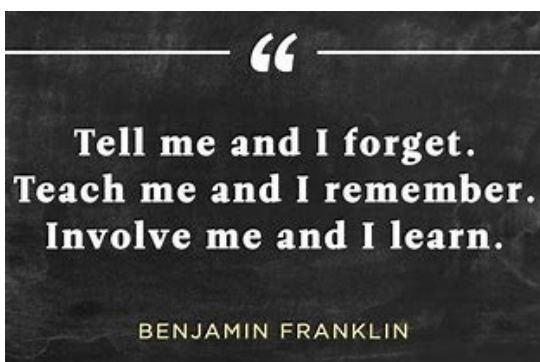
Many have suggested holding some of our meetings in the daytime, so we're going to try that. We hope this will encourage people who prefer not to drive at night to attend. Attendance will help us determine our meeting timeline for 2024.

H.O.P.E. will follow the chapter meeting rather than precede it. It will be a perfect opportunity to express your concerns, discuss issues, ask questions & receive support.

We encourage you to bring friends and family members. See you at 1 PM on Sept. 11th at Bordini Center!

Dale Voskuil voskuild@gmail.com

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



Notice: Audiologists owe it to their patients to recognize cochlear implant candidacy & to provide them with the most current information available. Candidacy has changed recently to allow people with less profound hearing loss and/or single sided deafness to qualify. There is no upper age limit for cochlear implantation.

Medicare and most insurers cover cochlear implantation even though they rarely cover hearing aids. If you're struggling to hear even with powerful well fit hearing aids, ask about cochlear implants. You're welcome to participate in this chapter's CI support group. Bring your questions.



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 It is available electronically or in print.