



HLAA Fox Valley Chapter News
Volume 39 Issue 3
April 2024

“Shine New Light on Hearing Loss”

Friday & Saturday April 26 & 27

HLAA Wisconsin State Conference
Bordini Center 5 N. Systems Dr. Appleton WI

We invite doctors, nurses, social workers, educators & everyone who cares about people to join us. Learn how to accommodate & include hard of hearing people, an invisible disability group that includes over 15% of the US population. We are people of all ages and stages in life.

Nationally known presenters will discuss hearing loss in healthcare, inclusion, mental health, communication access as defined by the American’s with Disabilities Act, advancements in medicine and technology & much more. Please tell other people about this conference. The information shared will benefit many.

Register online, at a chapter meeting or mail payment to:
HLAA Fox Valley Chapter. P.O. Box 25, Menasha WI 54952

Register <https://www.hlaawi.org/registration.html> \$50/person



Here’s the Scoop!

Friday April 26 Join us for a Tailgate Party 5:30—8:30

Green Bay Packer Staff member and former NFL player, Derrick Coleman, is our guest speaker. Mr. Coleman was diagnosed with hearing loss at age 3. Come hear his story.

Tailgate supper buffet is included.

Saturday April 27 - 8:00 AM—4:15 PM

Presenters: (Look them up on Google and be amazed!)

Dr. Nicholas Reed AuD Researcher from Johns Hopkins

Dr. Ruth Litovsky PhD Researcher from UW Madison

Dr. Tina Childress AuD Audiologist, Late Deafened Cochlear Implantee, Professional Speaker, Writer, Technology Expert

Panel of Experts: Accommodating people with hearing loss. How the Disabilities Act mandates communication access.

Light breakfast & Lunch are included with registration.

April Chapter Meeting - Monday April 8th at 1:00 PM

Bordini Center 5 N Systems Dr. Appleton

Program: Hearing Loss? It’s Not a Joke!

Has anyone ever made you feel like the butt of a joke because you misheard something? Huh? What? Duh? You are not alone!

Can you laugh at some of the things you ‘mishear’ & respond to? This program is an opportunity for hard of hearing people to revisit & maybe even share a few of those embarrassing, but sometimes laughable experiences. Since the topic reflects our HOPE group mission, this program combines HOPE with our typical presentation. We hope you will hang out after the discussion for refreshments & an opportunity to help the conference planners put some materials together.

We get together to help each other.

We hope you’ll join us in person, but for those who cannot be there, you can join us on Zoom. Register in advance at the link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwud-GqrTqoGd3HlhXuDLAtcNUIA1b1D-0I>
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about participating. If you receive our newsletter in print, e-mail us at: hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com for the link to register for the Zoom meeting.

And There’s More!

Exhibits!

Many Handouts!

Door Prizes!

Bucket Raffle!

50/50 Raffle!

Win An Autographed Packers Helmet!!

Proceeds from these raffle events are used for an annual high school scholarship awarded by

HLAA Wisconsin.

Participation is optional.

We are grateful to donors.

Scholarship Deadline Extended

HLAA Fox Valley Chapter offers a \$1500 scholarship to a high school senior or to a college student from the Fox Valley Region who is currently in their first 2 years of post secondary education.



Applicants must use technology to participate in the hearing mainstream. (Hearing aids, cochlear implants)

We ask that the recipient participate some way in the HLAA mission. That could include attending meetings, writing an article, helping with technology & using skills they have to help people with hearing loss.

This award will be presented at the 2024 HLAAWI conference on April 26th.

Deadline Extended to April 10th. Apply at:

<https://www.hlaawi.org/college-scholarships.html>

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH HIGH SCHOOLS & COLLEGES IN YOUR AREA.

NOTE: This Scholarship is sponsored by HLAA Fox Valley Chapter, not HLAA Wisconsin.

To: Young Adults with Hearing Loss

We are reaching out to past scholarship recipients, and other young adults with hearing loss to invite them to Meet & Greet virtual meeting gatherings. Participants so far have shared i stories about their hearing loss journeys including many helpful tips and technologies. They enjoyed getting to know one another and want to do more 'zooming'.

Among recommended resources was Dr. Tina Childress AuD, who will be a presenter at the upcoming HLAAWI conference!

If you would like to join the fun, email us to get on the distribution list at hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com Those who are between the ages of 18—35 are encouraged to participate.

People from this age group are encouraged to attend 'Shine Light on Hearing Loss'. You will be amazed at how much you can help other people live well with hearing loss.

A Typical Question Asked...

"Why should I attend a conference that I won't be able to hear at due to my poor hearing?"

Answer: When you attend HLAA events you will have the option of using technology. We use a state of the art hearing loop. If you don't use hearing aids that can connect to it, we have receivers available. We also use real time captioning at our events. You may experience something that will change your life in a very positive way!

Chapter Sponsor Program

The Sponsor Project is HLAA Fox Valley Chapter's main fundraiser. Sponsors make it possible for us to cover costs incurred in our efforts to fulfill the mission of HLAA. That includes publishing and circulating our newsletter, renting accessible meeting space, providing a scholarship for a student with hearing loss, providing stipends to attend educational events and much more. HLAAFVC is currently organizing & hosting a large conference.

We have added another level to our sponsor program to help raise funds for the conference.

HLAAFVC is a 501c3 tax exempt organization. Donations are tax deductible according to Wisconsin law.

To be a Sponsor, mail check to: P.O. Box 25, Menasha WI 54952. or donate online at the link below*. Include instructions on how you want to be listed. Donations must be received by the 15th of the month to be included in the next edition of our newsletter.

2024 Chapter Sponsors

Diamond Level (\$400 or More)

Haviland Hearing Aids, Inc.

Peter J Zellmer AuD CCC-A, Kyle Martell AuD CCC-A

Rural Audiology Services, Inc. Becky L Franz Audiologist,

Cari J Kramer Audiologist

Platinum Level (\$200—\$399)

Audiology & Hearing Center @ ENT Surgical Associates Beth Gabavics AuD,

Danica Noskey AuD, Nicki Klatt AuD, Ashley Hoerth AuD

Fox Valley Hearing Center Dr. Dintelman, Dr. Engebos, Dr. Esser, Dr. Iwanski, Dr. Long, Dr. McGinnis

Barbara Abhold Memorial Donation, Kenneth Bro & Becky Brown,

Noreen French, Steve & Becky Hangartner, Jim Machalk, Tom O'Connor,

John Schindhelm, Dale & Renee Voskuil, Grace & Bill Zurovitch

Gold Level (\$100 - \$199)

Joyce Hannemann, Charles Hastert, James Hemmen, Karen & Gary Kasten,

Jo Kintopf-Crabb, Howard Porter, Lynn Schneider, Tom & Karen Schuppe,

Lyle & Phyllis Sconzert, Barb & Russ Soderberg, Juliette Sterkens AuD &

LeRoy "Max" Maxfield, Jan & Diane Veenendaal, Norma Will,

Fidelity Charitable Donation

Silver Level (\$50 - \$99)

Mary Anderson, Clarice Belling, Blackbaud Giving Fund, Margaret Carriveau,

Rich & Jan Erickson, Michelle Frisbie, Julie & John Olson, Bob Opsteen, Patty

Reimer, Carol Smokovich, Elaine Stark, Jerry & Phyllis VanHandel

Bronze Level (\$10 - \$49)

Lorna Hamilton, Grace Nickodem, Katie Weber

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.

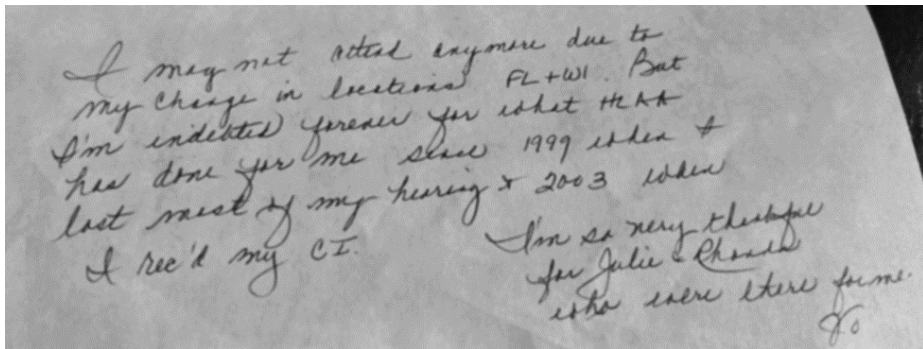
Everyone is welcome.

If donating online, scroll down to the Green

"Give Without Fees Box"

* [Fox Valley Chapter - HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA WI \(hlaawi.org\)](https://www.hlaawi.org)

Why We Volunteer for HLAA: A message from a sponsor



March Chapter Program Summary: Cochlear Implants

Thank you to Melissa Sigmund AuD, for an excellent and positive presentation at our March chapter meeting about cochlear implants. We had good attendance that included some who have CIs and others who are considering them.



It is fascinating to learn of the research & development that has gone into this option in the last few decades, especially when you know how the mere thought of cochlear implantation was disregarded in the early days of HLAA. (1980s)

It is heartwarming to know more people have become eligible for this life changing procedure now, including those who experience single sided deafness.

Dr. Sigmund is employed by Advanced Bionics, one of the three manufacturers of cochlear implants. While we do not endorse any particular brand of CI, we truly appreciate her sharing information with us. It's not 'brain surgery'! The procedure is generally an outpatient procedure, and the success rate is very high.

**You can learn more about cochlear implant research at the HLAAWI Conference this month! It's pretty amazing!
We want to HEAR!!!**

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.



To unsubscribe, e-mail us hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com. We will need your name & whether you receive it in print or by e-mail to remove you. If you receive it both ways & want only one or the other, let us know your preference.

HAAA Wisconsin Spring Board Meeting

The state board meeting will be held prior to the Friday evening event at the state conference at the Bordini Center in Appleton from 4—5 PM.

- * Chapter reports will be given.
- * The Advocacy Committee will share information.
- * The Board hopes to elect a vice president.
- * There are 2 board positions open. If this interests you, contact Kathy Johnson, HLAAWI Board Chair:

kljohnson8475@gmail.com

Cochlear Implants Get a Boost on TV Show

Not everyone watches the popular TV show, 'The Bachelor', but those who do have felt a special connection with a current contestant. Daisy Kent, a young woman from Minnesota who has a cochlear implant has become an outspoken advocate for people with hearing loss.

In an interview, MS Kent said "Losing my hearing has been the loneliest pain I have experienced." But she has turned that pain into purpose, ultimately writing a children's book about her experience and founding a non profit organization "Hear Your Heart", that supports children with autoimmune diseases and hearing loss.

At the time of this writing, the final episode has not yet been shown, however Daisy is one of two finalists on the show. By the time you read this you'll know which of the lovely young women the show's 'Bachelor' will choose.



- HLAA's 40th annual convention and our first-ever resort-style event, this year's gathering in Phoenix promises to be a brand-new experience! We invite you join us at the luxurious [Sheraton Grand Resort at Wild Horse Pass](#), June 26—29, 2024.
- Represent HLAA FVC as its delegate. Stipend provided. Early Bird Pricing through March 31, 2024 Contact the chapter board hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com We will share the details. National convention information available [HERE](#).

Our newsletter is published 10 months of the year. Please share it with others. Help HLA A 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

2024 Chapter Calendar

Monday April 8 at 1 PM "We Can Do It!"

Friday & Saturday April 26 & 27

"Shine New Light on Hearing Loss" Conference

May 13 Gadget Sharing Night at Batleys Bar & Grill
(formerly The Ground Round)

May 21 - CI Support Group Meeting on Zoom

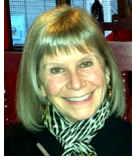
June 10 Advice from a doctor of audiology

July is Break Month No Meeting

August 13 Summer Social at Appleton Yacht Club
(This is a Tuesday evening.)

Sept 9 & Oct 14 will be evening meetings. Programs & Presenters to be announced.

Cochlear Implant Support Group



Come join our CI Zoom program Tuesday, May 21 at 6:00 pm. Listen and learn or participate by sharing your experience and knowledge with cochlear implants. Are you considering a cochlear implant? Confused? Let our CI group guide you on your adventure!

We'll discuss what we learned at the HLA AWI April conference.

I encourage you to attend the HLA AWI conference. One of the foremost researchers in the CI field is one of the presenters. Another presenter uses CIs herself. These professional speakers have amazing insight and information to share. The conference is a rare opportunity to learn what's happening now and what may be coming in the future.

Rhonda Clancey, CI Group Moderator

rclancey@hotmail.com or hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com

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*
rclancey@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.



The H.O.P.E. Discussion Group will not meet in April as the nature of the program is right in line with our usual discussion format. Bring your sense of humor with you and find out how others find ways to cope with miscues.

If you've not registered for the state conference yet, I encourage you to attend. We don't have the opportunity to participate in an event like this very often. It's a golden opportunity not just for people with hearing loss, but for family members and others who need to better understand our unique needs. See you twice in April....at the April 8th meeting and at the conference! Spread the word!!



Dale Voskuil H.O.P.E. moderator and chapter president

Grassroots Efforts Pay Off

The HLA A Washington State Association was instrumental in pushing for expanded coverage for hearing aids and services that went into effect January 1, 2024. [House Bill 1222](#) now requires some large group health plans in the state, and those for public employees, to cover the cost of hearing aids, assessments, adjustment, fitting & training—up to \$3,000 per ear every three years. While this law exempts companies that are self-insured, it's an important precedent, & local advocates continue to push for broader coverage.

This effort in Washington State illustrates what HLA A members can do when they come together to learn, agree & advocate. This kind of advocacy doesn't just happen. It means that people at the state level must step up.

**There are 2 openings on the HLA AWI board.
Might YOU step up?**



If you're looking for people who understand the challenges of living with hearing loss & are open to learning, HLA A can be a game changer. Whether you have questions about hearing aids, cochlear implants, captioning, tinnitus, ADA regulations, etc., or want to share an experience; good or not so good, we listen.

We welcome hearing loss partners because we understand their concerns & needs as well. You won't get all your answers in a single meeting, but you'll learn a great deal over time through peer support & participation. HLA A Fox Valley Chapter folks are volunteers of all ages who have found mutual help to be priceless. Meetings use live captioning & loop technology so you'll be able to participate. Come to a meeting or special event & bring a friend or family member.