



Monday February 12th at 1:00 PM

Chapter Meeting & Program

Bordini Center 5 N, Systems Dr. Appleton

H.O.P.E discussion will be *after* the program

PRESENTER: Andrea Yenter, Lion's Camp Director

TOPIC: Wisconsin Lion's Foundation's Support for people with Hearing Loss

The Wisconsin Lion's Club Foundation operates a special camp in Rosholt WI for children with disabilities. Special sessions are held for those who are deaf or hard of hearing. Several of our scholarship recipients have benefitted from Lion's Camp, so we've heard about the wonderful times they have had there. Some of them have even worked as counselors.

We look forward to learning more about how the Lion's provide assistance for people with hearing loss. Did you know they also have a camp for adults with hearing loss too? Do you know that the Lion's Clubs collect both used eye glasses and hearing aids, and provides assistance for people who cannot afford to purchase them? We will learn more at our February meeting. We hope to see you in person, but Zoom attendance is also available.

Use the link to register in advance. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84451200000>

Why You Should Tell Your Doctors About the April HLA Conference

University of Michigan research shows that at least 50% of older adults are likely to have hearing loss, but fully 80% of Americans in this age group say that their primary care providers do not bring up hearing loss at annual exams. 77% of this group also said they haven't had their hearing tested by a professional.

A national sample of more than 2,000 adults aged 50 to 80 were queried. Results showed that women were less likely to have had their hearing checked than men. Also that older adults who self reported fair or poor physical or mental health were less likely to have had their hearing tested, despite having higher odds of experiencing hearing loss.

The researchers point out that age-related hearing loss can have wide-ranging consequences that can be addressed with technology. They also say that many people don't realize they've lost hearing ability unless they're screened or tested. (Others do notice it.)

Their findings present a "tremendous opportunity" for primary care, audiology clinicians, and HLA to team up more effectively. Health policy decision makers also need to address hearing loss as an important issue..

Research results [were published](#) in the National Poll on Healthy Aging.

Register NOW for the April Conference!

Shine New Light on Hearing Loss

**Early Bird Registration through March 10th.
\$30/person.**

March 11 until full \$50/person.

Register <https://www.hlaawi.org/registration.html>

You can also register at a chapter meeting or by sending payment to Fox Valley Chapter.

Feel free to copy and share the insert in this issue. Many people need the information our conference will include. It's up to, "We the People" who feel that hearing loss needs to be better understood to get the word out!

Join us and bring THEM along!





Chapter President's Message...

by Dale Voskuil

I have noticed there is a tendency for some recipients of hearing aids or cochlear implants to think that means their hearing loss journey is ended. In reality, that journey has just begun! There is a lot of room for improvement, but that only comes with what I would call "continuing education". That education can be had by attending our monthly meetings, participating in H.O.P.E. discussion, and by attending the HLAA Wisconsin State Conference, which will take place at our very own Bordini Center on April 26 and 27.

Our Chapter is hosting the conference. We are grateful for the work of our committee consisting of Julie Olson, Christine Klessig, and Michelle Frisbie. The committee can't do it all. That's where you can assist by volunteering to help with tasks that will help make the conference a success. For information about how you can help, contact us at hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com

The conference will feature outstanding presenters, current trends in research, managing hearing loss in healthcare settings, exhibitors, and much more. I have attended both State and National HLAA Conferences. What I learned and experienced proved to be invaluable in enhancing my ability to hear and communicate.

Tell your medical professionals and others you know who need to know more about how to include people who have hearing loss.

Register Now: at www.hlaawi.org

You'll be glad you did!



A person has two hands; one for helping themselves; the other for helping others.



Chapter Sponsor Program

The Sponsor Project, in progress now, 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. In 2024 HLAAFVC will organize & host a large conference.

We are adding another level to our sponsor program to help raise funds for the conference. Those who support us at the DIAMOND level of \$400+ will also be credited in the 2024 conference program as donors. .

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

To be a 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. We do credit those who sent donations late in 2023 with being 2024 Sponsors. Thank you all so much.

2024 Chapter Sponsors

Diamond Level (\$400 or More)

Platinum Level (\$200—\$399)

Kenneth Bro and Becky Brown

John Schindhelm

Gold Level (\$100 - \$199)

Charles Hastert

Silver Level (\$50 - \$99)

Mary Anderson

Rich & Jan Erickson

Michelle Frisbie

Julie & John Olson

Elaine Stark

Bronze Level (\$25 - \$49)

Donations can be made online at this link.

[FOX Valley Chapter - HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA WI \(hlaawi.org\)](http://FOXValleyChapter-HEARINGLOSSASSOCIATIONOFAMERICAWI(hlaawi.org))

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.

A Good Time Was Had by All!

A few ugly sweaters and some really great food came together with some pretty cool people to attend our annual holiday social at the Appleton Yacht Club.

Bingo was full of crazies and laughs and a few prize winners. Thanks to all who came and to the organizers who tried their best to make it fun for everyone! We will see you at AYU again in August!

A 'Tech Tidbit' *from Steve Hangartner*

Those of us that have fluctuating and declining hearing are always searching for "tidbits" that can improve our ability to hear better. I happen to be bimodal with a fairly new ReSound GN hearing aid and a Cochlear N8 CI.

Recently I learned I can better balance my bimodal hearing device streaming volume from my cellphones.

Before, when I would stream from my i-phone 12, whether it was a phone call, podcast, apps with sound or recordings, news articles or voicemail, my two devices were never balanced. I tried using my Cochlear Smart Nucleus i-phone app to change both technologies volume. It didn't work.

My hearing aid was always louder than the CI when I streamed to both devices. That frustrated me.

What I discovered is that you can go into your I-phone settings. Then into Accessibility, then down to Audio/ Visual. You will find BALANCE that permits you to balance the I-phone streaming volumes to the two different hearing devices paired to your I-phone. Once I adjusted the balance, I could hear and understand everything my I-phone streamed so much better.

Thank you to Steve for sharing this tidbit that has been such a positive hearing improvement for him.

2024 Scholarship Announcements



HAAA Fox Valley Chapter offers a \$1500 scholarship to a high school senior or college student with hearing loss who is in the first two years of college. Applicants must use technology to participate in the hearing mainstream. We ask that the recipient will participate some way in our chapter's mission. This award will be presented at the 2024 HAAWI conference on April 26th.

Further information, along with the application, is available by request at hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com **Submission deadline: March 15th.** Applicants must be from the geographical region HAAA Fox Valley Serves; including Green Bay, Fond du lac and central Wisconsin. More here: https://www.hlaawi.org/uploads/6/6/8/0/66803257/hlaafc_scholarship_application_form_2024.pdf

The Annual **Margaret Ferris Scholarship** for a high school student with hearing loss is available through the Community Foundation of the Fox Valley Region. It is awarded to a student planning to pursue post secondary education. This is a \$1500 award. For information go to "Unique Life Experience Scholarships" (link: <https://www.cffoxvalley.org/scholarship-type/life-experience/> . **Deadline info is at the link.**

THIS IS HUGE! 1-25-2024

Successful Gene Therapy for Hearing Loss

Aissam Dam, an 11-year-old Moroccan boy, was born profoundly deaf from a rare mutation of the otoferlin gene. In October 2023, he became the first person to receive gene therapy for congenital deafness in the U.S., through a clinical trial at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. The treatment, developed by biotech firm Akouos—an exhibitor at the HAAA Convention in New Orleans last June—was successful. Similar trials in China are also getting positive results...together, they are giving hope to children born with specific types of congenital hearing loss. Read More: [Gene therapy for deafness helps children in study : Shots - Health News : NPR](#)



Raffle Items Wanted

If you, your employer or someone you know has items to create a nice raffle basket for the conference **Bucket Raffle**,

please contact Julie Olson julieo@athenet.net or hlaafc@gmail.com We have baskets but need a few items to fill them. Gift Certificates, nice items, etc. Funds raised go towards the HAAWI Scholarship Fund.

NOTICE:

The **2024 National HAAA convention** will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, at the [Sheraton Grand Resort at Wild Horse Pass](#) on June 26–29.

Fox Valley Chapter offers a stipend to help defray costs of attending the national convention for a chapter delegate. Let us know if this is of interest to you. Early bird registration has started at considerable savings. Stipends are issued after the convention.

Further information can be found at: [HAAA 2024 Convention - Hearing Loss Association of America](#) Delegates bring back valuable information to the chapter. Someone relatively new to HAAA is encouraged to take this role if they are active in the chapter.

HAAA does not endorse products or providers. We share information about them, including our personal experiences. The HAAA 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.

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

2024 Chapter Calendar

Monday Feb Chapter meeting at 1 PM
Monday March 11 Chapter meeting at 1 PM
Tuesday March 19 Cochlear Implant Group on Zoom
Monday April 8 at 1 PM
Friday & Saturday April 26 & 27
"Shine New Light on Hearing Loss" Conference
May 13 Gadget Sharing Night at the Ground Round
Watch for more information to come.

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.



A new Fox Valley Lions Medical Equipment Loan Locker, a non-profit organization that offers access to medical equipment with-

out charge to residents of the Fox Valley, recently opened.

The medical equipment loan locker has a collection of new and used medical equipment and supplies housed in one place that can be loaned out at no charge to those who have a need.

People simply show up during the hours the loan locker is open and check out the equipment they need for as long as they need it. It is a loan. There is no charge and minimal paperwork is involved. When they no longer need the equipment, they are asked to return it so it can be refurbished and reloaned.

Free hearing aid batteries are available, inventory permitting. Donations of hearing aids and hearing aid batteries are accepted.

Their web site is: [FVLMML \(google.com\)](http://FVLMML.google.com) 920-585-7072. Location is at 312 W. Northland Ave. in Appleton. FoxValleyLions@gmail.com

Cochlear Implant Support Group

The January 16th CI meeting had good attendance. We shared a few of our holiday experiences and plans to survive the winter cold. We had an interesting discussion on the MRI procedure, how the extreme noise of the machines can cause hearing damage, and how those of us with older implants cannot have them. A participant shared information on new technology that can be used instead. We keep learning.



A few people could not get into the meeting due to Zoom issues. If Zoom asks you to update, be sure to do that. We will meet again on March 19th. Information in the March newsletter.

Rhonda Clancey, CI Group Moderator

rclancey@hotmail.com or hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com

Ask to be added to the CI e-mail list if you're not already on it.

H.O.P.E. Support Group

H.O.P.E. meetings represent a more informal means of delivering assistance to those experiencing hearing challenges through discussion. Its free-flowing atmosphere enables participants to address concerns, ask & answer questions, & highlight personal growth in their hearing experience. My first encounter with HLAA came when my implant mentor encouraged me to attend a meeting. That experience & subsequent participation in both H.O.P.E. & the Chapter Meetings aided me. The support I gained relieved my anxiety about my upcoming implant surgery. Knowledge is power & , in my case, made my surgery a "piece of cake". I value the friends I've made through H.O.P.E. My participation in our Chapter's opportunities has enhanced my life.

I am so grateful.

Dale Voskuil voskuild@gmail.com

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



If you're looking for people who understand the challenges of living with hearing loss and are open to learning, HLAA can be a game changer. Whether you have questions about hearing aids, cochlear implants, captioning, tinnitus, etc., or want to share an experience; good or not so good, we listen. We welcome hearing loss partners because we understand their concerns and needs as well. You may not get all your answers in a single meeting, but you'll learn a great deal over time through peer support and participation. HLAA Fox Valley Chapter folks are volunteers of all ages who have found mutual help to be priceless.

Meetings use live captioning and loop technology so you'll be able to participate.