



**2024**

Winter Edition

[www.hlaawi.org](http://www.hlaawi.org)



## **SHINE NEW LIGHT on HEARING LOSS**

### **You Don't Want to Miss This!**

**Educational Conference April 26 & 27**

**For People with Hearing Loss Who Use Technology to Remain in the Hearing Mainstream & Those Who Need to Know More About How to Include Them in Communication & in Life.**

**at Bordini Center 5 N. Systems Drive—Appleton WI**

**Register Now! Seating is Limited.**

### **Conference Features:**

- ♦ Communication Barriers & Healthcare Solutions
- ♦ Cochlear Implants: New Research
- ♦ How Cognition Relates to Hearing Loss
- ♦ The Emotional Side of Hearing Loss
- ♦ The Impact of Hearing Loss on Mental Health
- ♦ How Stigma Affects Getting Hearing Help
- ♦ Exhibit Hall with Latest Tech, Services & More
- ♦ Assistive Technology & Apps
- ♦ Disabilities Act (ADA) & Communication Access
- ♦ The Path to Inclusion
- ♦ Hard of hearing hospital kits will be distributed

**Bordini Center is equipped with state of the art hearing loop technology. Live captioning will also be provided.**

**We are grateful to Bordini Center for providing 2 extra exhibit rooms for us at no charge.**

### **Registration Is Open Now!**

**\$30 Early Bird Rate through March 10.**

**\$50 from March 11th until full.**

**Information & online registration**

**at: [www.hlaawi.org](http://www.hlaawi.org)**

**Contact the host organization at:**

**[hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com)**

**Discounted Hotel Rates through March 25th**

**(Taxes added as applicable.)**

**Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott 130 S. Nicolet Rd. for \$99 per night. Breakfast is included.**

**LINK for Fairfield: [Book your group rate for Hearing Loss Association of America](http://www.hlaawi.org) 920-939-8181**

**Doubletree by Hilton 150 S Nicolet Rd. \$119 per night. Restaurant and bar on premises. NOTE: Double Queen rooms are limited. Book Here: <https://group.doubletree.com/heuyhg> 920-735-9955**

# Don't Be In the Dark! Come SHINE With Us! Register Now



Someone will win a Packer  
football helmet autographed  
by Aaron Jones!

Thanks to the Packer organiza-  
tion for this generous donation!

## Friday Evening

Tailgate Theme

Exhibits will be Open

5:30—8:30 PM.

Wear your Packer, Brewer  
or Badger outfits.  
Brat & Burger Buffet.



Derrick Coleman

**Derrick Coleman**, Assistant to Player Engagement for the Packers was diagnosed with hearing loss at age 3. He created a program for kids with disabilities called "No Excuses". Derrick played for the Seattle Seahawks prior to coming to Green Bay. He will share his story on Friday evening.

**We encourage young adults to attend, along with families with children of ages old enough to appreciate the program.**



Dr. Reed



Dr. Litovsky



Dr. Childress

**Dr. Nicolas Reed AuD** is a professor at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. His research explores barriers on communication within the general healthcare system, & how healthcare & life itself can be compromised by hearing loss.

**Dr. Ruth Litovsky PhD** is a professor in the Dept. of Communication Sciences & Disorders at UW Madison. Her lab focuses on the ability of humans to function in complex noisy environments. Much of her recent research relates to people who have severe hearing loss who have or may be candidates for cochlear implants.

**Dr. Tina Childress AuD. CCC-A**, an educational audiologist from Urbana Illinois, is an award-winning presenter, adjunct lecturer, & mentor for children & adults. She is late-deafened with bilateral cochlear implants. She is an advocate for accessibility through hearing assistive technology.

A panel of informed speakers, including a medical professional, an ADA representative and HLAA members will follow the presentations.  
You'll have time to get answers.

**Saturday - The doors will open at 7:45 AM. Exhibits open at 8:00. Presentations will start at 9:15. Lite breakfast & lunch are included in registration. There will be a few door prizes, & a raffle fundraiser. Money raised is for an annual high school scholarship sponsored by HLAawi.**

This event is organized & sponsored by HLAA Fox Valley Chapter as it celebrates 40 years! Funds raised from donors & through a variety of projects make this event possible. We feel fortunate to be able to do all we do. At all levels, HLAA, a 501c3 non profit, is affiliated with the national organization, [The Hearing Loss Assn. of America, Inc.](http://www.hearingloss.org) HLAA is making a positive difference for us. Thank you for your support!

**Register online at: [www.hlaawi.org](http://www.hlaawi.org) or by Mail**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(Confirmation will be sent by email.)

I/We will attend Friday evening\_\_\_\_ Saturday\_\_\_\_ How Many?\_\_\_\_

**\$30/person through March 10th - \$50/person March 11 until full.**

Mail Payment: HLAA Fox Valley, P.O. Box 25, Menasha 54952.

Amount Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ People

Children under age 12 will be admitted free on Friday evening.

**Donations beyond registration fees are welcome and will be recognized in the conference program.**

**Donation to HLAA (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_**

## Meet Kathy Johnson, President of the HLAAWI Board



We take this opportunity to introduce the newly elected president of the HLAAWI Board, Kathy Johnson, a member of HLAAMadison. She looks forward to working with the board & chapter leaders throughout Wisconsin. Kathy believes that HLAAMadison is a vital organization, an excellent resource for individuals with hearing loss, and that participation in HLAAMadison is important.

Kathy retired from the WI Department of Health Services in 2022, as the department's Privacy Officer. She & her husband Jeff, have one daughter and a grand dog. She and Jeff live in Verona, which is south of Madison.

Kathy has dealt with hearing loss since she was five, when she first started wearing hearing aids. As time passed, her hearing loss became progressively worse. She received a cochlear implant 15 years ago and is bimodal.

Kathy became interested in HLAAMadison, when a friend encouraged her to join a group of individuals interested in reestablishing the Madison HLAAMadison Chapter in 2010. She has served as a treasurer for the Madison HLAAMadison since then.

Kathy wishes that HLAAMadison had existed earlier in her life as she would have benefited from the information that HLAAMadison provides for coping with hearing loss. Realizing she was not alone in her hearing loss journey was huge. HLAAMadison is near and dear to her heart. She doesn't want others to struggle as she did in the earlier years of life as that can be quite overwhelming. Today there are so many options, especially from a technology standpoint that one can utilize in coping with hearing loss. Learning about those options usually comes through HLAAMadison.

## HLAAWI President's Message

Welcome everyone to a fresh new year, 2024. I am very new in my role as state President. I have a lot to learn and will be looking for guidance and suggestions. Many thanks for Jim Rau's leadership as president for the past three years. He is leaving very big shoes to fill.

So, what have we been up to since the last quarter? We are preparing to participate in a very special educational conference in April. We are grateful to Fox Valley Chapter for hosting this event. There are some amazing presenters lined up. We hope you'll join us to learn.

Madison Chapter has resumed meeting in person. SW Chapter in Platteville is also holding meetings & events. Be sure to read the chapter information on Page 7 for more details about chapter activities and contacts.

As announced in the previous newsletter, a state HLAAMadison committee began meeting with the WI Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) in November 2023, to discuss various topics and gain a better understanding of ODHH Services. Monthly meetings have been scheduled in 2024. We are excited about this project.

HLAAMadison WI needs a Vice President. We hope someone who is already on the board will step up. There will be one or two openings on the board next fall. If you're interested in participating on our board, do let us know. The application form will be on the website in late spring. Meanwhile, if you'd like to help us in any capacity, contact me. There are committee roles to fill.

Lastly, HLAAMadison in Wisconsin is reaching and increasing efforts to provide a voice of support to all those with hearing loss, no matter how old, young, type of work or situation the person might be in. There is so much more work to be done.

Would you consider joining us? Search for a chapter near you and find your special mission in HLAAMadison. It's a very worthwhile organization.

Don't hesitate to contact me with ideas and concerns. We are here to help and serve you. If chapter development is of interest to you, we are all here to help.

I hope to see you at the upcoming HLAAWI Conference!

**Kathy Johnson** [Kljohnson8475@gmail.com](mailto:Kljohnson8475@gmail.com)

## Juliette Sterkens AuD Presents Tedx Talk



Juliette Sterkens AuD & HLAAWI board member, was one of 15 presenters at TEDx Oshkosh in November. Of course, the "aha" moment showcased by Sterkens concerned the dramatic clarity of sound produced by hearing induction loops. The audience was duly impressed by the sound clip played during her presentation.

"Hearing Loss: Beyond Hearing Aids" was an excellent outreach opportunity for HLAAMadison. Wisconsin now boasts 900+ hearing loop installations. Sterkens commented "I hope it will help the Hearing Access cause and that it will help hearing aid users around the world." Kudos to Juliette for her continuing advocacy to live well with hearing loss. *Submitted by Christine Klessig*

# Scholarships!

Here are three scholarships available to students with hearing loss who use technology to remain in the hearing mainstream.

HCAA Wisconsin offers a \$1000 scholarship each year for a high school student with hearing loss who resides in the state of Wisconsin. Information at: [www.hlaawi.org](http://www.hlaawi.org)

HCAA Fox Valley Chapter offers a \$1500 scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to a high school senior or to a student in their first 2 years of college who resides in the greater Fox Valley region. Request information: [hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com)

Margaret Ferris \$1500 Memorial Scholarship information: <https://www.cffoxvalley.org/scholarship-type/life-experience/> This is awarded to a high school senior who lives in the area The Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region serves. NOTE: All of these scholarships have deadlines. Be sure to check them out.

Thank you to the generosity of donors who support the HCAA mission and participate in our activities and fund raising events.

## Doing Something About "IT" is Important!



A [new study](#) published in the January 3, 2024 edition of *The Lancet Healthy Longevity* suggests adults with hearing loss who regularly use their hearing aids may experience a remarkable 24% lower risk of mortality compared to non-users.

Numerous studies have underscored the [negative effects](#) of untreated hearing loss, including a compromised lifespan, increased social isolation, depression, and dementia. However, until now, researchers have not shown that using hearing aids might reverse the life-shortening effects of hearing loss.

The new study led by Keck Medicine of USC otolaryngologist [Janet Choi, MD, MPH](#), represents a comprehensive exploration into the intricate relationship between hearing loss, hearing aid usage, & mortality in the USA.

Drawing on data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) spanning from 1999 to 2012, the research team identified nearly 10,000 adults aged 20 and older who underwent audiometry evaluations and disclosed information about their hearing aid habits. Over a decade-long follow-up period, the team tracked the mortality status of these individuals.

## What People Don't Understand & Need to Know!

**Auditory Fatigue is Real** - Concentrating on listening for a long time is exhausting. It sometimes leads us to lose the ability to concentrate fully.

**It is Insulting to be 'Talked Around'.** Our intellect is just fine. Take time to talk to and include us. That may mean finding a quieter place or using assistive technology. We need to see your face and gestures. We don't need someone else to speak for us.

**We Are Not Rude.** Sadly, we may give that impression when we ask for accommodations or if we don't respond correctly to you or not at all. We can easily miss knowing it's time to listen. **Get Our Attention!**

**We Do Get Frustrated.** When people talk with their backs to us, from another room, or talk too fast, it's easy for us to misunderstand you. Unfortunately we sometimes bluff due to embarrassment, and can end up getting an incorrect message. This can be dangerous especially in healthcare settings. **We Need to See Your Face to Hear.**

**We Understand YOU Get Frustrated Too.** We know, though, that when YOU understand what we experience, and what can help us, we can both communicate fluidly.

**Fluid Communication is Safe Communication!**

**Communication Breakdown Can be Dangerous!**



## World Hearing Day is March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The World Health Organization (WHO) announced that the focus of World Hearing Day 2024 will be on overcoming the challenges posed by societal misperceptions & stigmatizing mindsets through awareness-raising & information sharing, targeted at the public & at health care providers.

The WHO estimates that over 80% of ear and hearing care needs are unmet across the globe and that unaddressed hearing loss poses an incredible cost of \$980 billion each year. **The 2024 campaign has three main objectives:**

- Counter the common misperceptions related to ear and hearing problems in communities and among health care providers. **Educate.**
- Provide accurate and evidence-based information to change public perceptions of ear and hearing problems. **Bust the myths.**
- Call on nations and civil society to address stigmatizing mindsets related to hearing loss, as a crucial step towards ensuring equitable access to hearing care. **Be open to Learning.**

**These objectives are closely related to topics that will be addressed by presenters at the 2024 HLAAWI State Conference.**

**Register Now!**



Early Bird Registration is Now Open for the HLA 2024 Convention!

the beautiful **Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass**. Whether it's your first convention or the latest of many, you are sure to learn, grow, discover new technology & connect with hundreds of new & old friends.

Be inspired by General Session keynote speaker **Shanna Adamic**.

- Explore **The Emotional Side of Hearing Loss** at our Research Symposium.
- Enjoy the Exhibit Hall, educational workshops, product demos and social events:

Discover amenities inspired by the rich culture of the indigenous Gila River Indian Community, which owns this resort.

Join us in Phoenix for our first resort-style HLA 2024 Convention, June 26 -29, at

## HLAA National Advocacy Update 01-18-2024

As Congress begins its election-year session, HLA continues to advocate for legislation and regulations that support the rights of millions of Americans with hearing loss. We're currently working to:

- Improve air travel accessibility in reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
- Ensure accessibility of emerging technologies through passage of the Communications, Video and Technology Accessibility Act (CVTA)
- Develop best practices to caption live video content with artificial intelligence on the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Disability Advisory Committee
- Provide telehealth access & discrimination protections in Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) programs
- Update accessibility requirements for facilities regulated by the Department of Transportation

**HLAA'S MISSION IS  
TO MAKE HEARING LOSS  
AN ISSUE OF CONCERN  
THROUGH  
EDUCATION  
INFORMATION SHARING  
ADVOCACY  
& PEER SUPPORT  
DON'T BE IN THE DARK!  
COME LEARN WITH US!**

## Technology Tip – Live Captions on Your Computer

Did you know you that certain Windows and MAC computers offer the option of Live Captions? Once you enable live captions, you can use this feature to caption almost any video or multimedia presentations. You can even use in a meeting with the computer's microphone and see live captions of speakers in the room on your computer.

Windows 11 and up, includes the free Live Captions app in its standard installation. When Live Captions is on, the text of whatever is being spoken in a video or into a microphone, will be transcribed and displayed in a text box in a position above, below or overlaid on the screen. In addition, to pick up conversations being spoken in the computer microphone, you will need to go into preferences and check "include microphone audio". Following is a link on how to set up: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/learning-center/choose-best-caption-settings>

Live captions are also available in certain MAC computers with Apple silicon. Following is a link on how to set up: <https://support.apple.com/guide/mac-help/use-live-captions-mchldd11f4fd/mac>.

Submitted by Kathy Johnson, HLAAWI Board Chair/Madison HLAA

## Hearing Loss at Work Webinar Series by HLAA

### Enhancing Workplace Effectiveness: Technologies for People with Hearing Loss

**Tuesday, February 27, Noon–1 p.m. ET**

Join HLAA for an insightful look at new technologies that can help even the playing field for employees with hearing loss. Presenters will discuss assistive listening devices, captioning, videoconferencing and other useful tools for a range of workplaces, including offices, travel, restaurants, classrooms and factory floors.

Panelists and the moderator are all professionals who have hearing loss themselves.

- Tina Childress, Au.D., CCC-A
- David DeBellis
- David Baldrige, Ph.D.
- Jill Herbold, moderator

**REGISTER NOW**

[WEBINAR—Enhancing Workplace Effectiveness: Technologies for People with Hearing Loss - Hearing Loss Association of America](#)

## Where are the Hearing Loops?

**Are there hearing loops in your area?  
Will you find them where you travel?**

**Here's a link that will help you find them wherever you go in the USA and**

**in Canada. : <https://hearingloop.org/state-lists>**

**Wisconsin has more hearing loop installations than most other states. Thanks to HLAA!**

**We have been using hearing loops for our meetings since 1983! We WANT to HEAR!**



## Veterans Update & Concerns by Jim Rau



For over 3 years I have been advocating for communication access accommodations in VA. VA uses VVC (their proprietary video conferencing platform) for telehealth appointments. But VVC does not have captions. VA has been unable to resolve this issue so far. But there has been some movement. In September 23 I received a letter from VA saying that veterans have 2 options. Option 1 was to use the phone in line instead of the video conferencing platform. This has always been an option and is not fixing the problem. Option 2 was that VA has authorized the use of WebX automated captions instead of VVC. This must be "under the guidance of a VA health care professional with proficiency in managing captioning technology during a video visit" according to the letter. I wrote back to VA asking how veterans could find out about this and how they could initiate this option. They did not respond. On the local scene I received a phone call from the Minneapolis VA Medical Center that an iPad with speech to text was going to be provided at the clinic where I get my health care. When I asked about the iPad at my visit there it was not available. I filed another complaint and received a great apology. There were legitimate reasons for that failure. I'd love to hear from any veterans, veterans spouses, or caregivers having issue with VA over hearing access accommodations. Call 715 two nine two 2998 voice or text. Advocacy & education is needed. Jim Rau [jimrau@cheqnet.net](mailto:jimrau@cheqnet.net)



**You are welcome to submit information, suggestions, & articles for publication in our newsletter. Positive Stories about living well with hearing loss are encouraged.**

**We reserve the right to edit submissions.**

## HLAA Madison Chapter

HLAA Madison chapter plans in-person events in 2024 in varying locations. The January meeting was held in Verona. Our next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 23 from 10 AM - Noon at Pinny Library.

Follow us at the HLAAWI Website [HERE](#)

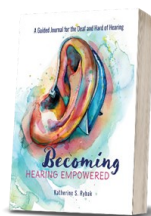
Contact us at: [information@hlaamadison.org](mailto:information@hlaamadison.org)

## Socializing and HOPE Circles

Our new meeting format will include bimonthly meetings with short programs targeting the latest strategies, technologies, and coping strategies for those living with hearing loss, and the people who love them. We will integrate HOPE Circles (Hearing Other People's Experiences) and plenty of opportunities for socializing. We also plan to switch up our meeting times (Saturday mornings and Thursday evenings) and meeting places in hopes of encouraging people from all around the Madison area to join us. Family members and friends are always welcome.

## Book Club!

In addition to our new bimonthly chapter meetings, we plan to offer a book club! Starting in March 2024, those interested will gather regularly to work together through the newest book on hearing loss: *Becoming Hearing Empowered: A Guided Journal for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing*, facilitated by the author, Katherine Rybak. We'll follow up with more books later.



Our next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 23 from 10 AM - Noon at Pinny Library. Follow us at:

## Metro Milwaukee HLAA Chapter

**This chapter is currently in hiatus.**

**Contact: Pamela at 414-667-2425.**

**We hope to get back up and running soon.**

Hearing loss very often is such a gradual phenomenon that the person is in denial. You really have to be patient with them in getting them to come forward to get help.

## HLAA Fox Valley Chapter



The chapter is celebrating its 40th year since founding in 2024. We meet the 2nd Monday of the month, except in January and July. This year, we're holding daytime meetings during months with early darkness, and evening meetings the other months. Subscribe to our newsletter/meeting notice to get up to date information about meeting times and topics. Contact us: [hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hlaafoxvalley@gmail.com) It is posted at: [hlaawi.org/chapters](http://hlaawi.org/chapters) and on our Facebook page. We meet, in person, at the Bordini Center in Appleton where we have access to hybrid tech, so Zoom is an option too.

We have 2 subgroups. A Non brand specific CI group that meets online on Tuesday evenings of odd months, and our H.O.P.E. discussion group that meets in person, in tandem with our regular meetings. HOPE provides a chance to talk about experiences.

**The chapter will host the 2024 HLAAWI Conference in April. You don't want to miss this event! See pages 1 & 2. for information.**

**See you there!**

## SW Wisconsin Chapter in Platteville

There's a NEW LOCATION, DAY and TIME for the monthly meetings of the Southwest Wisconsin Chapter, (SW WI HLAA)

**Meetings are For:** People who want to learn more about hearing loss, including those who live with their own hearing loss, or that of a family member, friend, or associate. (In other words, everyone is welcome!)

**What kinds of meetings?** A variety of interesting programs and special guest presenters, providing information and resources for the community at large as well as for people living with their own hearing loss.

**Where:** Platteville Public Library.

**When:** At 5:30 PM on the first Monday (or on the 2nd Monday when a holiday falls on the first Monday) Now that you know, please help spread the word!

For more information about the HLAA SW Chapter, call Jackie at (608) 642-0008, or e-mail: [hlaaswwi@gmail.com](mailto:hlaaswwi@gmail.com)  
You can e-mail Mike at: [mmair@centurylink.net](mailto:mmair@centurylink.net)  
Find more chapter info at [www.hlaawi.org/chapters](http://www.hlaawi.org/chapters)



## Bits and Pieces from Other Places...

### UW Madison's Dr. Ruth Litovsky Selected as Niparko Memorial Lecturer for CI2024



Vancouver Washington, D.C.: 11-28-23 The American Cochlear Implant Alliance (ACI Alliance) is pleased to announce the selection of Ruth Litovsky PhD to deliver the annual Niparko Memorial Lecture at CI2024 Vancouver, on "Successful Pathways to Outcomes in Bilateral Cochlear Implantation." The Niparko lecture was established to recognize Dr. John K. Niparko's enduring commitment to *cochlear* implant research and clinical care and honor his significant contributions to the field. [CI2024 Niparko Announcement.pdf \(ymaws.com\)](#)

**NOTICE: Dr. Litovsky will also present at "Shine New Light on Hearing Loss", the HLAWI State Conference on April 27, 2024 in Appleton WI. See page 1 of this newsletter for more information.**

ACIA shares information on cochlear implants in a monthly newsletter called 'Listening' that is helpful to hearing healthcare providers, adult CI recipients, those exploring CIs, parents & family members interested in CIs, educators who work with children who have hearing loss, & anyone who wants to learn more about cochlear implants.

### Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program

Wisconsin's TEPP program helps people with disabilities buy the equipment they need in order to use basic telephone services. The TEPP is paid for by the Wisconsin Universal Service Fund, established by the Public Service Commission. Money collected from WI telephone service providers funds the USF.

**Website:** <https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ForConsumers/TEPP.aspx>

To request and receive a voucher you must be a Wisconsin resident who is deaf, hard of hearing, speech impaired or mobility impaired who needs special equipment to use the telephone. There is no age or income limit, but one can only get a TEPP voucher every three years.

Mayo Clinic CONNECT is an online community where people ask questions & share their experiences with a variety of health issues. Hearing loss is one of them. HLAWI supports MCC. Julie Olson, our newsletter editor for HLAWI, is the 'Hearing Loss Mentor' on MCC. Other HLAWI members often share helpful information. MCC. Information can be shared anonymously. Might you have experiences to share, or questions to ask? You can also tell people about HLAWI. <https://www.mayoclinic.org/mayoconnect>



### Wisconsin Office for Deaf/Hard of Hearing ODHH Community Connect for 2024

ODHH is hosting a series of informal meetings to share information, answer questions, and connect with our Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. Each meeting will have a general theme. We encourage you to bring your questions and comments to share.

**Email ODHH at [dhsodhh@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:dhsodhh@dhs.wisconsin.gov) with your topic suggestions for future ODHH Community Connect meetings. We welcome your ideas!**

We will have interpreters and live captioning for all of our meetings.

**We hope to see you!**

Connect with ODHH Community Connect

for  
about  
ing.



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT  
of HEALTH SERVICES

information  
the next meet-

**E-mail us for upcoming dates & Zoom link.**

**Help us keep information up to date.**

**Send updates to: HLAWI newsletter Editor at:**

[julieo@athenet.net](mailto:julieo@athenet.net)





It always pays  
to get good advice

Diane Koosed, an HLAA member from Ashland WI. says "We are 'Hard of Hearing Allies (HOHAs)' who can help others by sharing our experiences.

Here is the latest communication from Diane, our newsletter's advice columnist!

I recently heard this question uttered (or perhaps it was muttered): ***"Why should I go to a state conference when I can't even hear what they're saying?"*** This Newbie needs to get himself registered for the conference *toot suite* because he is in for a pleasant surprise. Not just pleasant, but one which has brought many people to joyful tears upon first experiencing an HLAA meeting where the highest priority is making sure everyone has access to hear and/or see – what is being presented.

Our Newbie will see that everyone's spoken words will be captioned in real-time and projected onto a screen, visible for all. This is CART – Communication Access Real-Time Translation. He may well experience the warmth and gratitude we feel for our captioner, right there in the room with us, committed to making sure communication is accessible.

Our Newbie will learn about telecoils: Do his hearing aids have t-coils? If not, he will be advised – in friendly but unequivocal terms – to have his audiologist activate them. Our dear newbie will learn that because our conference rooms have hearing induction loops, special "magic" happens for people who have telecoils. When a speaker uses the microphone, the speaker's voice goes directly into the listener's ears with no space and no extraneous noise diluting the quality. This does feel like magic when experienced for the first time. All of a sudden, voilà! No straining, no exhaustion, no frustration. And pure amazement at being able to participate!

If you have a story or good question that helps people with hearing loss manage it well, send to [koolake@gmail.com](mailto:koolake@gmail.com).

***"Learning we are not alone is a huge step in learning to live WELL in spite of having hearing loss.."***

**NOTICE: The April HLAAWI Conference is open to the public. The hard of hearing population is encouraged to invite others who need to understand our needs to attend. That includes all medical professionals, nursing students, social workers & all staff that likely engages with people who may have hearing loss. Please tell them about it. COPY Pages 1 & 2 and share them.**

## STAY CONNECTED

Follow us on social media.



## GET HLAA E-NEWS

**Learn about current hearing loss issues and how HLAA is working for you.**

**SIGN-UP** This is a free service from HLAA.

**Information Sharing is an important piece of the HLAA Mission. Here are a few links to information that may be of interest.**

1. [Tinnitus: How a new app could help relieve ringing in the ears \(medicalnewstoday.com\)](https://www.medicalnewstoday.com)
2. [Improving Music Appreciation and Enjoyment in Hearing Aid Users... : The Hearing Journal \(lww.com\)](https://www.hearingjournal.com)
3. [Audition, Amplification, and Social Engagement : The Hearing Journal \(lww.com\)](https://www.hearingjournal.com)
4. [The Power of Parents : The Hearing Journal \(lww.com\)](https://www.hearingjournal.com)
5. The benefits of cochlear implantation for adults. [HERE](#)
6. [Full article: To tell or not to tell? Exploring the social process of stigma for adults with hearing loss and their families: introduction to the special issue \(tandfonline.com\)](https://tandfonline.com)

NOTE: These links are extracted from a variety of Discussion Groups. HLAA has no 'ownership' in any of the research. We believe it's important for people with hearing loss to have access to current information.

**Disclaimer: HLAA does not endorse products or providers. We do share our experiences with them. HLAA advocates, educates, shares information and provides peer support.**



- Jim Rau - Past President
- Katherine Rybak -Secretary
- Jerry Lapidakis Past President
- Jean Tyler
- Michelle Frisbie - Treasurer
- Pamela Martin
- Juliette Sterkens
- Jack Spear



**Kathy Johnson-President**



**Mike Mair**



**Neethi Magar**

**Off Board Support  
is Needed!  
What can YOU**



**Julie Olson - Newsletter Editor Colleen Van Rooy - Webmaster**

**Thanks to all the chapter folks out  
there who help in so many ways and  
to those who represent us on  
councils and committees.**