

# H L A A T C

## October 2011

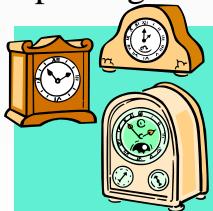


**October 8, 2011**—Family and Community Workshop, St. Cloud Holiday Inn Page 5

**October 15, 2011**—Dave Vlaustin "The Buzz on Bluetooth", Courage Center & Hearing Health, Bloomington

**November 19, 2011**- Deborah Bailey on Communication Strategies

**December 17, 2011**—Holiday pot luck luncheon, white elephant gift exchange



It is that time again. Time to pay your dues.....but we have a big surprise for you. Treasurer Bob said "this year dues will only be \$10.00.....whoopie.....\$10. See treasurer's message Page 9

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### Officers' emails

- ✗ Merrilee Knoll [president@hlaatc.org](mailto:president@hlaatc.org)
- ✗ Judi Swan - [vicepresident@hlaatc.org](mailto:vicepresident@hlaatc.org)
- ✗ Carole Blowers and Linda Miller [secretary@hlaatc.org](mailto:secretary@hlaatc.org)
- ✗ Bob Knoll - [treasurer@hlaatc.org](mailto:treasurer@hlaatc.org)

● **HLAA TC Website**  
[www.hlaatc.org](http://www.hlaatc.org)

● **HLAA National**  
[www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)

● **MN Contact Information**  
[info@hlaatc.org](mailto:info@hlaatc.org)

**Dave Vlaustin**, of Quality Hearing will be our October 15th speaker. A long time friend and advocate for the HOH and Deaf, Dave will bring us the latest in Bluetooth technology, with an opportunity to ask questions.

## **President's Message for October 2011**

Merrilee Knoll

A few years ago, a Lion's member from America was visiting a co- Lion in India. They were out sightseeing when the native of India told the visitor "that's Mother Teresa's office, would you like to go see her?" "Is that possible?" So they walked up to the receptionist and asked if they could see Mother Teresa, saying that they were both Lions and one was from America. The secretary said she was in a meeting, but would they like to make an appointment and come back tomorrow and see her? Of course they wanted to, and were thrilled at the rare opportunity.

So the next day the American Lion had a one on one with the grand lady for 15 minutes. This is what she told him. This is exactly what she told him. "The Lions are a wonderful group who help others; this is what I try to do. You are working together to make the world a better place for everyone, this is what I am trying to do."

Can you imagine Mother Teresa even knowing about the Lions Clubs or what their mission is, or saying she is "trying" to do the same thing they are trying to do? She is the one that everyone else looks up to, and here she had her heroes too. That's one of the things I loved about her, she didn't think she was special, and yet she was very special.

There are few alive today who have not heard of Mother Teresa, she was considered holy, special or gifted by all, be it religious or atheist. Everyone respected her, because she was selfless, everything was for the good of her fellow beings, nothing was for her. She played no favorites, no special country, where she chose to offer help, no special people, culture, or religion, gender or illness. She treated each with love and respect, and in turn was loved and respected herself by billions.

This story was told to us by the brother of the Lion who spoke in person to Mother Teresa. At this meeting Bob and I attended there was no CART, no loop, no ALD's so I asked Bob what had been said. He gave me a quick run down, which made me cry. When we got home, I asked him to tell me the story again in more detail and I cried again. I have always been a great admirer of the wonderful lady.

In today's world of so much hate, Mother Teresa's story might renew your belief or faith, that yes even today there are still wonderful people being born or amongst us everyday. Isn't it our duty to help cultivate people's faith in humans?

We must strive to communicate even though it's darn tough with hearing loss.

If Bob had not told me the story of Mother Teresa and the American Lion's Club member, think how much joyfulness on my part would have been lost. When you feel HLAA TC has offered you everything that you could possibly need, and you think there is really very little left to learn about hearing loss, maybe it's time to turn the egg and be the motivator or the leader like Mother Teresa.

*Merrilee*

## Synopsis of the September 17, 2011 meeting

by Judi Swan

Hunter and Shannon opened the meeting and welcomed everyone back. Merrilee gave the ASL, subbing for Vicki. She taught words relating to fall/Halloween; concluding with a funny skit with Colleen.

A quote of the month will be read by our volunteer, Mary. This month's' quote, "Everyone thinks his sack is heaviest." George Herbert.

Carol Blowers accepted a certificate from Linda, honoring her hard work as V/P and President. Carol accepted it with thanks.

Judi, new V/P, brought attention to our need to support the Hearing Aid Tax Credit, which can be done by contacting senators and representatives.

The DDHS, a state program, offers free seminars in St. Paul. They are free, captioned, and flyers were available on the table.

Judi spoke on "Elsies' Wish-Update". She refreshed the group on how the advocacy began, with a desire to spread the word of the needs of the deaf and HOH. Initial plans called for covering many areas, and has since been scaled down to eldercare and churches. She formed a volunteer team to assist her as needed. The team includes a research data person, clerical assistant, business assistant, spiritual support and senior web coordinator.

After interviewing at numerous care facilities, one hospice, and six churches, it became very evident that there is much that is to be done. Future plans call for a fundraiser in the coming year, in the form of a book of poetry, penned by her late husband Jerry. Combined with good publicity and hoped for inclusion in Readers Digest and/or Women's World this could provide necessary funding.

Discussion was had on the problems in church settings, and also how it would be funded. These issues are on the agenda of upcoming E.W. meetings. Lisa suggested that CART is work and maybe getting workers becomes an issue. She said we could all look to our own churches to put the word out. Put up a bulletin, ask leadership if there is a court reporter in the church who would volunteer.

Kristi, Paradigms newest addition, was introduced and received warmly.

Monique commented on how we are very badly represented, and that we need to speak up for what we need. The importance of networking was emphasized. She also suggested a need for better organization to work on furthering our cause and meet needs. She mentioned her work with MCDH concerning airport accessibility. November will end her two, three year stints on the commission.

Bob presented the treasurers report, stating that dues come up in September each year; \$25 for individuals, \$10 for newsletter only. He also said there is a Monique Hammond Endowment Fund set up for special cases.

Carol commented on the Walk for Hearing October 1. Bob and she covered the need for help, and parking and other essentials. Lisa had a closing comment, "Start asking for stuff--if they say no, ask again..and again. Keep pushing, don't get discouraged. 'The squeaky wheel gets the grease.' She noted that Paradigm captions the Gopher football games at TCF stadium

Our next meeting is October 15th and will feature Dave Vlaustin of Quality Hearing Systems speaking on "The Buzz on Bluetooth".

Hunter adjourned the meeting.

*Judi*





**Drum Roll, please!** If you have been to the Walk4Hearing website, you know I have exciting, incredible and amazing news to share with everyone...the 2011 Minneapolis Walk4Hearing thermometer has raised over \$31K and we are still counting! Isn't that fantastic?!

This success could not have been achieved without the help of all the wonderful volunteers, team captains, walkers,

national and local sponsors, and donors who so generously supported this year's Walk. Thank you all!

I also want to give a special thank you to Bob and Merrilee Knoll, Linda Miller, Carole Blowers, Candace Meinders, Vicki Martin, Brian Farrell, Shannon Turley, Hunter and Holly Sargent, Paul and Dawn Tuveson, Lisa Richardson, Rich Diedrichsen and so many more. Everyone worked so hard to make this a special event for all the walkers.

**Now here is my post-Walk list:**

#1. The Walk website [www.walk4hearing.org](http://www.walk4hearing.org) will remain open until middle of December so if have any unposted donations, it's not too late to post them! Checks should be mailed to **Bob Knoll (Walk Treasurer)** at **5200 Winchester Lane, Brooklyn Center, MN 55429**. Please make sure you indicate the name of walker and team that the check(s) should be credited to when you send them.

#2. I would like to thank all the 28 teams that participated in the Walk. I truly appreciate each and every team - small and large. The important part is that we were all together to make a difference for people with hearing loss!

#3. If you have any photos of the Walk, please send them to me in attached .JPG format. My email is [rlander@hearingloss.org](mailto:rlander@hearingloss.org). Please provide captions with names. I would love to share it with others and may want to use them for the website, *Hearing Loss Magazine*, or other materials.

#4. Thank you to Starkey for providing the water bottles, juice boxes and the hot dog stand. I would like to thank Kate McGuire from Costco in Maplewood, MN for donating the bananas. The food was delicious!

#5. I would also like to thank the Berry Coffee Company for donating coffee for the event. It sure kept our walkers warm in the morning!

#6. Thank you to our two clowns from HappyFaces who provided face painting and balloon sculptures. We appreciate your entertainment!

#7. Another amazing part of Walk day was the accessibility. Thank you to Quick Caption for providing captioning to all of our smart phones. It was just awesome!

A big thank you to all the walkers you came out in the cool, but sunny weather. I would like to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart for your support and for making a difference for the lives of people with hearing loss. Remember, we will be back walking again next year so please plan to join us. I'll let you all know as soon as the date has been confirmed.

**Together, we are making hearing loss an issue of national concern!**

*Rebecca Lander*

## Family Workshop

### October 8, 2011

Holiday Inn, 75 South 37<sup>th</sup> Street (intersection of Hwy 15 and 23), St. Cloud, MN

- Presented by HLAA St. Cloud
- Learn what is new in Cochlear Implants from the manufacturing representative
- Learn what is new, or old with new uses, in assistive technology including loop systems, FM, ALDs, large area systems, etc.
- Learn how to help build confidence and self-esteem in the use of assistive technology and help yourself, or someone you know, optimize use in daily life.
- Meet others and ask questions
- CART (captioning) and Assistive Devices will be available – call if other accommodations are needed

#### Agenda:

7:30: Registration  
8:00 Exhibits open  
9:00 Opening session with speaker **Mary Bauer**  
10:00 Break  
10:30 Technology panel with Cochlear Implant Manufacturers



**To register**, send \$10.00 per person, checks made out to HLAA-St. Cloud

**Mail to:** Rich Diedrichsen/HLAA, 3333 West Division Street, Suite 209, St. Cloud, MN 56301-4322.  
For more information, call 320-255-3502 V/VP

**Registration is needed by September 30. Walk in registration will be accepted  
ONLY IF THERE IS ROOM.**

If you plan to stay overnight at the Holiday Inn, mention the conference when reserving your room (\$89.95/night plus tax)

**Mary Bauer** is an interesting, well known speaker who works for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services in MN. Mary has extensive experience in working with Deaf and Hard of Hearing children and adults, as well as daily living with her own hearing loss.

**Sponsored by HLAA St. Cloud, Cochlear Americas, Advantage In-Loop Systems, Med-El**



## Hearing Loss Association of America

### Twin Cities Chapter

**The mission of HLAA TC is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support and advocacy.**

**Saturday, October 15, 2011, 8:00 – 12:30**

Hearing Health Seminar at Marriott Minneapolis Airport, 2020 American Blvd. East, Bloomington, MN, Sponsored by Cochlear Americas

#### Agenda:

7:30 Registration

8:00 Exhibit and Lounge Open

8:15 – 9:30 Education Sessions (When Hearing Aids are No Longer Enough; Living and Hearing with a Cochlear Implant)

9:30 – 10:30 Meet local providers and find resources in Exhibit Hall; Meet cochlear implant users and BAHA users

10:30 – 11:30 Local physician panel on getting a cochlear implant

11:30 – 12:30 Exhibit hall



**Walk4Hearing would like to thank**  
**Costco, Starkey, CapTel, Caption Call, Sonus, Williams Sound, Mains'L,  
Paradigm, Health Partners Audiology, Berry Coffee Company**



Oct. 1, 2011



September  
2011



## Bits and Pieces October 2011

<http://www.thatdeafguy.com/>

Visit "**That Deaf Guy**" staring Desmond (Deaf), Helen (Hearing) and their 4 yr. old son Cedric for some great cartoons about their funny experiences of a blended homefront.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Heather Artinian from the movie "Sound and Fury" and "**Sound and Fury Six Years Later**," about a 9 yr. old girl who had a cochlear implant. See what she has to say now as an adult about her CI

<http://cochlearimplantonline.com/site/?p=4273>

\*\*\*\*\*  
Jan Swanson blogger of "**Audible Connection**" has a new URL,  
[www.audibleconnection.wordpress.com](http://www.audibleconnection.wordpress.com). She talks about her own struggles with hearing loss, getting used to HA's, captions that are wacko, HA's that hurt and much more.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Times are a changing....the old theory was when you had a problem with a company you wrote to them asking for a solution. The new theory is to go to their Facebook page and complain. Maybe if you did both that would help.

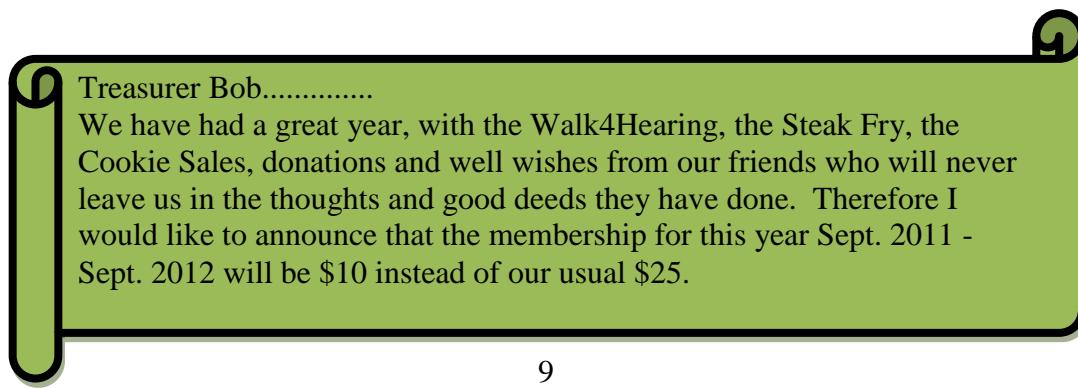
\*\*\*\*\*  
**"The Hammer,"** the true story of Matt Hamill born in Ohio in 1976, raised by his mother and grandfather, is deaf. He begins his wrestling training at age 9. Opens Oct. 27th, uses ASL and is captioned. Inspirational. <http://thehammerfilm.com/TheHammer-News.html>

\*\*\*\*\*  
On Ch 2 (TPT) "**Signing On**" will be showing on Sunday, Oct. 23 at 11 PM. Story of a **breast cancer survivor** who is deaf. It stars local deaf breast cancer survivors, their families, doctors, nurses and interpreters. Other times slots are; Friday, Oct. 28th at 8:39 PM, Sat. Oct. 29th at 2:30 AM, Sat. Oct. 29th at 8:30 AM and Sat. Oct. 29th at 2:30 PM.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Providence, Rhode Island** is the place for the 2012 HLAA convention next year on June 21 - June 24. Westin Providence and Rhode Island Convention Center.

<http://www.hearingloss.org/content/convention>

\*\*\*\*\*  
If the **US Postal service** goes down to a five day a week delivery, will that be enough? What happens if they go to no delivery, then what? If you are older or any age for that matter, it's to your benefit to get a computer even if you only use it for emails and nothing else. You can get inexpensive ones at thrift stores and service can be only \$5 per year. If that is too expensive for you, you can get a free Yahoo account and use the computer at the library, where the librarian will show you how to use it FREE. Another route is an email sender/delivery only no graphics, no pictures. Its about the size of a CapTel phone, uses a regular wall outlet. This machine is about \$100.



## Walk4Hearing Climax

Merrilee Knoll

According to Rebecca Lander from Bethesda, MD (National HLAA headquarters), our Walk was a huge success. For a state that just had its first Walk we did a fantastic job. Thank you Rebecca for all your guidance.

The big question everyone wants to have answered is how much did we make. We had 300 walkers and about 400 in total participants. The day started off at 7 AM very chilly, and the construction people were late by 45 mins. After they set things up, we rocked. The rest of the day was decently warm for Oct. and the day flew by.

We had lots of things to keep the kiddies interested like; face painters, clowns, balloon bracelet makers and hundreds of dogs, both those belonging to the walkers and the usual doggie lake walkers.

We were exceptionally well treated by; Costco who provided bottled water, fruit snacks, granola bars, juice boxes, boxes of bananas and cookies. Berry Coffee provided coffee, cream, sugar, cups, stir sticks and the vials that kept the coffee hot. Starkey provided a hot dog stand, and a photographer. Starkey was also able to get a spot in the St Paul Pioneer Press. Two awards were given out; one to Lori Boris top individual fundraiser, and the other went to Bob Knoll.

DHHS had the Golden Rule walkers who were dressed in gold and carried gold pom poms, they certainly looked different than their usual business attire, I hardly recognized them.

Many people stopped at the HLAA TC table and Yvain and I passed out many flyers, newsletters and answered questions. Candace manned the national table next to us. CapTel had John Kinstler who made the headlines in the National magazine in the Sept/Oct issue. Starkey, Costco and Caption Call had tables also. Hunter, Holly and Shannon handled the hat table, and Bob did registration. Rich roamed the tables and helped everyone.

The Walk brought together babies, children, teens, young adults, adults and seniors. We were all a part of the 36 million people in the US with some type of hearing loss, be it the person with the loss, their caregiver or someone in the field of hearing loss. It looked mighty impressive. Hearing loss effects every age it shows no discrimination, and this walk showed everyone at their best, working towards making a better life for everyone affected by hearing loss no matter what the degree of loss may be.

So now it's over, or is it? Rebecca is in route to do the DC Walk after she leaves MN. She said, her plans for MN next year would probably start out as it did this year, with a start up meeting of interested parties in March.

I asked Rebecca how she got started with HLAA in DC, and she said she had been doing a lot of volunteer work while in college and after graduation in 2009, she was out interviewing and did one with HLAA and was hired. After all the Walks are over and she can take time to breathe, she works on the National web site, which she also likes to do. We want to thank Rebecca Lander and Ronnie Adler for all their hard work.

We would especially like to thank all the walkers, vendors, supporters, donors, and people who backed us in this endeavor. Come along for the ride next year, it WAS a blast this year.

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**St Cloud Family Workshop Oct. 8th**

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**Our next meeting is October 15, 2011**

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This month's editor is Merrilee Knoll

**Meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month September through May at the Courage Center in Golden Valley, MN. We gather at 9:30 to socialize and the meeting starts at 10 AM. All meetings are real time captioned by Lisa Richardson and her staff of *Paradigm Captioning* ([www.paradigmreporting.com](http://www.paradigmreporting.com)). Please visit the chapter's web-site at [www.hlaatc.org](http://www.hlaatc.org)**