

Calendar of Events.....

November 19, 2010 – DHHS celebrates anniversary – join them

See Page 4 for more info.

November 20, 2010 –

Dr. Paula Schwartz, - Tinnitus

See Page 10 for bio

December 18, 2010 –

John Coverstone, Au./Holiday Party, White elephant exchange, cookie sale

January 15, 2011 –

Mary Hartnett MCDHH

February 19, 2011 - Canine Speaker (tentative)

March 19, 2011 - open

March 25 – 26, 2011 – MN State Hard of Hearing Conference, Holiday Inn, St. Cloud

April 13, 2011 – Steak Fry

April 16, 2011 - open

June 16 – 19, 2011 – National Convention, Hyatt Regency in Crystal City, Washington, DC

See Page 10 for more info.

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- **HLAA Twin Cities Website**
 - www.hlaatc.org
- **HLAA National**
 - www.hearingloss.org
- **MN Contact Information**
 - info@hlaatc.org

If you have not paid your dues (due in September), or made other arrangements with the treasurer, the November paper will be your last issue.

HLAA TC NOVEMBER 2010



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Officer's emails

Carole Blowers - president@hlaatc.org

Hunter Sargent & Shannon Turley - vicepresident@hlaatc.org

Holly Sargent - secretary@hlaatc.org

Bob Knoll - treasurer@hlaatc.org



Steak Fry tickets available at the December meeting from the treasurer. Steak Fry event is Wednesday, **April 13, 2011**.

The United States Congress Passes 21st Century Communications & Video Accessibility Act of 2010

Bethesda, MD: The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) applauds the Congress for passage of the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the "21st Century Communications & Video Accessibility Act of 2010" by a voice vote September 28 at 9:28 pm.

Among other provisions, the legislation requires telecom equipment used to make calls over the Internet to be compatible with hearing aids, provides for captioning on new TV programs online, and mandates that remote controls have a button or similar mechanism to easily access the closed captioning on broadcast and pay TV.

"This legislation paves the way for a brighter future for anyone with a hearing loss who needs access to information on the Internet and to equipment," said Brenda Battat, executive director of HLAA. "As we all become more and more dependent on the Internet, this legislation will ensure people with hearing loss are included and able to enjoy its benefits."

The bill is now headed to President Obama, who is expected to sign it into law. According to the news release issued by Representative Edward Markey (MA), who authored and championed this legislation, the passage of this bill delivers "one of the most significant victories for the disability community since the Americans with Disabilities Act was signed 20 years ago." ***This bill was signed by President Obama on Oct. 8, 2010.***

The bill was championed by the Coalition of Organizations for Accessible Technology (COAT). COAT, established in 2007, is a coalition of over 300 national, regional, state, and community-based disability organizations. COAT advocates for legislative and regulatory safeguards that will ensure full access by people with disabilities to evolving high speed broadband, wireless and other Internet Protocol (IP) technologies. HLAA and 37 of HLAA's affiliates from around the country joined COAT.

According to media release issued by COAT:

"This evening's passage of the bill culminates a legislative process that has involved four hearings, six different bills and extensive lobbying and advocacy by COAT leaders from our over 310 affiliate members. Advocates are thrilled that the legislative process is now over and we can look forward to the next stages of implementation. With over a dozen rulemakings expected from the FCC over the next several years, the requirements of the Act will take time to have full effect."

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) salutes the leaders of COAT who spent countless hours educating Congress and working with members of the many industries impacted by the bill to refine the language. HLAA and its chapter and state affiliates worked actively with COAT toward passage of this legislation. (Continued on Page 3)

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Join us as

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division (DHHSD), a program of the Department of Human Services, celebrates 30 years of providing communication access to individuals who are deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing

and

The Commission of Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing Minnesotans (MCDHH) celebrates 25 years of advocating for equal opportunity

Together we thank individuals who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, and family members, service providers and policy makers for supporting us. We look forward to working with all of you in the years to come.

WHEN: Friday, November 19, 2010

TIME: 3:30 – 6:00 p.m.
Formal Program: 4:30 - 5:15 p.m.

WHERE: **Kelly Inn**
161 Saint Anthony Avenue
St. Paul, MN
(Near Sears and the State Capitol)

RSVP/QUESTIONS: Email dhhs.metro@state.mn.us or call 651/431-5940 (V), 651/964-1514 (VP) or 888/206-6513 (TTY)

COMMUNICATION ACCESS: Sign language interpreters, CART and Assistive Listening Devices will be provided for the formal program; all other accommodation requests must be received by November 1, 2010.

Email stephen.r.medlicott@state.mn.us or call one of the numbers listed above.

Light refreshments will be provided.

FREE parking available on site.

October Synopsis

By Merrilee Knoll

Longtime member Dennis Martin and his wife Vicki (past president) was our speaker for the Oct. meeting. He has worked in retail for many years, his interests include photography and an active member in their church community

Dennis started out by saying that "even those with relatively good hearing there are limitations that we don't recognize because everybody has them." You adapt by getting closer to the person you are speaking with, and with the computer which has many programs to chose from, some good, some not so good for people who are HOH.

Skype and Yahoo are the programs he talked about today. Yahoo, was probably already installed in your computer when you brought it home, Skype probably not. Both are free, but Skype does have a pay version also. Dennis started out on the H2O adventure about 8 or 9 yrs. ago with a phone call from Nova Scotia asking if he would lead a Bible study over the phone, which lead to using the computer instead. He used a program called Paltalk, which has both a free and paid version. He then went to Skype and Yahoo.

Some limitations are; dial up connections do not work with video and the speed of your computer work hand in hand in making voice communication difficult. The voice breaks up and repeats are necessary.

ALD's used are; neck loops, headsets with built in microphones, which allows then for a hands free environment. Using the computer speakers and a microphone close by helps some.

Dennis told us about the mute button, web cam, inviting people in, conference calls (talking to one person yet having the option of the whole group), seeing who is online, using voice, video and sign, saving the conversation and printing it. To use Skype or Yahoo both parties must have the same program. The paid version is like a pre paid phone service, you set the amt. and the service sends you a notice when you are running low.

Questions asked: **(Q)** Is Facebook Chat the same as Y and S? **(A)** Dennis did not know, but someone in the audience uses all these and said it works similarly. **(Q)** Is it distracting to have voice and type at the same time? **(A)** The hearing person hears voice, the HOH reads type. Not distracting. **(Q)** Is the voice captioned? **(A)** The person who is hearing types to you, so they are the captioner, if you are both HOH, you are both the captioners. **(Q)** I don't have a computer, can I use these programs at the library? **(A)** Each library is set up differently, you would have to check yours to see if they offer this.

Not all systems work alike, and someone in Africa may not have a speedy computer or all the attachments you have. We have to understand that there are limitations to any system.

After the H2O talk by Dennis Martin, the meeting continued with these items.

Non-Captioning of political ads: a letter of concern was written by President Carole to Joyce Larson, Compliance Officer for the State of MN. Hunter said he is at the capitol often, and would make a visual appearance on behalf of HLAA TC and the need for captions on political ad campaigns.

Vicki signed in ASL for today's lesson; fall, Halloween, cool, frost, October and pumpkin.

The door prize winner was Elizabeth.

Programs mentioned by Dennis can be found at these websites, see Page 10.

BATTERIES – What’s with them anyway?

When talking about batteries in this article. Please remember that we were strictly talking about hearing aid batteries and not the AA, AAA, etc.

There are many players in the battery industry with Ray O’Vac, Eveready, and Duracell being the 3 big boys. Some brands clearly are better than others for good reason. They are simply designed better and have an excellent quality control staff.

Years ago when only a Mercury battery was available it was considered ok to put the batteries in the refrigerator. Now with the tabs, moisture can leak through the tabs and eventually plug the battery with moisture. For this reason alone, do not put hearing aid batteries in the refrigerator.

After Mercury was outlawed, so we thought 100% mercury free, production techniques needed to be changed. One of the problems that a manufacture had is when the tab is placed on the battery in production improperly, it simply can cause an activation discharge if not placed properly, and therefore you could purchase a package of dead batteries, or batteries that don’t last very long. That problem for the most part has been eliminated.

Recently there has been campaign advertising for 100% mercury free. And for a while everyone thought that hearing aid batteries with the tab were mercury free which wasn’t true, the problem was the activation technique, a small dose of mercury was needed. Recycling places were also caught off guard as they too thought that hearing aid batteries were 100% mercury free. Many of these batteries were thrown away as no one supposedly would take these batteries. Not all batteries on the market today are 100% mercury free. Some day it will be however.

There is one major player out there that continues to have issues with their batteries. If you consistently get batteries that often dead or don’t last very long, more than likely it is the thickness of the battery. As a result the battery isn’t making good contact with the contacts on the hearing aid. For some reason, the battery maker hasn’t adjusted or admitted that they have a problem. Whether or not this problem has been taken care of, I don’t know. I simply avoid their products. Just be observant as to what works for you and doesn’t.

Battery storage and shelf life is another issue. Ok to be “cool,” but not cool to be wet. In other words, a no moisture environment is best for batteries and that includes no refrigerators. On the flip side, it’s ok to be a “hot” person, but not ok for the batteries to be exposed to extreme heat. Ash trays for storage etc. will diminish the quality of the battery. While batteries are advertised at a 5 year storage rate, all unused hearing aid batteries typically lose about 3% of their capacity every year. After year 4 the battery should have about 85-88% of its original capacity.

So what happens if you leave the battery in the hearing aid at night with the aid in the off position? You will only lose a few minutes of use each night you do this. Continue to open the door however if at all possible for the purpose of moisture that may have gotten into the compartment. Typically hearing aids do need to be dried out and if not, may create more problems with your hearing aid.

Paul Tuveson, BC-HIS
Amdahl Hearing, St. Cloud MN

SUGGESTED READING - for those interested in Hard of Hearing topics

November 2010

This list was put together by Karen Swezey from Eugene, Oregon, a member of HLAA.

- "An Invisible Condition: The Human Side of Hearing Loss" by Rocky Stone
- "Auditory-Verbal Therapy" by Warren Estabrooks, Editor
- "A Quiet World: Living with Hearing Loss" by David Myers
- "Assistive Devices: Doorways to Independence" by Cynthia Comptom
- "Balancing Act" by Virginia M. Scott
- "Bright Silence" by Margaret H. Ferris, Editor
- "Cochlear Implants for Kids" by Warren Estabrooks, Editor,
- "Coping with Hearing Loss" by Susan V. Rezen
- "Deaf Like Me" is by Thomas S Spradley and James P Spradley
- "Do You Hear Me? Laughs for the Hard of Hearing by the Hard of Hearing" by Maxwell Schneider
- "Demystifying Hearing Assistance Technology: A guide for service providers and Consumers" by Cheryl Davis, Samuel Atcherson and Marni L. Johnson
- "The Feel of Silence" by Bonnie Potras Tucker, J.D.
- "Full Face: A Correspondence About Becoming Deaf in Mid-Life" by Claire Blatchford
- "Grandmom and Me and the System" by Peg Adamucci.
- "Hear, A Four Letter Word" (autobiography) by Ciwa Griffiths, Founder of Hear Center
- "Hearing Loss and Hearing Aids: A Consumer's Handbook" by Dr. Richard Carmen (1998)
- "Hear Again - Back to Life with a Cochlear Implant" by Arlene Romoff
- "Hear: Solutions, Skills, and Sources for Hard-of-Hearing People" by Anne Pope
- "Hearing Aides, What I Don't Hear I Make Up" autobiography by Charlotte Schamadan
- "How to Survive Hearing Loss" by Charlotte Hember
- "IDEA Advocacy for Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing" by Bonnie Potras Tucker, JD
- "Keys to Living with Hearing Loss" by Marcia Dugan
- "Listening-Ways of Hearing in a Silent World" by Hannah Merker
- "Listen with the Heart" by Michael Harvey
- "Listening Closely: A Journey to Bilateral Hearing" by Arlene Romoff
- "Living with Hearing Loss" books and materials by Sam Trychin available at <http://Trychin.com/bookstore.html>
- "Metered Time: Jagged Time" poetry by Ciwa Griffiths
- "Missing Words: The Family Handbook on Adult Hearing Loss" by Kay Thomsett and Eve Nickerson
- "Odyssey of Hearing Loss: Tales of Triumph" by Michael A. Harvey, Ph.D.
- "One Out of Ten" autobiography by Ciwa Griffiths
- "Our Forgotten Children" by Julia M Davis, Editor
- "Patrick Gets Hearing Aids" by Maureen Cassidy Riski and Nikolas Klakow
- "Reading between the Lips" autobiography by Lew Golan
- "Sunny and her Cochlear Implants" by Susanna Dussling
- "The Silent Garden" by Paul V. Ogden
- "To Hear the Birds Sing – Conversations with my Heart" by Marie Younkin-Waldman
- "When the Phone Rings, My Bed Shakes", memoirs of a deaf doctor, Philip Zazove, M.D.
- "Wired for Sound: A Journey Into Hearing" by Beverly Biderman
- "What's That Pig Outdoors (A Memoir of Deafness)" by Henry Kisor
- "Yes, You Can Heather!" (Heather Whitestone), autobiography by Daphne Gray

October Meeting



Carole & Vicki



Jayne, Elizabeth, Holly



Bob



HLAA TC Mtg.



October speaker
Dennis Martin

**We had 28 people at the
last mtg.**



Mary



Carole & Hunter



Merrilee

That's Entertainment

Captionfish.com is a free site that automatically provides information about showings of captioned films in your area (based upon your computer's IP address). In contrast to Fomdi.com, it's able to show the schedule of movies for the next 7 days (if known). It also indicates what kind of captioning is provided.

The schedule for movies shown in theaters often seems to be reset every Thurs., so in general, Thurs. would be a good day to look for information about movies for the next 7 days (though late Wednesday may work as well).

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

Run by Brendan Gramer

Dana Mulvany

Performances being presented with Open Captions through Dec. 2010.

The Ordway and State/Orpheum Theatres have joined the Guthrie and Mixed Blood in offering more frequent captioned shows. Check out the following. Selected shows offer reduced admission prices for the patron and one companion. When you call a Box Office, confirm the captioning service, date, time, ticket price and anything else you need to know.

Schedule updates are available by voicemail-VSA MN, 612-332-3888 or 800-801-3883 (voice/TTY) or the MACT Hotline, 612-706-1456 or 800-290-2428 (voicemail box 4).

Schedules are posted on the Web at <http://www.vsamn.org/calander.html> and www.accesspress.org

>**39 Steps** at the Guthrie-through Dec. 19th

>**A Christmas Carol** at the Guthrie-through Dec. 30th

>**Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**, at the Ordway-through Jan. 2nd

>**Billy Elliot: The Musical**, at the Orpheum through Jan. 9th

Science Museum of MN Omnitheater

>**Hubble**-narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio takes you on a tour of the universe through 20 yrs. astounding images captured by the Hubble Space Telescope. www.smm.org/hubble \$8

Almanac: a program shown statewide on Twin Cities Public TV (TPT), Channel 2, is captioned from funds received from the Dept. of Commerce. It airs every Fri. at 7PM. TPT will ask viewers to provide feedback regarding the captioning. To view the TPT broadcast and rebroadcast schedule, visit www.tpt.org

Homeroom – Locations-In the Heart of the Beast Puppet & Mask Theatre Mpls. Tix-free ASL only.

<http://ststepenhensmpls.org/zamya>

For a much easier list to follow that has all the events listed go to.....VSA

www.vsamn.org

This allows you to check by calendar, event, captioned, & ASL performances.

It is very compact and well laid out.

See Page 10 for Aloha event in Nov.

Ellen Thibodo at (651) 2249

Aloha

Call or write ThibodoD@aol.com

November 20th speaker...

Dr. Paula Schwartz is a licensed audiologist in the State of Minnesota, with over 23 years of experience in serving the needs of the greater Minneapolis area. She is also board certified by the American Academy of Audiology. Her diverse background as a manager for a major hearing aid manufacturer and a clinical audiologist in private practice give her a comprehensive understanding of the patient with hearing loss and/or tinnitus. Audiology Concepts opened its doors to the public in 2002. Dr. Schwartz has always had an interest in the area of tinnitus and in 2004 with the advent of her 8 year old son complaining of tinnitus, she was trained by Dr. Pawel Jastreboff in Tinnitus Retraining Therapy and opened the Tinnitus and Hyperacusis Clinic. Dr. Schwartz is also a certified Neuromonics provider.

Programs mentioned in Oct.'s mtg. can be found at; see synopsis Page 5.

Paltalk

<http://www.paltalk.com/> for PC, some versions can be run on some MACs

Yahoo

<http://messenger.yahoo.com/> for PC

<http://messenger.yahoo.com/mac/> for MAC

Skype

<http://www.skype.com/intl/en-us/get-skype/on-your-computer/windows/> for PC

<http://www.skype.com/intl/en-us/get-skype/on-your-computer/macosx/> for MAC

<http://www.skype.com/intl/en-us/get-skype/on-your-computer/linux/> for Linux

National HLAA in Maryland

Mark Your Calendars for June 16–19, 2011. Join us for the **26th National Convention** at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA, USA 22202 located just a short ride from Reagan National Airport. The Hyatt offers free shuttle transportation from the airport as well as the Crystal City Metro (just a short metro ride to the heart of downtown DC).

Potluck and Game Night

Where: Marla and Thomas Drayton's home.

When: Sat. Nov. 13th from 5:30 PM to 10 PM.

Aloha

For more information contact:
Ellen Thibodo at (651) 423-2249 (TTY)
Or email: ThibodoD@aol.com

Don't you just love it.....

When you buy some new equipment and the only instructions are on a disc that you are supposed to listen to. "Dear Customer you have purchased the most elite computer in the world. This disc will tell you how to install and operate it. Hit enter to continue."

If you would like to advertise in this Newsletter, contact Merrilee Knoll at Rknoll5200@aol.com



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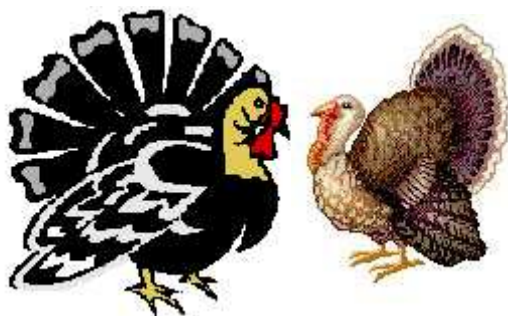
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HLAA TC

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Our next meeting is Nov. 20, 2010

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This month's editor is Merrilee Knoll

Meetings are held the 3rd 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). Please visit the chapter's web-site at www.hlaatc.org