

# HLAA Twin Cities

Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter February 2007  
Formerly SHHH Minnesota Chapter #1

## Calendar of Coming Events

February 17, 2007 – Dr. Kristen Swan from Region's Hospital

Mar. 17, 2007 - Open Forum & Access to Performing Arts & Program Coordinator -Jon Skaalen

April 11, 2007 – HLAA TC Steak Fry

April 21, 2007 - Deaf/Safe Speaker Alina Schroeder

May 19, 2007 - Elections & Pot Luck

June 21 – June 24, 2007 – HLAA National Convention in Oklahoma City.

[View Hearing Loss Magazine free online](#)  
<http://tinyurl.com/lormh>



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

National Website:  
[www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)

Minnesota Website:  
[www.hlaatc.org](http://www.hlaatc.org)

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

## February 2007

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### Meetings are held at:

Courage Center  
3915 Golden Valley Road  
Golden Valley, Mn 55422

September through May  
9:30 a.m. – Noon  
3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month  
(Except June, July & August)  
See Page 12 for contacts and  
more information.

[www.tcdeaf.com](http://www.tcdeaf.com): Twin Cities Deaf Community News and Events

This website contains information regarding captioned movies around the Twin Cities, churches that have interpreters and/or a large deaf population, job postings (sometimes), MADC news, Resource guide for deaf and hard of hearing consumers, and links to many other websites for D/hoh people.

## President's Message



**HLAA Twin Cities President Merrilee Knoll**

Greetings:

Many of you are familiar with Captioned Media Program (CMP) but for those of you who are not, this message is for you. When I first came across this site 12 years ago I was very excited as everything is captioned. I would like to take this space in the paper to share this info. with you.

CMP is run by the US Board of Education and all items are free when you register. Nothing intrusive is asked just things they would need to get the tapes to you, name, address, zip.

Captioned Media Program was renamed Described and Captioned Media Program last year. Anyone may register for these free tapes. They come in tape, streamed or disk. Every topic under the sun is available, a few are; health, ASL, history, sports, Spanish, biographies, education, CI's, travel. How does it work? (1) You register online or via snail mail (name, address, phone) (2) You choose your tapes (over 4,000) and tell them when you want them (3) DCMP mails them to you free (4) You get them about a wk before your designated request date, and keep them for one week. (5) There is a return label in the packet (mailing package), peel off the old label and put on the new one, postage is already on the new label. (6) Drop in the mail box. <http://www.cfv.org/>

If you do not have a computer and want a catalog write to: Captioned Media Program, National Association of the Deaf, 1447 E. Main Street, Spartanburg, SC 29307

For videos on religion topics see "Deaf Video Communications" it works the same way. <http://www.deafvideo.com/>

*Merrilee*



Summer Snow

See "Summer Snow" free online, 47 minutes of life as a HOH person in Japan. See the culture & modern Japan. Spoken in Japanese, captions in English. A young man takes over a bike shop after the death of his parents, his brother is HOH; this movie is tearfully emotional.

<http://cyclesantamonicablogspot.com/2007/02/summer-snow-1.html>



Would you like to participate in a **Quality of Life Inventory for Individuals with Adult Onset Hearing Loss**? To participate you must be:

-21 years or older

-Have an officially diagnosed hearing loss that occurred after the age of 18 years

-Have no other significant medical conditions or sensory impairments that impact daily functioning (e.g., blindness, severe mobility limitations, cognitive impairments, serious heart troubles)

SEE:

<http://www.hearingloss.org/advocacy/enews012907.asp>

## HLAA TC Meeting 1/20/07

By Monique Hammond VP

Our first meeting of the New Year drew an attendance of 28 members. Suzanne Hagen from Paradigm provided the CART services for the day.

Dora Weber introduced 2 guests - Julie Leon from Richfield and Bev Fish from Rochester - as well as one new member who comes to us all the way from China. Zhifang Li moved to Minnesota with her husband 5 years ago and lives in Blaine. A warm welcome to all!!

With good humor, Dora - who also won the door prize! - introduced our speaker audiologist Dr. Jon Shallop from the Mayo clinic. He returned by popular demand for his second visit. Dr. Shallop guided us through the various components of hearing tests, how they are performed and how the resulting audiogram guides the audiologist in pinpointing the appropriate hearing devices for the patient. Dr. Shallop got a lot of questions from the audience. Even as he packed his equipment, he was surrounded by members who wanted yet more information. This tells us that, no matter how many hearing tests we all have had, there are still a lot of holes in our understanding of these most important diagnostic tools for the hard of hearing.

President Merrilee reminded us of the National HLAA Convention - this year in Oklahoma City. See the national HLAA website for details. She talked about the successful evening for Feed My Starving Children and thanked those who participated. More new brochures are available for distribution. Merrilee reminded us to bring our old Christmas cards which will be retooled into artistic items. Merrilee and Bob modeled the new HLAA shirts. A sign-up sheet and color chart will guide you when ordering.

Secretary Sue asked that those who do not have

name badges or whose names are misspelled to contact her. Also, Sue and Vicki Martin are working with the Science Museum to make it more accessible to the hearing disabled. A lot of technology is in place. The problem is with the efficient use thereof and the proper training of the staff.

VP Monique wondered who wants to be Vice President next year? She also reported on the MCDHH (The Minnesota Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing). The main task this year is to encourage the Governor to issue a mandate for the routine hearing screening of newborn babies in Minnesota. NOW is the time to contact the Governor.

Treasurer Bob reminded us of the upcoming Steak Fry in April. We had a good financial year. Thank you for the donations. After filing piles of paperwork, we are now officially recognized by the State as HLAA TC. See you all next month!



*Monique*



## Legislation Day at the Capitol

Register Now for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind Legislative Day at the State Capitol. Date is March 8, 2007 from 9AM - 4PM. Advocate for this year's big issues, mandate newborn hearing screening and intervention money for intervenors and SSP's for DeafBlind children and Adults. Funds for Interpreters for Health Care, Youth Transition Programs and more. Attend the training session. RSVP by Feb. 23 - 651-297-1394 (V) 1-888-206-2001 (TTY) or online at <http://www.mncdhh.org/Form.html>

## Message from Lisa:



Dear Friends,

It is with regret that I inform you that as of February 1, 2007, Paradigm Reporting & Captioning will no longer be captioning the KARE-11 news. Our contract was not renewed due to a decision by Gannett, KARE's parent company, to have all Gannet-owned TV stations captioned by the same caption provider. For the past five years, KARE-11 had been allowed to opt out of the corporate contract, choosing instead to have Paradigm provide their captioning. This year, unfortunately, Paradigm was not given the opportunity to compete either for renewal of our contract with KARE-11 or for the Gannett corporate contract.

Paradigm received a letter from KARE thanking us for our years of quality captioning and assuring us that they lobbied hard to retain us as their caption provider, but unfortunately, it was to no avail.

If you wish to comment upon KARE-11's captioning (past or future), the contact would be Jeff Phillips (jpphillips@kare.gannett.com.) Jeff has assured me that all comments will be forwarded to the appropriate corporate personnel.

If you are dissatisfied with captioning quality, let your opinions be heard! TV stations need to hear from you or they may not know there's a problem.

Thank you all for your support over the years. You'll still be "seeing" us on other local television programming.

Sincerely,  
Lisa  
Lisa Richardson, RPR, CRR, CBC, CCP

President, CART/Captioning  
Paradigm Reporting & Captioning Inc 527 Marquette Avenue South, 1400 Rand Tower Minneapolis, MN 55402  
612.339.0545  
[lisarichardson@paradigmreporting.com](mailto:lisarichardson@paradigmreporting.com)



### Huh?

A man feared his wife wasn't hearing as well as she used to and he thought she might need a hearing aid. Not quite sure how to approach her, he called the family doctor to discuss the problem.

The Doctor told him there is a simple informal test the husband could perform to give the doctor a better idea about her hearing loss. "Here's what you do," said the doctor, "stand about 40 feet away from her, and in a normal conversational speaking tone see if she hears you. If not, go to 30 feet, then 20 feet, and so on until you get a response."

That evening, the wife is in the kitchen cooking dinner, and he was in the den. He says to himself, "I'm about 40 feet away, let's see what happens." Then in a normal tone he asks, 'Honey, what's for dinner?"

No response. So the husband moves to closer to the kitchen, about 30 feet from his wife and repeats, "Honey, what's for dinner?"

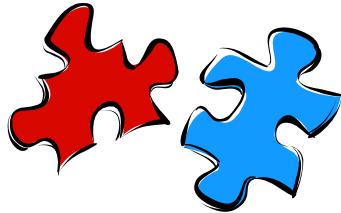
Still no response. Next he moves into the dining room where he is about 20 feet from his wife and asks, "Honey, what's for dinner?" Again he gets no response. So, he walks up to the kitchen door, about 10 feet away. "Honey, what's for dinner?"

Again there is no response. So he walks right up behind her. "Honey, what's for dinner?" (I just love this)

" for the FIFTH ' time, CHICKEN!"

Submitted by Dora Weber

## BITS AND PIECES



Mark your calendars for the premier of the first comprehensive film on deaf history - 200 years of the Deaf life in America. "Through Deaf Eyes." To be shown on PBS, March 21, 2007 at 8 PM Central time.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Starting January 24, 2007 a new service for members, friends, family and supporters of the Hearing Loss Association of America will receive 40% of the travel commissions to help national. Everything you need is right here. You get access to the same airlines, hotels, car rental companies, cruises, and vacation packages you find on all the other major travel websites. [www.HLAtravel.org](http://www.HLAtravel.org) Use this to book your Oklahoma City Convention.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Many of you are familiar with **Dr. Neil Bauman** who was a speaker at our MN state convention a few years ago. Well, a combination of 2 of his books have been translated into **Russian** called "**Help! I Do Not Hear.**" View it in Russian. <http://www.bookler.ru/bookbuy/53/113633.shtml>

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Mt. Sinai Hospital** in Chicago became the first hospital to install a phone booth for patrons who are deaf or hard of hearing who use ASL. The Sorenson VP-200 video-phone connects to a live interpreter.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Four deaf people who live in Dakota County have filed a lawsuit for \$50, 000 each because an interpreter was not called in 2004 when children playing with mercury in the Rosemount neighborhood and contaminated wooded areas and mobile home park did not know what was happening. Mercury can damage internal organs when inhaled. They did not understand written English and an interpreter was not called for 3 days after the event.

If you are satisfied with the captioning that your TV station provides please send them an email or letter telling them. Also a cheerful thank you to OUR captioner (Paradigm) after the meeting is greatly appreciated.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Those of us over 40 probably remember the group called The Four Tops. Duke Fakir who has moderate hearing loss and wears 2 HA's is a member of the band and of the Better Hearing Institute in Alexandria, VA. He promotes the use of digital HA's and is a member of the BHI's "Circle of Celebrities."

\*\*\*\*\*  
The first issue of "Hear the World" by Phonek is available by hearing health professionals, at select newsstands, in business hotels and at airports internationally. The magazine will be published on a quarterly basis and costs \$8 per issue. For more info. see <http://www.hear-the-world.com>

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Train horns** on a car? A man in FL has made a train horn that can be heard for 8 miles. They are installed in the trunk of your car, and this noise can hurt your hearing. A train horn at about a hundred feet away registers 90 decibels. Exposure to 85 decibels could cause hearing loss. Heller says his horns honk at 158 decibels. That's really loud. Use of these is against the law.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Visit this web site <http://www.fidosforfreedom.org/assist-dogs/puppies/chloe/chloe.php> to see Chloe, Denise Portis' service dog. Denise is the wife of HLAA Executive Director Terry Portis.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Pink Deafies** is a deaf breast cancer survivor support group, it meets in St. Paul. It is headed by Anita Buel a survivor since 1983. She went to the Cancer Foundation and KARE 11 Sports Director Randy Shaver requesting \$5000 but received \$10, 000 to make videos, DVD's etc. for other deaf cancer patients. See the complete story, TV video, Pink Deafies and RS comments <http://www.kare11.com/>

## What's New in Hearing Aids and Cochlear Implants?



### A More Sound Solution

**An experimental 'hybrid' device may give many with partial hearing loss the extra boost they need. It's a new variation on the cochlear implant.**

*By Regina Nuzzo, The Los Angeles Times  
December 11, 2006*

JEANNE YEOMAN had been dealing with her hearing loss for a couple of decades, but listening still exhausted her. And technology wasn't really helping her patience. She remembers driving down the road one day and coming close to just hurling her hearing aids out the window.

"Hearing aids made everything louder, not clearer," she says. "I didn't need amplification. I needed clarification."

Yeoman wasn't deaf. So she was surprised to learn she was an ideal candidate for an experimental type of cochlear implant. Unlike hearing aids, cochlear implants communicate directly with the brain by converting sounds into electrical impulses and shooting them along the auditory nerve. Until now these devices have been used only for profoundly deaf people. But this new "hybrid" cochlear implant was designed specifically for partial hearing loss — so that users could enjoy both their own natural hearing plus bionic hearing for sounds where they need an extra boost.

Five years after surgery that implanted the device in her inner ear, 34-year-old Yeoman of Humboldt, Iowa, sometimes even forgets it's turned on. "Everything sounds so crystal-clear,"

she says.

Good solutions are scarce for many people with hearing loss, including growing numbers of aging baby boomers. A large number of the 28 million hard-of-hearing Americans have what is known as a "ski-slope" loss, in which their ability to hear high-pitched sounds plummets dramatically. They can hear sounds such as "aah" and "ooh" quite plainly, but not "ssss" or "shhh." Unfortunately, the latter types of sounds give speech the lion's share of its legibility. Speech doesn't necessarily sound quiet; it sounds muddy.

Even at full blast, hearing aids often can't help enough, says Dr. James Battey, director of the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders at the National Institutes of Health. "This type of hearing loss can become extremely socially isolating," he says.

Traditional cochlear implants aren't a good answer. By bypassing damaged inner ears to stimulate auditory nerve fibers directly, these devices can be a boon for some deaf people. But the procedure — which involves threading a tiny bundle of electronics into the inner ear through a hole in the skull — aims to replace a patient's entire range of hearing. Any natural abilities usually get wiped out by the surgery.

With the new hybrid implant, however, surgeons hope simply to supplement natural hearing without destroying it, says Dr. Bruce Gantz, professor of otolaryngology at the University of Iowa and developer of the device.

The secret lies in the inner ear's design. Normal hearing is sort of a Rube Goldberg process. First, sound waves enter the ear as rhythmic pulses, which set the eardrum vibrating in sync. This triggers quivering in three tiny bones, with the last bone hammering against the entrance to the inner ear. In response, fluid sloshes in rhythmic waves throughout the corridors of the snail-shaped cochlea, which alerts sensory cells

to electrically stimulate auditory nerve fibers.



Strangely enough, the cochlea itself is laid out like a coiled piano keyboard: Cells along the corridors are tuned to particular frequencies entering the ear. In the case of a low-pitched sound, cells tucked away deep inside the cochlea alert the auditory nerve; cells that respond to high notes sit close to the cochlea's entrance. That's fortunate — because cochlear regions where "ski-slope" patients need a boost are those most accessible to surgeons.

Compared with traditional implants, hybrid systems use a thinner, shorter bundle of electronics (10 millimeters in length compared with up to 28 millimeters for traditional implants). This short electrode is positioned just at the opening end of the cochlea, stimulating the auditory nerve only when high-frequency sound waves enter the ear. Since surgeons don't need to probe as deeply into the delicate cochlea, tissue trauma is reduced. Preserved natural hearing, amplified with a hearing aid if necessary, gives patients an easier time in tough situations, such as crowded restaurants or concert halls. The added high-frequency electronic hearing clears up muddy speech.

Since 1999, about 80 patients have received the hybrid device, Gantz says, and clinical trials are underway at 15 U.S. sites. Preliminary results, released in November, reported that surgeons in the trial have been able to retain hearing in about 96% of the patients. Before surgery, patients were able to understand about one-third of words on standard hearing tests. After one year or more with the implant, scores increased to an average of 75%.

Hybrid implant users also function better than traditional implant users in noisy situations, says Christopher Turner, audiology professor at the

University of Iowa and a study investigator. They are far more able to follow and appreciate music.

Researchers expect to continue the trial through at least next year before going to the Food and Drug Administration for approval, says Aaron Parkinson, coordinator of clinical studies at Cochlear Corp. in Denver, which manufactures the device. By some estimates, a successful hybrid device could eventually reach a population up to twice the size of the current implant market, he says. In the U.S. today, about 25,000 people use a traditional cochlear implant.

Still, hybrid users need to devote time and energy to re-learning how to hear, says Dawna Mills, an audiologist and clinical trials director at L.A.'s House Clinic, which is participating in the study. At first, human speech, full of new hisses and whistles, may not even be understandable. But with time and months of training, the brain seems to adapt to its new world of sound. "It's not normal hearing," Mills says, "but it becomes normal for them."

Virginia Baker, 50, of Simi Valley says it did take effort to learn how to hear again. (Her high-frequency hearing had been declining for unknown reasons since age 19.) Still, that struggle was preferable to giving in to the social isolation that she had seen envelope her deaf grandmother.

Before surgery, Baker had quit her job substitute teaching in elementary schools because kids' squeaky voices started to fall outside her hearing range. "I was almost afraid to go out," she says. With a hybrid implant, however, she felt secure enough in her new listening skills to get a part-time job as an office manager and go back to college, where she is earning As in her accounting courses. "The hybrid," she says, "allows me to go out there with the rest of the world and be a part of it."



## New technology gives hearing aids more precision

Here are some other recent innovations in technology for hearing loss:

**Cancel the noise:** Clever signal processing in the latest hearing aids can decide how loud you need sounds to be. If the processor picks up a "clean" noise without a lot of distortion, it's likely to be speech, music or maybe a fire alarm. The hearing aid will react and selectively turn up the volume for these sounds. "Degraded" signals are usually background noises such as a car engine hum, so the processor turns them down a tad.

**Responsive mikes:** Some new hearing aid microphones adapt to their environment. For example, in quiet situations they can pick up sounds from all directions. But if you walk into a party and start a conversation with the background babble behind you, they'll automatically narrow their focus to just sounds in front of you.

**No whining:** When hearing aids start to squeal, new circuitry in some digital hearing aids analyze the feedback signal and generate a new sound. Then, in a cool trick of engineering, the two signals combine and automatically cancel each other out. Not only can you crank up the volume on your aids or hug your kids without setting off feedback, you can also wear more comfortable hearing aids that would otherwise kick up too much noise.

**Sound gadgets:** Even beyond hearing aids, plenty of extra high-tech help is available. Two notables: "third ear" technology (small, handheld microphones that wirelessly communicate with your hearing aids) and "captioned telephones" (trained human operators use speech-to-text software to send real-time captions of your conversation straight to your telephone or computer).

— Regina Nuzzo

## FROM THE ARCHIVES



### 10 Years Ago in the SHHH Newsletter

1997:

Executive Director Donna Sorkin and Meeting Planner Dasha Cohen from National SHHH were in the Twin Cities to explore the possibility of holding the Annual SHHH Convention here in 2000.

KARE11 News Producer, Lonnie Hartley, claims a commitment to captioning. He has increased captioning to include a weather forecast and more feature stories. Hartley personally spot checks the captioning.

A State Hard of Hearing Conference was being planned for St. Cloud.

Bonham Cross won the National Spirit of SHHH award for his unending commitment to SHHH.

President and Editor was Leslie Cotter. She received Best Overall Newsletter at the National SHHH convention in Phoenix.





## **STILL MORE NEW STUFF!!**

From a presentation at the 2006 HLAA convention in Orlando, Florida.

Research Symposium: Hearing Enhancement Technologies and Rehabilitation Practices

### **A Field Evaluation Unit for the Fitting of Hearing Aids**

Presented by Matthew Bakke, Ph.D.

Current hearing aids are designed to allow users to function in different environments, but the success is difficult to assess in a clinic or lab because those settings can't easily duplicate real world listening conditions. Individuals being fitted for hearing aids are asked to give their observations and feedback, but questionnaires and self-reporting rely on the user's memory. It's also hard for a consumer to give specific information that would be helpful to a professional in deciding how to make changes to meet the consumer's needs.

This project seeks a way to capture the performance and behavior of a hearing aid in real time. An example of such equipment from a different field is the ambulatory electrocardiogram, which gives a doctor information about how the heart is functioning as a patient goes about daily life.

A wearable computer system has been under development for this purpose. It uses a small computer with a battery pack that is worn in a fanny pack. The computer has a touch screen,

and it can be worn suspended from the fanny pack or on the wrist. A set of microphones records two things: the sounds in the environment and the sounds coming out of the hearing aids. A probe microphone through the ear mold is used so the computer is picking up what the consumer is hearing.

The touch screen gives a 10-point scale on which the consumer can rate the ability to understand speech in a setting, to further correlate with what they are hearing in the ear canal. The consumer also rates the effort used to understand speech, loudness of speech, and amount of background noise, and quality of the sound of the hearing aid. The method will need to be validated, and then work will begin to get it on the market.

Arlene Neuman is the lead person for this project

[Arlene.Neuman@med.nyu.edu](mailto:Arlene.Neuman@med.nyu.edu).

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**HLAA Volunteer  
Greeter Mary**

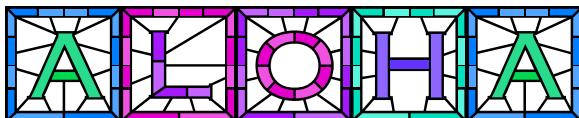


# Entertainment

**Movie Info.?** To find a movie theater near you that has captions, simply type in your zip code at this Web site [www.Fomdi.com](http://www.Fomdi.com)

## **STEAK FRY**

**The Steak Fry will be April 11, 2007 (Wednesday), from 5 – 7 PM at the Crystal Lions Club. This is a major fundraiser for our group.**



Aloha is a social group of adults of all ages that share a hearing loss.

Contact Ellen Thibodo at [ThibodoD@aol.com](mailto:ThibodoD@aol.com) for Aloha events.

From Vicki Martin:

Last month we noted that there is an increase in new DVDs being released without captioning. This month I am sorry to report that some other new DVDs have captioning that is incomplete. I don't watch enough movies to know if this is a trend, but we borrowed "The Illusionist" last week and I found it very hard to watch because at least half of the captions were missing. This was not due to our TV (I had just watched an educational video and the captions were fine). When we turned on the subtitles, I had much better luck understanding what was happening. For hard of hearing people, subtitles may be the answer to both the absence of captions and the poor quality of those that exist. (For deaf people, however, this issue can't be resolved with subtitles. Captions, and the information they provide, are needed.)

The new AMC theater in Roseville has two theatres with Rear Window Captioning! this means two more movies choices everyday in the Twin Cities for D/HoH movie goers!! This theater is located in the attachment to the Roseville Mall.

Leslie Cotter

To check opened captioned movies in February and March, 2007

<http://www.mnocfilms.org/ocaptions.html>

Closed captioned movies:

<http://www.mnocfilms.org/ccaptions.html>



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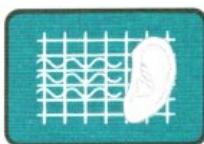
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### Please note

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the person submitting the information and not necessarily those of HLAA MN Chapter #1. Mention of goods or services does not mean endorsement nor should exclusion suggest disapproval.

This space is available for reaching Hard of Hearing People.  
Please contact Merrilee at [rknoll5200@aol.com](mailto:rknoll5200@aol.com)

**HLAA Twin Cities Chapter  
PO Box 8037  
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**HLAA Twin Cities Chapter Welcomes You**

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**Vice President –** Monique Hammond,  
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**Secretary –** Sue Brabeck,  
*E-mail: secretary@hlaatc.org*

**Treasurer –** Bob Knoll,  
*E-mail: treasurer@hlaatc.org*

**Aloha Event Coordinator –** Ellen Thibodo, (651) 423-2249 (TTY)  
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Merrilee Knoll, *Rknoll5200@aol.com*

This month's editor is Linda Senechal

**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)**