

HLAA Twin Cities

Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter March 2009

NOTE !!!!!

Please read first



Calendar of Events

**THERE IS NO MARCH MEETING
AT COURAGE CENTER THIS MONTH**

March 27-28, 2009 – State Convention in St. Cloud. Please call Rich Diedrichsen if you have any questions about the convention 1-800-456-3690 – See page 3 for more information. Register early so adequate food and gift items can be provided.

April 8, 2009 – Steak Fry see Page 7

April 18, 2009 - Catherine Riedel Jons, Better communication with your audio.

May 16, 2009 - Rubin Latz, Dept. of Vocation Rehabilitation, Upgrade of his Dec. talk.

September 19, 2009 – Becky French, HR State of MN

September 27, 2009 – CI Picnic - more information to come

REMINDER

THERE IS NO MARCH MEETING AT COURAGE CENTER. INSTEAD JOIN US IN ST. CLOUD FOR THE CONVENTION ON THE 27TH AND 28TH OF MARCH. SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE DETAILS.

THE NEXT MEETING IS

April 18th at 9:30 AM

Courage Center

3915 Golden Valley Road

Golden Valley, MN 55422-4249

- HLAA TC Website

www.hlaatc.org

- HLAA National

www.hearingloss.org

- MN Contact Information

info@hlaatc.org

FCC Captioning Rules

<http://www.tvnewsday.com/articles/2008/11/26/daily.14/>

In this issue~

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BAHA/Dave Lovell	Page 5
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bits and Pieces	Page 6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Entertainment	Page 9
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Officers & Editors	Page 12
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President's Message	Page 2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State Convention	Page 3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sponsors	Page 11
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steak Fry	Page 7

HLAA State Convention

See Page 3 for more info.

Date: March 27 (Fri.) and 28 (Sat.) 2009

Where: Holiday Inn St. Cloud, MN 37 and Division St.

More info: 1-800-456-4690 Rich Diedrichsen

Trip time: From Courage Center to the hotel is 1 hr. 10 min. so judge your time with that.

President's Message March 2009

Vicki Martin

I didn't have many illusions about having a lot of extra time on my hands when I retired. I knew there were 27 years' worth of neglect to undo – neglect of home, social contacts, electronics, and the threads of personal and financial business. I also knew that whatever I did after retirement was going to take longer than before, thanks to slower home computer connections, having to go farther to do my errands, and meeting higher expectations. I expected to be busy.

One piece of equipment I was pretty sure would speed things up for me was my Captel phone. In the long run, Captel helps, my TTY helps, and IP-relay helps to accomplish all that I need to do. Yet frequently, one or more of these disappoint.

My TTY is so frequently garbled that I don't use it very often any more. I keep it for a backup, but when I needed to call about a hospital bill, I headed for my Captel.

Several calls I have made were stymied by my less-than-perfect speech. If the machine can't understand my member ID, I will be led on the time-consuming say-and-spell track until it finally figures out who I am. There is no option to key in the ID, you must speak it.

In the case of the hospital bill, the menu that followed my sign-in was short, yet before I even finished reading the menu options, it decided I was too slow, and hung up on me.

So I tried IP-relay. This is not a great first choice unless I am already logged in. But in this case, it was the only choice left.

I gave the operator the number to call. "Dialing 999..." she responded, and then "press 1 for English". "Press 1", I typed.

"Please clarify your instructions," the operator wrote.

Clarify? How can you be any more clear than "press 1"? I tried again: "Press 1 for English". "Please clarify your instructions," the operator asked again.

Still not sure how I could make it any clearer, I asked, "are there any more menu options?"

"We are not allowed to converse with clients," she wrote, and then continued to "converse" (one-way) with me while ignoring further menu items. The only menu item she ever gave me was "press 1 for English."

"I am going to terminate this call," I said at last.

I had tried all of my assistive phone devices and none of them could complete my call.

I returned to my Captel, and tried once more. This time I got lucky – it recognized my user ID as I spoke it. I didn't wait to read the captions, and simply made a selection before it hung up on me. Finally, I could speak to a real person. It got the job done.

Do I love my assistive equipment? YES! Do I also hate it? Well....yeah.

Of course, when people ask me what I, a retiree, could possibly be so busy with, I can't really think of anything. Paid a couple of bills? Made a phone call? How would that keep anyone busy for half a day?

I guess only the initiated know.



CONFERENCE



Me and My Hearing Loss, That's Okay!

When ?

March 27 & 28, 2009

Where ?

Holiday Inn

37 Ave &

Division St.

St. Cloud, MN



Presenters:

Mary Bauer,
-DHHSD

Rebecca Crowell
-SCSU

Kristen Swan
-Regions Hospital
HWP

Registration Cost:

\$40./Person

\$70./Couples

\$100./Family of 3 or more

✓ Saturday lunch included with the registration

» Luncheon will be **Buffet Style** «

Make check payable to:

HLAA –St. Cloud

Mail to: DHHS

Attn: Rich Diedrichsen

3333 W. Division St. #209

St. Cloud, MN 56301

HARD OF HEARING CONFERENCE
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MINNESOTA CHAPTER HLAA-TC
ST CLOUD HLAA



A super big thank you to Ross Hammond who snapped all the photos in this issue.



BAHA (Bone Anchored Hearing Aid)

By Dave Lovell

I wanted to provide information on this type of hearing aid from a patient's point of view to help others understand this technology. I began to lose my hearing over several years due to tumors that damaged my ears. After several surgeries to remove the tumors, I was left with greatly reduced hearing. The audiologist fitted me with the traditional behind the ear hearing aids, which helped, but provided limited improvement because of the problems I had with damage to the ear drum and bones of hearing. I discussed this with my ENT doctor, who recommended that I be fitted for a BAHA.

Having never heard of a BAHA, I had lots of questions about what it was, how it works, and what was involved in the procedure to attach one. I asked my doctor the questions and got general information, the BAHA seemed like it was a good solution and the improvement in hearing I could expect was exciting. However the thought of having another surgery was not very exciting to me and based on my experience with traditional hearing aids I was not sure what to expect. I was also concerned to have something attached to the side of my head. So I began to research the BAHA for myself. I got information from the internet as well as the manufacturer and here's what I found.

The BAHA works for people who have functional nerves in the inner ear, but damage to the outer ear. The BAHA is attached to the skull with a titanium stud that is implanted by the doctor. The implant surgery takes about 45 minutes for the doctor to place and is done as out-patient surgery. The implant needs to heal for 60 to 90 days to allow the implant to fully bond with the bone. After the implant heals the BAHA is simply snapped on and adjusted for your hearing. The way the BAHA works is to capture the sound and convert it to a vibration that is transmitted into the bone behind the ear. The vibration is picked up by the nerves in the inner ear. To determine if a BAHA is right for you, you should discuss this with your ENT and testing can be done by an audiologist who can test a patient's ability to hear by bone conduction.

For me the BAHA is a good solution and my experience so far is that it works great for me. The surgery was very minor and I was back to my regular activities in a few days. The wait for the implant to heal was not that long. When I was fitted for the BAHA, I could hear very clearly and naturally right away with the BAHA and at least in my case it is a great solution. There still are limitations to the BAHA, like noisy crowds, where it's still hard to understand all that's said, but it's a much better solution for me. The BAHA is not very noticeable when it's worn, as the case of the BAHA is very small and offered in several colors to match your hair. In fact, I had a person at work ask me if I have left the hearing aids at home and asked if I could hear them, so it's not very noticeable when worn.



HLAA TC would like to make an offer to all **Vets** who would like to join our group HLAA TC for the first time. If you served in the military (any division) and think a hearing loss support group would be of benefit to you and your family please contact one of the officers for a free one year membership in the Twin Cities Chapter.

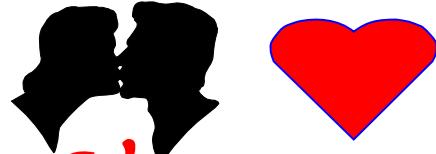


The **FCC** has a newly revised **DTV website**. Go to www.dtv.gov to learn about DTV, check the status of your coupon application, and find helpful publications such as a troubleshooting guide that provides a converter box hook-up checklist and a guide that offers tips on the reception of digital signals. The newly revised website also offers DTV reception maps for your neighborhood.

<http://www.dtv.gov/>

Former first lady of HLAA National Denise Portis has put out her first paper from HLA Frederick County, Maryland. Wonder if her hearing dog Chloe had any say in the matter? <http://tinyurl.com/buja7v>

For a **free package of HA batteries** offered by **Energizer** in their new package call or email at; 1-866-449-EARS <http://offers.energizer.com/perfpack/>



VALENTINE'S DAY

Valentine's Day was very romantic this year for **Holly Turley** when **Hunter Sargent** asked for her hand in marriage. He did it the old fashioned way, asking her father first, then her, then signing it. They plan a wedding in summer of 2010. We wish them the very best.

<http://captionson.com/capsMatter.asp>

This is a website that addresses a lot of information about **closed captioning**: what it is, how it works, what's bad captioning, what's the captioner's fault, what isn't, etc. There is also a section to help report and address captioning issues. Thank you Lisa for this site.

To get email announcements of **open-captioned plays at the Guthrie** send an email to accessibility@guthrietheater.org with "OC E-mails" in the subject line. This should get you a listing of open-captioned performances only -- no wading through all the other stuff to find them. Include your name and address in the email text. Thanks President Vicki

Did you know? **Commercials on TV** come up 20% louder than the regular show.

http://www.cuedspeech.org/sub/cued/myths_facts.asp **Cued Speech what is it?**

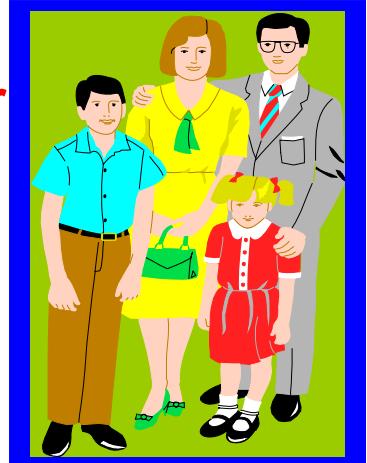
How to sign President Obama, look towards the end of the video if you only want to see how to sign the President's name.

<http://www.deafvideo.tv/video/watch/33896/>

Crystal Lions Club Steak Dinner In Support of HLAA Twin Cities Chapter

Where: Crystal VFW Post 494
Address: 5222 Bass Lake Road, Crystal, MN
Time: 5 PM to 7 PM
Date: April 8, 2009
Cost: \$9.00

*Dinner Includes: Steak, Baked Potato, Cole Slaw,
Garlic Toast and Coffee*



Can you help at this fundraising event for our chapter? Please contact
Bob and Merrilee Knoll – Rknoll5200@aol.com

NATIONAL NEWS

For OIF and OEF Vets

Complimentary Membership in HLAA for Vets of OIF and OEF

Membership includes [Hearing Loss Magazine](#), a helpful resource on the latest in technology, medical issues, legislation, personal stories, and more. For more information about a free one-year membership, contact the [Membership Department](#).

Free HLAA Convention 2009 Registration

HLAA would like to show its support of veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom by offering a one-year membership as well as a convention registration at no charge. HLAA's Convention 2009 is June 18-21 in Nashville, Tennessee. For more information about registering for the convention, contact [Nancy Macklin, Director of Events](#)

Check out this new and expanding website for Vets:

<http://www.hearingloss.org/veterans/index.asp>

National Chat Room

Topic: "Everything you ever wanted to know about ear molds but were afraid to ask"

Guest Speaker: Brad Ingrao, Audiologist <http://www.hear4life.org/index.html>

Date & Time: March 19, 2009 at 7PM (Eastern Time)

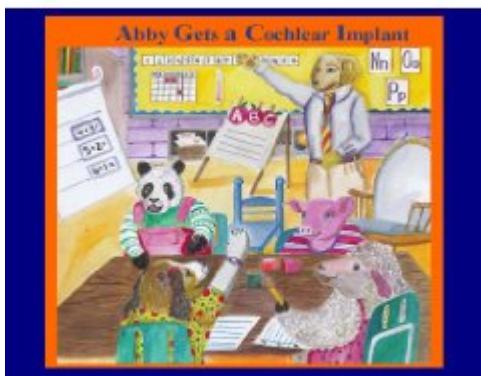
Weekly Chat schedule of events:

- Every Monday night - Cochlear Implant Chat 8 p.m. ET
- Every Wednesday night - Regular Chat 9 p.m. ET

You can also view previous transcripts from past chats.

DEAFNATION EXPO

Date: March 28, 2009
Time: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Location: Minneapolis Convention Center
Exhibit Hall A
1301 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55403
Admission: FREE
More info. <http://expo.deafnation.com>



New book "Abby Gets A Cochlear Implant" by Maureen Cassidy Riski (\$11.95) Paperback order on Amazon

How many people have hearing loss in the US? According to **John Hopkins Hospital** in Baltimore, MD the total is 55 million. Quite different than what some are saying it is. White and Mexican American men are at greatest risk. This item was published in the **Archives of Internal Medicine** Aug. 2008.

Woman injured when HA's fell out. Extremely sad news, an **86yr. old woman** who lives in Orlando, FL was attacked by a family dog when she bent down to put the leash on him, her hearing aid fell out and started buzzing. The dog attacked her. She is in serious condition and the outcome of the dog is yet to be determined. The HA industry has said they have not heard of this happening before, usually the cat or dog bats the HA around and leaves it for more interesting toys.

Sign Petition Today to Show Support for the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act!

The Coalition of Organizations for Accessible Technology (COAT) is asking the U.S. Congress to enact "The 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act." This Act would update the Communications Act to ensure that people with disabilities are not left behind as the U.S. migrates to the next generation of Internet-based and digital communication technologies. The changes would expand accessibility to television and phone systems and equipment. A summary of the Act is at www.coataccess.org/node/32

As part of the effort COAT is asking advocates and others to sign the petition supporting this legislative proposal. Petition on the internet at www.coataccess.org

Thanks to NVRC News
@@@@@@@

Go to <http://billc.vodspot.tv> and see what captioning should be like on the web. See President Obama at the White House, Celine Dion, Hearing Testing Screening, Confessions of a Shopaholic, Learning HTML Tutorial, 50 in all to view and read. More being added all the time.

Then go to www.coataccess.org click Sign the Petition on the left, and sign your name to make sure we get captions on all web videos.

Please forward this email to anyone who will help us in making sure the HOH do not get left behind.

Captions make understanding possible.



Accessible Entertainment

Kerasotes Block E Stadium 15 – Mpls.

Captioned movies in Twin Cities

612-338-1466 www.kerasotes.com

MNOCFILMES

Open/closed captioned movies in Twin Cities

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

Upcoming Live Performances with Open Captioning

Reduced prices are offered by the theatres themselves or by the Access to Performing Arts Project to encourage broader participation in live arts events by people who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind or of low vision. It is a joint project of VSA arts of Minnesota, the Minnesota Association of Community Theatres and the Guthrie Theater.

Oakdale Ultrascreen Cinemas (Marcus Theatres), 5677 Hadley Ave. N., Oakdale 55128 (I-694 & Hwy 36 next to Fleet Farm); 651-770-4994; Rental & Meeting info: 651-779-3795. This cinema uses DTS® (Digital Theatre Systems, Inc.) to superimpose open-captions over the bottom of select movies. Subscribe to an Open Caption weekly e-mailer at www.marcustheatres.com/theater.cfm?theater_id=2506.

Be sure to check out **Kathryn Bakke's** web site at:

<http://www.kathrynbakke.com/index.html>

She is a long time friend, pianist, speaker and advocate for the hard of hearing, right here in the Twin Cities. She has performed all over the US, and that is not an easy job for someone who has a profound hearing loss and is a musician. She now has cochlear implants.

Editors Note: I would suggest you get on the email list of all performing arts that you frequent. Also call ahead to be sure they are showing your performance in captions – menus change rapidly. Contact jon@vsaartsmn.org. to get on the list



Guthrie

www.guthrietheater.org/accessibility

An Evening of Short Plays - Dowling Studio

Captioned by c2 inc

Friday, **May 29**, 2009 at 7:30 pm

Mixed Blood Theatre – Sweet 15

Captioning: Thurs. **March 19**, 7:30pm

Phone: 612-338-6131

www.mixedblood.com

Ordway Center - The Minnesota Opera

Phone 612-333-6669, TTY 651-282-3099

The Barber of Seville, sung in Italian with English captions above the stage. Run:

April 11-19. www.mnopera.org

Almanac - airs **each Friday** at 7PM on

Channel 2 and its captioned, even the music when there are words. This show tells about things happening in Minnesota.

www.tpt.org

News Flash.....

Both **MCDHH** and **DHHSD-Metro offices** are moving this week to the **Golden Rule Building** across the street from our present location. While we may not be moving far, it is quite an undertaking none the less. Our new location will be at the corner of East 7th Place and Robert Street starting Friday, March 13th. For schedule and new contact information.

<http://www.mncdhh.org/>

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

Backstage Tour

Our April meeting will include a “backstage tour”, led by Bob Knoll. You will discover the secret caverns and dark hideaways where our “stuff” sleeps between meetings.

Our board is very capable and hard working and, thanks to helping hands from other dedicated members, we usually have setup and take-down under control. But few others actually know where we keep things. We thought it would be good for as many as possible to know what's behind the scenes just in case sometime, not everything goes according to plan.

So, April 18 at 11:50 – follow Bob as you leave our meeting, and see where it all begins!

ALOHA

Aloha events are held on the second Saturday of each month. They are social gatherings in the homes of members of the group, usually including dinner, socializing, cards and games. For information on the monthly schedule, contact the coordinator, Ellen Thibodo at ThibodoD@aol.com. This month's event will be on March 14. Call or email Ellen (# on last page) for more details.





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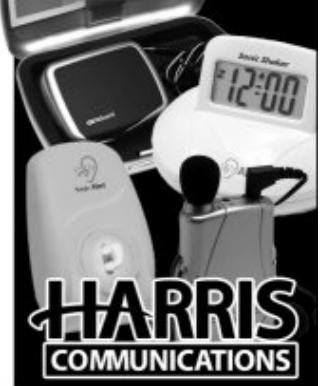
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HLAA TC
PO Box 8037
Minneapolis, MN 55408-0037

First Class



Next meeting: Saturday, April 18, 2009

HLAA Twin Cities Chapter

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State.....Zip.....

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Minneapolis, MN 55408-0037**

HLAA Twin Cities Chapter Welcomes You

President – Vicki Martin
president@hlaatc.org

Vice President – Linda Miller
vicepresident@hlaatc.org

Secretary – Sue Brabeck,
secretary@hlaatc.org

Treasurer – Bob Knoll,
treasurer@hlaatc.org

Aloha Event Coordinator –
Ellen Thibodo, (651) 423-2249 (TTY)
ThibodoD@aol.com

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Website www.hlaatc.org

Photos Ross Hammond

Newsletter Editors –

Linda Senechal, cilinda97@yahoo.com
Merrilee Knoll, Rknoll5200@aol.com

This month's editor 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