

HLAA Twin Cities

Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter May 2007

Formerly SHHH Minnesota Chapter #1

www.hlaatc.org

Calendar of Coming Events

May 19, 2007 - Elections & Pot Luck

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

*** NOTE: NO MEETINGS FOR HLAA TWIN CITIES IN JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST! ***

September, 2007: Michelle Kimmer (MN Employment Center) - job coaching for deaf and HOH

October, 2007: Rick McPhearson - attorney with the MN Disability Law Center

November, 2007: Hearing dogs

December, 2007: OSHA - Brian Alexander : NOISE - regulations and hearing issues

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

HLAA Twin Cities Chapter meetings are held at the

Courage Center

3915 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55422 on the 3rd Saturday of each month (except June, July and August). Meetings start at 9:30 and last until Noon. Everyone is welcome!

May 2007

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Did you know?
May is "Better Hearing and Speech Month."

REMEMBER THE MAY MEETING IS POT LUCK. BRING A DISH TO SHARE!

Some people who really deserve hearty thanks for coming early to set up the loop system that we use with our T-coils are:

Gary Phillips, Ross Hammond, Jim Smith, Joe O'Brien, John Lindlan, and Bob Knoll.

Thanks also to **Bonham Cross** who donated the loop system to HLAA TC.



President's Message



Hello Family and Friends of HLAA TC,

We had a great steak fry in April and made **\$\$\$** for our chapter. Come to the meeting on Sat. May 19th to find out how much we made. We also had a generous donation. It was voted by our membership that we would like to have this event again next year, so Bob our treasurer is going to work that out again hopefully. The volunteers (Jerry Pouliot, Sue Brabeck, Cathy Brabeck, Jim Smith, Ross & Monique Hammond, Janis Lajon, Michelle, Linda Senechal, Janice & Mike Day, Joe O'Brien, Lori Snyder, and Merrilee & Bob Knoll) were great, and we had fun doing it too.

Keep in mind that we will have no meetings in June, July or August. In early Sept. you will receive the newsletter reminding you of the upcoming meetings. There are no papers in July or Aug. Because so many people go on vacation during that time and the officers and editors need a break, we do not have meetings during those months.

It has been my pleasure to serve you over the past year, and I feel I am leaving you in very good hands with the 3 current officers and the new incoming VP. They have many new ideas and plans for our continued growth and success. I know that with your

help that success is guaranteed.

And so I leave you after the May meeting with a heartfelt thank you for your assistance in making my job an easier one.

Merrilee

National Website:

www.hearingloss.org

Minnesota Website:

www.hlaatc.org

MN Contact Information:

info@hlaatc.org

Hearing Loss Association of America Convention 2007

Register now for the annual time of your life. Join us in Oklahoma City this June for workshops, exhibits, friends, and more.

Carrying the banner to Oklahoma from HLAA TC:

President Merrilee Knoll, Vice-President Monique Hammond, Secretary Sue Brabeck, Vicki Martin, Linda Senechal, Ross Hammond

[View Hearing Loss Magazine free online](http://www.hearingloss.org)

www.hearingloss.org



**Longtime
member
Bob Copus**

HLAA TC Meeting 4/21/07

By Monique Hammond VP



President Merrilee called the meeting to order at 10AM. She thanked Paradigm for close to 17 years of devoted CART services that make our meetings possible. CART was provided this time by our own **Lisa Richardson**!

Two new guests joined us: **Marian Meed** from Minneapolis and **Becky Mobarry** from Eden Prairie. Welcome to both!

Dora Weber could not be with us. However, she left a free copy for each one of us of her book detailing her journey and experiences with cochlear implants. Thank You Dora, for this helpful and thoughtful gift!

For 2 years, **Mona Anderson** has taken care of us by attending the coffee and snack table. President Merrilee recognized and thanked **Mona** for her services, for her dedication to the group and for a job well done. Thank you again, Mona, from all your HLAA TC friends!!



Mona

Hunter Sargent will be in charge of the coffee table starting next year.

Our speaker was **Ms. Wendy DeVore**, a former Minneapolis Police Officer and Crime Prevention specialist. Wendy is THE creator of the Deaf/Safe program which targets Crime Prevention and Safety issues for the deaf and hard of hearing communities. No longer with the Police Force, she continues to train law enforcement officials as well as the hearing disabled. Her biggest challenge seems to be the management of expectations and assumptions on both sides.

We talked about the rules for basic traffic stops and even touched on felony (Oh, No!) stops! Wendy was with us answering questions and responding to concerns for over an hour. We thank her for sharing her knowledge and vast experience.

Judy Swan, a returning guest, briefly talked about a recommendation from the American College of Emergency Physicians. In an obvious place in our cars or added to our cellphones, we should carry the phone numbers of people to be contacted **In Case of Emergency**. (**I.C.E**) Contact person # 1 number one as ICE 1 etc. This is of great help to police and medics alike.

According to **Treasurer Bob**, we made over \$ 600 dollars from the Steak Fry! Thanks to the Crystal Lyons, to all who sold the tickets, cooked and served the food and kept things moving. This year, **Past President Joe O'Brien** sold the most tickets. He is rewarded with a free HLAA TC membership for a year! Way to go, Joe!

Bob reminded us to sign up for HLAA shirts. He will soon order a second set.

Yes, next month will be our last meeting for this year! **Secretary Sue** reminded us that we will decide on Officers before we go on summer break. She also wants us to brainstorm on *Pot Luck* items that we can bring. Join us in celebrating a successful HLAA TC year! See you all then!

Fun things to do with a Telecoil

We miss out on so much, don't we? We never get the point of a joke, we miss the sarcastic mutterings our teenagers love to pelt us with, and we never get to hear the mellifluous belching competitions of our adolescent nephews.

But wait! Your life does not have to be drab and humdrum just because you can't hear what other people hear. Actually – there are things you can hear that others don't. Yes, there are things you are privy to that your telecoil-challenged friends can't even imagine! Let's look at just a few of the most exciting ones.

One.

Turn on your T-coil and vacuum the rug. (Are we having fun yet?) Do you hear that? It's not the vacuum cleaner. Much as we'd like to think otherwise, it's not the music of the spheres either. It is something in between the two that's rather interesting – at least, to those who are interested. It even has a name: the “60-cycle hum”. It was actually named by those in the electrical trade – and don't ask me how *they* could hear it. As far as I'm concerned, you need a telecoil.

Two.

When the weather is nice, put on your hiking boots and get ready to map the electromagnetic energy distribution in your neighborhood. Your community will thank you! Engines make



chittering sounds you won't hear without a t-coil, and the power cables strung through the air are carrying more than the energy that lights your home: they conduct a mystic harmony along the way. Yes -- and only you, a privileged audience of one, can hear it.

And if you are lucky enough to live in a rural area where they clear-cut great swaths in the prairie for the mammoth towers carrying this EME (yes, those very ones that caused such an environmental health ruckus), who knows what great musical opus they may present to you?

Three.

If the weather isn't so good, try this one: it's called “find the fluorescents”. That's right, it's a game! Strap on a blindfold and grope your way around a lighted building. See if you can identify all of the “hot spots”. Just for fun, take along a hearing person on this adventure and make it a competition – you are sure to win !

Now, don't you feel better already?

QUIKTIME

Apple Computer just released an update to their QuickTime software – the underlying architecture of the video downloads in the iTunes Store, plus a fair percentage of all online video material -- that includes support for closed captioning. This has been a MAJOR stumbling block to bringing captions to the online world. And while Apple's announcement plays the update down, I'm hoping this will make a big difference in the months and years to come.

Now there's no reason that TV episodes can't be downloaded through iTunes. And the update includes separate versions for Macs and for Windows, so no one is left out. Not sure how soon this change will be reflected in the online experience, but I've got my fingers crossed.

<http://www.apple.com/support/downloads/quicktime716formac.html>

<http://www.apple.com/support/downloads/quicktime716forwindows.html>

BITS AND PIECES



Almanac is on TV every Friday at 7 PM on tpt and repeated again on Sat. at 7 PM, and its captioned by our own Paradigm.

Former VP Al Gore's team joined with Gallaudet on April 24th to share his film on global warming, "An Inconvenient Truth."
<http://www.climatecrisis.net/>

For an interesting article by Trudy Suggs entitled, "**Don't Feed The Animals**" go to
<http://www.i711.com/my711.php?tab=2&cat=culture>

She gives her view of when students from another school come to view the deaf schools.

Bill Austin is featured in People magazine under "Heroes Among Us." Mr. Austin, 65 is the founder of Starkey Labs and since 1973 has given away over 400, 000 hearing aids to children. Read what changed his ambition from becoming a medical doctor to going into the hearing field.
http://www.sotheworldmayhear.org/pdfs/people_heroes_austin.pdf

Some of you have voiced your dissatisfaction lately about **KARE- 11's** captions. Recently they changed their captioning service to another. Paradigm who captions our HLAA TC meetings and the show Almanac used to caption CH 11. If you have any comments good or bad about current captioning please contact Jeff Phillips at jpphillips@kare.gannett.com

National Association of the Deaf (NAD) filed a complaint on May 2, 2007 against a Chinese Restaurant in Maryland when they would not fill an order with a deaf person

using a relay service.

May is a busy month in addition to being **National Speech and Hearing month**, it is also **National Older Americans** month.

Cruise for the HOH. Only a \$250 deposit is required to reserve your space! The deadline for the deposit is May 10th, but will be extended to June 2, 2007, if there is one more room booked by the May date. Departing from Port Canaveral, Florida on Sept 30th, 2007. This will be aboard Royal Caribbean (www.royalcaribbean.com) Cruise Ship, Mariner of the Seas. For more info. check out these web sites; www.hla-fl.com or travel agent Barbara Maher at barbaram@contus.com

Hearing Health magazine free online at
http://www.drf.org/hearing_health/subscribe.htm

CART ? What is it? **Communication Access Realtime Translation** is NOT a courtroom stenographer, it is NOT someone who can type fast on a laptop, it is NOT realtime transcription and an IP relay agent is NOT CART. CART professionals are certified and are transcribing word for word in English what the HOH or deaf communities can instantly read as the conversation continues. Be sure when you need captioning that you ask for the right thing. More info. about CART
<http://cart.ncraonline.org/Directory/default.htm>

Dr. David Davila, interim President of Gallaudet will be sworn in May 9, 2007. Dr. Davila serves with the full duties and responsibilities of president. He is officially considered Gallaudet's 9th president, therefore, it is appropriate that he be inaugurated as such. He and the Board of Trustees know he is in office for a limited time.

DEAF/SAFE HIGHLIGHTS FROM WENDY DEVORE'S TALK 4/21/07 By Monique Hammond, VP

Wendy DeVore



Traffic stops.

Traffic stops are the way that 99% of citizens get into contact with Police. Traffic stops are usually made in case of misdemeanors such as violations of traffic and safety laws. For most people these are scary and emotional situations.

Officers approach each vehicle with skepticism because their lives might be endangered. Often drivers fake disability in order to get out of tickets or citations. Officers are lied to a lot by the public. Nowadays, Police receive special training in dealing with the hearing disabled. Some 900 Officers have received such training. Our chances of running into an Officer who is totally unaware of hearing disabled issues are getting smaller. But, remember, that the Officer **does not know** that he/she might be dealing with a hearing disabled driver when approaching a car!.

In all cases of interaction with Law enforcement agents, the most important point is NOT to let things escalate to a full-blown confrontation.

Therefore, if we are stopped:

- **Remain calm!** There is enough stress already on both sides.
- **Pull over and put car in Park.** Red break lights raise suspicion. Might the driver suddenly back up and run over the Officer? Might the driver plan to take off?
- **Put both hands on the steering wheel** at

once. Fidgety hands are suspicious hands. Might the driver grab a weapon, hide items that should not be seen by police?

- **Leave the belt buckled .**
- **STAY in the car.** Getting out of the car is a threatening move. Does the driver hide something in the car and wants to keep police away from the car? Does the driver plan to attack the Officer. This is the time when the Officer grabs for the baton, the Mace or .. let's not even think about the other options!. Not good!!
- The Officer will look into the car, usually **shining a light** to illuminate the interior. This is especially true at night. Do NOT panic. This is routine procedure. Who and what is in the car? Lots of stuff piled inside raises suspicion. Could these be stolen goods?
- If the Officer motions to **open the window**, do so with one hand.
- The Officer will ask for your Driver's license and proof of insurance. Once the communication is initiated, **let the Officer know as best you can that you are hearing disabled.** (Point to ear and shake head "No" or say if possible that you have trouble hearing or are deaf).
- Inform the Officer where your papers are kept so that he/she knows what you will grab for. With your Driver's license keep a Hearing disability ID card.
- **Note: The wallet-size card issued by the DHHS (Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services) – we have those on our back table -is endorsed by the Department of Public Safety and is acceptable to Police.**
- **Cooperate with the Officer!** If he/she is not receptive to accommodate hearing needs, one can always file a complaint later. Attempts to communicate our disability and cooperating with police requests as best as possible give the hearing disabled credence should it come to taking official action.
- If a **sobriety test** is performed, inform the Officer that you are unable to do the heel-to-toe walk because of balance problems- a

common challenge for hearing disabled people. **Cooperate with alternative tests:** breathalyzer or a blood test for which one is taken downtown.

- Getting defensive and belligerent crank up the stress a few notches on both sides and can make simple traffic stops go terribly wrong.



What is a felony stop?

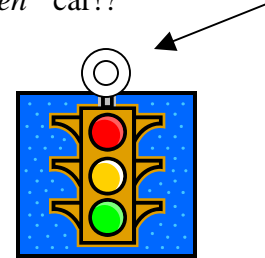
A felony stop involves multiple police cars, Officers with drawn weapons, lots of flashing lights, sirens and other noise. Here, the driver is suspected to be involved in a felony event such as car theft, drug dealings, hold-ups, kidnappings etc. These are high pressure situations involving being hauled out of the car, frisked and even handcuffed. In case of a felony stop, the above rules apply.

Pull over. Put the car in park. A good move now is to **PUT YOUR HANDS UP** at once! **COMMUNICATE your disability** as early as possible, in as many ways as possible while remaining **COOPERATIVE and CALM!** Keep all gestures and movements **SLOW**. Help resolve the case of mistaken identity.

Why might innocent YOU be stopped?

Maybe a suspect was described as fleeing in a get-away car that matches the description of *your* car. This is the most possible scenario.

Maybe your car was stolen, then recovered in some way and the police was not notified. So, you could be stopped because you are driving *your own "stolen" car!*?



What is the meaning of the WHITE lights on top of the regular traffic lights?

These lights alert us to the presence of emergency vehicles. It is time to pay attention.

- **Flashing** white lights mean that emergency vehicles will cross in front of us. (they are on the cross road)
- **Steady** white light s mean that emergency vehicles are either coming at us from the front or from the back (they are on the same road as we are)

THANKS, OFFICERS!

Haven't we had some wonderful meetings and events this year!! Let your officers from 2006 – 2007 know how much you have appreciated their work on our behalf. Send a note or thank them in person.

LS, Editor

2006 – 2007 Officers:

Merrilee Knoll, *E-mail:*

president@hlaatc.org

Monique Hammond, *E-mail:*

vicepresident@hlaatc.org

Sue Brabeck, *E-mail:*

secretary@hlaatc.org

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

Summer Travel

Please keep notes and report back to the group on your summer travels.

Did you find any surprising accommodations for people with a hearing loss?

Were hotels prepared to accommodate you and your hearing loss?

Be sure to ask at all attractions if they have scripts of the tour guide's description of the attraction. Even if they don't, they may decide to prepare one for the next hearing impaired visitor.

Any problems at the airport?

Here's what Walt Disney World has to offer:

Services for guests with hearing disabilities at Walt Disney World include sign language interpretation, captioning, and assistive listening devices. Guest assistance packets containing the dialogue, flashlights and pen/paper are available at or near the performance areas or entrances for most shows and attractions. Pay telephones equipped with amplified handsets and TTYs are available throughout the resort.

Sign language interpretation is available only at certain shows at certain parks. On Mondays and Thursdays the selected shows are at Magic Kingdom. On Tuesdays and Fridays, they're at Epcot. On Wednesdays and Sundays they're at Disney-MGM Studios. On Saturdays at Disney's Animal Kingdom. You should call a minimum of 7 days in advance to request confirmation of the interpreted performance. The number is 407-824-4321 V or 407-827-5141 TTY. Prior to your visit you will be given a show schedule listing the names, dates and times of interpreted performances.

Reflective captioning uses an LED display to project captions on an acrylic panel placed in front of you. You must request the system at the attraction. It's available at three performances in Magic Kingdom, five at Disney-MGM Studios, seven at Epcot, and at Discovery Island's It's Tough to be a Bug in the Animal Kingdom.

Video captioning can be activated by a remote control available at Guest Relations for a \$25 refundable deposit (you must return control on the same day). Video captioning is available at three sites in Magic Kingdom, five at Disney-MGM Studios, five at Epcot, and three at Animal Kingdom.

Handheld captioning is available for moving attractions and some other places. You must pick up a wireless receiver at Guest Relations for a \$100 refundable deposit (you must return it on the same day). Handheld captioning is available at 14 locations in the Magic Kingdom, four in Animal Kingdom, eight at Epcot, and seven at Disney-MGM Studios.

Assistive listening devices are wireless and receive an infrared signal from transmitters at certain locations to amplify sound. You can pick them up at Guest Relations for a \$25 refundable deposit (you must return the device on the same day). Sound to the listening system is available at nine locations in the Magic Kingdom, 11 at Disney-MGM Studios, 12 at Epcot, and eight at the Animal Kingdom.

For more information:

<http://www.disneyworld.com>

You

**You may not think that the world needs you
but it does.**

**For you are unique, like no one that has ever
been before or will come after.**

**No one can speak with your voice,
say your piece,**

**smile your smile,
or shine your light.**

**No one can take your place for it is yours
alone to fill.**

**If you are not there to shine your light, who
knows how many travelers will lose their way
as they try to pass by your empty place in the
darkness.**

Anonymous

Entertainment



Hello to all you wonderful HLAA'rs. Roald and I have missed seeing you these past many months. I have been touring in various parts of the upper Midwest so we've been gone over 50% of the weekends. Hopefully that will not go on forever – being gone so much. Although it has been pretty exciting.

This summer a wonderful opportunity has come to me, which I invite you to share with me. The Minneapolis Fringe Festival is taking place from August 2 – 12 and I am going to be part of it! I am doing a series of comedic routines and amusing stories matched with piano pieces.

My performances will take place at:

Patrick's Cabaret
3010 Minnehaha Ave. So.
Minneapolis, MN

The dates are:

Thursday, August 2 – 8:30 P.M.
Saturday, August 4 – 5:30 P.M.
Monday, August 6 – 8:30 P.M.
Saturday, August 11 – 7:00 P.M.
Sunday, August 12 - 2:30 P.M.

Cost is \$12 or less if you get a Fringe

button. Log on to www.fringefestival.org.

I am also excited that Robin, the same angel who orchestrated the efforts to get captioning at Mixed Blood, is trying to get one or two of these shows real-time captioned. I don't know which dates yet, but hope to know by next month's HLAA newsletter.

I would be especially happy if you attended one of the first two shows and then send me an email (kbakmushoh@aol.com) telling me how you liked it. Even better, go to some other shows too and tell people standing in line how much you liked it. (Only if you did like it! :-)

I'd love to see you at *any* performance and I'd love to hear from you. You can also check out my web site (www.kathrynbakke.com) and send me an email from there.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Kathryn Bakke

**Fresh Art Delivered Daily
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Science Museum of MN Access Services for HOH

- TTY phone number 651-221-4585.
- Amplified Audio Units and written scripts are available for the Omnitheater and 3D Cinema.
- Rear Projection Captioning or Rear Window® Captioning is available for most Omnitheater films. Please inquire at the box office or call 651-221-9444.
- Sign language interpreters can be arranged with 72 hours notice. Call 651-221-9406 to schedule an interpreter.
- Many of the exhibits have open or closed captioning.

The word "Aloha!" is written in a large, 3D, orange-to-yellow gradient font with a slight shadow, set against a yellow background.

Contact Ellen Thibodo for Aloha activities for the summer months! ThibodoD@aol.com

Rear Window® Captioning

was developed to make theaters accessible to audiences with disabilities the day and date films debut, and during regular showtimes.

Rear Window Captioning enables movie fans with hearing loss to enjoy a film via reflected captions that appear on a plexiglas panel at the seat. Patrons sitting in the surrounding seats cannot see the captions. There is no additional charge to use the systems.

This unique access technology is installed in the following Twin City theaters:

AMC Eden Prairie Mall 18, Eden Prairie

AMC Rosedale 14, Roseville

Crown Theatres Block E 15 (2 auditoriums equipped), 600 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis

Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul

To check opened captioned movies in May through August, 2007

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

Closed captioned movies:

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

To find a movie theater near you that has captions, simply type in your zip code at this Web site www.Fomdi.com



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If you would like to advertise in this newsletter, contact Merrilee Knoll at
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HLAA Twin Cities Chapter Welcomes You

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This month's editor is Linda Senechal

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