

HLAATC

May 2011

May 21, 2011—Rhoda Nelson,
Blind and Deafblind services

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

September 17, 2011—Fall kick
off meeting at the Courage
Center

October 1, 2011—Walk for
Hearing, Thomas Beach, Lake
Calhoun

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× Carole Blowers -	president@hlaatc.org
× Hunter Sargent & Shannon Turley -	vicepresident@hlaatc.org
× Holly Sargent -	secretary@hlaatc.org
× Bob Knoll -	treasurer@hlaatc.org

Reminder for members:

Next meeting May 21st, Courage Center



- (1) Pot Luck
- (2) Elections
- (3) Last meeting until September 17th
- (4) Speaker Rhonda Nelson from Blind and Deafblind Services

- HLAA TC Website
www.hlaatc.org

- HLAA National
www.hearingloss.org

- MN Contact Information
info@hlaatc.org

Remember:

Registration deadline for the
National Convention in
Washington, D. C. is May 25

Message from our President



Carole Blowers

APRIL EVENTS....

April was a busy month for me. I concluded my performances at the Collings Theater in Brooklyn Park in the play “Fitness Folly”. My role as Beulah Blowgut brought much laughter to the crowds in my six performances! This was the second play of my life, and most memorable. I got to sing, do routines, and of course, learn LOTS of lines! It was a “colorful” part, and even though it meant giving up lots of my personal time for the past two months, it was well worth it. I thank Bob and Merrilee Knoll for attending—it was their first time attending a play at this theater.

In April, I attended a League of Minnesota Cities workshop on “Loss Control”. As I am the Coordinator of the Safety Committee where I work, I try to attend this day-long workshop each year if possible. It is packed with knowledgeable speakers on many city issues, and everyone gets to choose and attend nine different sessions throughout the day. My first session was on “Communicating with Deaf and Hard of Hearing People” and of course, I couldn’t wait to hear what this was going to be about! It was mainly geared towards Police Officers. I found this session to be very informative. As Police Officers must deal with people who are deaf or hard of hearing daily, the League wanted its members to know how important it is for them to have a policy on such situations, a number ready to call for an interpreter if needed, and to know what people’s rights are in these situations, etc. This is something to think about! Afterwards, I advised the speaker that he did an excellent job, and it was encouraging for me to know that city employees are getting this important training and information. I explained to him that I am the current President of HLAA-TC, and gave him a business card and explained that he should contact me if he needed any information or assistance from our chapter.

Carole Blowers

It's May!

Speaker for our May Meeting:

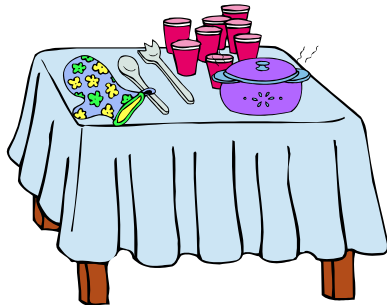
Rhoda Nelson

- Bachelor's degree in Deaf education
- Master's as Rehabilitation teacher for the blind
- State Services for the Blind (SSB) and DeafBlind Services of Minnesota (DBSM)

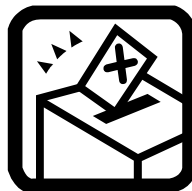
Deafblind specialist

Interpreter trainer for deafblind

Workshop presenter on deafblind issues/ Workshop trainer



The May meeting, our last meeting until fall, will feature our **potluck lunch** once again. Please bring something to share. Paper goods and napkins are provided.



We will also hold the **election of officers** at this meeting. Please consider serving as an officer or speak with someone in the chapter who you feel would be able to serve the chapter well and nominate them (with their permission).

Emergency Advocacy For Deaf and Hard of Hearing People

Have you been in a situation at a hospital or urgent care and experienced barriers to communication? Have you ever been pulled over by a police officer or been brought to jail and needed someone to help explain your communication needs? Have you ever wanted to file a complaint against a medical or legal facility for not meeting your communication needs and not known where to go for help? **CSD's Emergency Interpreter Advocacy and Education Project** provides 24/7 advocacy assistance for people with hearing loss experiencing barriers to communication in emergency situations. An advocate can call or intervene on your behalf for any present, immediate, legal or medical emergency.

The focus of the grant project is to assist persons with hearing loss in advocating for their communication needs in legal and medical emergencies or when following up with the facility about a complaint and needed improvements. A legal emergency may include communication interactions with police, jail deputies, or court staff. A medical emergency may include any interaction with hospital emergency departments, urgent care facilities, or evening/weekend immediate medical communication needs.

The CSD Legal Advocacy Consultant provides a myriad of services for the individual with hearing loss and the facility needing improvement with their communication tools. The Advocate provides information and referral about the ADA and other legal rights to communication access. She provides presentations to Minnesotans with hearing loss about their rights to communication access and resources for finding qualified and immediate interpreting or CART services. She provides presentations to medical and legal facilities on how to provide effective communication for Deaf and hard of hearing patients/consumers. She assists clients with writing letters of complaint, but also will proactively work with organizations and agencies on improving communication access.

What's more? This service comes at no charge to the individual with hearing loss or to the facility receiving assistance on improving communication access. All client support, presentations, workshops, advocacy and resources are provided at no cost to the Deaf, DeafBlind or hard of hearing consumer or medical/legal facility. As always, in non-emergency situations hard of hearing and deaf individuals can continue to contact their local DHHS office for advocacy and assistance. All services are funded by a grant from The Department of Human Services Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division. Please contact Heather Gilbert, CSD Legal Advocacy Consultant, at Hgilbert@c-s-d.org or at (612) 991-0489(voice) for more information.

Heather Gilbert CI/CT, SC:L, Legal Advocacy Consultant

Communication Services for the Deaf (CSD)
2800 Rice Street Ste. 154
St. Paul, MN 55113



(651) 256-1048 (Office); (651) 256-1053 (Fax); Emergencies: advocacyproject@att.blackberry.net or text: (612) 991-0489

Fitness Folly

written, produced, directed and music by Barbara Lord Collings



Set the scene about the turn of the century, a fitness center with Buxom Beulah Blowgut (BBB) aka President Carole Blowers, as the instructor in tights, wide belt, t-shirt like top and a mound of hair putting Cher to shame, you've not seen this "beauty queen" in many contests. Laughter is the best medicine they say, and she certainly got roll in the aisle response from the audience.

Plot: A husband and wife team (crooks) are new to town and are setting up what everyone believes will be a big hit, staying in shape, for both men and women, with pushing of wonder pills and creams that keeps the money flowing freely. As BBB gets the ladies into shape, the men are also getting physical but not so willingly, after all this is the early 1900's and it's not really cool for men to need training in what should come natural. As the classes move forward and the creams sell off the shelves, no one seems to be getting any thinner or prettier and Mr. & Mrs. Pill Pusher are found out to be money hungry varmints.

The play has run its course, but when Carole performs again in her next show, be sure to try to attend. You won't be disappointed. Be prepared for sore cheeks as you will laugh a lot.

This play was performed at The Collings Fine Arts Theatre in Brooklyn Park which seats about 60 people. Tickets were by reservation.

There was talk of having CART attend for captions, but the space was extremely small. I felt that captions would not work well in this setting. We sat in the front row, and I had ALD duets on over my hearing aids. These worked well, and being able to see the faces and body language made it very enjoyable. We sat right next to the piano which was playing before, during and after the show, but not while people were speaking.

There was a receiving line outside after the Fitness Folly cast left the stage, where we congratulated Carole. The entertainers were in age from about 7 to 70 (my guess). It was quite something to see a 70 year old doing exercises as Buxom yelled out strict instructions like a drill sergeant, head, shoulders, knees and toes.

I'm not sure how many plays Carole has actually been in, this is the second one that I know about, but what an inspiration she is to the HOH community, showing us that with the right attitude, helping cast members, and a determination to do something she loves, you can do just about anything.

Congratulations Carole !!!!!

Merrilee Knoll



Synopsis of April Meeting

Submitted by Shannon Turley

Two people visited from the TED program which is the Telephone Equipment Distribution program for the State of Minnesota. They were Beth Cherryholmes who has been a program specialist for this program for over 14 years, and Nancy Starr who is also a program specialist. (See their pictures on the next page.) Nancy has worked for almost four years in this program.

You might be curious who qualifies for the program. Obviously people who have some type of communication need. And, you have to be a resident of Minnesota. Applications can be downloaded from their website at www.tedprogram.org.

Beth and Nancy talked about the different types of equipment. There were amplified phones, both corded and cordless phones. There is also tone control on the corded version. Then if you talk to somebody who might have some physical needs as well as the hearing loss, they would recommend the cordless phone. It has the ringer both in the base of the phone and the cordless receiver part.

The next phone they showed had a speakerphone. For some people that's a very valuable thing because then you don't have to have the receiver up by your hearing aids which could cause feedback.

Captioned Telephones (CapTel): The web site to learn about those telephones would be www.captionedtelephone.com. They are available through the TED program.

What to do with your old equipment? If the equipment does belong to the State of Minnesota, which you would know that because it would have a sticker on it, return it to DHHS located at Golden Rule Building, 85 East 7th Place, Suite 105, St. Paul.

We used to have a telephone that would amplify the outgoing voice. We do have a hand-free speakerphone for somebody who could not get to a telephone to answer it. This phone does not have a receiver. This is what they call this a jelly bean because it comes in really cool jelly bean colors. They showed the jitterbug. You may have seen commercials for this. Right now the decision has been made that the option to get a telephone from the TED program is its either one or the other. You can't get a landline and a cell phone. It's the option of either a cell phone, which is the jitterbug, or the landline. If you get a cell phone from TED you, as the client, would be responsible for that cellphone service and the plans for the jitterbug. They start at \$14.99 plus tax and they go all the way up to \$79.99 plus tax. Our policy has always been one phone per household.

Beth and Nancy also talked a little bit about the DHHS program. They work under the state deaf and hard- of-hearing services program. Our web sites for deaf and hard-of-hearing services is www.dhhsd.org. In the St. Paul office they have a resource and demonstration lab. They have a variety of different equipment there including all telephone assistive equipment, listening devices, alerting equipment, that kind of thing and you're more than welcome to stop by the office and test out the equipment. They encourage you to make an appointment with Mary Bauer beforehand if you want to try out the different equipment.

Our speaker for May is Rhoda Nelson from the Blind/Deafblind Services.



Nancy Starr and Beth Cherryholmes



Merrilee and Nancy

Steak Fry a Great Success!

The Steak Fry held on Wed. April 14, 2011 at the VFW in Crystal was a grand success. We sold 250 tickets, with top sellers being Mary Andresen, Joe O'Brien and Lori Snyder, Holly and Hunter Sargent and Shannon Turley. Mary also brought in the most donations. With tips and donations alone we had \$300. With the ticket sales and walk-ins, we brought in \$1,000.

Helping hands make the Steak Fry possible were

Mike and Janet Day
 Ross and Monique Hammond
 Shannon Turley
 Hunter and Holly Sargent and Friend
 Linda Miller
 Carole Blowers and Dan
 Monica and June Sage (Lions)
 Merrilee and Bob Knoll

Additional thanks to the Crystal VFW, Crystal Lion's Club, Lion's spouses and their friends, those that helped with ideas, ticket sellers, buyers, donators, those that gave material goods like the number signs and donation signs for the tables, publicity, and photographer Ross Hammond.

Bob Knoll
 Treasurer

Thanks for all of your hard work, Bob and gang! This is a VERY important fundraiser for our chapter!

Short Takes:

Paul Tuveson, who has been friends with HLAA TC for many years and written for our paper, will be reopening his business as a Board Certified in Hearing Instrument Scientist. He has worn hearing aids himself since age 3. In 1981 he opened his hearing aid business in Albert Lea, later selling it, and moving to the Twin Cities. He then worked with an ENT clinic for 19 years. He can be reached at (651) 387-4340.

Cochlear Implant Social Gathering on Sunday, May 15th from 1:00 to 4:00 at the St. Paul Central Library (across from the Ordway). There are two CI Social groups currently meeting in the Twin Cities in addition to the monthly Coffee and Chat at the U of MN. If you would like information on any of these gatherings, please email cilinda97@yahoo.com

New Hope for the Hearing Aid Tax Credit - *WASHINGTON, DC, April 12, 2011* — Representatives Tom Latham (R-IA) and Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY) today reintroduced the bipartisan **Hearing Aid Tax Credit** (H.R. 1479) with 36 original co-sponsors, including 4 members of the House Ways and Means Committee. The bill is unchanged from legislation in the 111th Congress that attracted a record 131 co-sponsors by the end of the session. In the Senate, Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME) are organizing original co-sponsors as they prepare to reintroduce companion legislation in that chamber. The Hearing Aid Tax Credit would provide assistance to many of the 34 million people who need hearing aids to treat their hearing loss. Medicare expressly excludes coverage of hearing aids as do most private insurance policies, and as a result, cost is cited as a prohibitive factor by two thirds of the people who do not treat their hearing loss. If enacted, H.R. 1479 would provide a \$500 tax credit per hearing aid for children and people age 55 and older.

Yes, gas prices are high! However, lucky us. According to *National Geographic*, we are already in the #4 vacation spot of the **10 Best Trips for the Summer of 2011**. Here's what they have to say:

“A pedestrian-and-pedal-friendly downtown and welcoming Midwestern vibe make it easy for first-time visitors to quickly feel at home in Minneapolis. Snow can fall here from October to April, so the arrival of warm weather launches a full throttle, June-August celebration of arts, music, and cultural festivals (check out the [Minneapolis Aquatennial](#), July 16-24); farmers markets (17); and fan-friendly Minnesota Twins baseball (played downtown at Target Field—ranked the top sports stadium in North America by *ESPN The Magazine*). Survey the vibrant scene from the new [CRAVE restaurant](#) rooftop patio near the [State Theatre](#), then grab a bike at the nearest [Nice Ride Minnesota](#) kiosk (\$5 plus trip fees) and cruise all or part of the [Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway](#), a 50-mile urban trail loop. With 22 city lakes and the mighty Mississippi, playing on, in or near the water always is an option. Indoor activities center on the city's 57 museums and the 4.2 million-square-foot [Mall of America](#) housing 520 plus stores and Nickelodeon Universe, the nation's largest indoor family theme park.”

So, stay home and have fun this summer!

SHARING WHAT YOU KNOW WITH THOSE WHO CAN BENEFIT FROM THAT INFORMATION!

I recently was asked to speak to our “Amazing Grays” senior group at my church. This was a perfect group to speak to about hearing loss! Approximately 24 people attended my presentation.

The major areas covered in my speech were:

- definition and signs of deafness
- prevalence of deafness (statistics)
- types of hearing loss and causes of them
- communication breakdowns and resulting six issues
- avoidance behaviors
- how to help one another communicate better
- hearing aid information and why people avoid them
- cochlear implants/BAHA/assistive devices & dogs
- HLAA-TC support group and on-line assistance
- ADA and legislation and advocacy.



I had numerous items available for those who attended, such as the Hearing Loss Association-Twin Cities newsletters (thanks again Merrilee), magazines, catalogs with assistive listening devices, brochures about cochlear implants, information from state agencies, etc.

This was a very appropriate speech, since our Amazing Grays ministry is comprised of members of our church from the age of 50 and up-- a group hard hit by hearing problems. Several people commented to me afterwards that they learned so many new things. That made me feel good that I could provide information to this group that they had never heard before, plus I could put in a pitch for HLAA-TC and the upcoming Walk4Hearing in October.

A couple of years ago, I also gave a similar speech to the members of my administrative professional group (IAAP). They, too, were pleased to learn and hear about so many new things. I was told that they had never had anyone speak to them about the subject of hearing loss. A really special surprise for me occurred this past week, when one of my fellow IAAP members contacted the President of our organization about how to contact me regarding that speech I made a couple of years ago. I learned she had given all her notes and information from my speech to her mom, and unfortunately her mom can't find the information to give to another relative who could benefit from it. I immediately responded to Deb, as she had specific questions about hearing aids, etc. Her response back to me was: *"Wow, thanks for this information Carole. It's very helpful! I'll let my aunt know about this right away. I won't be attending our (IAAP) meeting on the 19th, but you could still bring information, and ask if there is anyone attending from my workplace. Then they could just send the info to me via Intercompany mail. I'd definitely be interested in the first ever Walk 4 Hearing on October 1.... I'd definitely sponsor you, if you're taking collections of any kind. So glad to hear that many people are benefiting from your speech and information, especially at your church. Education is key! I have some minor hearing loss also, so I'll benefit from this information in the future as well. But in the meantime, I've learned so much about talking with hard of hearing people. Thanks to you!! In appreciation, Debbie."*

You see—we can make a difference!

Carole Blowers, President, HLAA-TC



WALK4HEARING -- Remember this date!

Saturday October 1, 2011, 10 AM Thomas Beach, Lake Calhoun Minneapolis.

Let's have every member – and anyone who is willing to join you – register for the Walk4Hearing! Each person should go to website www.walk4hearing.org and Select the Minneapolis Walk. Enter your name and email address. You will need to choose a user name and password the first time you log in. You can select “Join a team”, “Start a team”, or “Walk as an individual”. There is no required walk distance. You set your own pace and your own limits. Your presence and support is what matters – not how far you can walk!

If people do not have access to a computer they can register on Walk day on site. There will be a check-in/registration table at the site on Walk day. In addition, if donors do not want to donate online then they can write a check payable to the Walk4Hearing and they need to give/mail it to the walker who they are supporting/donating to.

From **Rebecca Lander, Walk4Hearing program assistant at the National Office**

History: The walk4hearing began in 2006 with a pilot program with about 6 locations. It has grown to 23 sites. Funds at the national level have been used for advocating for rights for people with hearing loss, information, referral, education and coping resources through the hearing loss website.

How it works: to raise the funds, we have local sponsorship and we have walker fund-raising.

How to find sponsors: When you go to a company to ask for money, talk to the receptionist at the front desk and explain why you're there – to talk to someone about local sponsorship opportunities for the HLAA Walk4Hearing. The receptionist can direct you to the right person.

Registering: Go to www.walk4hearing.org to register or create a team. When you register at the walk site, click “join a team” or “start a team”. To start your team, register yourself first. You can walk as an individual, but teams make it more personal and more likely that others will support you.

Alliances: The more alliances you have, the more teams you have, the more walkers you have, the more funds you have!

Donating: You write, email, or ask people face-to-face. You will have a personal page on the website and you can send anyone you know there to donate. Donations can be by credit card or check. The credit card donations go to the national side. Cash and check donations that are received by walkers. Walkers should let their contacts know that they should make the check donation out to the walk4hearing and they should give it to the walker.

The kickoff: kickoff event is an informational and motivational meeting. We're going to have it at the Old Spaghetti Factory down in Minneapolis. The date is August 14 from 1:00 to 3:00. Mark that on your calendar -- and let others know. Invitations will be sent out through the mail and through e-mail.

Shannon Turley

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 vicepresident@hlaatc.org

Secretary – Holly Sargent
 secretary@hlaatc.org

Treasurer – Bob Knoll,
 treasurer@hlaatc.org

Contact Info. info@hlaatc.org

Photos Bob Knoll

Newsletter Editors -

Linda Senechal, cilinda97@yahoo.com

Merrilee Knoll, Rknoll5200@aol.com

Vicki Martin gimme88@aol.com

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