

HLAAATC

June 2011

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

August 14, 2011—Kick off for the Walk for Hearing at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Minneapolis – 1:00 to 3:00

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

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

October 8, 2011—Family and Community Workshop, St. Cloud

October 15, 2011—Dave Vlastuin "The Buzz on Bluetooth"

December 17, 2011—Holiday pot luck luncheon, white elephant gift exchange

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- **HLAA TC Website**
www.hlaatc.org

- **HLAA National**
www.hearingloss.org

- **MN Contact Information**
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**Hearing Loss Association of America –
Twin Cities Chapter**

Thank you President Carole Blowers!



HLAA TWIN CITIES PRESIDENT, 2010 - 2011

A great year has ended for HLAA Twin Cities Chapter, and another full year is planned for 2011 – 2012. The Co-Vice Presidents have moved up to the presidency, Judi Swan was elected to the Vice President's position, and Holly Sargent and Bob Knoll have graciously agreed to continue on as Secretary and Treasurer.

This month is the national convention in Washington, D.C. If you are unable to attend, be sure and check the HLAA National website for news from the convention. www.hearingloss.org

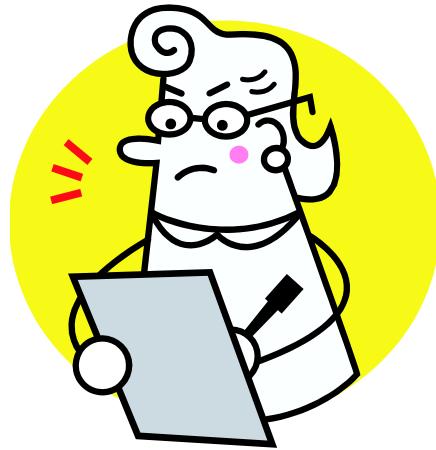
September will be the first meeting with our new officers. October is full of events for HLAAers; October 1 is the Walk for Hearing at Lake Calhoun, October 8 is the Family and Community Workshop in St. Cloud, and October 15 is our regular meeting with Dave Vlastuin presenting on Bluetooth technology. Do plan ahead for this busy month. You need to register for both the Walk (www.walk4hearing.org) and the Workshop (details will be forthcoming). Twin Citians may wish to carpool to St. Cloud, and perhaps even stay overnight. Summer will give us a good opportunity to get organized for a busy fall.

If you have any ideas for topics at the regular monthly meetings, do contact your officers. Input is always welcome, as this is YOUR chapter!

Have a wonderful summer!

Your Editors

SAVE THIS DATE



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

**SATURDAY, OCT. 8, 2011; 8-12:30
ST. CLOUD HOLIDAY INN**

**TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION, COCHLEAR
IMPLANTS, ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY,
HEARING AIDS, PHONES
\$10.00 PER PERSON – SPECIAL ROOM
RATES IF YOU WANT TO STAY OVERNIGHT
SPECIAL SPEAKER: MARY BAUER
*GIVE THE CHILD A FISH OR TEACH THEM
TO FISH***

INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY Rich Diedrichsen, DHS



Attendees at May meeting



Hunter and Shannon leading the meeting for Carole on May 21, 2011

Synopsis of May Meeting

Submitted by Shannon Turley

Vicki Martin introduced the speaker for today, Rhoda Nelson. Rhoda has a bachelor's degree in deaf education and a master's degree as a rehabilitation teacher. Her career included working for the State Services for the Blind. She is a Deafblind Specialist and is an interpreter/ trainer for people who are deafblind and a workshop presenter on Deafblind Issues. Vicki has a personal connection to Rhoda as Rhoda has helped Vicki's son Ethan develop better communication skills.

Rhoda began by asking: How many of you are deaf? How many of you are hard of hearing? Six raised their hands identifying with being deaf. She has worked with deafblind people for more than thirty years, and never dreamed she would become deafblind herself. When she comes to make a speech like this in front of a group of people, she cannot see their faces. She says: I feel like the student who took an exam in school and left it blank because her memory deserted her.

Rhoda told the group a little about her background. She grew up deaf in a family that refused to accept her deafness. Her aunt told her parents when she was 3 or 4 years old that Rhoda was deaf, but they refused to believe it. When she went in to school the teachers asked for an audiogram. Her parents took her in for the audiogram, and the doctors told them to send her to the Faribault School for the Deaf. Her parents responded that "No, she can hear if she wants to" and that's the way she was brought up. Her family was abusive and moved frequently. She was in a different hearing school almost every year. Her family is all gone now.

She didn't know until she was in fifth grade that she was deaf. She didn't know what the problem was. School kids would line up to go inside. How did they know to do that? She was unable to make the connection between voice and hearing.

People with a hearing loss look just like everyone else, so it causes confusion with hearing people. Hearing people are often not comfortable especially if the loss is gradual. So the easiest thing to do is just ignore us. Once she was in a Vet's office with her cat, speaking to another woman. She missed something the woman said, and said "Excuse me, can you repeat that? I am deaf." The woman immediately stopped trying to communicate with her. Sometimes people yell, thinking you will hear if they just talk very loud! Another thing that happens is hearing people do not understand the limitations of technology. She puts her glasses on. Of course it doesn't work for her (as she is blind), but for many people it brings your vision to nearly perfect, normal vision. So they think a [hearing aid](#) will bring you to almost perfect hearing. It doesn't work that way. People with a hearing loss don't understand as easily as before; people have to look at you and face you when you speak. Of course you've changed. You can't have a conversation with someone in the kitchen and you are in the living room anymore. We need to be constantly teaching others what we can and cannot understand. We need to let them know that we do not want to be left out.

Lipreading: The moving articulators that shape the sounds of speech are tongue, lips, jaw. The term I like is speech reading because that involves not only those three, but also the facial expression and body language. People misunderstand how much you can "hear" by [lip reading](#) and speech reading. Topics can change quickly without you noticing. Speakers can be difficult to read, they may have a moustache, their lips may not move very much, the room may not be well lighted or the light may not be on the speaker. The speaker may turn away from you. All these things factor into

understanding what you see.

Sometimes what you think you heard makes perfect sense, but it is all wrong. “Fifty die in Greece”. I know that’s what you said! Nope – “59 degrees”.

Rhoda has a wonderful sense of humor and had more stories to tell about frustrating, silly, or strange happenings due to not hearing well. She acknowledged that we all have these tales to tell, even if they do not seem funny at the time.

Rhoda described her vision as “looking through a broken window”, very cracked and distorted and things do not always look like what they’re supposed to look like.

Thanks, Rhoda, for sharing your upbeat stories and wonderful sense of humor. I am sure that has been the secret to your success in life!



~ ~ ~ ~ Sound Bites ~ ~ ~ ~

PLEASE remember the [Hearing Aid Tax Credit legislation](#) which will be re-introduced this year in Congress. Our Senators and Representatives in Congress, the people in Washington need to know that we need and deserve this consideration. There are so many people who would benefit from the passage of this bill. Please contact your representatives and ask them to support it.

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Our new co president, Hunter Sargent, is featured in this article in the Star Tribune. Read up and learn more about Hunter.

<http://www.startribune.com/local/blogs/122630864.html>

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Other notes from the May Meeting: Treasurer's Report:

The actual take on the **Lion's Steak Fry** in April was \$1,054. We did really well in spite of the price of food going up. Everyone should be really proud of their volunteer efforts on this, whether it was serving or selling tickets or helping in any way. Everybody did a great job and I hope they enjoyed the steaks.

Bob on the **Walk for Hearing**: I have received folders from National for corporate sponsorship. You can get corporate sponsorship, but you have to go out and talk to the people. Merrilee and I have talked with Sonus Hearing. At the present time, they have one of these folders. I know Hunter has three or four of these folders out. There is quite a few different levels of sponsorship – as little as \$100 and as much as \$5,000.

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Two **cochlear implant support groups** are currently meeting in the Twin Cities. One is for Clarion users (Advanced Bionics) and the other is for anyone interested in cochlear implants. The first group plans to meet quarterly, and the second has been meeting monthly. The next meeting is Sunday, June 12. Monthly Coffee and Chats at the U of MN Cochlear Implant Center continue as well on the first Wednesday of each month. Contact Linda for more information (cilinda97@yahoo.com).

The annual **Cochlear Implant picnic** will be held at Brookview Park in Golden Valley on Sunday, September 18 at 11:00 to 3:00. This is another opportunity to talk with people with a cochlear implant if you are considering one or are just interested in learning more about them.

PLAN (Personal Localized Alerting Network) is coming

May 10, 2011 The FCC announced that New York City would have the first public safety system; enabled mobile devices will receive emergency alerts at critical moments with potentially life-saving messages.

What is PLAN?

The **Personal Localized Alerting Network (PLAN)** is a new public safety system that allows customers who own an enabled mobile device to receive geographically-targeted, text-like messages alerting them of imminent threats to safety in their area.

This new technology ensures that emergency alerts will not get stuck in highly congested user areas, which can happen with standard mobile voice and texting services. PLAN enables government officials to target emergency alerts to specific geographic areas through cell towers (e.g. lower Manhattan), which pushes the information to dedicated receivers in PLAN-enabled mobile devices.

PLAN complements the existing Emergency Alert System, which is implemented by the FCC and FEMA at the federal level through broadcasters and other media service providers. Like the Emergency Alert System, which is a modernization of the earlier Emergency Broadcast System (1963-1997), PLAN is intended to keep up with new technologies that can keep Americans safer. This modern, integrated and complementary alert system provides significant public safety roles for broadcasters, cable service providers, wireless service providers and other service providers.

Wireless companies volunteer to participate in PLAN—technically called the Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS). PLAN is the result of a unique public/private partnership between the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the wireless industry with the singular objective of enhanced public safety.

The Warning, Alert and Response Network (WARN) Act requires participating wireless carriers to activate PLAN technology by a deadline determined by the FCC, which is April 2012. Participants that will offer PLAN ahead of schedule include AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon.

How Does It Work?

Authorized national, state or local government **officials send alerts regarding public safety emergencies**, such as a tornado or a terrorist threat, to PLAN.

PLAN authenticates the alert, verifies that the sender is authorized, and sends it to participating wireless carriers.

Participating wireless carriers push the alerts from cell towers to mobile phones in the affected area. The alerts appear like text messages on mobile devices.

Features

Geographically Targeted: A customer living in downtown New York would not receive a threat alert if they happen to be in Chicago when the alert is sent. Similarly, someone visiting downtown New York from Chicago on that same day would receive the alert. This requires a PLAN enabled mobile device and participation by the wireless provider in PLAN.

Customers Automatically Signed Up: PLAN allows government officials to send emergency alerts to all subscribers with PLAN-capable devices if their wireless carrier participates in the program. Consumers do not need to sign up for this service.

Alerts Are Free: Customers do not pay to receive PLAN alerts.

Covers Only Critical Emergency Alerts: Consumers will receive only three types of alerts from PLAN: (1) alerts issued by the President; (2) alerts involving imminent threats to safety of life; and (3) Amber Alerts. Participating carriers may allow subscribers to block all but Presidential alerts.

Unique Signal and Vibration: A PLAN alert will be accompanied by a unique attention signal and vibration, which is particularly helpful to **people with hearing or vision-related disabilities**.

Captioned Live Entertainment

Guys and Dolls By Frank Loesser.

Performed by: 5th Avenue Theatre from Seattle.

Location: Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, Main Hall, 345 Washington, St. Paul.

Captioning: Friday, June 24, 7:30 PM (by c2 inc.).

Tix: \$27 (standing room), \$30 partial view, up to \$80; if using ASL or Captioning, request seating in that area; phone: 651-224-4222, TTY 651-282-3100

Web: <http://www.ordway.org/accessibility/>.

9 to 5: The Musical

Performed by: Touring Company.

Location: Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, Main Hall, 345 Washington, St. Paul.

Captioning: Friday, July 15, 7:30 PM (by c2 inc.).

Tix: \$27 (standing room), \$30 partial view, up to \$80; if using ASL or Captioning, request seating in that area; phone: 651-224-4222, TTY 651-282-3100

Web: <http://www.ordway.org/accessibility/>.

West Side Story

Performed by: Touring Company

Location: Historic Orpheum Theatre, 910 Hennepin Ave. S., Minneapolis

Captioning: Sunday, July 17, 6:30 PM.

Tix: \$28-78; Limited seats are available at the lowest price level to patrons using ASL interpreting or Captioning services on a first-come, first-served basis. Prices apply for up to two tickets for each patron requiring ASL interpretation. Additional seats may be sold separately and at regular price. Audio Description receivers may be used in any price level in the theatres. To order, email Nichole.Cassavant@BroadwayAcrossAmerica.com or accessible@broadwayacrossamerica.com; phone: 612-339-7007 or 612-373-5639; hotline 612-373-5650.

Website: <http://www.hennepintheatretrust.org/accessible>

God of Carnage

By Yasmina Reza, translated by Christopher Hampton, directed by John Miller-Stephany.

Performed by: Guthrie Theater.

Location: Guthrie Theater's McGuire Proscenium Stage, 818 2nd St. S., Minneapolis.

Open Captioning: Friday, July 29, 7:30 PM by c2 inc.

Tix: Reduced to \$20 for ASL, \$25 for Captioning (regular \$29-65); phone: 612-377-2224, TTY 612-377-6626.

Website: <http://www.guthrietheater.org>

H.M.S. Pinafore

By Gilbert & Sullivan, directed by Joe Dowling.

Performed by: Guthrie Theater.

Location: Guthrie Theater's Wurtele Thrust Stage, 818 2nd St. S., Minneapolis.

Open Captioning: Saturday, July 30, 1:00 PM and 7:30 PM, by c2 inc.

Tix: Reduced to \$20 for AD/ASL, \$25 for Captioning (regular \$29-69); phone: 612-377-2224, TTY 612-377-6626.

Website: <http://www.guthrietheater.org>



WALK4HEARING -- Remember this date!

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

Go to the 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.

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 HLA Walk4Hearing. The receptionist can direct you to the right person.

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 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



Co Presidents Shannon & Hunter



Vice President Judi Swan

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Our next meeting is September 17, 2011

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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