

# HLAA TC

## SEPTEMBER 2012



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

### September 13, 2012 - DHHS

Community Advisory Meeting: 9:30 - Noon. See page 5

### September 15, 2012 - HLAA

TWIN CITIES CHAPTER Meeting ó Howard Malone of Costco will speak on hearing loss and hearing aids

### September 16, 2012

Annual potluck Cochlear Implant Picnic at Brookview Park in Golden Valley, 11 -3:00

### September 29, 2012

**TWIN CITIES Walk4Hearing - Lake Calhoun Thomas (South) Beach. 9 AM registration, 10 AM walk!**

October 20, 2012 - HLAA TWIN CITIES CHAPTER meeting ó speaker is Cami Lawless of Associated Hearing

### Contents

✿ Captioned Events	Page 8
✿ Events at DHHS	Page 4
✿ Photos	Page 9
✿ President's message	Page 6
✿ School's Open!	Page 7
✿ Walk4Hearing	Page 10
✿ Walking with the Lions	Page 5
✿ Your Officers	Pages 2, 3

### Officers' emails

✿ Judi Swan -	<a href="mailto:president@hlaatc.org">president@hlaatc.org</a>
✿ Monique Hammond -	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@hlaatc.org">vicepresident@hlaatc.org</a>
✿ Bob Knoll -	<a href="mailto:treasurer@hlaatc.org">treasurer@hlaatc.org</a>

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

HLAA National - Maryland  
[www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)  
MN Contact Information - Minnesota  
[info@hlaatc.org](mailto:info@hlaatc.org)

**It's Walk4Hearing Month! Volunteers as well as walkers needed!!**

Hearing Loss Association of America **Twin Cities Chapter** (HLAA TC) is held the 3rd Saturday of the month (except June, July and August). We meet at The Courage Center, 3915 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55442

# Introducing your Officers for 2012 - 2013



## New Column in the Newsletter Judi Swan, President

A new column called "I Have a Question" will be starting with the fall issue of our HLAA Monthly Newsletter. President Judi Swan will be the facilitator.

Utilizing the experience as a deaf person, training as a Hearing Support Specialist, her involvement with Hearing Loss Association of America/Twin Cities, and research, she will take questions related to hearing loss and search out the answers.

Questions may be submitted to Judi by either email at [swanjudi@yahoo.com](mailto:swanjudi@yahoo.com) or in written form. The questions must have the name of submitter, but initials will be used if published, when requested.



## Why I Belong To HLAA TC - Monique Hammond, Vice President

The group that is now HLAA TC welcomed me at a time when I was a bit of a mess. I am forever grateful because the bottom line is that HLAA TC changed my life.

I joined in March 2006 as I was recovering from a sudden one-sided deafness and from serious balance issues that had befallen me out-of-the-blue. Actually, my husband located the group. He felt that I needed to meet people who would understand what I was talking about. I guess that I had become a tad hard to live with.

Our first meeting was already an eye-opener. I discovered that there was so much more to hearing loss than not hearing so well. Over the years, I learned a lot at HLAA TC . from our members and from our speakers. Most of all, I made new friends. I went from someone who was dazed, confused and resentful to finding a new passion in life. The time has come to pay back those who fostered me and to pay forward what I learned to others who come to us in need.

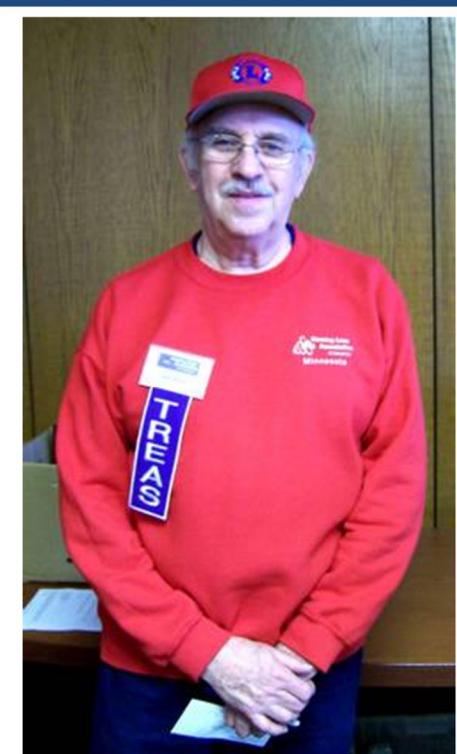
Reserve the 3rd Saturday of each month from Sept. through May for the HLAA 6TC meeting. Your officers are working hard to make the meetings interesting and informative for you.



### **Secretary Candace Meinders**

My sister Linda introduced me to HLAA by showing me one of her old Hearing Loss magazines and encouraged me to become a member of HLAA so I could get the free magazine. A few months later, my employer started offering flexible spending and I estimated the maximum amount for two hearing aids I planned to buy in Jan of 1994. Shortly after I bought those hearing aids, my employer was also having a health fair at our worksite. I offered to have a table advertising HLAA. I looked in the magazine to find out who to contact locally for more flyers and brochures for my hearing loss booth. The person I called is now deceased but he told me that if I went to a meeting, they would give me brochures. That's how I found out about the first meeting I went to in 1994.

Flash forward and many years later, I now wear two cochlear implants. I continue to go to the HLAA-TC chapter because I like what I learn about something relevant to my life at each meeting. I feel that as secretary, I can contribute to this group because one does not need to only wear hearing aids to belong to HLAA. My diversity is needed now more than ever. Ask any other officer.



### **Why I Belong To HLAA TC – Bob Knoll, Treasurer**

I became involved in HLAA through my wife, Merrilee, who passed away last December. Merrilee had a progressive hearing loss related to her Type I diabetes. She had a severe to profound hearing loss for the last 15 years or more of her life, and joined HLAA in 1998. She loved the support that she got from the group, and immediately began giving back. She gave so much to this organization, serving as an officer and newsletter editor, and all around volunteer in so many capacities. She left a lot of wonderful memories with the group.

While looking for solutions to Merrilee's progressive hearing loss, I became involved with HLAA as well, and also with the Lions organization. The Lions, as most of you know, are very involved in hearing loss issues. I am now president of the Crystal Lions, and was recently appointed as a trustee on the Lions Multiple District 5M Hearing Foundation Board. The 5M district covers MN, Manitoba, and Ontario. Our mission is to promote the advancement of research and programs that benefit those with hearing health issues and communication disorders.

## MN Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Offers Classes

Metro Office (DHHS), a program of the Minnesota Department of Human Services, has designed an eclectic series of **FREE** interactive classes that address trends and resources related to hearing loss. A few of the specialty classes offered by DHHS include a training designed specifically for public servants entitled öFor Public Servants: Law Enforcement, Firefighters and Sheriff personnel,ö and a ösimulationö class for individuals new to interacting with individuals who are Deaf, DeafBlind or hard of hearing called öImmersion into the World of Hearing Loss.ö

By attending one or more of the training seminars, you will glean valuable information that you can apply to your work or personal lives. Review the 2012-2013 training flyer and register for one or more of these exciting classes on their website:

[http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/disabilities/documents/pub/dhs16\\_171052.pdf](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/disabilities/documents/pub/dhs16_171052.pdf)

email to: [dhhs.metro@state.mn.us](mailto:dhhs.metro@state.mn.us), voice phone at 651/431-5940, TTY at 1-888-206-6513

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Metro, 85 East 7th Place, Suite 105, St. Paul

Mailing address: 444 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul, MN 55155-3814

A class is offered each month from September, 2012 through June, 2013. Here are the first three.

» **Thursday, September 13 - Community Advisory Meeting: 9:30 AM - Noon**

**A public meeting for people interested in addressing the needs of individuals who are Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing – see page 5 of this newsletter**

» **Tuesday, October 16 – 9am – noon: Deaf Culture:** Learn more about the vibrant Deaf Community – its history, values, norms, traditions and the impact of deafness in everyday life. Helpful communication tips, factsheets and current community resources will be shared during this training. Panel members who are deaf will join a *portion* of this training to talk about their personal experiences as a deaf person and to answer questions from participants.

**1 – 4 pm: The Impact of Hearing Loss** If you know someone who is hard of hearing or late deafened, this workshop will provide a keen awareness of what it is like to live with an acquired hearing loss. Partake in a simulated hearing loss and speechreading exercises and learn successful communication strategies.

» **Thursday, November 8 – 9am – noon: Mental Health Needs of People Who are Late Deafened**

**1 – 4 pm: Working with Persons with Combined Hearing and Vision Loss**

**You do need to register. Accommodations must be requested at least two weeks in advance. Assistive listening devices are always available.**

Provide the following information when registering: Name, Employer and Job Title (if for work), E-mail address, Name of Training, Phone Number, Date and Time of the Training

*E-mail: [dhhs.metro@state.mn.us](mailto:dhhs.metro@state.mn.us)*

*Phone: 651/431-5940 (Voice or use your preferred relay provider)*



## Community Advisory Meeting

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS), Metro and the Commission of Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing Minnesotans (MCDHH) invite you to attend their joint Community Advisory Meeting on Thursday, September 13 from 9:30 - Noon. Times change, the needs and interests of consumers change, so they want to hear from you! They would be most grateful if you attend this meeting to discuss and help to identify the following:

1. **Emerging needs** of individuals who are deaf, DeafBlind and hard of hearing
2. **Critical information** that individuals who are deaf, DeafBlind and hard of hearing may be missing out on and for which they may benefit from training.

**MCDHH:** Help guide their work as they begin their 5-year strategic planning process.

As a way to thank you for your involvement, pizza will be served at the close of the meeting. **RSVP PREFERRED:** [dhhs.metro@state.mn.us](mailto:dhhs.metro@state.mn.us) or call 651/431-5940 (voice or use your preferred relay service)

### Walking with the Lions

By Monique Hammond



On June 9, 2012, the Lions Multiple District 5M Hearing Foundation held its ðD-Feet Hearing Lossö fundraiser at the University of Minnesota Arboretum, a truly serene and peaceful venue. The event drew a large, upbeat crowd of individuals and families eager to walk with the Lions in order to help those with hearing loss. The weather could not have been better, and Foundation Chair Marlene Martinek proved to be an expert emcee.

Marlene was our April HLAA TC speaker when she gave us a lot of practical information on the activities and programs of the Lions Hearing Foundation. At that time, HLAA TC Treasurer and ðsuper-Lionö Bob Knoll presented Marlene with a \$2000 check – money raised from selling Merrileeøs, his late wifeøs hearing aids.

During the D-Feet event, Bob was rightfully honored for the largest, single private donation to the Lions Foundation, which was a proud moment for the other HLAA TC attendees: Candace Meinders, Steve Bittner, Ross and Monique Hammond. Although Ross and Monique had planned on doing some serious miles, Marlene set Monique up with a table so that she could sell some of her books, the proceeds of which were also donated to the Lions Foundation.

Ultimately, the hungry and tired walkers were treated to a yummy hot-dog lunch, which marked the end of a most successful and rewarding day.



## Cochlear Implant Group Picnic

Sunday, September 16, 2012, 11 . 3:00 pm  
Brookview Park in Golden Valley. This is an opportunity to talk with many people of all ages who have a cochlear implant. Various brands, bilateral implants . kids, teens, and adults . meet them all! The Lions provide hamburgers and hot dogs. Bring a dish to share. Paper supplies, coffee, and water are furnished.

## Next Cochlear Implant Support Group Meeting

Sunday, October 21, 1:30 ó 4:00, Timbers of Apple Valley, 14018 Pennock Ave., Apple Valley

## September 15 Meeting:

Howard Malone of Costco will speak on hearing loss and hearing aids at the September 15 meeting. He'll talk about causes of hearing loss, protecting yourself from hearing loss, degrees and types of hearing loss; hearing aid styles, hearing aid care, life style adaptations, getting the most from your hearing aids; Q and A session.

# YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!!!!!

**September 29 is the Walk4Hearing at Lake Calhoun. If you are able to walk, please join a team, create your own, or walk solo. If you are unable to walk, you can still help. Volunteers are needed for other jobs! See page 10 for walk information.**

## *A Message from your President*

Hello everyone! I hope that your summer went well and you are all ready and refreshed to start again with our monthly HLAA meetings.

Your board of directors met on August 31, for a supper and planning meeting to set up speakers and discuss the Walk4Hearing, as well as some long-range planning.

There are needs for staffing at Lake Calhoun, on September 29th, the morning of the Walk4Hearing. I hope that you have been getting sponsors, forming your team, or contributing however else you can, to make this years' Walk even better than 2011. Thank you to everyone who has, is, and will help in any way to this great cause.

Our first meeting will be on September 15th at Courage Center, same location, and will begin at 9:30, with coffee preceding the meeting. We try our best to wrap up at noon.

Your board is working on some speakers and special events that we hope will make your attendance worthwhile. Every single person is important to our group, and this year we will be combining our thoughts and strategy to focus on growth of our chapter. Your ideas are always welcome.

As in the past CART will be provided at each meeting.

If you have any questions, or comments regarding HLAA-TC, I do sincerely invite you to contact me, either at a meeting or my email address: swanjudi@yahoo.com

Thank you for your past participation, I look forward to seeing you at the Walk4Hearing and at the first meeting. Happy Fall!

## Judi Anne Swan-President



## School's Open!

*Vicki Martin*

The moment a child is born, he begins listening to the world around him. He doesn't wait around for kindergarten to start his education. And it's a good thing he doesn't, because his main source of information is not a teacher loading his brain with facts. No, according to a nationally syndicated Parade magazine article (July 29, 2012) ninety percent of a young child's knowledge is attributable to hearing background conversation.

Ninety percent! If that is true, it is easier to understand why more than a third of children with even slight hearing loss will fail at least one grade. If even a slight hearing loss can cause such a significant failure, consider the struggle for those with mild, moderate, or worse hearing impairments.

We have seen in our own family a child's general knowledge advance 4 1/2 grade levels in less than six months, after receiving hearing aids. But the problem doesn't end with the acquisition of hearing aids. We all know (though the world does not) that hearing aids do not cure hearing loss. Children and adults with hearing aids may hear much better than they do without them, but they are still hard of hearing. Learning to read is of course a great help, because once you can read, you have a source of information that can reach your brain without going through your ears. Yet most of our common knowledge will always lie outside the realm of caption and text.

I am reminded of the true story of a hard of hearing boy who was annoying his busy mother with complaints of boredom. Trying to come up with a creative project to interest her son, the mom suggested that he paint a picture. Surely, she thought, an artistic pursuit would keep him interested and out of trouble. She was mightily surprised when she checked on him later and found her framed living-room art work covered with brightly smeared finger paints.

The book-knowledge that the verb "paint" means "apply paint to" was well understood, but somehow, the ordinary knowledge that "paint a picture" means "create a new picture using paint" had never reached the child's brain. His mom, bless her heart, perceived that it was all a misunderstanding, and no harm or mischief was intended. He had simply never heard "paint" used in that idiomatic way.

Yes, hearing background conversation is important. Dr. Mark Ross touched on this in his portion of the 1977 book Our Forgotten Children: "Hard of hearing children often learn, or are taught, a single meaning for a word—because a great deal of normal conversation is made up of idiomatic or metaphoric expressions, slang and colloquialisms, these children are often linguistic strangers in their own homes. Often, they just don't get it" (p. 25).

Lack of common knowledge often means lack of opportunity, progress, and success. The appalling failure rate of hard of hearing children that was noted, perhaps for the first time in Our Forgotten Children, was brought to light in 1977 to the professional audiology community in the University context. Now, in 2012, it is finally acknowledged in a national publication (albeit in a tiny sidebar).

We hope that the enormity of this problem will itself become "common knowledge," and spur us to greater diligence in accommodating hearing loss, not only for children, but for all of our citizens.



## **September/October Performances and Arts Events presented with Captioning Services**

FACEBOOK: Sign up to connect with ASL Interpreted and Captioned Performances Across Minnesota on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/ASL-Interpreted-and-Captioned-Performances-Across-Minnesota/257263087700814>)

**\*\*\* Tales from Hollywood Performed by** Guthrie Theater. **Captioning:** Wednesday, Oct. 3, 1:00 PM; Friday, Oct. 19, 7:30 PM. **Tix:** Reduced to \$25.

**Description:** Lights! Camera! Aktion! Where did German writers and other artists go when they escaped the rise of the Third Reich? To Hollywood, of course.

**\*\*\* RED Performed by:** Park Square Theatre, 20 W. 7th Place, Saint Paul. **Captioning:** Saturday, Oct. 6, 7:30 PM; Sunday, Oct. 7, 2:00 PM. **Tix:**  $\frac{1}{2}$  price tickets for OC (regular \$25-58, \$38 ASL area); phone: 651-291-7005. **Website:** <http://www.parksquaretheatre.org>

**\*\*\* Billy Elliot - Performed by:** Touring Company. **Location:** Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, Main Hall, 345 Washington, St. Paul. **Captioning:** Thursday, Oct. 11, 7:30 PM **Tix:** \$TBD; if using Captioning, request seating in that area; phone: 651-224-4222, TTY 651-282-3100

**\*\*\* Disney's Beauty and the Beast** Historic Orpheum Theatre, 910 Hennepin Ave. S., Minneapolis **Captioning:** Thursday, October 18, 7:30 PM. **Tix:** \$44-99. Limited seats are available at the lowest price level to patrons using Captioning services on a first-come, first-served basis. To order, email [accessible@broadwayacrossamerica.com](mailto:accessible@broadwayacrossamerica.com); phone: 612-339-7007; hotline 612-373-5650.

**\*\*\* Appomattox** Guthrie Theater, **Captioning:** Friday, Nov. 2, 7:30 PM; Wednesday, Nov. 7, 7:30 PM. **Tix:** Reduced to \$25 for Captioning (regular \$24-62); phone: 612-377-2224, TTY 612-377-6626.

**Science Museum of Minnesota Omnitheater** ó The high seas adventure óUnder the Seaó is showing through September 27 with Closed Rear View **Captioning** (CC) **Tornado Alley** opens September 28, 2012. Tickets are \$8 adults, \$7 senior/child, additional cost to tour museum and the current óThe Real Piratesó exhibition **Phone:** 651-221-9444 or 651-221-9411, option 2 for film times, reservations or questions; TTY 651-221-4585; **E-mail:** [info@smm.org](mailto:info@smm.org); **Web:** Accessibility: [www.smm.org/accessibility](http://www.smm.org/accessibility); Hours & Showtimes: [www.smm.org/hours](http://www.smm.org/hours); **Tickets:** <https://www.smm.org/tickets>.

## Pictures from the Walk4Hearing Kick-off



The Martins



Hostess Carole ☺



Rebecca with details





Plan now to participate in the 2012 Walk 4 Hearing. The Minneapolis Walk will be held on September 29, 2012 at Lake Calhoun. The national 2012 fundraising goal is \$1.3 million. The Minneapolis W4H goal is \$40,000. Funds raised are shared between national and local HLAA.

## There are many ways to be involved in HLAA's Walk4Hearing.

The Hearing Loss Association of America's (HLAA) Walk4Hearing is the largest walk of its kind in the country that raises awareness and helps to eradicate the stigma associated with hearing loss. HLAA's Walk4Hearing is held in multiple cities across the country. Since 2006, over 26,000 walkers have stepped up and helped raise money for programs and services for people with hearing loss and their families. Money raised is shared between the national organization and local Walk sites. Examples of how funds are used include:

### National Programs and Services

- Provides timely and reliable information about hearing loss through its website, *Hearing Loss Magazine*, the online e-News, the Hearing Loss Support Specialists Training, message boards/chat forums, monthly webinars and holds annual conventions
- Works at the national level to affect legislation that impacts people with hearing loss, whether it's funding for hearing aids and cochlear implants, communication access in public places, or other important issues
- A nationwide network of 200 chapters providing personal support and 14 state organizations advocating for expanded state services
- Support for parents of children with hearing loss at [www.kidsandhearingloss.org](http://www.kidsandhearingloss.org)
- Outreach to veterans returning with hearing loss
- Social networking site for young adults with hearing loss at [www.hearinglossnation.org](http://www.hearinglossnation.org)

### Local Programs and Services

- Captioning and hearing assistive technology at HLAA chapter meetings to make them accessible
- Scholarships toward college tuition for students with hearing loss
- Funding for hearing aids and devices for people who cannot afford them
- Installation of hearing assistive technology in public places, such as community rooms and public libraries
- Captioning of live theater productions
- Seminars on coping with hearing loss for families

You may start your own team, or join with another team that is already formed, or walk as an individual. It is not mandatory that every walker on a team raise money for the Walk, but it is hoped that they will if they can. You may get support for the walk from your family, friends, neighbors, and/or coworkers.

For complete information on the Walk, go to

[http://hlaa.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=walk\\_home\\_page](http://hlaa.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=walk_home_page)

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**Our next meeting is September 15, 2012**

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This month's editor is Linda McIntire

**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)**