

# HLAA TC

## October 2014



Twin Cities Chapter

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

### October 18, 2014

HLAA TC meeting: Vicki Martin, HLAA-TC member, "Cochlear Implant Year One – Predictably Unpredictable!"

### November 15, 2014

HLAA TC meeting: Wendy DeVore, Career Ventures exec  
Former MPLS Police Officer,  
Founder of DeafSafe program,  
"Hearing Loss and Law Enforcement"

### December 20, 2014

HLAA TC meeting: Rhoda Nelson, Deafblind consultant, "Boomerang Joy"

### December 20, 2014

Christmas party and pot luck lunch

### January 17, 2015

HLAA TC meeting: Mary Hartnett, executive director, MCDHH, "Legislative Update and Overview"



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### Officers' emails

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[www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)

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

# President's Message

October 2014



*Christine Morgan*

## ***Fall has arrived in all its glory!***

We started our 2014-2015 season with a great turnout. Dr. Jason Galster from Starkey Hearing Technology was our first speaker of the season. Dr. Galster provided us with an interesting and informative presentation on wireless technology (both current and future).

We also are happy to announce that we have a new Secretary, Lisa Richardson from Paradigm Reporting and Captioning (CART). Members also voted in favor of a dues increase from \$10 to \$15 for individual memberships (the same for newsletter only). Increasing expenses necessitated the dues increase. Providing your e-mail address would help us keep our mailing costs down. Dues are due in September each year and can be sent to our post office box or brought to the meetings.

Those of us with telecoils benefit immensely from our permanent loop. Past President Monique Hammond talked about the new non-profit *Loop Minnesota*. See more information in this newsletter

regarding meetings if you would like to become involved.

This month, our own member and newsletter editor, Vicki Martin will be speaking on the “CI (cochlear implant) Experience”. You won’t want to miss this one! We have a terrific array of speakers and topics for the entire 2014-2015 season. Be sure to bring your family, friends and acquaintances.

We look forward to seeing you. And please feel free to bring any suggestions, comments or feedback to me or any of our Board members. This is your organization! We want to hear from you.

*Christine*



## HLAA TC September Meeting Synopsis



by *Lionel Locke, HLAA-TC VicePresident*

The meeting was called to order by President Christine Morgan, who thanked all those in attendance. Christine presented an inspirational message outlining the life of Marlee Matlin, Emmy award winner who has opened the eyes of all hearing people by explaining and showing through her personal life that “deaf people can do anything but hear”.

Monique Hammond, past president introduced the guest speaker, Doctor Jason Galster from Starkey Hearing Technology, identifying the topic of wireless technology and how it relates to audiology. Doctor Galster began his presentation outlining his experience: researching hearing aids for 15 years, clinical experience in pediatric audiology and recent research with hearing aid technology for adults. Doctor Galster then explained to the group the engineering behind telecoils, the science of wireless signals including antenna and radio and what is found inside hearing aids and cochlear implants. The importance of standardized wireless technology along with sending either audio or data signals is the challenge for future development.

The next portion of the presentation involved the future of technology including updating the current Bluetooth standard and how far in the future we would see these changes unfold for our use. Doctor Galster explained about the current looping systems we use and the challenges of magnet coils and the differences between near wireless and far wireless.

In closing, Doctor Galster shared with us a glimpse of the next 6-8 years in the wireless field, independent standards allowing new versions of technology that everyone can use with the end result of universal access to audio.

After 15 minutes of questions from the audience for Doctor Galster, President Christine Morgan announced the morning break. Returning to the meeting President Christine thanked Jayne from Paradigm CART services for providing captioning and then introduced Vice-President Lionel Locke who handled the nomination process for our new Secretary Lisa Richardson. It was moved, seconded and passed that a unanimous ballot be cast for Lisa Richardson. The second business item was the proposed dues increase from \$10.00 to \$15.00 annual dues. After discussion it was moved, seconded that the annual dues for individual membership be raised to \$15.00. Motion carried.

The door prize winners were Colleen Johnson and Marie Saliterman. Marie was next on the agenda as the new treasurer and briefly spoke about the HLAA donation to the Courage Center in memory of Chip Evans and to Loop Minnesota.

President Christine then reintroduced past President Monique Hammond who explained the purpose of the new Non Profit LOOP Minnesota. Monique urged all of us to help identify public places that would benefit from looping technology.

The meeting ended with an open forum of questions and concerns from the membership. The meeting adjourned promptly at Noon.

## Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

Simply turning on the television lately brings an onslaught of political ads, almost to the point of making other advertising obscure. It gets old, but that's how it is during campaign season.

Recently, coming home, I found a political flyer and a post-it note on my door. The flyer was very pretty, promising of many things, and past achievements. The note was handwritten and invited me to call this lady who was "so sorry she missed me."

I took it inside and later thought of it, and read through it, and her note. Promises and attributes leapt from the page, trying to show me she would be a better candidate for my vote than anyone else. Thinking about it, and not believing I would get a response, I decided to call her telephone number and see what would happen.

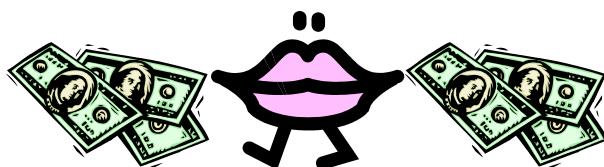
I got an answering service as expected and left a message for her to contact me. Two days later, I heard from her secretary and was asked for my mailing address so I gave it. I also gave my reason for calling was to seek representation for the deaf and hard of hearing in the House.

Following that, I got a letter which I copy, in part:

"Thank you for your recent email. I am so glad to learn about the advocacy work you have done and are continuing to do, on behalf of the deaf and hard-of-hearing population in Minnesota. Of particular interest to you may be the fact that, in 2014, the Legislature enacted a proposal to establish a statewide grant program to provide supported employment services for people who are deaf, deaf blind, and hard-of-hearing. The 2014 Legislative Session adjourned in May and we are scheduled to convene on January 6, 2015. If there are particular proposals that you are interested in, I would invite you to contact me with additional information. It is likely that my work on the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee will mean that I have the opportunity to directly participate in the debate on matters of interest to the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. Thanks again for your mail."

I must say that I was surprised to get such prompt response, and I intend to follow-up on this and "keep on her trail." Her name is JoAnn Ward and she is a State Representative serving my area. If you have any issues you would like me to bring before her, please do let me know.

*By Judi Swan*



## Hear we go again

By Sue Brabeck

Congratulate me, I'm a Grandma! A deliriously happy Grandma, one that is disgustingly full of kisses for my new grandson.

He flew through his newborn screening tests like a champ. The hospital's pediatrician said that he had a hearing loss in his right ear, but he scoffed it off, saying those results happen "all the time", not to worry. He said the newborn hearing test is flawed, that those results mean nothing. Okayyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyy, whew.

At the little one's 2-week checkup, a different pediatrician said that all is fine, no hearing loss. He also confirmed that the newborn screening test results often result in false-negatives. No worries. YAYYYYYY!

At 6 weeks, another checkup. Mainly to find out if the little guy has the metabolic disease that I have, that both of my daughters have, the one that makes us short. This disease has a lot of nasty 'side-dishes' that cause significant collateral damage, one of which is Meniere's Disease. I have Meniere's Disease and it has cost me nearly all of my hearing. So my prayers went out at this latest checkup, hoping that his blood test showed that he doesn't have the metabolic disease. As of this checkup his bloodwork shows no signs of it. Another YAYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYY!

But, on another note now it's confirmed – he DOES have a partial hearing loss in his right ear, the low tones. They guess it's a result of some of the trauma during the birthing process, which was difficult and resulted in some emergency measures. We'll never know for sure about the 'why'. He'll have to be fitted with a HA, in order to ensure that his speech develops normally.

My daughter and her husband are heartbroken right now. It doesn't help at all to remind them of how bad his birth COULD have been, or how bad his hearing loss COULD be. Doing that kind of hypothetical comparison is not necessary. I'm not going to even go there.

The good news is that dealing with hearing loss is very familiar territory for my daughter as she watched me go through years and years of progressive deafness. Her father also has a hearing loss, but not due to Meniere's. She knows the lingo of the hearing loss world. She's watched me reach out for help, she's watched me teach others how to speak to me (and what NOT to do as well!), she's watched me join HLAA and saw all the benefits of the support we give each other.

This will be difficult for all of us, but we know how to give the little man the support he'll need, how we can help him. We're really so far ahead already as a family, due to our extensive experience in this area. But he's still my beautiful grandson, absolutely gorgeous and gives all of us so much joy. To steal a line from Mary Poppins, he's Practically Perfect In Every Way.



## Walk4Hearing Kickoff

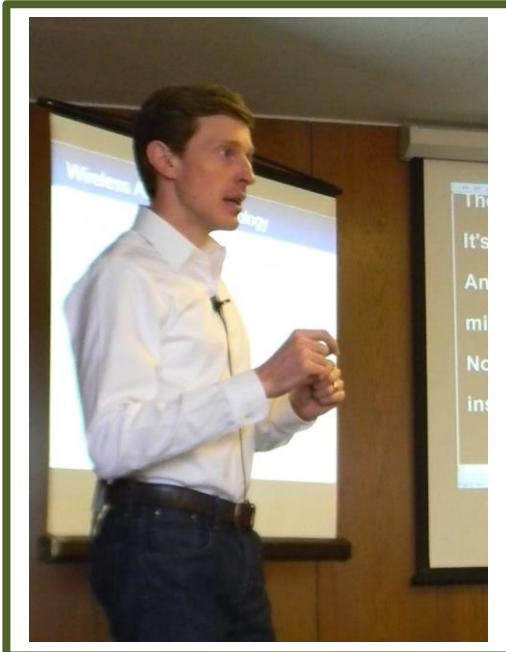


Captioned, of course!



Pep talk

## September Meeting



Dr. Jason Galster,  
Starkey Hearing



Meeting up with old friends

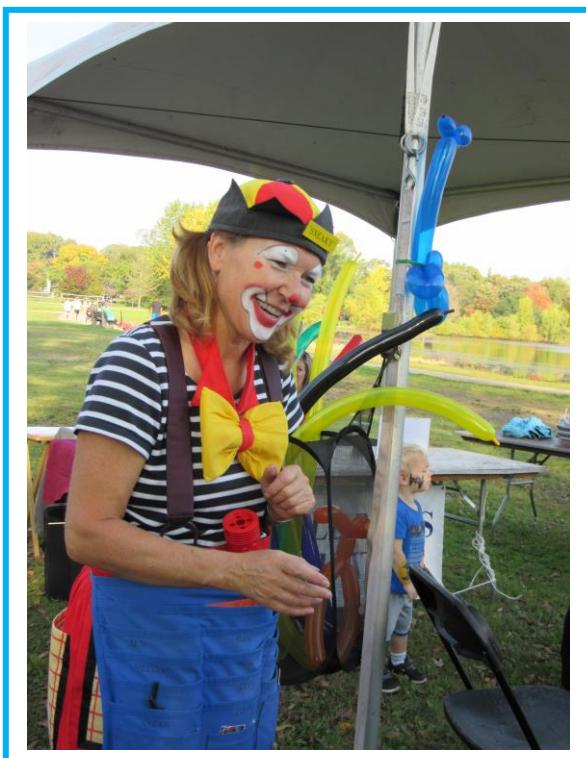
## Walk 4 Hearing 2014



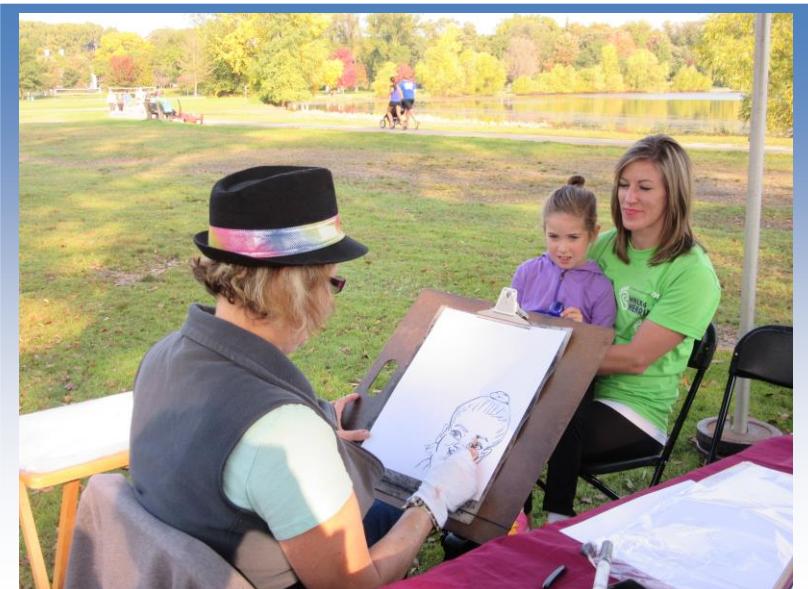
Minneapolis walk site



Starting point



Clowns abound – with balloons!

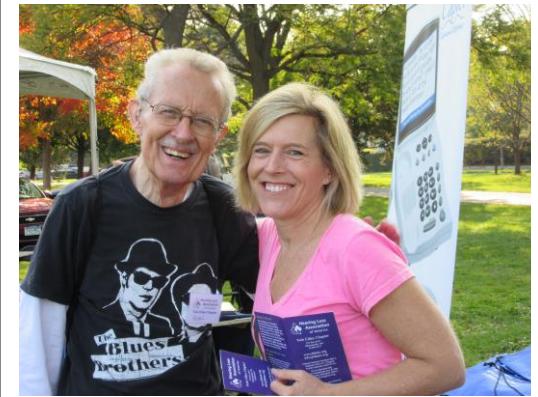


Caricature artist

## Walk 4 Hearing 2014



Kristin and Christine



Marie and friend



Shirts for walkers!



## Walk 4 Hearing 2014



Exhibitors



Happy walkers



Walkers stock up



Sendoff speech



Here they come!



Stop for Hearing?

## LOOPING NOTICE from Monique:

As we discussed during our September meeting, the installation of hearing loops throughout our communities will be a priority this year for HLAA TC. The St. Louis Park City Council Chambers have been looped and this has been a great success.

Making the local political process accessible to people with hearing loss is a logical place to start. Contacting our city council members is a first step to get the ball rolling. However, any other places where you feel that a loop would be beneficial also count: places of worship, museums etc.



Monique Hammond

If you have any contacts or have made contacts, HLAA TC and Loop Minnesota can help by providing information to those who are involved in the decision-making. Forward the contact information either directly to the HLAA TC officers at our meetings or email to [info@hlaatc.org](mailto:info@hlaatc.org). Vicki Martin who checks that address will forward the information to me.

As the push is on to Loop Minnesota this is our opportunity to make a difference.

Thank you for helping us make this year a successful one on behalf of people with hearing loss.

Mark the Calender!

**Loop Minnesota** meets on the *second Friday of the month* in the St. Louis Park City Hall Council Chambers located at 5005 Minnetonka Blvd. St. Louis Park. The meetings run from 11:30am to 1:00pm. The Chambers are "looped."

Everybody is invited to join our group and discussions as we set out to Loop Minnesota. First-time guests are treated to pizza. Your ideas and input are both needed and welcome. Visit us at [loopminnesota.org](http://loopminnesota.org) and let us know if you plan to attend.

## Dues are Due!

Please pay Marie at your earliest convenience! ======>



**Annual dues are now \$15.00 for individual membership.** This is an increase of \$5.00 from previous years. Professional or supporting memberships remain unchanged. The newsletter-only fee is now \$15 annually. Your membership fee covers the newsletter, but we ask that you consider taking the e-version if that meets your needs. This will help us keep costs down.

**Note that the e-version of the newsletter is FREE to anyone**, member or not. Just send your request to [info@hlaatc.org](mailto:info@hlaatc.org), and we will add you to the list.

Likewise, **everyone is welcome at our meetings**. You do not need to be a member to attend.

You might not be able to do everything at once, you can however do it all in one place.



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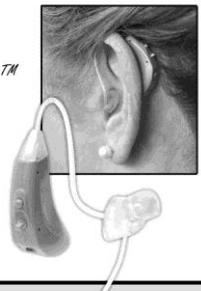
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**Our next meeting is October 18, 2014**

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**Photos - Ross Hammond**

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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) or visit us on Facebook: groups/HLAA-TC.