

# HLAA TC

## December 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.

#### December 20, 2014

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

#### **Don't miss it!**

Christmas party and pot luck lunch!  
(highlights and details on page 5 )

#### January 17, 2015

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

#### February 21, 2015

Barbara Friedman, "Making the Most of  
Your Hearing Aids, Implants and  
accessories"

#### March 21, 2015

Tanya Gahler, "Hear the Possibilities"



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HLAA National - Maryland

[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 (September thru May). We gather at 9:30 to socialize, and begin our meeting at 10 AM at The Courage Center, 3915 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55442. The meeting adjourns at noon.

# President's Message

November 2014



*Christine Morgan*

## President's Message

We are right in the midst of the crazy, exciting rush of the holidays. Thanksgiving is behind us and we are anticipating the holiday season and the start of a new year! Those of us with hearing loss know how difficult, challenging and exhausting the holidays can be when it comes to communicating with our family and friends. We love being with them but unless they understand how to communicate with us, it can be very stressful. It is easier said than done, but we need to teach them what we need.

Last month, we celebrated the 35th anniversary of HLAA (formerly known as SHHH) Rocky Stone was a young 19 year old soldier who sustained a bilateral hearing loss due to an explosion in World War II. But Rocky, a brilliant, determined man, did not let that slow him down. He was recruited by the CIA and spent 25 years in federal service. He retired with their highest award: The Distinguished Intelligence Medal.

Rocky founded SHHH in November 1979 and served as its volunteer executive director until 1993. After retiring, macular degeneration

greatly impaired his sight. Rocky had a cochlear implant in 1994 because he could no longer speechread. The implant much improved his hearing. He liked to say "I have only lost my sight, not my vision".

The mission of SHHH, and now HLAA is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss through education, advocacy and support. We, the members and the Chapters throughout the world are carrying out that mission today.

Sadly, many people in our own country and our own communities in Minnesota don't know we exist. The officers and members of HLAA-TC and the other chapters struggle with this problem. How do we get the word out? How do we let people with hearing loss know that we exist and are there to help them? How do we develop togetherness within the diversity of hearing loss?

Our funds are limited. We have a small membership. We are a volunteer organization. The officers of HLAA-TC are committed to getting the word out. However, we need your help. We need every member to talk to others with hearing loss, their organizations, their health care providers, etc. We NEED more members. A larger membership will enable us to continue to provide excellent speakers and presentations.

This is your organization and we need your help!

I thank you for your support and want to wish you peace and love during this special time of year.

Christine





## HLAA TC November Meeting Synopsis

*by Lionel Locke, HLAA-TC VicePresident*

President Christine Morgan called the meeting to order promptly at 10 AM. After a brief welcome statement, Christine informed the group that November of 2014 is the 35th anniversary of the Hearing Loss Association with special thanks to the founder Mr. Rocky Stone. Anniversary cake was available throughout the meeting time for members and guests.

Special mention was made of one of our local HLAA members Candace Meinders who was interviewed in the November-December HLAA National magazine.

Past President Monique Hammond then introduced the speaker Ms. Wendy Devore who delivered a presentation entitled "Hearing Loss and Law Enforcement." Wendy, a former law enforcement professional founded a group called Career Ventures which supports people with vision and hearing loss. She is also the founder of a program called DEAF SAFE targeted toward people with hearing loss and crime prevention. Topics covered during the presentation included

- 1) Contact with a police officer and handling that interaction;
- 2) Handling the resulting stress of that interaction;
- 3) Officer safety issues (what is on the officers mind during that contact) and
- 4) Crime investigation situations.

Ms. Devore stressed in her talk that police officers are responding to crime rather than prevention. The biggest crime fighters are us, the public. Police presence may deter crime but more important is the trust level between the police and the public.

The second major issue is officer safety. The officers want to go home at the end of their shift. They want to be alive and go home to their loved ones.

Another major point is that police need to take control of situations. They secure the site, make sure everyone is safe, and then determine if a crime has been committed. The officers may detain, but not arrest -- a major difference.

Finally, Wendy talked about cooperation from the public rather than confrontation. Remain calm (if you can), have identification ready, keep your hands in plain sight and ask for permission to move them. People who have a hearing loss face a unique situation, in that instructions from officers are not always understood. Therefore it is extremely important to proactively communicate that we have hearing loss, so

that the officer understands that their instruction was not understood. Your calm demeanor and behavior will go a long way to defusing most situations.

After many questions from the audience, Wendy concluded her presentation regarding note writing as another form of communication for persons with hearing loss. Be sure to ask permission rather than simply reach for your pen, because an officer may construe the writing instrument as a weapon. Be calm and careful when interacting with law enforcement.

After the break, President Christine delivered her message about the HLAA founder Rocky Stone. More on that message can be found in this newsletter's President Message. Christine announced the cookie sale, gift exchange, and potluck as part of the December meeting and then introduced Vicki Martin who presented Thanksgiving greetings using ASL. Vice President Lionel asked the membership to bring chapter concerns to the Board meeting scheduled after the general membership meeting. Treasurer Marie thanked all the members for prompt payment of dues.

Past President Monique then presented the membership with an update on Loop Minnesota, the non-profit organization responsible for promoting T-coil loops in public meeting locations. Please review their brochure for further information. Monique's second topic was age-related hearing loss and how it relates to the HLAA mission. Monique has been appointed to a task force on this subject and we will receive further details from this group.

President Morgan then opened the meeting to questions and comments from the membership. Topics covered included looped room signage, how to set up looped rooms, who would benefit from looped rooms, upcoming Loop Minnesota meeting dates, and details on the next meeting set for December 20, 2014.

There being no further business, President Morgan declared the meeting adjourned at noon.



## ***Got your November/December issue of Hearing Loss Magazine?***

Turn to page 31 for the Seen and Heard feature. HLAA-TC member **Candi Meinders** is spotlighted in this issue.

Candi had her photograph taken by the magazine's staff while at the 2014 HLAA National Convention in Austin Texas. She later answered questions online, and the rest is...well, you'll just have to read it yourself.

**Way to go, Candi!**

*HLAA December Meeting  
December 20, 2014*



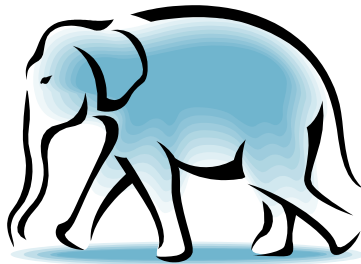
Featured speaker: Rhoda Nelson

**“Boomerang Joy!”**

Yes, boomerang (not Frisbee!) joy – because this will come back to you

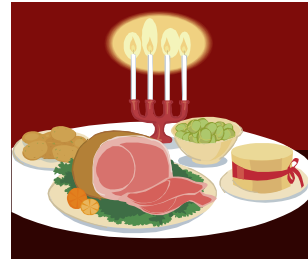
Rhoda, currently recovering from knee surgery, shares some humorous sketches on dealing with loss or pain

**Sure to bring a laugh, grin – or maybe a groan!**



White Elephant gift exchange  
(optional – but lots of fun!)

Bring a wrapped “white elephant” or gift under \$5, and receive something equally bizarre to take home with you!



**POT LUCK!**

*Bring a dish to share, and enjoy a special holiday lunch with your HLAA friends.*



**Cookie Sale!**

Our annual cookie sale helps fund our coffee and treats throughout the year.

Bring a batch of your favorites, and watch our cookie elves (Shannon and Tiffany) put together some boxes you can't resist!



## HLAA Signs Historic Agreement on Movie Captioning

*In an historic first, Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) along with the National Association of the Deaf (NAD), the Association of Late Deafened Adults (ALDA), the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (AG Bell) sat down with representatives from the National Association of Theater Owners (NATO) to hammer out an agreement on movie captioning.... After several weeks of discussions, the five organizations agreed on a set of recommendations to the Department Of Justice to improve access to movies for deaf and hard of hearing patrons.*

- *Closed captioning (CC) and audio description (AD) technologies are to be installed in all digital movie theater auditoriums nationwide.*
- *The joint plan establishes certain minimum closed captioning device requirements with a monitoring requirement. This flexible, market-responsive device scoping method will ensure access for all deaf and hard of hearing patrons and respond to actual consumer demand.*
- *The compliance period has been restructured to reflect reasonable timelines in delivery and installation of CC and AD systems.*

*For more details, see article at this link:*

<http://hearingloss.org/content/hlaa-signs-historic-agreement-movie-captioning-0>

## Listen Up, and Weigh In!

It's always interesting to see what questions people are asking about hearing loss, and how professionals and advice columnists answer them!

A woman wrote in to the "To Your Good Health" column, produced by the medical department of Cornell University for newspaper distribution, with this problem: her husband, a veteran, had been fitted with bilateral hearing aids by the VA, and was so frustrated with them, that after two weeks he wanted to put them back in the box and leave them there. The woman, having gone through the hearing aid adjustment period herself (well over a year of twiddles and tweaks) assured him it can take a long time to get used to them.

The doctor (not an audiologist) replying to this inquiry agreed with the woman that it takes patience, but added that many people have written to him saying that, despite many adjustments, they were never able to get satisfactory results. He then says he would love to hear some tips on how to get good results from people who have gone through the process, and from professionals who fit people.

Here's your chance, users and professionals, to share what you know for the benefit of others! Send your tips to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu).



Ye Have Not Because Ye Ask Not!  
*Judi Swan*



Recently I was reading a couple of items in the news and magazines, which discussed the Americans With Disabilities Act. (ADA). This organization was set up by the government to help people with disabilities to get every possible advantage in the workplace.

It brought to mind an incident of this past summer for my husband, Dave. He is a private home care nurse for a man with MD, who cannot speak but can whisper and make sounds. It takes a very trained nurse to decipher his needs.

About a year ago, David joined the ranks of aging seniors who found their hearing ebbing, and was fit with two in-the-ear hearing aids.

After adjusting to them on the job, he realized that he could no longer take the vitals of his patient, mainly the heartbeat with his stethoscope, very easily.

I talked this over with my daughter who is a Human Resources Manager and she encouraged me to start the process to get help for Dave. She and I met over coffee and I asked her to tell me the type of letter she would want to receive in this case to help her employees perform at their optimum, and ensure safety of the patient.

We wrote a letter and edited it a few times, and sent it off to his employer. With that letter we enclosed copied pages from Harris Communications of the unit that he needed. Five days later we got a letter from the employer asking for the name of his audiologist to verify his hearing loss; and a privacy release form. Dave sent that in, and within a month, he was notified that his employer would indeed provide him with the equipment as well as a belt to hold it.

It has made Dave's job so much easier and showed that we need to step out and use the ADA in any situation that is suitable.



## DHHS training sessions -- Free sessions!

From Marie Koehler

DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING SERVICES ~ Metro Office

651-431-5964 (Voice), 651-964-1514 (VP), 888-206-6513 (TTY), 651-431-7587 (FAX), [www.dhhsd.org](http://www.dhhsd.org)

Note the following upcoming sessions coming in 2015:

### **Beginning Sign Language**

**Jan. 15, 9:30-11:30**

**Elmer L. Anderson Building – 540 Cedar, Room 2370 St. St. Paul Room 2370**

Learn basic signs and become familiar with some of the characteristics of American Sign Language. Gain an understanding of the importance of gestures, mimes, and reading facial expressions and body language.

### **Deaf Panel**

**Feb. 19, 9:30-11:30**

### **Statewide Video Conference**

Deaf panelists will share their “life stories” as individuals with a hearing loss, and their personal philosophies on hearing loss related issues. Learn about the difference between “Big D” and “little d” deaf and what it means to be “culturally deaf” vs. “late-deafened”.

To register, call 651-431-5940 (voice or relay), or email [dhhs.metro@state.mn.us](mailto:dhhs.metro@state.mn.us)

Call or email for location of each class.

If you need hearing or other accommodations, request at least 2 weeks before session

Provide your name, phone #, email address, title and date of session, employer and job title

## Loop Minnesota

This is the YEAR of the LOOP!  
Make it happen!

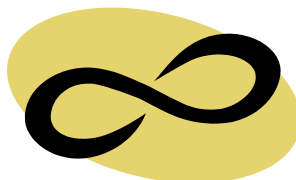
Mark your Calender! **Loop Minnesota** meets on the *second Friday of the month* in the St. Louis Park City Hall Council Chambers located at 5005 Minnetonka Blvd. St. Louis Park. The meetings run from 11:30am to 1:00pm. The Chambers are "looped."

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.

### **Upcoming Meeting Dates for 2015**

Jan 9     2015     - Friday 11:30 am – 1pm

Feb 13    2015     - Friday 11:30 am– 1pm





## November HLAA-TC MEETING



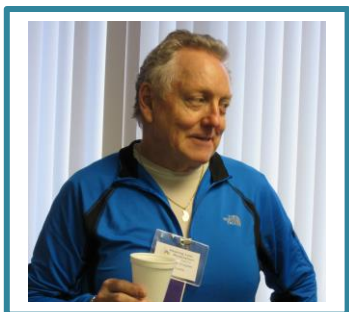
The cake...



The culprits! – (along with the rest of us)



← Cookie elves-to-be  
Shannon and Tiffany



Lionel



Christine and Monique



Speaker Wendy DeVore

## November HLAA-TC MEETING (cont.)



Wendy and Royal Saunders discuss safety



Happy captioner  
Secretary Lisa



Colleen Johnson serves up a smile

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HLAA TC  
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**Our next meeting is December 20, 2014**

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**Hearing Loss  
Association**  
of America

**Twin Cities Chapter Welcomes You!**

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**Vice President – Lionel Locke**  
vicepresident@hlaatc.org

**Secretary – Lisa Richardson**  
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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.**