

HLAA TC April 2016



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.

This month:

April 16, 2016

Cochlear Implant Update Panel:

Christine Pett, Med-El

Jennifer Brown, Cochlear

Julia Biedenstein, Advanced
Bionics

Coming Soon:

May 21, 2016

Krista Neville,
Harris Communications
Assistive Listening Advices



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Officers' emails

- Christine Morgan - president@hlaatc.org
- Lionel Locke – vicepresident@hlaatc.org
- Lisa Richardson - secretary@hlaatc.org
- Marie Saliterman - treasurer@hlaatc.org

HLAA TC Website - Minnesota

www.hlaatc.org

HLAA TC telephone 763-447-9672

Contact Information - Minnesota

info@hlaatc.org

HLAA National - Maryland

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 Kenny Rehabilitation Institute, 3915 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55442. The meeting adjourns at noon.

President's Message



Christine Morgan

April 2016

Wow! Only 2 more months and we will be taking our summer break!

This month, we have a panel of representatives from the 3 cochlear implant companies. The purpose of the panel is not to convince you to have an implant or to get their particular implant. The purpose is to keep you informed. The panel will be given questions ahead of time. At the end of the presentation, you may also ask your own questions. So whether or not you have a CI, it will be a very informative session and hopefully, you will come away with additional information about implants.

The following month, we have a presentation by Harris Communications. If you are not familiar with Harris, they are a company who supplies almost everything you could want (except for hearing aids and implants) to improve your life with hearing loss. They are located right in Eden Prairie.

You can find them on line or by catalogue. I enjoy going to the Eden Prairie store and trying out the different products and devices.

In May, we also have Board elections (see Lionel's article). So if you have any interest in being a Board member or becoming more involved, here's your chance. Just let one of our officers know. We also have our May potluck which is always filled with delicious choices and more food than we could possible consume.

I hope you will join us during our last 2 months before break. And remember, we are always looking for suggestions as to topics and/or speakers for presentations. We'd also love to have your articles for the newsletter. If interested in submitting article, please take a look at the submission guidelines on our website. Last, but not least, any help setting up or tearing down after the meetings is always appreciated.

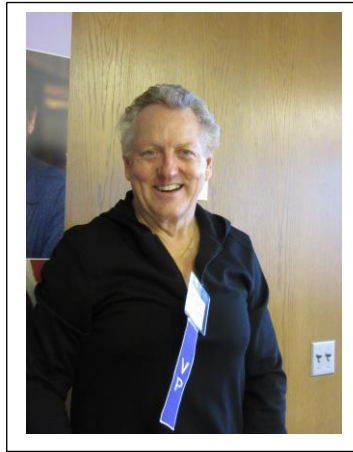
Enjoy the short but wonderful Minnesota Spring!

Christine T. Morgan



HLAA-TC March 19, 2016 Meeting Synopsis

BY LIONEL LOCKE, VICE-PRESIDENT



Lionel Locke

President Christine Morgan called the meeting to order at 10 AM. She welcomed all those in attendance, announced a new drawing for the remaining hearing enhancement training package (LACE) and announced the quote for the day from the Dalai Lama about practicing compassion. Vice President Lionel Locke then introduced our speaker Mr. Brent Lucas, CEO of Envoy Medical. A licensed attorney with a passion for medical devices and the hearing industry, Brent explained Envoy Medical's Esteem hearing implant to our group.

After reviewing hearing loss as a general topic, Mr. Lucas explained that the Esteem implant uses the human ear and the eardrum as the sound pickup for the implant. There is no actual manufactured microphone; the implant leverages the natural ear canal without blockage to serve as the conduit for the sound waves to reach the implant's sensor.

The Esteem implant is designed for moderate to severe sensorineural hearing loss from 40 to 90 decibels; therefore not all people with hearing loss fit the parameters of this medical device. This device is considered a middle ear implant; first created by an audiologist trying to solve the feedback problem of hearing aids. The device is analog rather than digital allowing for a full spectrum of sound with a goal of reducing feedback, whistling and occlusion (defined as sound waves not moving directly but around obstacles).

Brent then delivered a brief history of his company Envoy Medical formally called St. Croix Medical and the difficult route they had taken to earn FDA approval of the Esteem Device, achieving that milestone in 2010. They celebrated 6 years of approval for their device on St. Patrick's Day.

With no external components, the *Esteem* implant sits in the mastoid cavity, has a battery that lasts 5 years on average and then has two sensors, one receiving the vibration of sound waves next to the incus bone and the second sending those signals to the auditory nerve by way of the cochlea.

Brent answered a number of questions from the audience including how to replace the battery, (another outpatient surgery), how the sound quality compares to other implants (more natural according to some) because the sound is coming through the eardrum and the ear canal. This implant is another option for those

people who may not be able to use traditional amplification products even though it is not covered by insurance.

Mr. Lucas ended his presentation by talking about how technology continues to evolve and that his company is looking at rechargeable versions for the battery pack, as well as the learning curve before activation of the device. Cost of the device was one of the last questions asked and answered. Brent concluded his remarks by announcing that 1,000 devices have been implanted and only one clinic in Minnesota does this surgery.

After the break President Christine Morgan asked the membership to complete a survey from the State Telephone Equipment Distribution program asking if the program is meeting current needs and is ready to meet future needs.

Editor Vicki Martin introduced the monthly ASL lesson this one about spring including onward and upward words. The officers delivered their reports followed by open forum time. Discussion centered around television captioning issues, current legislative actions both federal and state wide and the upcoming HLAA convention to be held in Washington DC in June.

President Morgan invited any members to attend the Board of Directors meeting to be held after adjournment. She thanked all those in attendance and the meeting adjourned at Noon.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION NOTICE

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF HEARING LOSS OF ASSOCIATION- TWIN CITIES CHAPTER

Election of officers for two year terms is scheduled for the May 2016 general membership meeting. According to the bylaws, the current Board will announce a slate of nominees that have expressed interest in serving on the Board. That announcement will be published prior to the May membership meeting.

Nominations are also open from the floor during the next two membership meetings. Please note that those dates are April 16th and May 21st, 2016.

If any member is interested in serving on the Board, please contact another member and request that your name be placed in nomination at one of the next two membership meetings.

Questions about the responsibilities of the positions will gladly be answered by the current Board Members. These people are listed below.

PRESIDENT: Christine Morgan

VICE-PRESIDENT: Lionel Locke

SECRETARY: Lisa Richardson

TREASURER: Marie Saliterman

PAST-PRESIDENT: Monique Hammond

Legislative Committee Chairman: Currently Vacant, appointed by the Board

Membership Committee Chairman: Currently Vacant, appointed by the Board

Respectfully submitted,

Lionel Locke, Vice-President

HLAA-TC Panel Speakers for April 16, 2016

"Update Panel on Cochlear Implants"



Julia Biedenstein
Advanced Bionics



Jennifer Brown
Cochlear



Christine Pett
Med-El

Julia Biedenstein, MS, LSLC Cert. AVEd, is a Cochlear Implant Consumer Specialist with Advanced Bionics. Prior to coming to AB, she worked in the field of deaf education for 35 years serving as a classroom teacher and school administrator at Central Institute for the Deaf and the Moog Center for Deaf Education, and as a researcher at Washington University. She has lectured extensively throughout the US and has co-authored 3 widely used curricula for deaf children: *SPICE: Speech Perception Instructional Curriculum and Evaluation*; *TASL: Teacher Assessment of Spoken Language*; and *Teaching Activities for Children Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing*.

Jennifer Brown, MS, JD, joined Cochlear in September 2013, and serves as the Area Manager for the Northern Plains Territory. Jennifer received her BS degree with a double major in Communication Disorders and Political Science from the University of Wisconsin - Madison in 1998, her MS degree in Speech and Hearing Science from Washington University in St. Louis in 2000, and her JD from DePaul University College of Law in 2006. Prior to joining Cochlear, Jennifer was a cochlear implant audiologist in New York City and Chicago, and was a practicing attorney in private practice for seven years.

Christine Pett, M.S. Speech & Hearing, is a certified Deaf Educator who has previously taught listening and spoken language to deaf and hard of hearing children (PreK-12) for twelve years in St. Louis, MO as well as in Phoenix, AZ. Christine became a Consumer Outreach Manager for MED-EL in 2010. She travels extensively throughout the Midwest to support educators, SLP's, educational audiologists, parents of deaf children and adult consumers. Christine educates others on MED-EL's cochlear implant technology and middle ear implant technology as well as MED-EL's many educational and aural rehab support services. She is the mother of a (grown) son who has been wearing a cochlear implant for 14 years.

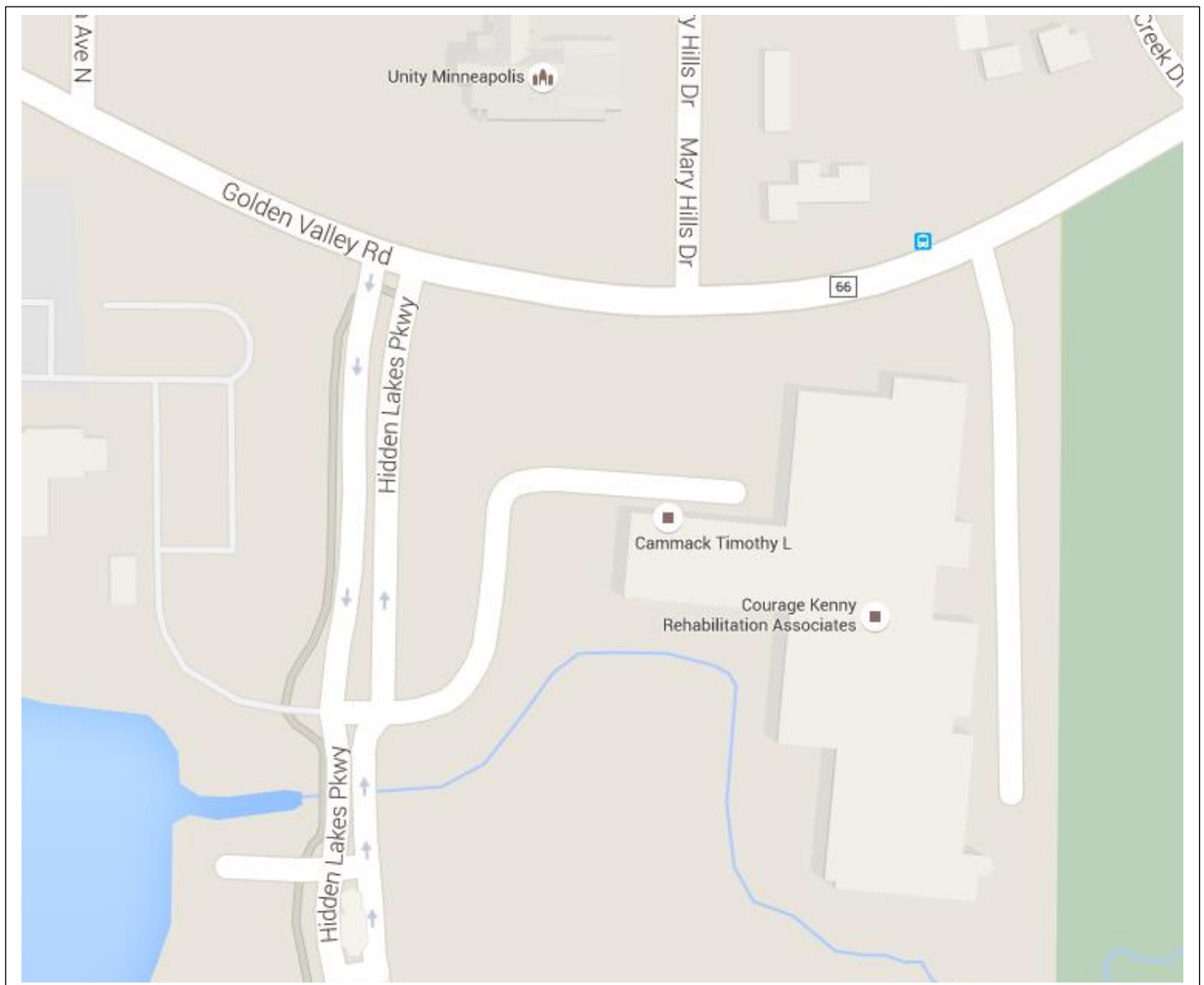
How to find us!

Get out your magnifying glass, and check out these maps, furnished and annotated by Treasurer Marie!

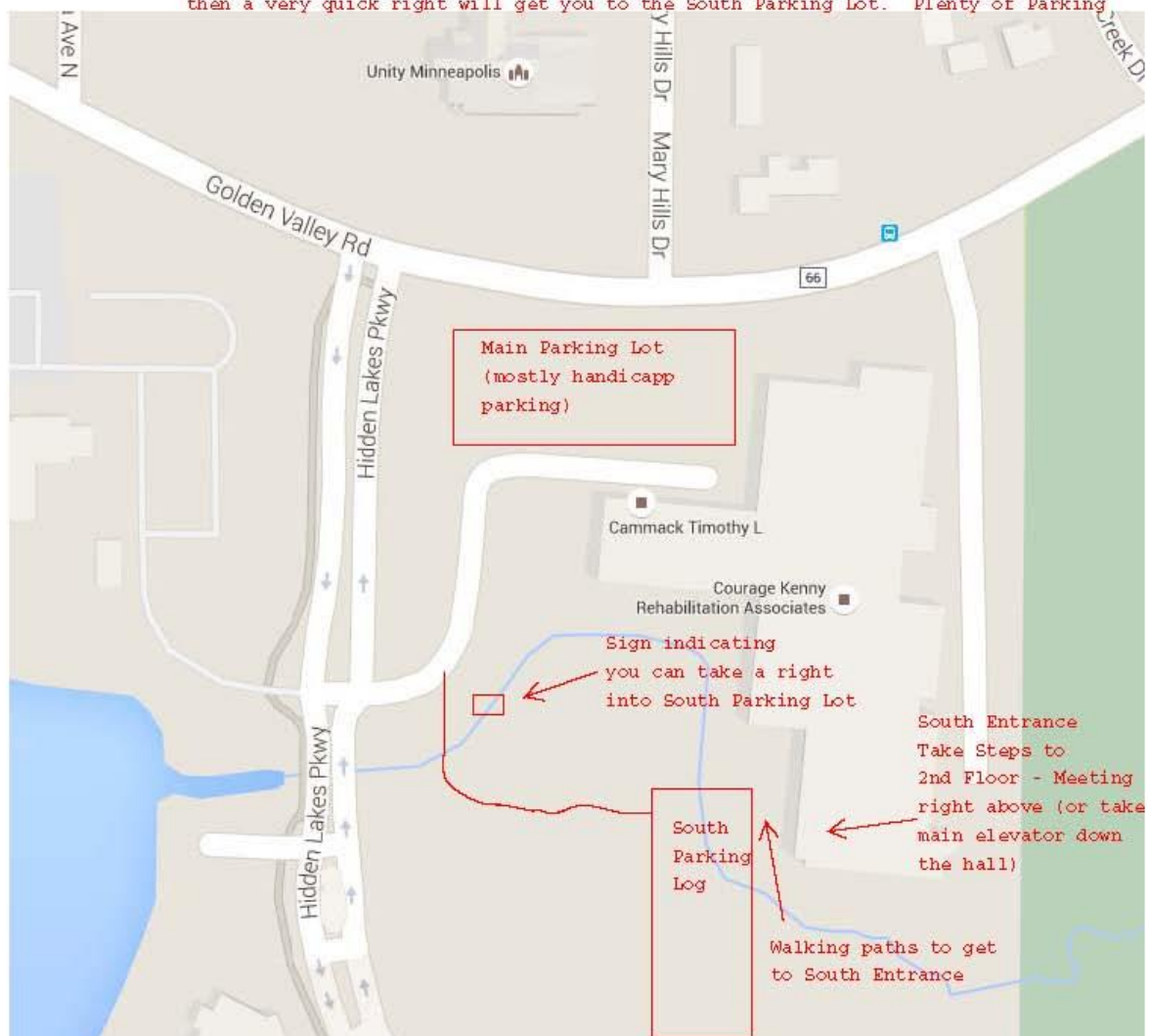
We hope you can find your way to Golden Valley Road (66). Heading east from Highway 100, follow it a mile or two to Hidden Lakes Parkway, as shown on the map.

Now look at the second map, which gives you the parking and entrance detail. Follow the directions, and we'll see you in the second floor conference room.

Feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone who may need to see the maps (or for any other reason).



South Parking Lot - Take a right on Hidden Lakes Parkway, Left into Courage Kenny Rehabilitation, and then a very quick right will get you to the South Parking Lot. Plenty of Parking



TED Survey

If you are deaf, late-deafened, deafblind or hard of hearing, you are strongly encouraged to complete a survey about communication access so that we can gather some good feedback. Hurry! The survey runs through Friday April 1.

You can do this very quickly online at <http://bit.do.TEDstudy>

Cochlear Community Chapter Event - Roseville, MN

Date: Thursday, April 14, 2016

Time: 6:00 PM-8:00 PM Central Time

Location: St. Michael's Lutheran Church

Address: 1660 W. County Road B, Roseville, Minnesota 55113

CART services will be provided

WALK TREASURER

Minneapolis Walk4Hearing

Volunteer Needed!

The Walk has an immediate need for Walk Treasurer to help with Minneapolis Walk4Hearing. This person will deposit the walk donations, post donations to the walk website, and be responsible for walk related expenses.

The Walk funds are totally separate from the HLAA Twin Cities bank account. The Walk Chair is available to provide guidance and help along the way.

To volunteer, or if you have questions about this position, please feel free to contact me at radler@hearingloss.org.

All are invited to join the Minneapolis **Walk4Hearing Kickoff event** on Saturday August 13th at Old Spaghetti Factory! (More details to follow.)

The **Walk is on Saturday September 24th** at Lake Calhoun (near Thomas Beach). We need everyone to join us for that too!

Ronnie Adler
Director of Walk4Hearing
Hearing Loss Association of America



Walk for spaghetti... um, I mean Hearing!

**Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS)
Free DIVERSITY Trainings**

Golden Rule Building, Suite 105, 85 E. 7th Place, St. Paul, MN

Mental Health Services in the Deaf Community

April 13, 9:30-11:30

Learn about unique mental health needs that are often found in the Deaf Community including communication and cultural concerns. Also learn why it's so important to work with a specialized mental health interpreter.

Hard of Hearing Panel: Personal Journeys & Victories

May 19, 9:30-11:30

It is through the stories of others that we can learn about the true impact of hearing loss. The experience of going from a "typical" hearing person to a person who is hard of hearing will be shared by 4-5 panelists. At the end of the panel discussion the audience will have an opportunity to ask questions.

Registration Information

Phone: (651) 431-5940 (or use your preferred Telecommunications Relay Service)

Email: dhhs.metro@state.mn.us

If you need a sign language interpreter, CART Services, assistive listening device (ALD) or other accommodation, you must notify DHHS at least two weeks prior to the training session

Voices for Accessibility in Health Care Systems

We at DHHS have been asked to gather anecdotes from consumers who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing about their experiences related to communication access – or lack thereof within the **health care system** or experiences where they had to fight to get their communication needs met at a health care facility. Any other grievance(s) they have related to how they were treated BECAUSE of their hearing loss are welcomed, too. When DHHS shares these comments with representatives from Regions, HCMC, Allina Health, Park Nicollet, Fairview, HealthEast, and Maple Grove Hospital, we will do so without names attached.

This request for gathering anecdotes from those with a hearing loss comes from ASL Interpreting Services (ASLIS).

I want to make sure that the voices of those of us who are hard of hearing are heard as well, so please send your anecdotes and grievances to (mary.bauer@state.mn.us). Remember, I will NOT share your name or contact information with ASLIS or the representatives of Regions, HCMC, Allina Health, Park Nicollet, Fairview, HealthEast, and Maple Grove Hospital. I believe ASLIS would like these comments prior to April 30th.

Mary Bauer.

*Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialist, Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services
Minnesota Department of **Human Services***

March 2016 Meeting



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Our next meeting is April 16, 2016

First Class

HLAA Twin Cities Chapter

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**Hearing Loss
Association**
of America

Twin Cities Chapter Welcomes You!

President - Christine Morgan -
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Vice President – Lionel Locke
vicepresident@hlaatc.org

Secretary – Lisa Richardson
secretary@hlaatc.org

Treasurer – Marie Saliterman
treasurer@hlaatc.org

Contact Info. - info@hlaatc.org

Photos – Vicki Martin, Dennis Martin

Newsletter Editor -
Vicki Martin, editor@hlaatc.org

Meetings are held the 3rd Saturday of the month September through May at the Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute 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 or visit us on Facebook: groups/HLAA-TC.