

# HLAA TC

# June 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.

## Next Speaker:

September 17, 2016

Panel of Representatives from a Few of the Twin Cities Live Theaters Speaking on Accommodations for Those with Hearing Loss

*Coming Soon:*

Speaker lineup 2016-17:

See page 9 for details

September 24, 2016

WALK4Hearing



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## Officers' emails

- Christine Morgan - [president@hlaatc.org](mailto:president@hlaatc.org)
- Kathleen Marin [vicepresident@hlaatc.org](mailto:vicepresident@hlaatc.org)
- Lionel Locke - [secretary@hlaatc.org](mailto:secretary@hlaatc.org)
- Marie Saliterman - [treasurer@hlaatc.org](mailto:treasurer@hlaatc.org)

HLAA TC Website - Minnesota

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

HLAA TC telephone 763-447-9672

Contact Information - Minnesota

[info@hlaatc.org](mailto:info@hlaatc.org)

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

# President's Message



*Christine Morgan*

**June 2016**

Hi Everyone,

It has been a great year. We've had some terrific presentations and presenters. We've gained knowledge, met new people, and forged some strong relationships. Now we take our summer break!

I want to thank all of you for your support of this chapter. Also, thank you for voting me in as President for another two years. I am honored.

We have a new Vice President: Kathleen Marin. Kathleen brings a lot of experience and knowledge as well as enthusiasm to the organization. We welcome her to the Board.

We are thrilled to have Marie again as our Treasurer. She has done a phenomenal job these past two years. Hers is a difficult job and we are very lucky to have her and to have her agree to serve as Treasurer.

Lionel has agreed to serve as Secretary. Lisa's

commitments have necessitated her stepping down. She has done a great job. We are fortunate to have had both her and Lionel in these roles. Neither one has hearing loss and that is an advantage in the role of Secretary. Both are strong supporters and advocates for this organization.

Monique will continue to bring her expertise and experience to the position of Immediate Past President. We appreciate all her dedication to the chapter.

Again, we are looking for volunteers to serve on the Legislative Committee and/or the Membership Committee. Please send one of the Board members an e-mail to let them know if you are interested.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Walk4Hearing in September. See further information in this and September's newsletter.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Christine



# HLAA-TC May 21, 2016 Meeting Synopsis

BY LIONEL LOCKE, VICE-PRESIDENT



President Christine Morgan called the meeting to order at 10 AM. After opening welcome remarks to members and guests and thanks to all of the volunteers in HLAA, she introduced Vice President Lionel Locke who delivered the updated legislative report.

As reported by Locke, the Minnesota state legislature will adjourn on Monday the 23rd of May, two days after our meeting. At this point only one of the bills that we supported has passed: the hospital room captioning bill. All others have either not been heard or were voted down.

On the National level, HLAA National conducted a focused email campaign encouraging audiologists to inform their patients about t-coil availability in hearing aids and implants.

Any further details on legislative activity will be reported in the next membership newsletter.

VP Locke then presented the Nominating Committee report from the Board of Directors, called on further nominations from the floor, and hearing none, entertained a motion to accept the Nominating Committee report and that a unanimous ballot be cast for the slate of officers (see list below). That motion carried.

Those elected are Christine Morgan, President (2 year term); Kathleen Marin, Vice President, (2 year term); Marie Saliterman, Treasurer (2 year term), and Lionel Locke, Secretary (2 year term).

Immediate Past President Monique Hammond remains on the Board as well.

The Board is looking for members to join the legislative and membership committee. Please forward your name and your interest level to the new Board sometime during the summer recess.

President Morgan called on Monique Hammond to speak about the second edition of her book "What Did You Say?". This edition was printed in March of 2016 and is available through the HLAA-TC chapter at a reduced rate and all proceeds go to the Chapter.

(synopsis, cont.)

Thank you, Monique!

Newsletter Editor Vicki Martin presented the monthly ASL lesson. This time the lesson was on warm words.

President Morgan then introduced the chapter to a DVD presentation of “Unheard Voices” by Canadian Comedian Gael Hannan. Gael has a significant hearing loss and also is a member of both HLAA and the Canadian Hearing Loss Association. Gael is the author of the book “The Way I Hear It”. Her DVD presents various vignettes about how people with hearing loss are coping with their loss in various social settings. The DVD was humorous and also thought provoking.

The group then adjourned and enjoyed a potluck lunch.

Have a wonderful summer.

## Gael Hannan “Unheard Voices” DVD Available from Harris

The DVD “Unheard Voices” (seen at our May chapter meeting) by Gael Hannan, actor and writer with hearing loss, is available from Harris Communications. Her vignettes about how people with hearing loss are coping with their loss is amusing and poignant.

To order, contact:

Harris Communications ([www.harriscomm.com](http://www.harriscomm.com))

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For the following items (also free) contact Vicki Martin [gimme88@aol.com](mailto:gimme88@aol.com)

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## ***It's Not Only Rock and Roll***

***By Christine T. Morgan***

A WHILE BACK I TALKED ABOUT BRIAN JOHNSON OF THE BAND ACDC AND HIS HEARING LOSS. THIS IS ONE THAT THE YOUNG PEOPLE (AND SOME OF US OLDER ROCKERS) NEED TO BE AWARE OF. HE WROTE A LONG LETTER TO HIS FANS RECENTLY.

HIS PARTIAL HEARING LOSS WAS BEGINNING TO INTERFERE WITH HIS PERFORMANCE AND HE HAD DIFFICULTY HEARING THE GUITARS.

DOCTORS MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE HAD TO STOP PERFORMING ON STAGE OR FACE TOTAL DEAFNESS. HE CALLS IT THE DARKEST DAY OF HIS PROFESSIONAL LIFE. “THE EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE I FEEL NOW IS WORSE THAN ANYTHING IN MY LIFE THAT I HAVE EVER FELT BEFORE”.

SOUND FAMILIAR? WE NEED TO GET THE WORD OUT TO OUR KIDS (BOTH AUDIENCES AND PERFORMERS) AND OUR ADULT FRIENDS, RELATIVES, ETC.

(Is Christine shouting? YOU BET!! - *Editor*)



## The Case of the Talking Scanner

*By Vicki Martin*

Have you ever fled the short lines in a supermarket and took your place at the end of a long one – just to avoid interacting with a piece of technology that talks to you? I have. But that's not the kind of scanner I have in mind right now.

Some of the most sophisticated scanners are the ones found in hospitals and clinics. You know the ones: MRI, PET, CAT. I was surprised during a recent high-tech procedure to hear an unfamiliar voice commanding me to “take a deep breath and hold it”. Shortly after that, the same voice assured me “You can breathe now”. It is no use to call out “I can't understand machines” – because there is no one else in the room.

I did ask the technician afterward whether he ever asks people if they are hard of hearing. “Well”, he said, “Sometimes they tell me.” True enough. But as we well know, sometimes they don't.

I explained to him that many (or most) people who are hard of hearing can hear but not understand speech, along with the merest explanation of why. His eyebrows lifted in surprise. “I didn't know that”, he said. “Thank you for telling me”. We exchanged some whimsical ideas about captioning the scanner voice, and parted ways.

And so, technology forges ahead by leaps and bounds, but there are some things that are just left in the dust. We need to realize this, and do two things: 1) call it to the attention of people who are using the technology, and 2) always make sure that those who are treating us know about our hearing loss -- not only that we hear less, but we hear differently. Ask if you will need to hear anything while undergoing the test.

Will anyone try to talk to me? Will this machine talk to me? If the answer is yes, they can tell you what it is going to say. It can be pretty simple.

Or not.



“Blah, blah, blah”

## Magazine Miscellany

**Pioneer Press Bulletin Board May 21, 2016** The Old Hand of Oakdale comments on watching reruns of the old Perry Mason shows on MeTV – with closed captions: ‘Every time the name “Dick” had to appear on the screen, the censor changed it to “xxxx”’. Same with other “questionable” syllables.

*(Being a Perry Mason rerun watcher myself, I started watching for these cleaned-up captions. And it is true, though I didn't notice until Old Hand mentioned it! -- editor)*

**Pioneer Press Friday June 3, 2016**, “Panel: Hearing help must be affordable” The National Academy of Sciences Advisory Group says “We need to find ways to make better hearing more affordable and accessible.” One proposal they are making is “Allow over the counter sales of simple devices for mild hearing problems as an alternative to full hearing aids, much as consumers today choose between drugstore reading glasses or prescription bifocals.”

*(Comments?)*

**Tampa Bay Times** published the article “What to do when your Hearing Starts to Go?” noting that “people usually struggle with hearing loss for 10 years before doing anything about it”, and “half of all adults in their 70s have some degree of significant hearing loss.” He lists many of the coping strategies that we commonly advise people to use (face one another to communicate, get the person’s attention before speaking, slow down, don’t shout, reduce background noise....) and perhaps most importantly, if hardest to do, “get comfortable letting those around you know that you or a loved one has difficulty hearing”.

**AARP Magazine, Spring 2016** had about a half-page spread calling attention to a “Free Hearing Test” during May (Better Hearing and Speech Month). “All you need is a landline phone” they say. *(Hmm. I wonder. Is it OK to turn up the volume?)*

**Popular Science magazine, August 2015** *(OK, it's last year, but I found it in a waiting room, so..)* talks up “Speakers that Cut Through Noise”. HyperSound Clear speakers are the featured product, which aims to solve the problem of everyday speakers, which “scatter sound waves as soon as they leave the cone. A single wave can bounce off dozens of surfaces, slamming into other signals and degrading along the way before reaching your ear in a muddled mess.” HyperSound Clear uses a tightly focused beam to aim sound waves directly at the listener”. It uses ultrasonic waves, which don’t disperse as readily.



## Minneapolis Walk4Hearing 2016

[http://hlaa.convio.net/site/TR?fr\\_id=2360&pg=entry](http://hlaa.convio.net/site/TR?fr_id=2360&pg=entry)

The Walk is on Saturday September 24th at Lake Calhoun (near Thomas Beach).

**Date:** Saturday, September 24, 2016

**Location:** Lake Calhoun, West Calhoun Parkway, Minneapolis, MN [Directions](#)

**Schedule:** 9am - Registration/Check-in, 10am - Walk begins , *Distance: 5K (3.1 miles)*

### **Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS)**

#### **Free DIVERSITY Trainings**

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

#### **Deaf, Deaf World: Immersion into the World of Hearing Loss**

**Jun 15, 1:00-3:30 OR Jun 16, 9:30-12:00 (Pick only one)**

Back by popular demand! In this unique, fun and very “hands-on” training participants will experience what it is like to function in a smaller culture where being Deaf is the “norm,” experience a simulated hearing loss while attempting to respond appropriately to verbal instructions, and finally, hear from a panel of diverse individuals with hearing loss.

#### **Registration Information**

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

Email: [dhhs.metro@state.mn.us](mailto: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

### **Summer dates for Cochlear Community (sponsor: Cochlear company)**

#### **Cochlear Community Chapter Event - Roseville, MN**

**Summer Dates:** Thursdays, July 14 and August 11, 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.*

Informal and informational meeting for those with a Cochlear CI or who are interested in knowing more. Bring your questions – and a friend!

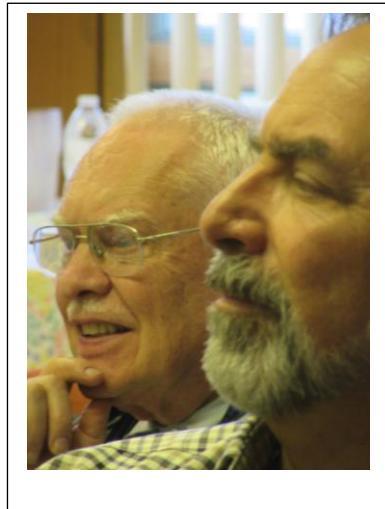
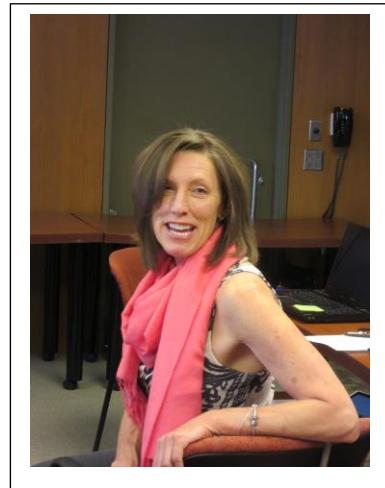
## **Speaker Lineup for the 2016-2017 calendar year**

Don't miss any of these exciting speakers! Mark your calendars now!

September 17, 2016	Panel of Representatives from a Few of the Twin Cities Live Theaters Speaking on Accommodations for Those with Hearing Loss
October 15, 2016	Representative from the University of Minnesota Speaking on Sensory Science Having to Do with Hearing Loss
November 19, 2016	Dr. Huang from the University of Minnesota on Meniere's
December 17, 2016	Kristen Swan of HealthPartners Behavior Health Speaking on Hearing Loss and Relationships
January 21, 2017	Office of Mary Hartnett Speaking on Legislative Issues Update
February 18, 2017	Sara Oberg, HealthPartners Speaking on Improving Speech Perception and Communication
March 18, 2017	University of Minnesota Representative from Sensory Science Speaking on Tonal Distortion (music, etc.) with Hearing Loss
April 15, 2017	Mary Bauer, Hearing Loss in the Workplace
May 20, 2017	(To be Announced)



## May 2016 Meeting



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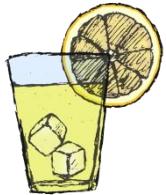
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**Our next meeting is September 17, 2016**

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**Twin Cities Chapter Welcomes You!**

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president@hlaatc.org

**Vice President - Kathleen Marin**  
vicepresident@hlaatc.org

**Secretary - Lionel Locke**  
secretary@hlaatc.org

**Treasurer - Marie Saliterman**  
treasurer@hlaatc.org

**Contact Info. -** info@hlaatc.org

**Photos** - Vicki Martin

**Newsletter Editor -**

Vicki Martin, editor@hlaatc.org

**Meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](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.**