

HLAA TC May 2017



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:

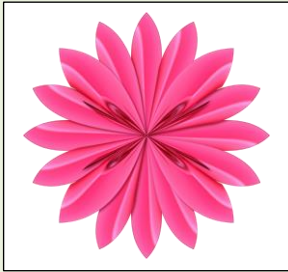
May 20, 2017

Tony Strong
Williams Sound
Assistive Listening Devices

Annual pot luck

September 16, 2017

Andrew Oxenham
CATSS
Tonal Distortion



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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
May 2017**

Happy May!

Here we are getting ready for the last meeting before the summer break! Where does the time go?

It has been a very busy, eventful year. Most of us have had our ups and downs but we continue to persevere. Hearing loss has helped us to grow and become more assertive. We have learned that we must advocate for ourselves in order to lead a happy and productive life. Notice I did not say "easy" life!

Our May speaker is from Williams Sound. Last time we had them at one of our meetings, we didn't want to let them go. Assistive listening devices are part of our "tools" to live in the hearing world more easily. In some cases, we would not be safe without them. I am thinking of visual alarms, etc. This is a presentation not to be missed.

Also, not to be missed, is our potluck. I love to see all the creations and ideas that go into our potluck. If you don't or can't cook, no problem. We appreciate store bought items as well. And if for any reason, you can't bring something, don't worry, there is always more food that we can possibly consume.

In case you have not heard, we are not having a Walk4Hearing this fall. However, our Board is not taking a break – I can assure you. We are putting together a committee to work on a Hearing Loss Fair to raise funds for the chapter. "Living Well with Hearing Loss" will be held on November 18th (our regular meeting date) but will be held in St. Louis Park from 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. Further details will be announced in the next few months. Briefly, it is a conference open to the public to learn about all things hearing loss. Be sure to save the date.

Sadly, many Minnesotans with hearing loss are not aware that HLAAC-TC exists nor are they aware of the many ways they can live more fully with hearing loss. They don't even know they have options. This is a large undertaking and we need a few more committee members to help us plan. Later, we will need a lot of volunteers to help us organize, advertise, set-up, and a million other tasks. Please don't make us do this alone. We need your help! We need you to get involved in your organization!

Talk to any of the Board members to add your name to our list of committee members, or volunteers.

Carpe Diem!

Christine



May Speaker

TONY STRONG

Williams Sound

Helping people hear



Biography:

Tony W. Strong is the National Sales Manager for Williams Sound, a global designer and manufacturer of wireless communication technology serving personal and professional listening needs worldwide since 1976. Tony has worked in the Pro Audio industry for many years as an integrator, sound engineer and sales management professional. He currently runs live sound, has interfaced with audio professionals and design engineers from coast to coast, and has extensive experience speaking about the benefits of wireless communication for hearing assistance and ADA compliance for public venues.

Things you may learn:

- **Induction loop Bluetooth, and Wifi are all common in public spaces** Strategies, discussions and solutions for Educational Spaces
- **Why is Induction Loop such a popular technology** for Classrooms, Performing arts and for Houses of Worship
- **See the new Wifi streaming solutions** – can the network NOT work for hearing impaired?
- In-depth discussion on today's technology tools for wireless transmission for performing arts centers, Houses of Worship, and college campuses for ADA compliance, and Assisted Listening. We will discover where, when, and how the right technologies can be employed for your venue
- ***Am I hard of Hearing? A simple test will show you how slight hearing damage could be affecting your relationships and your education...***
- Learn about new equipment, new techniques and portable wireless strategies. Live hands on session

April Meeting Summary



Kathleen Marin, HLAATC Vice-President

Summary of the April 15, 2017 Meeting

President Christine Morgan opened the meeting at 10 am and introduced our guest speaker, Mary Bauer from the Minnesota Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, who spoke on hearing loss in the workplace, emphasizing tips for success. She talked about some of the challenges of interacting with customers, coworkers and supervisors. These include many myths and misunderstandings, plus our own behavior like bluffing or not going out with coworkers, all potentially leading to a stressful, even awful, workplace.

So what can we do? First, be patient. Remember that people will forget about our hearing loss. We can make reminders, visual or verbal. It is helpful to be a team player, be seen as someone who helps out. Then, it is easier to ask for help when we need it, and people will be less likely to be resentful. We need to manage our energy and stress. That can include slow breathing, taking a break, asking just 1 or 2 coworkers to go out to lunch, etc. Another strategy is to use humor, laugh at ourselves, not take ourselves so seriously. This also includes not trying to be perfect. Even people with good hearing misunderstand things.

Mary also recommended doing an analysis of the communication aspects of the job that we have or want so we think about how to do the day-to-day duties and what accommodations may be needed. Then we have to be able to ask for accommodation and also demonstrate why we need it and how to know if it is working. Most likely, the employer will purchase something generic, not a technology that pairs specifically with our hearing aid or implant. If the employer will not provide the needed accommodation, we need to document everything, then file a claim of discrimination. In sum, we need to learn as much about hearing loss and how it relates to the essential functions of the job, keep on top of new technology, understand our rights, ask for help, and focus on the skills we bring to the workplace because of our hearing loss.

After the break, Vicki Martin gave us an ASL lesson. Then Secretary Lionel Locke spoke about the Walk4Hearing, describing how the number of participants and sponsors have declined, expenses from previous years had not been paid, our inability to have local control, and how the current formula was

(April Meeting summary, cont.)

not helpful. National HLAA decided not to have a Minneapolis walk this year, so we are looking into other sources of fundraising. That includes the upcoming Steak Fry, described in delicious detail by Bob Knoll. Don't forget to sell tickets and come eat!

Lionel also provided a legislative update, how this is the time of year when bills move out of committee and onto the floor for the final vote, including the budget for Minnesota and specifically the organizations working with people with hearing loss.

Vice President Kathleen Marin then told of her recent challenges while traveling alone and coping with hearing loss in the airport. This opened a lively discussion, including suggestions such as getting the app for the airline and enabling push notifications, boarding early since hearing loss is considered a disability, turning off FM and/or T-coils since they can pick up engine noise, and letting the attendants know of our hearing loss, both in person and when we buy the tickets on-line.

Christine then reminded us that Williams Sound will be presenting next month and adjourned the meeting shortly after twelve.

COMING EVENT

HLAA-TC CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 18, 2017

In lieu of the November 18th meeting, HLAA-TC will be hosting a "Living Well with Hearing Loss" Conference event. The location will be at the St. Louis Park Recreation Center Banquet Room, 3700 Monterey Drive, St. Louis Park, MN 55416.

The time will be from 9:30 AM until 2:00 PM. Please join us at this event to learn more about new technology and discover proven ideas to enhance daily living with hearing loss.

This event will be open to the public. More program details will follow in upcoming newsletters and in our promotions this summer and fall.

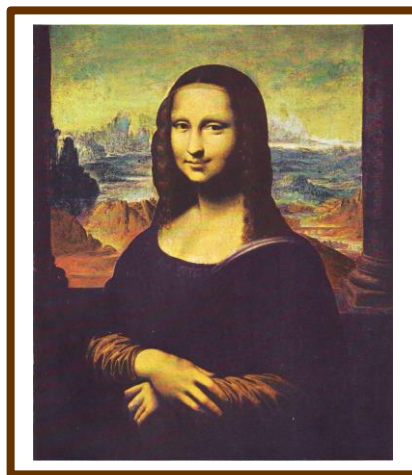
A MASTERPIECE OF ACCOMMODATION

I visited the Minneapolis Institute of Art late Friday afternoon and, while there, wandered into the Period Rooms. Some of these have been converted into “Living Rooms” to tell the stories of Native Americans and African Americans. The artifacts were interesting and the displays were designed to engage us in understanding the lives of these people. However, the videos, which to me were the heart of the exhibit, were not captioned. I filled out a comment card, letting the museum know how disappointed I was not to be able to hear the stories told by these individuals and requesting captioning.

By noon on Tuesday, I had received an email thanking me for my comments, and informing me that my request had helped them prioritize the transcription that had been on their checklist but delayed. Tobie Miller, an administrative assistant, had just finished transcribing everything for their editors, who were working on adding it to the video. What an amazing response! And this was to me, Kathleen Marin, individual patron, not to Dr. Marin, Vice President of HLAA-TC. I wish everyone responded to requests for accessibility this well. And so fast. Wow.

This is the second time the museum has acted quickly and proactively for me. The first was when I asked about loops for the assistive listening devices they use during tours of the museum. The person in charge had me test out the ALDs and loops that they had. We learned that they didn’t work, so she ordered new ones. All tours are now done with ALDs, and both loops and headphones are available.

I encourage you to visit the art institute. They clearly have a policy of inclusion and accessibility, which I would like to support and acknowledge. Plus, they have great permanent and temporary art exhibits there. It is a lovely way to spend an afternoon.



Magazine Miscellany

Pioneer Press May 5 2017

Shhh. Hear the rustle of grass? Not so much now in U.S. parks

By Seth Borenstein

Associated Press



WASHINGTON — The call of the wild is getting harder to hear.

Peaceful, natural sounds— bird songs, rushing rivers and rustling grass — are sometimes being drowned out by noise from people in many of America’s protected parks and wilderness areas, a new study finds.

... in nearly two-thirds of the Lower 48’s parks, the noise can at times be twice the natural background level because of airplanes, cars, logging, mining and oil and gas drilling.

That increase can harm wildlife, making it harder for them to find food or mates, and ... people hear only half the sounds that they would in natural silence.

In about 1 in five public lands, there’s a tenfold increase in noise pollution...

Even the tenfold increases they write about are often the equivalent of changing from the quiet of a rural area to a still pretty silent library.

But that difference masks a lot of sounds that are crucial, especially to birds seeking mates and animals trying to hunt or avoid being hunted... [And] being able to hear the birds, the waterfalls, the animals running through the grasslands ... the wind going through the grass ... Those are really valuable and important sounds for humans to hear and help in their rejuvenation and their self-reflection....

Errata

Corrections to April HLAATC Newsletter

Sara Oberg, our speaker for the March HLAATC meeting provides these corrections:

Sara is a speech-language pathologist, not an audiologist..

The quote “listening is the primary means by which ideas and information are taken in” is from (Devine, 1982), and applies only to those who use spoken language (not sign language).

The statement “Untreated hearing loss is associated with dementia, falls, impaired memory, depression, social isolation and brain tissue loss” ... is according to Unitron.

www.betterhearing.org says the link is *possible*.

The statement “treating hearing loss is proving effective in combatting each of these problems....” is also from www.betterhearing.org.

Calendar of Events

HLAATC Meeting and annual pot luck Saturday May 20

Accommodations: all meetings are captioned (CART) and held in a room that is looped

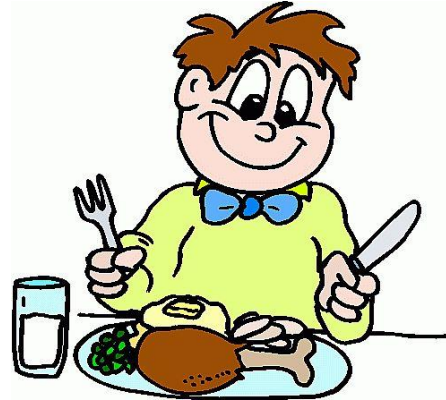
The Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute, 3915 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN

9:30 AM – Coffee and socialize

10 AM - Speaker Tony Strong from Williams Sound

11:15 - Business meeting

11:45 - Pot luck lunch



Adult Cochlear Implant Social Group

Sunday, May 21, 2017

1:00-3:00 PM

Sea Salt at Minnehaha Falls

4825 Minnehaha Ave.

Minneapolis, MN 55417

Hosts: Joanna Bailey & Mark Thompson

If you have questions please email Joanna: shutterreleased@yahoo.com

We will be meeting on the patio on the south side of the building. If it rains, we will meet in the covered portion by the bathrooms. If people would like to stay after, we could get a bite to eat at Sea Salt (the lines can get really long, so Joanna does not think we should use our 1-3:00 timeframe to stand in line for food.). You are welcome to bring a spouse, partner, friend, family member, and/or significant other to any of these events!

Accommodations: none

HLAA National Convention June 22-25, 2017 Salt Lake City, Utah convention@hearingloss.org
Accommodations: looped classrooms and auditoriums, captioning (CART), ASL interpreted

HLAATC Hearing Loss Conference

Accommodations: captioning (CART), and possibly looping.

Diversity Trainings, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS)

June 6, 2017, 1:00-3:30 PM, *FREE*

DeafBlindness: Living in Helen Keller's Shadow

Ever wondered what DeafBlindness entails? How many people live like Helen Keller? Come to do some myth busting and get answers! This presentation will cover types of combined dual vision and hearing loss, symptoms, causes, and resources, as well as tips and tricks on communicating despite the diversity of DeafBlind persons! If time permits, test-drive some popular technology in our equipment demonstration lab.

Accommodations: If you need a sign language interpreter, CART Services, assistive listening device (ALD) or other accommodation, notify DHHS at least two weeks prior to the training session. This information is in accessible formats for individuals with disabilities by calling (651) 431-5940 or by using your preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.

Registration Information:

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

Email: dhhs.metro@state.mn.us

Please provide the following information when registering:

-Name -Phone number -Email address -Title & Date of training

Community Education offerings

Christine, Lionel and Kathleen are helping the world find out about hearing loss. Numerous sessions are scheduled at various locations. Those scheduled for April and May 2017 are listed below:

Help! My Partner has Hearing Loss

Hopkins Community Education - Eisenhower Community Center 952-988-4070 www.IHopkinsCommunityEd.org

May 12, 2017 10-11:30 AM

Fees apply.

Communication Strategies when Dealing with Hearing Loss (course SRL544)

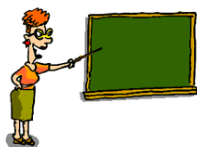
Lenox Community Center, Little Theater, 6715 Minnetonka Blvd, St. Louis Park, MN 55426.

Monday, June 5, 10-11:30 a.m. 952-928-6442 www.slpschools.org

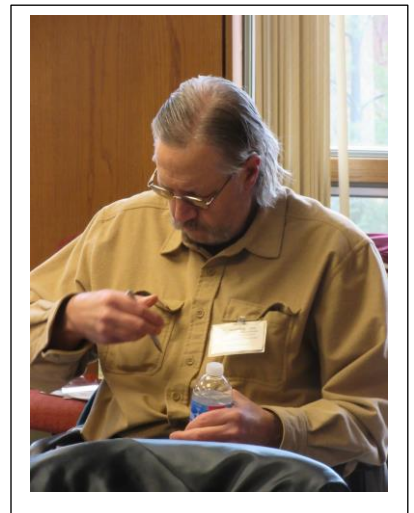
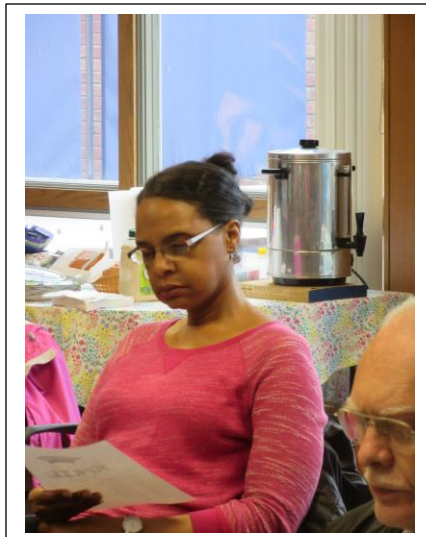
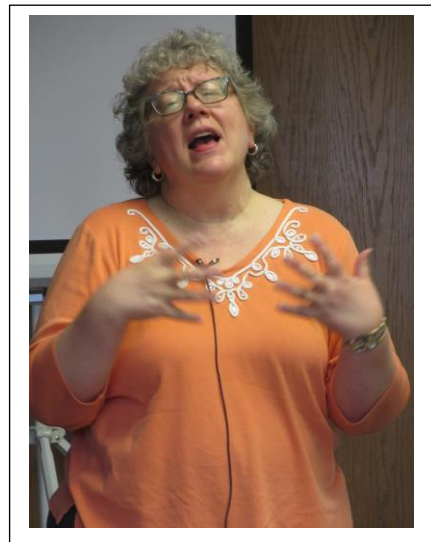
Fees: \$7, or \$5 for seniors

Registration is required.

Accommodations: none. However, classes are very small, and you are welcome to bring your streamer.



Photos from April meeting



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HLAA TC
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Our next meeting is May 20, 2017

First Class

HLAA Twin Cities Chapter

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**Hearing Loss
Association
of America**

Twin Cities Chapter Welcomes You!

President - Christine Morgan -
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 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. **Accommodations:** All meetings are real time captioned by Lisa Richardson and her staff of *Paradigm Captioning* (www.paradigmreporting.com). The meeting room is also looped for T-coil or receiver.

Please visit the chapter's web-site at www.hlaatc.org or visit us on Facebook: groups/HLAA-TC.