

HLAA TC

June 2018



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 15, 2018

Drew Gerling, Golden Valley Fire Department, "Thinking (not 'hearing') your way to fire safety"

October 20, 2018

Dustin Leslie, "Text-to-911"



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Officers' emails

- Kathleen Marin - president@hlaatc.org
- Mike Higgins vicepresident@hlaatc.org
- Ross Hammond - secretary@hlaatc.org
- Lionel Locke - 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



Kathleen Marin
President's Message
HLAATC May 2018

Summer is definitely here! I hope you kept cool during that string of 90+ degree days. I felt right at home, having spent many years of my life in the South.

We held elections during our last meeting and we now have a new Board. Our president is Kathleen Marin, vice president is Mike Higgins, secretary is Ross Hammond, and treasurer is Lionel Locke. Our past presidents are Christine Morgan and Monique Hammond. I want to thank you for entrusting us with your organization. I am immensely proud of this Board. It is a truly exceptional group of people who are capable, innovative and passionate about enhancing HLAA-TC and advocating on behalf of people with hearing loss.

We are still finalizing the list of guest speakers for the coming year. If you have any suggestions about topics or specific individuals you would like to see, please email me. Also, if there are any topics you would like the group as a whole to discuss during our meetings, please let me know.

As a reminder, the HLAA national convention is right around the corner. It will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Minneapolis from Thursday, June 21st through Sunday, June 24th. Although the time for pre-registration has passed, you can still register on-site for a daily package or for the entire convention. You can also attend the exhibition hall for free. Just stop by the registration desk to get a badge.

HLAA-TC will have a table at the convention, right by Registration. We need volunteers to help staff it. Please contact Lionel Locke if you can participate.

There is a group of hard of hearing and late deafened Japanese visitors coming to the convention, all members of their equivalent of HLAA-TC. They would like to spend time with us and discuss hearing loss from a cross-cultural perspective. I think that sounds fascinating. As soon as I get a time and place set up, I will let you know. I hope you can join us.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the convention. And I look forward to seeing the rest of you in September when we start our regular meetings again. Meanwhile, have a great summer!

--- Kathleen

MCDHH on teachers:

"Successful teachers tend to have both training in the subject matter being taught and knowledge about the learning styles and patterns of students who are deaf or hard of hearing"

Read more: <http://mn.gov/deaf-commission/news>

Meeting Summary May 19, 2018

Kathleen Marin, President

Christine Morgan opened the meeting at 10 am. We intentionally had no guest speaker to allow for more time for socializing, election of new officers and the silent auction.

Kathleen Marin spoke about traveling with a hearing loss. She stated that what worked best was downloading the airline's app to receive notifications of gate changes, delays, and boarding. The monitors in our airport now display which zone is boarding. It was also helpful to notify the flight attendants of her hearing loss, and they asked how best to communicate with her and always got her attention before talking to her. Kathleen also talked about a very powerful experience at a civil rights museum which provided an opportunity to understand what it was like for people of color in the 1960's trying to earn basic civil rights. She then used that experience to remind us that when we advocate for our rights and needs as people with hearing loss, we are not risking injury, jail or even death as the advocates did 50 years ago. When we need to ask for accommodations or educate people about hearing loss, we can take comfort from the knowledge that we are risking at most a bruise to the ego, thus making it easier to get the courage to go out and advocate.

Lionel Locke talked about the upcoming HLAA Convention in Minneapolis, June 21-24. There are still opportunities to volunteer, including registration, monitoring workshops, bus coordinator for the shuttle to West Side Story, ticket checker for the Mandy Hardy concert, and greeter at the exhibition hall. Please contact Lionel if you would like to volunteer. Registration on site is \$350 for members or \$425 for nonmembers. There are also 1 day passes for \$200 each day. Admittance to just the exhibition hall is free, but that is definitely worth seeing. There is also a tour of the Twin Cities on Sunday.

Marie Saliterman reminded us that membership dues are due in September. She then described her assistive listening device (ALD) that, for the first time in 30 years, allows her to hear everyone in a meeting. That sparked a discussion about ALDs, T-coils, Bluetooth and the need to ask our audiologists to activate our t-coils.

Monique Hammond discussed the importance of looping and asked us to be aware over the summer of where we would like loops, where we would like to hear better. We can then contact her and she will pass this on to LoopMN to see what they can do about it. She also wants us to spread the word about HLAA-TC, as it is the best kept secret about hearing loss in the Twin Cities. That's our homework for the summer.

Lionel then explained the process of electing new officers, that this chapter follows both our bylaws and Roberts Rules of Order. He presented the candidates from the nominating committee and asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. The members voted and the candidates were elected. The new Board is as follows. President: Kathleen Marin. Vice President: Mike Higgins. Secretary: Ross Hammond. Treasurer: Lionel Locke. Immediate Past President: Christine Morgan. Second Past President: Monique Hammond.

(meeting summary, cont.)

The remainder of the meeting was spent on the silent auction, pot luck and socializing. We raised \$226 in the auction. Christine thanked everyone for their participation today, in helping to set up and take down the meetings, and for volunteering at our conference. She reminded people that we have 3 committees that could use members: social media, legislative and membership. She then closed the meeting at noon. We will meet again September 15th.

Coming this month!

HLAA National Convention 2018



**Registration is now CLOSED,
but On-site registration will be available.**

Excerpt from article "The Convergence Between Hearables and Hearing Aids"
By NANCY M. WILLIAMS

New hearable devices—earbuds and earphones which contain the familiar functionality of streaming music and phone calls from smartphones—also augment users' hearing... Hearables point to the potential convergence of traditional hearing aids with consumer product audio devices. The passage of the Over-the-Counter (OTC) Hearing Aid Act of 2017 will no doubt hasten that convergence...

For full article, see <https://medcitynews.com/2018/05/the-convergence-between-hearables-and-hearing-aids>

Meet our new officers!



Here's the lineup, left to right:

Ross Hammond, Secretary; Mike Higgins, Vice-President; Kathleen Marin, President; Lionel Locke, Treasurer.

Thank you, new officers for volunteering your time, energy and expertise so **Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities chapter** can continue its mission of providing information, education, support and advocacy for people with hearing loss.



HLAA-TC President

Kathleen Marin



Kathleen Marin was raised in the Washington, DC area, then attended college at Loyola University in New Orleans, LA. She went on to the Ohio State University for her masters and PhD in psychology. She worked as a therapist in Ohio and Minnesota in a variety of settings, including mental health clinics, a medical clinic, and private practice, as well as providing in-home therapy.

During her career, she worked with children, teens, adults, couples, families and groups and also conducted workshops and taught a course on cross-cultural counseling. She also worked for a few years as a learning disabilities specialist, conducting assessments and providing insight and counseling on how to live well and succeed in educational settings with learning disabilities.

In addition, she speaks Spanish proficiently.

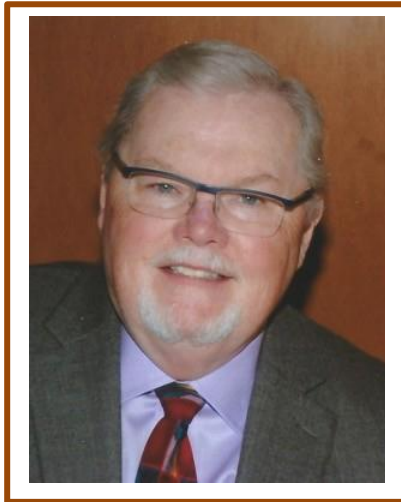
In 2013, Kathleen experienced a sudden sensorineural hearing loss, leaving her severely to profoundly deaf on the left side. She also learned that she had an acoustic neuroma on the right side. Two years later, she had another sudden sensorineural hearing loss, this time on the right side, that caused moderate to severe hearing loss, tonal distortion and significant tinnitus. She now uses a cochlear implant on her left side and a hearing aid on the right.

She has spent the last 2 years as the vice president of HLAA-TC, advocating for people with hearing loss.

In her spare time, she enjoys playing the piano, attending musical concerts, reading, traveling, and hanging out with her friends.

HLAA-TC Vice-President

Mike Higgins



Mike joins the HLAA-TC Board having worked in corporate and government leadership positions throughout his career. He lives in Apple Valley, MN with his wife Patricia and they have three sons and four grandchildren in the Twin cities area. After Patricia “encouraged” him to undergo a hearing exam at the Minnesota State Fair he began to learn much about more about his own hearing loss and was introduced to HLAA-TC by Christine (aka – Tai Chi Instructor). With just a little encouragement, he joined our board to pay it forward.

He has served people in one way or another throughout his work career and volunteering. In 2017, he retired from HealthPartners as a Senior Manager in Administrative Operations Development. Prior to HealthPartners he worked (twice) for and retired from National Car Rental Systems formerly headquartered here in Minneapolis. Between those two assignments, he worked for the State of Minnesota, Department of Administration, Travel Management.

Prior to retiring Mike had volunteered in his spare time as a licensed youth soccer coach for 20 years, a youth hockey coach, an American Red Cross CPR instructor, a PADI SCUBA Divemaster, a PAC adult for confirmation students, a Precepts Upon Precepts instructor, and a member of Kiwanis.

Mike shared - “I believe in the HLAA-TC mission and, through my own experiences, understand that those who have hearing loss need support from others in dealing with that loss. We all need help to get through those challenges we invariably experience. Those who have walked that path are best at providing that help”.

HLAA-TC Treasurer

Lionel Locke



Lionel just completed four years on the Board of Directors of HLAA-TC, two as Vice-President and two as Secretary. After election he will serve as Treasurer. He also chaired the HLAA-TC committee for the conference “Living Well with Hearing Loss” held in November of 2017.

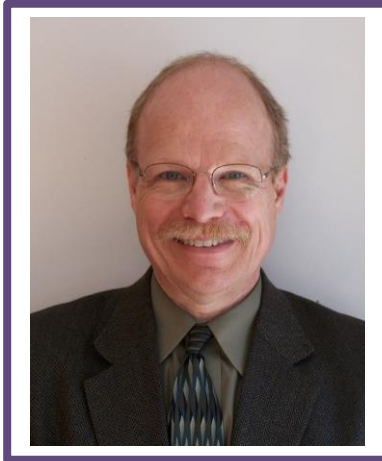
Lionel is a certified Hearing Loss Support Specialist, a certification from the National Association. Active in legislative advocacy in Minnesota, Lionel has attended several meet your legislator forums and serves on the HLAA legislative committee.

People who do not understand what others are saying have diminished capacity for effective living. As a communication partner living with a spouse who has hearing loss, Lionel has a first hand view of building better ways to communicate. Belonging to the local Hearing loss chapter has further developed and enhanced this communication skill set. As a communication coach and trainer, Lionel delivers special insights to his workshops and training sessions.

Lionel earned a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science and Secondary Education and enjoyed a career in sales and marketing. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of a local Curling Club and is a certified United State Curling Association instructor.

HLAA-TC Secretary

Ross Hammond



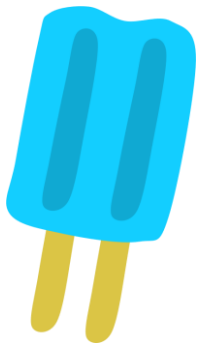
Ross Hammond is a consulting professional electrical engineer.

Ross graduated from the University of Minnesota and worked for Xcel Energy for 25 years. He worked as a plant manager at several power plants both in the US and overseas.

He has served on a variety of boards and commissions, and works closely with his wife Monique to help people with hearing loss and to educate people on why they should protect their ears and hearing.

Ross has been a member of HLAA-TC for 12 years.

May Meeting 2018 Photos





Wayzata Lions Club

Provides real-time captioning and other support services to the TC/HLAA with their generous donations.

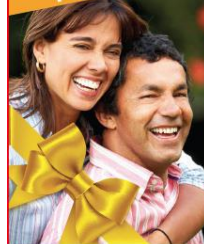


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Our next meeting is: September 15, 2018

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**Hearing Loss
Association
of America**
Twin Cities Chapter

Welcomes You!

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Vice President – Mike Higgins
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Secretary – Ross Hammond
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Treasurer – Lionel Locke
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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 (3915 Golden Valley Road), 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.