

HLAA TC

October 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:

October 20, 2018

Dustin Leslie, "Text-to-911"

November 17, 2018

FREE Second Annual "Live Better with Hearing Loss" Conference
St. Louis Park Recreation Center
9 AM – 2 PM

December 15, 2018

Liz Anderson, CATSS
"The relationship between Hearing Loss and Cognitive Decline in Older Adults"
Plus: pot luck lunch and white elephant gift exchange



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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
- Christine Morgan - cmorgan@hlaatc.org
- Monique Hammond – mhammond@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
President's Message
HLAATC October 2018

Happy Fall!

The weather, like life, changes constantly. We've certainly had our share of both, haven't we?

On behalf of the Board, I want you to know that Kathleen Marin has decided to take a leave of absence, until at least January. As Immediate Past President, I will be assuming the President's role.

We have been extremely busy working on our upcoming conference in November. All the vendors are on board as well as three presenters. We are looking for volunteers to help in many different roles. If interested, please contact Patty Higgins at the October meeting (or you could e-mail Lionel and he will get the word to her).

Even though we will provide snacks, we are hoping to get several food trucks in order to "feed the hungry" during the conference. If you know of or like a particular one, please let Lionel know as soon as possible.

Also, we need help getting the word out. We have flyers (both printed and digital) for you to distribute. Just ask one of the Board members or Vicki. Word of mouth is always appreciated as well.

Last month's speaker did an excellent job helping us be safe from fires and carbon monoxide in our homes. Be sure to see Mike's synopsis this month if you missed the meeting. It contains so many good ideas and information. This month, our speaker Dustin Leslie will present on "text to 911". Another presentation aimed at keeping us safe! I hope you won't miss it.

Be Safe,

Christine

Disability lawsuit in Carver County

By Tad Vezner

Excerpted from Pioneer Press Sunday October 8, 2018:

Echoing a recent trend in other states, for the first time a lawsuit has been filed in Minnesota alleging that websites...violate disability law...

"To my knowledge it is the first. This really hadn't made its way to Minnesota yet," said David Fenley, ADA and access coordinator with the Minnesota Council on Disability...

The vast majority of cases brought across the nation involve plaintiffs with either visual or hearing impairments.

So far, courts typically have sided with plaintiffs bringing website-related disability cases. "Almost always without exception. I can count very, very few (where they didn't)," said [Michele Landis, co-founder of Minneapolis-based Accessible360, a consulting group that audits websites]. "Every other first-world country has this as national law."

A 2017 study ...concluded that 85 percent of government sites are not ADA accessible.

But she added that future-oriented businesses should want to build an accessible site anyway. "Everything is digital, and we are all aging. It's not just for those that are currently disabled; it's for all of us as we age," Landis said.

October Speaker

Dustin Leslie
9-1-1 Analyst
Emergency Communication Networks
Department of Public Safety

Text to 911

Dustin has been with Emergency Communication Networks (ECN) since February of 2016. His projects with ECN include Text-to-9-1-1, Wireless Routing, and PSAP Communications.

He is also the Chair of the NG9-1-1 Best Standards Subcommittee working on training standards for 9-1-1 dispatchers. In addition to his 9-1-1 duties, Dustin is the Grant Manager for ECN managing both Federal and State grants.

Before working with ECN, Dustin was a 9-1-1 dispatcher with Hennepin County for 2 years.

Dustin earned a degree in Communication Studies at UW River Falls in 2008 and is currently working on his Masters in Organizational Leadership at St. Mary's University in Minneapolis.

Calendar Items

Metro Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services is offering two free diversity trainings this fall.

Deaf Culture Training,

Tuesday, October 16, 2018 9:30am – 11:30 am *or* 1:30-3:30pm

Survival Sign Language Training

Tuesday, November 13, 2018 9:30am – 12:00 noon *or* 1:30-4:00pm

Both will be held at Golden Rule Building, Suite 105, 85 E 7th Place, St. Paul MN

Register at dhhs.metro@state.mn.us or call 651-431-5940

Adult Cochlear Implant Social Group

Sunday, October 21, 2018 1:30 – 3:30 PM Dakota County Wentworth Library

199 East Wentworth Ave West St. Paul, MN 55118 651-554-6800

Host: Marcia Norwick

It will be held in the large meeting room. You are welcome to bring a spouse, partner, friend, family member, and/or significant other to any of these events! If you would like to bring a refreshment to share that would be wonderful!

Summary of the September 15, 2018 Meeting



Mike Higgins, HLAATC Vice-President

Kathleen Marin, President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Christine Morgan introduced our guest speaker Drew Gerling, a ten-year veteran Golden Valley Firefighter. Drew's presentation centered on fire prevention, education and how we can be proactive.

The bad news:

- On average a fire occurs in the United States every **24 second**
- A structure fire (house or building) occurs once every **66 seconds**
- A home fire occurs every **90 seconds** – somewhere

The good news:

- The number of fire related fatalities and serious injuries have decreased dramatically in the last 50 years.

What is the #1 cause of house fires in the United States? **Cooking**. It is not electrical, it is cooking.

What is the #1 cause of cooking fires in the United State? **Frying food**. Frying food at home is becoming less common but it is still the number one cause of cooking fires.

What is the #2 cause of house fires in the United States? **Secondary heating sources**. The most troubling is when individuals use their electric oven to heat the kitchen. The other frequent cause of house fires are small space heaters.

What is the #3 cause of house fires in the United States? **Electrical**. Electrical equipment and lighting are a very small percentage of home fires.

What is the # 1 cause of fatal fires in the US? **Smoking**. Smoking causes 3 out of 5 fatal fires. Smoking has become less common but it is still a common risk.

(Meeting summary, cont.)

An extraordinary 80% of fatal fires occur in houses without operational smoke detectors! If we eliminate smoking, eliminate space heaters, pay attention when cooking and have smoke alarms that work in our homes you have reduced the risk of being injured in a fire in your home to less than 1%! Once a year you want to replace your smoke alarm batteries. Or, every six months, they're not that expensive. Test smoke detectors monthly!

In the United States about 25% of the population is over 55. They account for 51% of the fire fatalities. Younger persons have better odds of escaping a fire by going over a couch, out a window and dropping 5 feet to the yard. An 85-year-old will have tremendous difficulty navigating the same escape route. At age 55 you should create two escape paths to get out of your home and out of every room in your home. Certainly, you should have an escape plan for the rooms you spend the most time in. If your bedroom is on the second floor consider moving it to the first floor particularly if you have a mobility issue.

Last year FEMA reported 700 house fires that involved people with mobility issues other than physical. That is somebody with hearing issues or blind. The fat rate in this population is triple that of the normal averages. There are some great tools that can be used to reduce that fatality rate. Those with Cochlear Implants are effectively deaf when they're removed at night. Smoke Alarms with high intensity strobe lights built-in or connected are available. Most hotels use these now. There is also a shaker alarm that can be placed underneath your pillow or the length of your mattress. They're wired into your smoke alarm and will shake you awake. Smoke detectors are mounted high up (heat rises) and carbon monoxide detectors close to the floor (CO sinks to the floor). Many fire departments will provide smoke detectors at no cost.

"Don't feel bad about calling us in the middle of the night. If something doesn't feel right, call us. Call, get help. **We're all fire truck junkies. We like taking our toys out to play. We don't mind if it's 2 o'clock in the morning to visit you. That's fine.**" Drew Gerling

Christine Morgan, Immediate Past President, shared her activities with the Minnesota Council of Disability. Christine made radio commercials with the Disability Council about 18 months ago and recently appeared at the 2018 MN State Fair with the Council's "Keep Moving Forward" program that focuses on 12 different disabilities. She [represented HLAA-TC answering questions about](#) hearing loss disability. People had no idea HLAA-TC even existed.

Because elections are quickly approaching and there are many Local, State and Federal candidates the links below provide valuable information for voters:

MNCDHH Voter Information <https://mn.gov/deaf-commission/get-involved/voting/>
MNCDHH News - September 14, 2018 Please Attend Candidate Forums & Ask Questions
<https://mn.gov/deaf-commission/news/>

Minnesota Secretary of State <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/>
League of Women Voters (Candidate information) <https://www.lwv.org/>

March 6, 2019 is Lobby Day at the State Capitol from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and is, pretty much, put on by the Commission of Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing Minnesotans. Everyone is welcome.

For those who are still in the workforce the JAN site has information about ADA, your rights and accommodations. You can call their confidential chat line 800-526-7234 or chat online at: Job Accommodation Network (JAN) <https://askjan.org/> (key word search, e.g. "hearing impairment")

(Meeting summary, cont.)

Ross Hammond, Secretary, shared information on two conventions in the Twin Cities early this summer. The HLAA National Convention in Minneapolis, many of us attended this convention, and 25 HLAA-TC members volunteered in different roles. Thank you all. There were approximately 900 registered attendees and about 100 local people also visited the vast vendor exhibition area. Dozens of workshops and lectures were provided to help people with hearing loss learn about new technology and find practical solutions to personal advocacy.

Coincidentally, the “Say What Club” also met in St. Paul this year. The Say What Club (SWC) had about 70 attendees and maybe a dozen vendor representatives. The club is like an online discussion forum with multiple chat blogs.

Lionel Locke, Treasurer, and the **2018 Conference Chairman** reminded everyone that September represents a new fiscal year for HLAA-TC and a new year means collection of membership dues. Our outreach and fundraiser again this year is a conference titled “Live Well with Hearing Loss”. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to attend our conference.

See more chapter information at <http://www.hlaatc.org/>

Meeting adjourned by Kathleen Marin at 11:55 a.m.

HEARING LOSS CAN AFFECT ANYONE

Most of you will recognize this headline as our marketing slogan for this year’s conference in November. **Live Well with Hearing Loss** is the title and for those who attended last year, we invite you to participate again.

What is different this year: new exhibitors and sponsors as well as returning exhibitors that promise to keep you updated on products and services available to those dealing with hearing loss.

We will also have a hearing screening for those people who suspect they may have hearing loss. This free service will be conducted by University of Minnesota Audiology students during the conference. We have room for 36 screenings. You can register online at our Web Site <http://www.hlaatc.org> or register on the day of the event if space permits.

Running the conference also requires volunteers. Last year, we had about 21 people sign up for various tasks. This year Pat Higgins has agreed to manage the volunteer effort and a signup sheet was provided at the September meeting. You have an opportunity to sign up again at the October meeting.

If you cannot attend that meeting, please send an email to treasurer@hlaatc.org and we will get your name added to the list. Set up in the early AM of the conference is where we need the extra help, and of course at the end of the conference. However, we will not turn anyone away who is willing to spend an hour or so.

Our fall conference is designed to showcase our exhibitors and their products. Each one brings something special to the lives of those who have a hearing loss. Our role as members of HLAA-TC is to attend the conference, bring your friends and neighbors with you, and enjoy a day of listening and learning.

Lionel Locke, Treasurer HLAA-TC

Conference Chairman

Hearing Loss Can Affect Anyone!

Come to a Meeting or the Conference to learn more.

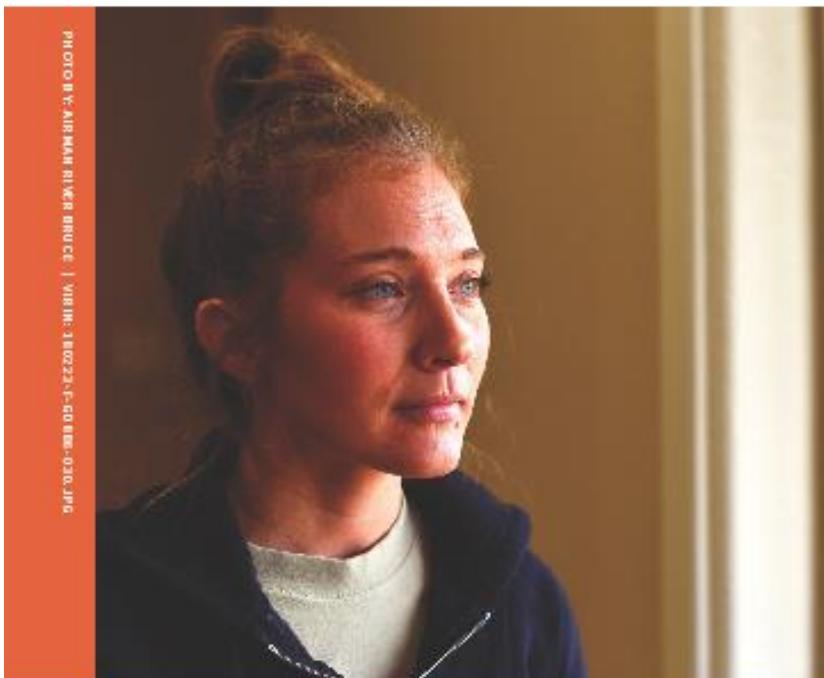


PHOTO BY: AIRMAN RIVER BRUCE | AIRMANRIVER@GMAIL.COM

FREE CONFERENCE – SAT., NOV. 17, 2018

Live Well With Hearing Loss

- Meet our Exhibitors and Speakers
- Learn about Technology, Resources, and Coping with Hearing Loss
- Presentations, Refreshments and Door Prizes

Regular Meeting

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018

10a.m. to noon

Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Inst.
3915 Golden Valley Rd.
Minneapolis, MN

Regular Meeting

Saturday, Oct. 20, 2018

10a.m. to noon

Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Inst.
3915 Golden Valley Rd.
Minneapolis, MN

FREE Conference

Live Well With Hearing Loss

Saturday, Nov. 17, 2018

9a.m. to 2p.m.

Recreation Center
3700 Monterey Dr.
St. Louis Park, MN

SIGN IN AT THE DOOR OR

REGISTER ONLINE AT:

HLAATC.ORG

Ph: 763-447-9672

Web: hlaatc.org



Hearing Loss Association of America

Twin Cities Chapter



Twin Cities Chapter
P O Box 8037
Minneapolis MN 55408-0037

Please come to the HLAA-TC Website <http://www.hlaatc.org/>
2018 Live Well with Hearing Loss Conference - Free Admission
Saturday, November 17, 2018
St. Louis Park Rec Center
3700 Monterey Drive, St Louis Park, MN 55416

NOTE: The **Free** Conference will be held on the **Regular November Meeting Date** for HLAA-TC

The Conference is a unique opportunity for getting information on hearing loss, technology, assistive devices and other resources. It fits with the HLAA mission of education, support and advocacy.

Presentations will have visual captioning (CART), an induction hearing loop and an FM System. Several people who do ASL interpretation will be at the conference, however, formal ASL interpretation will NOT be available.

Schedule

9:00 AM: Doors Open – Register and Visit Exhibitor Tables

10:00 AM: First Program: Tony Strong, Sales Manager for **Williams Sound**, will speak on: “Update on Wireless technology” and “Hearing Loss and the ADA.”
Williams Sound is a Twin Cities based Manufacturing and Installation Company.

10:40 AM: Questions for Speaker

10:45 AM: Visit Exhibitor Tables

12:00 Noon: Second Presentation: Can Do Canines – Service Dogs

12:20 PM: Questions for Speakers

12:25 PM: Visit Exhibitor Tables

1:00 PM: Third Program: CATSS, the Center for Applied and Translational Sensory Science, University of Minnesota will discuss Current Research geared at helping people with hearing loss. *The University of Minnesota Center for Applied & Translational Science does research to solve problems faced by people with sensory deficits such as low vision or hearing loss.*

1:35 PM: Questions for Speakers

1:45 PM: Door Prize Drawing - YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN.

2:00 PM: Adjourn

**2018 HLAA TC Live Well with
Hearing Loss Conference –
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<https://www.advancedbionics.com>



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CaptionCall telephone is for anyone with difficulty hearing on the phone. Large screen. Customizable audio settings. <https://captioncall.com/>



University of Minnesota Center for Applied & Translational Sensory Science does research to solve problems for people with sensory deficits, such as low vision or hearing loss. <http://catss.umn.edu/>



Innovates & brings to market a range of implantable hearing solutions. Helping people hear and be heard.
<http://www.cochlear.com>



Esteem is the world's first fully implanted, invisible hearing device. For adults with moderate to severe sensorineural hearing loss.
<https://esteemhearing.com>



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InnoCaption is a real-time captioning service for Smartphones to help people with hearing loss.
<https://www.innocaption.com/>



Miracle-Ear – *Amplifone* is committed to our community and to the hearing health of those in need. <https://www.miracle-ear.com/>



Serves people with disabilities with effective policy, training, technical resources & stakeholder collaboration. <https://www.disability.state.mn.us/>



Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services provide services & information to help Minnesotans who are deaf, deafblind & hard of hearing & their families. <https://mn.gov/dhs>



MAHPI and ENT Specialty Services work together to serve all ear, nose and throat needs. Complete audiology services.
<http://www.mhapi.com/>
<http://www.entsc.com/>



Hearing Loss Education & Safety Training by Monique Hammond, registered pharmacist, author, speaker & advocate for those with hearing loss. <http://hearing-loss-talk.com/>



ReSound hearing aids, wireless accessories and apps help you to hear and adapt to different environments and situations with the best sound quality.
<https://www.resound.com/en-us>

Other Sponsors/ Exhibitors



September 2018 Photos

Aloha group in formation



Attentive
listeners



More Alohas

Say What Club ad on Ross! (left)



Lionel gives directions (right)





Wayzata Lions Club

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

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HLAA TC
PO Box 8037
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Our next meeting is: October 20, 2018

First Class

HLAA Twin Cities Chapter

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Welcomes You!

President - Kathleen Marin -

president@hlaatc.org

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vicepresident@hlaatc.org

Secretary – Ross Hammond

secretary@hlaatc.org

Treasurer – Lionel Locke

treasurer@hlaatc.org

Past President – Christine Morgan

cmorgan@hlaatc.org

Second Past President – Monique Hammond

mhammond@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 (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.