

# HLAA TC Summer 2019



The mission of HLAA TC is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support and advocacy.

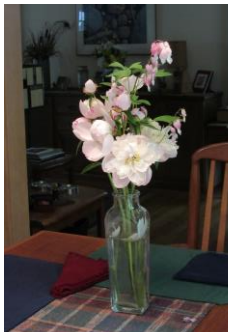
Next Speaker:

September 21, 2019

"Hearing Loss and Listening Effort: how it affects health, work, and social life"

Dr. Matthew Winn

*Director, Listen Lab, Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences,  
University of Minnesota*



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### Officers' emails

- Christine Morgan - [president@hlaatc.org](mailto:president@hlaatc.org)
- Mike Higgins [vicepresident@hlaatc.org](mailto:vicepresident@hlaatc.org)
- - [secretary@hlaatc.org](mailto:secretary@hlaatc.org)
- Lionel Locke - [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  
*President's Message HLAATC  
Summer 2019*

## Happy Summer Everyone!!!

Although we don't meet until September, we usually do an early Summer newsletter to catch you up on what's going on.

Hearing loss awareness is slowly increasing. Not only do AARP and other publications geared towards "Seniors" frequently have articles regarding hearing loss, others aimed at a "younger" population also publish articles on preserving your hearing, etc. In the June 2019 Consumer Reports they tackle "Which Hearing Aids Really Work?" rating companies, discussing why people delay getting hearing aids, how to spend less, etc.

Even the newest "A Star is Born" movie (personally I still prefer the one with Kris Kristofferson and Barbara Streisand) touched on the male star's tinnitus! This is probably a first. Baby steps!

Something new this year: when you pay your dues, you will get a new name tag as well as a membership card. The Board is working to get discounts for our members-in-good standing. Stay tuned!

We are also starting to plan for the October 2020 Live Well With Hearing Loss conference. Look for a new location as well as a change to October instead of November. More information to come.

After many years of "service", Ross and Monique have decided to step down from their Board positions. We are ever so grateful for all the time and effort they have put in for over 13 years. Therefore, we have an open Secretary position. If you are interested, please step up, please let Christine, Mike or Lionel know soon. We will be taking nominations in September and vote in October. This is a good way to ease your way deeper into the Chapter and understanding how we operate. Whether you've been with HLAA-TC years or merely months, we need you and welcome you to get involved.

We have an amazing lineup of speakers and presentations for the coming season, starting with Dr. Matt Winn from the University of Minnesota. Dr. Winn will talk to us about his research regarding how much effort those of us with hearing loss are expending while we live in a hearing, noisy world.

National HLAA celebrates it's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday and our Chapter celebrates 30 years this Fall. And yes, there will be cake!

So watch our newsletters, check out our social media and website. Lots of good information contained therein.

With warmest (actually I'm not too fond of high temperatures) and coolest wishes for a great Summer.

Christine



## Summary of the May 18, 2019 HLAA-TC Meeting

*Mike Higgins, HLAA-TC Vice-President*

*The following is adapted from a Social Media presentation by Mike Higgins, Chapter Vice President, at the HLAA-TC meeting on May 18, 2019.*

Each of our officers facilitate specific outreach and support activities for HLAA-TC. I selected Social Media. Of course, why should we participate in Social Media?

Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter are social media applications functioning as “Active Marketing” platforms. Active Marketing is designed to engage others and establish a conversation through “posts”. Based on various hearing loss subjects, posts invite others to participate as part of the community conversation. Active Marketing provides valuable feedback through immediate posts, comments and responses.

On Facebook the **HLAA-Twin Cities Page** (Page) acts as a timeline for our chapter. We have two Page administrators who post stories, add photos, host events and more. The Page is where chapter activities or announcements are shared. Prior to each month’s meeting, there will be information about the speaker and their topic. After the meeting there will be information or pictures posted from the meeting. Those who have “liked” our Facebook Page will see the Page updates in their News Feeds. Our Page also promotes awareness on hearing related information.

\*\* More than 50 million businesses and organization use Facebook Pages  
Forbes, December 8, 2015

The **HLAA-TC Group** is like a discussion forum allowing people with a shared interest, like hearing loss, to connect with others through articles, comments, questions, links, events, photos, updates and more. Members of the group can ask and answer questions and follow conversations about topics that interest them. Our Group is “closed” meaning anyone can ask or be invited by a member to join but only our Group administrators can approve membership in the Group. Every member in the Group has posting privileges.

\*\* More than 500 million people use Facebook Groups monthly. Facebook Statistics

The Facebook Page, Facebook Group and LinkedIn are designed to engage others through Active Marketing. This is a cost effective, two-way conversation engagement. “Passive Marketing” is a one-way conversation such as paid advertising, brochures, newspaper articles, or even email. Passive marketing can require a long term investment to ensure continued awareness of our chapter. We use Passive Marketing in our ongoing outreach for new members and conferences. Both marketing platforms should be used based on the purpose of the information and the audience. Facebook statistics indicate our audience reach is improving but we need to increase readership “Likes” of our HLAA-Twin Cities Page. Our chapter will continue posting on Facebook, LinkedIn and distributing flyers and brochures over the summer months.

A brief Q & A followed this presentation.

( meeting summary, cont.)

### Chapter Officer Reports and Comments

Lionel Locke, Treasurer and facilitator for Legislative activities, announced that our chapter has been added to the Amazon Smile Charity Program. This program has a new website that allows users to pick a charity and Amazon will donate .5% of every purchase to that charity. You must log into [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and after going to the address, you will be presented with the option of selecting a charity. We are identified as **Hearing Loss Association Twin Cities**.

Lionel also announced that the **Hearing Loss Association Of America Twin Cities Chapter** is now a recognized United Way charity. As a result, our chapter recently received a check from United Way made possible through payroll contributions. Some employers also have matching programs for United Way that will further increase the total funds donated to our chapter.

Another member shared that her employer has a similar payroll contribution program with matching funds through Benevity under the **Hearing Loss Association of America-Twin Cities Chapter**. If your employer has a matching funds program, please check to determine if the matching funds apply to payroll deductions.

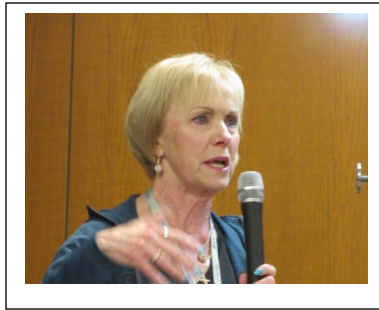
Ross Hammond, Secretary and facilitator for Hospitality: Membership, reminded members that to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss and provide information, education, support and advocacy, we must invite them to attend our meetings. We have flyers, brochures and business cards that can be posted or distributed throughout the Twin Cities. He also shared that we now have the ability to accept credit cards for dues payments or contributions.

Vicki Martin, Newsletter Editor, reminded everyone that our newsletter is principally distributed electronically, and each issue now contains links to articles and websites. If you have a problem opening a newsletter link, or read an article or, visit a website that should be shared with HLAA-TC members please contact Vicki at [editor@hlaatc.org](mailto:editor@hlaatc.org).

Christine Morgan, President and facilitator for Hospitality: Greeters and Refreshments, pointed out the variety of tasty breakfast, lunch and dessert items shared by chapter members. She also instructed everyone on our “official” BINGO guidelines and previewed many of the great prizes for BINGO winners. Lionel called out more 100 numbers for 12 games. Fun was had by all as many members played multiple cards. A few chapter members won more than one BINGO game.



## New MCDHH Appointment – congratulations!



*Christine Morgan*

Christine Morgan, President of the Hearing Loss Association of America-Twin Cities, has been appointed to the Board of the Minnesota Commission of Deaf, Deaf Blind and Hard of Hearing (MNCDHH). Governor Waltz confirmed her appointment earlier this month.

Morgan joined HLAA-Twin Cities in 2012 and has served as President of the organization for the past five years. She is recognized in the community for her service on the Metro Advisory Committee and the University of Minnesota CATSS Advisory Committee. She has worked with Police departments, hospitality and other organizations advising them on effective communication with the hard of hearing community. Prior to joining HLAA-Twin Cities Morgan was a Medical Group CEO. She has a master's degree in healthcare administration and is a Hearing Loss Support Specialist.

Morgan shared that her goals, as a member of the MNCDHH Board, are to increase awareness of the challenges encountered by those who have hearing loss and their struggle to live in the hearing world. She emphasizes there is no single solution for dealing with someone who is hard of hearing. She wants to help individuals without hearing loss, businesses, government and others, understand that factors such as degree of loss, age at the time of hearing loss, mental and/physical issues, and environment (to name a few) have a tremendous impact on communication.

### **A League of Their Own – captioned!**

(Submitted by Christine Morgan in re: Marie Koehler's announcement)

(story: Two sisters join the first female professional baseball league and struggle to help it succeed amidst their own growing rivalry.)

AARP does a free, big-screen annual movie at the Saints baseball stadium that is open to all. I've been trying to have them show captions for several years. I finally reached the right people and they are going to do it, so now we have to go!

It's Thurs, Aug 1. Opens at 530pm; movie starts at 7pm. You can bring blankets for the in-field or sit in the bleachers. Concessions will be available for purchase. You cannot bring your own food or chairs. Please spread the word.

*(Way to go, Marie! Thanks for your persistence. See you there -- editor )*



# Teaching ESL while HH

(by Vicki Martin)



Three years ago, Dennis and I decided that it would be good to do some more volunteer work. In spite of the “how did I ever have time to work?” reality that hits most of us a year or two into retirement, we decided that teaching “English as a second language” (ESL) would be doable. Family illnesses put that idea on hold for a couple of years. But last summer when some Congolese friends started an organization, “Voice in the Wilderness”, specifically to help new Congolese immigrants in Minnesota, the time was right.

The Minnesota Literacy Council offers teacher training classes in ESL, and we signed up right away. Each 3-hour session was led primarily by a single teacher, and punctuated with videos and hands-on activities. The teacher cheerfully wore my mini-mic, during each class, and I could hear her well. However, during the small-group activities when 36 people in six round-table groups all had their say at the same time, the noise level of the classroom rose considerably. How on earth was this going to work for a hard of hearing teacher-in-training, I wondered. Already I was facing challenges, and we hadn’t even begun to teach.

After “graduating”, we met with the Congolese organization founders and other volunteer teachers to plan for our ESL classes. I won’t say we were “ready” -- it was a learning experience for all of us – but we forged ahead. After sorting through student work schedules, transportation challenges and possible child care needs, we plunged in, just as the holidays came into view on the calendar.

Unlike most ESL classes, we have a couple of translators on board. The “Voice in the Wilderness” administrators take time out from their own families, busy work weeks, and school studies to provide transportation and assist in class. This has been a mixed blessing. Although it is hard to imagine how you are going to communicate with people with whom you have no words in common, most ESL teachers find ways to do it – and the incentive for both students and teachers to communicate directly is no doubt greater, thus facilitating the learning process.

*(teaching ESL, cont.)*

Hoping to teach some practical knowledge along with English, we offer occasional units on weather, transportation, shopping, and “time”. Who knew there were so many different ways to state the time? It’s six-forty-five. Or a quarter to seven. It could be six thirty, or half past six. Or six-fifteen, a quarter past six, or a quarter after six. It could be six o’clock. And what in the world is “o’clock”, anyway? It makes you realize just how young these “kids” are (or, yes, how not-young we are) to see them struggle with analog time. I can’t prove it, but I’m pretty sure they all came out of the womb with a tiny cell phone attached.

In addition to speaking, I often find myself using American Sign Language (ASL). I am not trying to teach them ASL, and none of them suspects anything of the sort. But there is a mimetic aspect to many ASL words, and it can help get the concept across. I do not do this consciously, but when backed into a verbal corner, it seems like an instinctive way to try to explain new vocabulary.

Sometimes I am simply flummoxed by the decision of what to do or say next. And so, to these patient young immigrants who don’t yet know a nose from a hose, I sputter forth some incomprehensible, if true statement like “today we are going to conjugate irregular verbs in the continuous past tense”. Early on, I was convinced that the students knew a lot more English than they really did. They just seemed to know what I was saying. I mean, they were smiling, and nodding. That means they understand, right?

No doubt there are times when we simply bore our students into glassy-eyed somnolence. But we also have fun trying to beat the buzzer by matching words with pictures, and drumming up some friendly competition with a game of “Boggle Junior”. With a little help from Dr. Seuss, we have even learned that it is fun to Hop on Pop (or “hoop on poop” in SwahilEnglish). Laughter, it turns out, is the same in any language.

Just ask the Fox in Socks.



## Request from the president

"If you (or someone you know) have hearing loss and run a business in Minnesota, please e-mail Christine at [president@hlaatc.org](mailto:president@hlaatc.org)."





HLAA-TC would like to thank the following donors for the prizes they contributed to our Bingo “Fun Raiser”:

Patty Higgins, for her beautiful hand-quilted Christmas tree skirt  
Harris Communication  
Lionel and Christine  
Sue O'Brien  
L&B (Lunds and Byerly's?)  
Karen Lattery

We have no idea who brought the mystery gift (wine) or the Target Gift Card, but to those people and any other mystery donors, we also thank you!

From the Vice President:  
2020 Conference: Live Well With Hearing Loss

We had our first 2020 Conference Committee meeting and confirmed that our next conference will be on a Saturday in October 2020. We're looking for a new venue that will support more attendees and provide a better environment for attendees and speakers.

(note: We will not be hosting a Hearing Loss Conference in 2019)

**YES!**  
**Conference**





## LAST CALL for VSA Minnesota Accessible Arts Calendar!

**Thank you VSA Minnesota for providing us with valuable accessibility information. We have appreciated being able to find in one place the type of information that enables us to enjoy a variety of performing arts in our great state of Minnesota!**

At the end of September 2019 VSA Minnesota will cease operations. Many of our programs will transition to other organizations. The Minnesota Access Alliance (<https://mnaccess.org/>) will continue this calendar on a separate website that will be available by September.

For details and a complete listing through summer 2019, visit  
Website: <http://vsamn.org/community/calendar>

Below are some selections from the Accessible Arts Calendar that list performances and arts events in July & August 2019 with **Captioning** for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

### Performances and Arts Events in July & August 2019 with **Open Captioning**

#### **OPEN CAPTIONING (OC):**

Wed. July 17, 1:00 – Minneapolis: Guthrie Theater (Thrust): [Guys and Dolls](#).  
Fri. July 19, 7:30 – Minneapolis: Guthrie Theater (Thrust): [Guys and Dolls](#).  
Sat. July 20, 3:30 – St. Paul: Bell Museum: [Planetarium Show: One Giant Leap](#).  
Fri. July 26, 1:00 – St. Paul: Hamline University Anderson Center: [ADA Celebration](#).  
Sat. July 27, 1:00 – Minneapolis: Guthrie Theater (Thrust): [Guys and Dolls](#).  
Sat. July 27, 7:30 – St. Paul: History Theatre: [Glensheen](#).  
Sun. July 28 – Minneapolis: Family Fringe: [Open Captioned shows](#).  
Sun. July 28, 1:00 – Minneapolis: Guthrie Theater (Thrust): [Guys and Dolls](#).  
Sun. July 28, 2:00 – St. Paul: History Theatre: [Glensheen](#).

### Turnabout

I am used to missing key words when I watch but can't hear everything. In a humorous switch, I was hearing quite well when I looked down into the popcorn bowl and missed a visual text. What I heard was "Call the Midwife is made possible by..." (pause) "ordering takeout".



## May 2019 Meeting Photos





### Wayzata Lions Club

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