

HLAA TC

September 2020



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

September 19, 2020

On ZOOM

(see details in newsletter)

October 17, 2020

Dr. Tina Huang,
University of Minnesota
Tinnitus

November 21, 2020

Dr. Mathew Winn,
University of Minnesota

December 19, 2020

Kristin Swan,
Health Partners



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Officers' emails

- Christine Morgan - president@hlaatc.org
- Mike Higgins vicepresident@hlaatc.org
- Lionel Locke - treasurer@hlaatc.org
- Dwight Maxa – director@hlaatc.org

HLAA TC Website - Minnesota

www.hlaatc.org

HLAA TC telephone 763-447-9672

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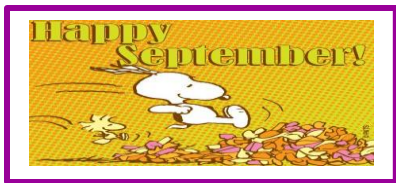
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HLAA National - Maryland

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



President's Message HLAATC

We're back! Well.....sort of!

I hope everyone is well and safe! It certainly has been a challenging Spring and Summer!

The Board has been meeting via Zoom and working on the best ways to keep everyone safe and informed. With that in mind, our meetings are now going to be held via Zoom.

Our first meeting, September 19th will not have a speaker. We thought it best to let you know what the plans are for the rest of the year. We also realize that not everyone is Zoom savvy and may need some help navigating. We will "open" at 9:30 am in order to give everyone time to sign in and chat to each other. The official meeting will start at 10 am as usual. Depending on the agenda and questions, we may adjourn earlier than noon. Of course, you will always have the option to "leave the meeting" prior to adjournment.

You will find instructions on how to "register" for the meeting in this newsletter. You will also find a survey link to fill out electronically if you have not already done so.

Here is the lineup of speakers for the rest of 2020. We will have Dr. Tina Huang from the University of Minnesota as our October speaker. She will be presenting on Tinnitus. Dr. Mathew Winn will present in November and Kristen Swan will present in December.

Nominations for officers will also be presented at the September meeting. This is your opportunity to join the Board. The At-Large position is a great way to join the Board and learn how it

operates without pressure. No experience necessary. You only need to be a member of HLAA-TC and have an interest in volunteering your skills and time.

Lionel, our current Treasurer will discuss dues for the coming year. See his article regarding the elections in this newsletter.

Even though we don't have an official presenter, we have a lot of information to share with you at the September chapter meeting. You can always contact one of the officers via email or telephone with any questions or concerns you have before or after the meeting.

We miss you all and hope to catch up with you in September.

Christine

You are invited to a Zoom meeting

**When: Sep 19, 2020 09:30 AM Central Time
(US and Canada)**

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJloduqtrTgiG9S0B2aRJTIFpNrRrmeOtPpg](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJloduqtrTgiG9S0B2aRJTIFpNrRrmeOtPpg)

After registering, a day before the meeting (September 18, 2020) you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

We hope you will join us!

Christine

Announcing ALL HLAA-TC meetings will be Virtual in 2020-2021

By Laura Hagemann



HLAA-TC 1st Zoom Meeting: September 19, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

Our Spring 2020 HLAA-TC sessions were canceled due to concerns about COVID-19, and we didn't know how 2020-2021 would be affected. We can now announce that the HLAA-TC board has made the decision to make all of our chapter meetings virtual for this upcoming session (starting with our first meeting on September 19, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.). As COVID-19 is still a concern, many organizations (including the national chapter of HLAA) are using the computer to hold meetings. Our usual third Saturday of the month meetings will be virtual and take place on Zoom (a website or application that is free to use) instead of meeting in person. The Zoom meetings will be live captioned just like all the in-person meetings. Zoom meetings will also allow individuals who live outside the Twin Cities to easily participate in our meetings.

For our first meeting in September, we are not having a guest speaker. This first meeting will give us a chance to get familiar with Zoom and having meetings on Zoom. After September, for the remainder of the year, we will have scheduled guest speakers who will speak about various issues pertaining to hearing and hearing loss (as we typically do). We will publish a list of speakers and their topics on our website soon.

We will be posting more instructions on our secure website hlaatc.org, under the Meetings, and Blog tabs. This will include how to register for and join our Zoom meetings and running Zoom on your computer or other devices. In the meantime, here is a graphic with pertinent information pertaining to HLAA-TC Zoom meetings.



2020-2021

*Monthly Meetings Held on Zoom
Every 3rd Saturday
September 2020 - May 2021*

WHO: **Hearing Loss Association of America-
Twin Cities (HLAA-TC)**

WHAT: **Hosting the monthly chapter
meetings virtually via Zoom.
Speakers will be featured.
(Everything will be live captioned.)**



WHEN: **Every 3rd Saturday
of the month
(September 2020 - May 2021)**

WHERE: **Virtual
(on your computer, tablet or phone)**



WHY? **To continue to foster a
community of learning and sharing (about hearing loss)
and practice safe social distancing**

FIND OUT MORE ON OUR BLOG:

www.hlaatc.org

(C) 2020 HLAA-TC

Instructions for Using Zoom for our Monthly Chapter Meetings

All information on using Zoom was gathered from the [Zoom Website](#).

By Laura Hagemann



All monthly chapter meetings will be held on Zoom for this 2020-2021 season. The first meeting will be on September 19, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. (Central Standard Time [CST]) and then held thereafter on the 3rd Saturday of the month (September through May). Below are instructions for using Zoom.

A registration link to attend the HLAA-TC monthly meeting will be included in each newsletter. This link requires submitting your first and last name and your email address in order to register for the meeting. A secure Zoom meeting link confirmation will be sent to the email address you provide at registration. This may not occur immediately so please register on or by Friday, September 18th (the day before the meeting). Meeting registration will close 30 minutes before the meeting starts. For security purposes, you may need to register for each meeting because meeting links may change for each meeting.

Once you register for the meeting and receive the meeting confirmation, follow the link within the confirmation and you will be automatically instructed to download the free Zoom application (unless you already have it) on your computer (download from the [Zoom Download Center](#)) or mobile device (Android: [Google Play Store](#)), (iOS: [App Store](#)). Once Zoom quickly installs on your system (or if you have it installed already) it will automatically open a “waiting room” where you will wait for the meeting to start. Once the meeting starts you will see the participants on screen. All of our meetings will be live captioned by the same group that captions our in-person meetings.

If you would rather join the meeting by calling in on a phone (this works using CapTel phones as well as all phones) dial the teleconferencing number provided in the confirmation email. Then enter the 9, 10, or 11-digit **MEETING ID** (also included in the confirmation email) when prompted using your dial pad. *Note: If you have already joined the meeting via computer, you will have the option to enter your 2-digit participant ID to be associated with your computer. If you have not joined on your computer, simply press # again when prompted to enter in your participant ID.*

We will be monitoring the [HLAA-TC Facebook](#), [Facebook Group](#) and [blog](#) during the Zoom meeting. So if you run into problems please comment by one of those means and someone will be available to help you. We will not have a speaker at our September meeting so that we can get used to using Zoom. We will have a speaker at the October meeting.

Visit [The Zoom Quick Start Guide](#) to find more detailed Zoom instructions.

HLAA-TC SEPTEMBER 2020 VIRTUAL MEETING

2020-2021 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Greetings to all the members and guests of HLAA. As most of you realize, our last general membership meeting was in February. Since that time, your Board of Directors has cancelled the March, April and May meetings due to the COVID-19 virus pandemic. Those cancellations also included the Nominating committee report at the April meeting and the Annual meeting and election of officers scheduled for May.

Options to hold those meetings considered by the Board of Directors included virtual meetings, mail in ballots for the election, and large room meeting facilities with social distancing guidelines. Considering that our membership contained many people who are highly vulnerable to COVID-19, the Board was being extra careful as we considered meeting as a group. Based on those parameters, the only option in our current environment were virtual meetings via Zoom Video. As you can see, the September meeting has been scheduled as a virtual meeting. **Included in that meeting is the first reading of the nominating committee report, with an election scheduled for October of 2020.**

The Board in May moved to extend the terms of the current Officers until such time that the General Membership can safely meet. Your Board has continued to monitor the State guidelines and has decided to hold virtual meetings through the remainder of the 2020 -2021 (September through May) season.

The Board also serves as a nominating committee and we welcome any member who has an interest in serving the organization. Just as a reminder, the nominating committee has placed in nomination the following four (4) candidates with their respective positions for a two-year term.

President: Christine Morgan

Vice President: Mike Higgins

Secretary: Lionel Locke

Treasurer: Dwight Maxa

*Director at Large: currently held by Dwight Maxa, term expires in May 2021, therefore vacant. The Board is looking for nominations from the membership for this one-year term.

Please contact any of the officers listed in our newsletter by email or by calling the HLAA-TC phone number 763-447-9672. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Nominating committee, please stay safe and keep healthy in these trying times.

Lionel Locke, Treasurer, HLAA-TC



As a subscriber to the HLAA-TC newsletter we're requesting your input on our survey.

That input is important to our effort to improve our meetings and expand our reach. The secure link below will take you to our HLAA-TC Newsletter Subscriber Survey. There is no entry of personal information required. This survey has 10 closed end questions but there is a comment space available for each question.

The estimated time to complete the survey is 3 minutes. Thank you for assisting us.

[HLAA-TC Newsletter Subscriber Survey](#)

A Reasonable Request: hearing is no respecter of persons

(culled from Huffpost.com)

President Donald Trump demanded that a reporter remove his face mask in the middle of a question at a White House press briefing on Monday — but the journalist refused.

"You're going to have to take that off," said Trump as he pointed to the mask worn by Jeff Mason, White House correspondent for Reuters. "If you don't take it off, you're very muffled. So if you take it off, it would be a lot easier."

"I'll just speak a lot louder," said Mason. "Is that better?"

The president sighed and responded: "It's better, yeah. It's better" — and allowed Mason to continue.

What does the Director At Large Do?

Dwight Maxa, director at large



Our board is hoping to find a new member for the current position of *Director At Large* ending August, 2021. The position is available because I am moving to the position of Treasurer.

This was a new position created last year when I joined the board so I would have an opportunity to work with other Directors and committee chairs to learn and assist with our chapter's goals, priorities and projects. Last year one of the things that impressed me was the sophistication of the national HLAA and all the resources it has available to us.

There are many different opportunities like getting to know our members, guests and professionals to collect new information to share with others. We can then better direct our efforts to meet the unique needs of all of our members and the community we serve.

Board meetings are currently held monthly via Zoom, usually in the morning, two weeks prior to the general membership meeting which is also monthly. It is important that all Directors attend these meetings to share information and be in a position to help direct and improve the activities and plans of our organization.

This position is a great entry level opportunity, with limited expectations, so that you have a chance to see how our board meetings work and how you can make your own contributions. Our President, Christine, and other Directors are available to mentor anyone who has not served on a nonprofit board in the past and would like to learn the basics.

Other duties include: 1) acting as an advocate for the public to support and advance the role and future of HLAA-TC, 2) offer recommendations and solutions to critical issues that arise in the course of working on projects and problems, 3) to assist other Directors in completing projects. You will also share in the satisfaction of knowing you helped improve our HLAA chapter.

We currently have four board members three of which are men. Having more women on our leadership team would be most welcome.

'To be or not to be, that is the question'

Hamlet, Act 3 Scene 1

William Shakespeare

This line, because of its balance and structure, is one of the most memorable in Shakespeare's works. The line questions our human existence and life's dilemmas. And, the play challenges how we live our lives.

(Where am I going with this?)

Our Board Officer Elections take place on October 17, 2020. As you know, HLAA-Twin Cities is managed by volunteers serving in specific roles defined in our Constitution and By-Laws. Why should anyone volunteer for a non-profit?

- Socially Beneficial – volunteering helps to reduce isolation and depression.
- Improves Mental Cognition – along with memory and motor function.
- Giving Back to the Community – increased knowledge and skills.
- Physically Engaging – improved heart health, reduced bone loss.
- Learning and Creating Something New – see mental cognition.
- Flexible Schedule – get out of the house.

I found the recent Harvard Business Review article about adapting to change in the new reality interesting and applicable to non-profits like HLAA-TC.

Although the article is meant to help guide large and small corporations through the challenges of business in a pandemic, some of the lessons can also be valuable for non-profits. For example; identifying type and duration of new trends. Are behavioral shifts likely to be short or long term? Like most of our members, I long to have "in-person" meetings and events. But we also recognize Zoom meetings are an innovation, a new trend. We need to determine if it is also a catalyst and how might our Chapter take advantage of it or other new trends.

Looking at our new reality, we want to provide more members and visitors with information, education, support and advocacy. That is, we want to build our community. We recognize there is need to serve a broader audience. To accomplish that goal, we need more volunteers. Think about how much you can receive when you volunteer. Contact any of the Chapter officers with questions or volunteer idea

'To be a volunteer, or not to be a volunteer, that is the question'



*Mike Higgins,
Vice President*

Back to School with Hearing Loss

Vicki Martin

When I was in seventh grade, our class was shepherded down to the library for a session on library use. Yes, we knew how to pick up a book, write our name on the card, and get it stamped with the due date. But as we entered Junior High School, our library loomed before us as a vast repository of information that we would need very soon as we looked up information for history essays, read the poetry of Shakespearean-era writers, viewed copies of Impressionist paintings, or even checked out how to solve for X.

Our library was to us back then what the internet is to students today. It's hard to overstate its importance.

Our training began with a hands-on approach to finding things. Instead of having twenty students all flood into the stacks at one time, our librarian wisely decided to select apparently random smaller groups of students from the tables where we were seated. She called out something, and a couple of people each from two or three library tables got up and disappeared into the recesses. No one from my table got up.

I was terrified. What if I did something stupid, like get up when they call "Boys from room 102". I can just imagine the guffaws that would ensue – and not because I wasn't in room 102. There had not been enough groups called yet for me to discern a pattern. As a last resort (and I still struggle with these priorities), I prayed: "Dear Lord, please make me get up when I'm called". A few people came back, and another group was called. The person next to me at my table got up. So did I. I didn't know why, or even if I was part of this group, nor what we were looking for, but I followed him into the stacks and cornered him to ask a few questions, out of the public view. The answers were straightforward, and I pursued my literary prey like a normal person. But not without first uttering a heartfelt "Thank, you, Lord!"

All that anxiety, just about looking normal. There are much worse things, as we seem to magically discover when we become adults. And when we are facing a pandemic.

Today's hard of hearing young people care just as much about blending in as I did. But whether they know it or not, there is a much bigger problem on the table: how much will they understand? Will they be in the classroom this fall? Their teachers will be masked. Like the librarian calling from somewhere behind me, their teachers' words will be unseen.

Will they be online? Will the teacher's face always be visible? Will there be captions? How good will the audio and the video be? How good is the captioning? If they wear hearing aids, will the streaming work properly? Who will decide if it's "good enough"?

These are the things I worry about now. For our young people out there, especially if they are hard of hearing, learning is not going to be easy. But it's even more important than looking normal.

Oh, and full disclosure: Yes, I'm still pretty desperate to not look stupid.



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Welcomes You!

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Vice President – Mike Higgins

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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](https://www.facebook.com/groups/HLAA-TC).