

HLAA TC

October 2021

Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota



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

VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Zoom meetings continue through the end of the year 2021:
(email treasurer@hlaatc.org for invite)

October 16
Speaker: Tim Henry
Williams Sound
“Assistive Technology Updates”

November 20
Speaker: Sara Oberg
Health Partners
“Aural Rehabilitation for Hearing Loss”

December 18
Innocaption
“Improving Telephone Communication with Innocaption app”



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Officers' emails

- **Christine Morgan** – president@hlaatc.org
vicepresident@hlaatc.org
- **Lionel Locke** - treasurer@hlaatc.org
secretary@hlaatc.org
- **Christy Myers** – director@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

Meetings of the Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter (HLAA TC) will be held on Zoom until further notice.

President's Message



HLAA-TC OCTOBER 2021 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Have you been out to the U of M Arboretum this Fall? Amazing “scarecrows” for your viewing pleasure!!!

Just like the seasons when change is in the air, changes are occurring with HLAA-TC.

It's already been a busy Fall for the Board as we look at what we can do to grow our organization and ensure its viability in the future. If you were not at September's Membership meeting, please read this month's synopsis for important information.

We are currently operating with a President (me), Secretary/Treasurer (Lionel) and At Large Member (Christy). This is my 8th year as President and I will be stepping down at the end of May 2022. I will still remain

on the Board as Immediate Past President.

After asking for many years for people to volunteer to serve on the Board, we have had a few step forward and offer to help, but no one who wants to take an active Board role. We have had to regroup and brainstorm in order to stay a viable organization in the near and far future. I don't think anyone wants to see the demise of the only HLAA Chapter in Minnesota. We have an important function and mission to carry out in order to meet the needs of the approximately 1 million people in Minnesota with hearing loss, a number that is constantly growing.

If you don't wish to commit to a Board position but would like to help, please contact me. Perhaps you are great at transcribing and would like to work on the synopsis, perhaps you don't mind data entry, or enjoy writing letters or calling people, for example. You are invited to learn the “ropes” and how your talents and/or skills can help us going forward. We are not asking for a commitment, merely giving you an opportunity to learn how this organization operates, how you might fit in, and how you can contribute to its growth.

This month we have a representative from Williams Sound talking about technology. In November we have Sara Oberg talking about Aural Rehabilitation. And in December, we have a representative from Innocaption showing how adding captioning to your cell phone etc. can improve your communication.

(President's message, cont.)

So, enjoy this unfortunately short (but beautiful) Fall season while you can. Let the beautiful colors and pleasant temperatures soothe your soul.

May you have peace, may you have happiness, may you have loving kindness!

Christine

*PS If you haven't already paid, don't forget that your 2021-2022 dues are due. If you would like to use a credit card, you can call treasurer Lionel Locke at **763-447-9672** and he will take it over the phone.*

Audiology Outside the Box PLLC

Sometimes a parent of a deaf or hard of hearing (DHH) child [is told] that they must choose either sign *or* spoken language for their child "because Deaf culture is against hearing devices". This is a harmful myth about Deaf culture. In reality, there is no single "Deaf culture perspective" on this topic...

If you have [thought]... that Deaf culture is against hearing technologies, take some time to learn more about this topic. Perspectives on HAs and CIs have changed over the years...Audiology Outside the Box will post more content on this topic in the future. For now, this informative TED Talk is a great resource. It's given by Heather Artinian, who grew up in Deaf communities and also has a cochlear implant. Link to it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jhm50aXJVMQ>



Board Members

Christine Morgan
president

Vice President

Lionel Locke
Secretary/Treasurer

Christy Myers
Director at Large

HLAA-TC Newsletter Editor
Vicki Martin
Social Media Specialist
Laura Hagemann

October Speaker



Tim Henry

National Sales Manager, WilliamsAV

Tim Henry is a 35-year veteran in the professional audio arena. After graduating from the University of Iowa, he worked in various roles in the Audio Visual industry, including a 23-year stint at Sony Electronics.

During his time at Sony, Tim worked in several roles including, National Sales Manager of the visual imaging product group. After working at Sony, Tim took on the role of Vice President of Sales for Vaddio. Here he led an international team of sales and technical professionals.

Since joining Williams AV as a National Sales Manager, Tim has managed all sales activities in the central region of the United States. He has been considered a well-respected speaker and industry expert in all hearing assistance technology and ADA compliance. Tim advocates for ADA compliance by actively educating individuals through speaking and sharing his growth of knowledge at trade shows and industry events.

HLAA-TC SEPTEMBER 2021 MEETING SUMMARY

President Christine Morgan thanked all the members in the Zoom audience for attending our first meeting of the season and introduced the guest speakers, Kaitlyn Gloege, cofounder and CEO of Hearing Glasses, and cofounder Abdelrahman Elkenawy.

Kaitlyn and Abdou started their presentation with a short video explaining the Company's mission. Hearing Glasses, a startup company, has designed and will manufacture glasses that caption real-life conversations using directional microphones in the frames of the glasses. The market for their product will include both people who are Deaf and those with hearing loss.

The company currently has plans for two models, one with a phone connection and one without. Currently in the prototype stage, the company will introduce a finished voice to text model that will resemble a normal pair of glasses. The timeline for this product is within 6 months including focus group testing and discounted sales for early adopters.

Both Kaitlyn and Abdou are students at Minnesota State University in Mankato, MN and are graduating in December. They plan to work full time for Hearing Glasses and have a timeline of 12 months to commercialize their product.

The cofounders answered technical questions from the Zoom audience and then included an offer to HLAA-TC for volunteers for the focus group testing. After the Q and A session, President Morgan thanked Kaitlyn and Abdou who shared emails for any other questions from the audience.

After the break, President Morgan introduced Secretary/Treasurer Lionel Locke who announced membership payment options for this year's dues. Locke also discussed plans for a face-to-face membership meeting in 2022, actual date to be determined.

President Morgan answered questions from the audience concerning her message published in the most recent newsletter. Those discussion items included vacancies on the Board of Directors, workload of current officers, and strategic direction of HLAA-TC. With current officer terms expiring in May of 2022, it was apparent that volunteers need to come forward to fill the Board positions.

At large Director Christy Myers also spoke about the strategic direction of HLAA-TC and expressed the need for members to come forward and volunteer helping the organization function and grow.

The audience offered comments and suggestions to the Board resulting in requests for attendance at the next scheduled Board meeting. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

(Synopsis submitted by Lionel Locke, Treasurer and Acting Secretary)

BECOME A MEMBER OF HLAA-TC

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

We cannot do it without you!



HLAA-TC Membership FAQ

What are the benefits of HLAA-TC membership?

- * Receive our monthly newsletter via email (or mail if you request).
- * Automatically receive Zoom meeting link for monthly membership meetings without needing to register.
- * Vote on resolutions presented at our general membership meetings.
- * Eligible to serve on the HLAA-TC board and committees.
- * Receive notifications of speakers that will be presenting on hearing research during accessible meetings (CART, real-time captioning and a hearing loop are provided).
- * Be part of a community of hard of hearing people and industry professionals who understand what it means to be hard of hearing in a hearing world.
- * Provide support to our chapter to accomplish its goals.

What are the dues?

- * Individual Membership - \$15 (includes Newsletter via email)
- * Professional Membership - \$50
- * Supporting Member - \$100
- * Printed and mailed copy of monthly Newsletter (optional) - \$15

What is the membership year?

- * Memberships run from September to September

How do I renew membership or become a member?

- * Print and complete a copy of the membership form (from www.hlaatc.org) and mail it with your check to:
HLAA-TC Chapter
P.O. Box 26021
Minneapolis, MN 55426

To use a credit card: Call our Treasurer, Lionel Locke, at 763-447-9672. He can take your credit card number and process your membership.

(Membership, cont.)

Do I have to live in the Twin Cities metro area to be a member?

* No. Though our Chapter name is HLAA-TC, we are at present the only local chapter of HLAA in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho and Wyoming. We welcome you all to participate in our Chapter.

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- * Professional Membership - \$50
- * Supporting Member - \$100
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- * HLAA TC Chapter
- * P.O. Box 26021
- * Minneapolis, MN 55426

Can I use a credit card?

- * Yes. To use a credit card, call our Treasurer, Lionel Locke, at 763-447-9672. He can take your credit card number and process your membership.

Do you accept professional advertising in your Newsletter?

- * Yes. If interested, please contact our Treasurer at treasurer@hlaatc.org or call 763-447-9672

Does my membership include membership to the National organization of HLAA?

- * HLAA-TC membership is different and separate from HLAA National membership. You do not have to be an HLAA National member in order to join our chapter.

Link to membership form here:

<https://www.hlaatc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/HLAA-TCmembership2020.pdf>





September Book Club Summary and October Preview

By Laura Hagemann

The HLAA-TC book club met on Wednesday, September 29th on Zoom to discuss the novel “The Heart is a Lonely Hunter” by Carson McCullers. The novel was published in 1940 and featured a varied cast of characters, including a main character who was deaf and mute. There were a lot of themes and topics that made for an interesting and lively discussion amongst our attendees.

We haven’t decided on our October book yet. We are alternating each month between fiction and nonfiction books. So October will be a nonfiction book. It will be announced on this blog and our social media what the next book is and when we’re meeting next.

In August we discussed “Shouting Won’t Help—Why I and 50 Million Other Americans—Can’t Hear You” by Katherine Bouton. And we were joined in our discussion by Katherine Bouton. In May and July we also had authors attend. In May we had Noel Holston join us to discuss his memoir “Life After Deaf.” And in July we had author Heather Gudenkauf to discuss her thriller novel (with a deaf protagonist) “Not a Sound.”

HLAA-TC Book Club plans to continue to meet throughout the year with the schedule and book selections chosen by attendees.

If you are interested in attending a book club, all meetings are open to everyone (whether you’re an HLAA member or not). If interested, send an email to Laura Hagemann at social@hlaatc.org and she will send you a Zoom meeting link.

Let's Face it!

Apple and Facebook are coming for your face next!

By *Farhad Manjoo*

(Excerpted from the St. Paul Pioneer Press September 24, 2021)

“...The face computer is coming – brace yourself for an onslaught of smart glasses, virtual reality headsets and other devices that connect your eyes to the digital world...Facebook and Microsoft are making virtual reality headsets...These function as powerful personal computers, mounted to your eyes, creating an enveloping digital experience – video games and movies surround you, the real world replaced by the machine...

There are enormous social, cultural and legal reasons to worry about face computers becoming ubiquitous. Such devices could turn your eyes into constantly recording dashcams, superimpose Instagrammy toxicity over your real-life conversations, and add a layer of reality-bending graphics to everything you see. It doesn’t help that they are being developed by some of the most intrusive, least trustworthy corporations in the world...”

And then, there are Hearing Glasses.

We learned about this type of face computer from two young entrepreneurs who spoke at our September chapter meeting.

As we all know, technology can be used unscrupulously, or for the benefit of others.

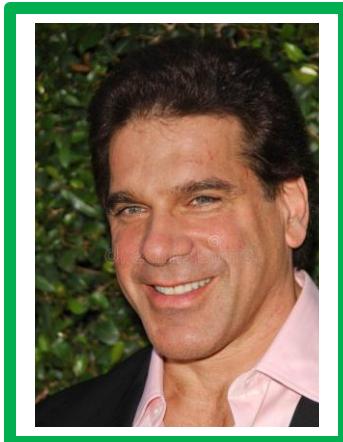
Manjoo goes on:

“...The best pitch for the face computer: it lets you get digital information more flexibly than you can on any other device...”



The Incredible Hulk Goes High Tech

By Monique Hammond, Past President HLAA TC



Lou Ferrigno

In March 2021, the activation of his cochlear implant left actor Lou Ferrigno overwhelmed and teary-eyed.

Many of us remember him from the TV show *The Incredible Hulk*. By now 69 years old, Mr. Ferrigno has dealt with profound hearing loss ever since he was a toddler. He feels that a series of ear infections that happened in early childhood robbed him of most of his hearing.

With the hearing loss came speech difficulties, bullying in school yards and feelings of vulnerability. However, Mr. Ferrigno reports that had it not been for his hearing challenges, he probably would not have gone down the path of body building and acting.

He says that he became obsessed with power. He wanted to be strong enough to defend himself. Hearing loss became like his “internal little hulk” that gave him the determination and strength of character to be the best that he could be.

To his credit, Mr. Ferrigno has never denied his hearing challenges and speech impediments. Instead, he has raised awareness on the issues of hearing struggles and on the misconceptions that surround them.

Now that he has his implant, he is more determined than ever to succeed. It is as if he moved from “body building to hearing building.” He takes his listening and rehabilitation exercises very seriously.

He feels that he has already gotten a lot of benefit from this extraordinary technology. Yet, he also credits following instructions and practicing for his encouraging results. He pays forward what he has learned so far and raises hope for others who wrestle with hearing issues.

In the end, Mr. Ferrigno acknowledges that it takes time, diligence and patience. As he points out correctly: “The more you put into it, the better it is.”

Remote Possibilities

Minnesotans with disabilities advocate for more virtual accommodations
(excerpted from the Saint Paul Pioneer Press, 9/20/21)

‘David Dively, Executive director of the Minnesota Council on Disability, said people with disabilities have sought teleworking capabilities for many years. The Americans with Disabilities Act and the Minnesota Human Rights Act both broadly address issues of discrimination and workplace accommodation.

However, Dively said it’s been difficult over the years for people with disabilities to be granted teleworking capabilities out of necessity for their health.

‘There was extreme hesitancy by supervisors and human resource managers’, he said, adding that employers often raised concerns about whether or not they had the capacity to accommodate telework for a disabled employee.

Dively said the community of those with disabilities has not missed the irony of often being denied individual accommodations in the past, and now during the pandemic watching entire corporations switch to remote work.

Yet he said, that’s how many issues have played out for decades.

‘For some reason, the framing of it as a disability rights issue automatically makes it a harder thing to achieve, and that shouldn’t be the case,’ he said.”.

Questions for discussion:

How might this attitude toward disability rights affect requests for accommodation of hearing disabilities?

Why do you think the “disability rights” argument might reduce the perception of the request’s importance?

How could a hearing accommodation request be framed to help management see it as more purposeful and beneficial?



HLAA TC
PO Box 26021
Minneapolis, MN 55426



Next meeting: Zoom on October 16

First Class

HLAA Twin Cities Chapter

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PO Box 26021
Minneapolis, MN 55426



Welcomes You!

President -
Christine Morgan - president@hlaatc.org

Vice President - vicepresident@hlaatc.org

Treasurer -
Lionel Locke treasurer@hlaatc.org

Secretary -
Lionel Locke secretary@hlaatc.org

Director at Large -
Christy Myers director@hlaatc.org

Contact Info. - info@hlaatc.org

Newsletter Editor -
Vicki Martin, editor@hlaatc.org

Photos - Vicki Martin
Social Media - Laura Hagemann social@hlaatc.org

The next meeting of the Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter (HLAA TC) will be held on Zoom on October 16, 2021. Open to socialize at 9:30 AM, formal meeting 10 AM.

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).

Accommodations: All meetings are real time captioned by Lisa Richardson and her staff of *Paradigm Captioning* (www.paradigmreporting.com).