

# HLAA TC May 2024

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.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**May 18, 2024**

Picnic get-together!

Fun interview

Announcements

Indoor picnic

*Byrdie,*

*HLAA-TC President*



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HLAA TC Website - Minnesota

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HLAA TC telephone 763-447-9672

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[info@hlaatc.org](mailto:info@hlaatc.org)

HLAA National - Maryland

The May Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter meeting

(HLAA TC) will be *in person only* on May 18, 2024

**See page 11 for further details**

President's Message  
***HLAA-TC President's Message –  
May 2024***  
*Robin Coninx*

What is your passion or gift? Let's put our heads together to create a HLAA-TC in the hard of hearing community that all can come together to learn, support each other and hear topics by speakers that have valuable information when you have a hearing loss. First and foremost, HLAATC Board needs to have seats filled:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

I am available to chat with any member to answer any questions you might have. Will this commit you to any position on the board? Absolutely not. As your president, I am here to talk with you about what it means to be on the HLAATC Board. I am available through email: [president@hlaatc.org](mailto:president@hlaatc.org) and at cell number: 763-447-9672.

I appreciate each and every one of you!  
Thank-you for your consideration!

**Get your sneakers out of the closet and come walk for the HLAATC Team** on June 2, 2024 at Como Park 119 Midway Parkway St Paul 55104.

To register click below and look for the **HLAATC Team!**

<https://www.walk4hearing.org/?language=en>

If you cannot walk, your **donation** would be much appreciated.



## May Meeting

Come with your favorite picnic food!! On May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 HLAATC Chapter meeting will be ***in-person only*** at the Courage Kenny Center in Golden Valley.



### Program:

- A short program of a fun interview about Keenan Tully, a young man with a hearing loss, and his journey to becoming a race car driver
- Announcements

Following the program – Time to have an indoor picnic!  
Broasted Chicken will be provided along with plates and utensils

**Bring your favorite side dishes  
And come ready to have fun food and fellowship!**

I will be providing the chicken.  
Please rsvp to [president@hlaatc.org](mailto:president@hlaatc.org) or 763-447-9672

--- Byrdie

# How to participate or donate in the Twin Cities Walk4Hearing

*By Laura Hagemann*

As we posted about earlier, there will be a 5K walk held Sunday, June 2, 2024 at Como Park in St. Paul called the Twin Cities Walk4Hearing. Members of HLAA, HLAA-TC, the community and local businesses are participating to help raise funds for hearing causes. Everyone is encouraged to participate and/or donate in any way that you are able. Listed below is a description of various ways to participate with corresponding links.

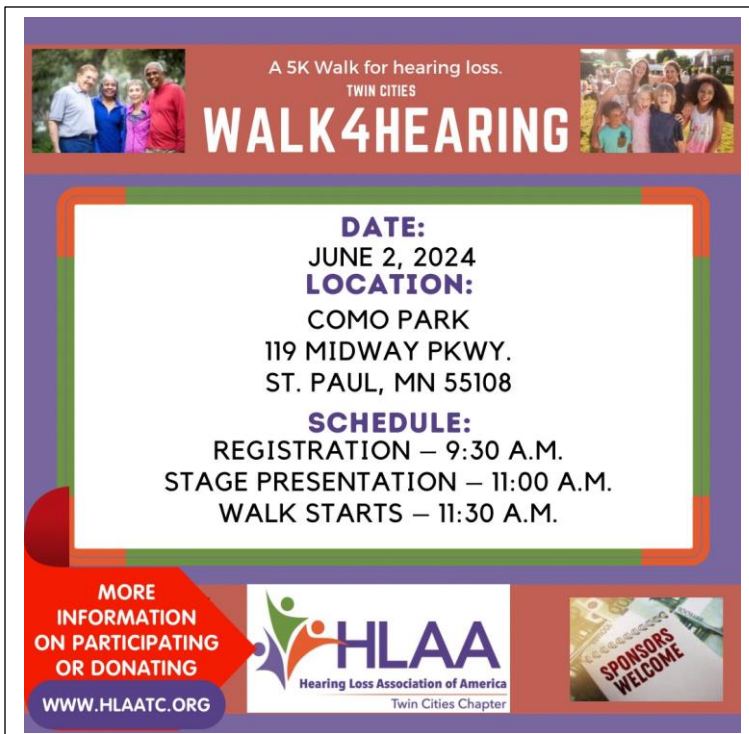
**To Donate to the Twin Cities Walk4Hearing** go to this [Donate Link](#).

**To Donate to a particular Walker or Team** (go to the same [Donate Link](#) and follow the directions on the page: To donate to a participant or team, enter their name (in the search bar on the Donate page and click search, you will then be directed to either the team or individual person's page). Once you find the person you want to donate to click the "Donate Now" button.

**To Join an already created Team:** Go to the [Twin Cities Walk4Hearing webpage](#) and scroll to the bottom of the page where you will find "Join a Team" and you enter the team name to find the team. Once you find the team you will go to the team page where you will click the "Join our Team" button (you will then be taken through the steps of registering for the walk. Once you complete registering you should show up under the Roster of the team you have joined.

**To Create your own Team:** Go to the Twin Cities Walk4Hearing webpage and [REGISTER](#). You can select to create a team when you are registering.

Please visit the [Twin Cities Walk4Hearing website](#) for more information. To keep things clear we have put all of the pertinent links on our website on our [Walk4Hearing page on the HLAA-TC website](#)

A colorful poster for the Twin Cities Walk4Hearing. At the top, it says "A 5K Walk for hearing loss. TWIN CITIES" above the large text "WALK4HEARING". There are two photos of groups of people. Below this, a white box contains the event details: DATE: JUNE 2, 2024; LOCATION: COMO PARK, 119 MIDWAY PKWY., ST. PAUL, MN 55108; SCHEDULE: REGISTRATION - 9:30 A.M., STAGE PRESENTATION - 11:00 A.M., WALK STARTS - 11:30 A.M. At the bottom, there is a red button that says "MORE INFORMATION ON PARTICIPATING OR DONATING" with the website "WWW.HLAATC.ORG". Next to it is the HLAA logo (Hearing Loss Association of America) with "Twin Cities Chapter" below it. To the right is a photo of a check with the text "SPONSORS WELCOME".

A 5K Walk for hearing loss.  
TWIN CITIES  
**WALK4HEARING**

**DATE:**  
JUNE 2, 2024  
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COMO PARK  
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MORE  
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**HLAA**  
Hearing Loss Association of America  
Twin Cities Chapter

SPONSORS  
WELCOME

## Summary of HLAA-TC meeting Saturday, April 20, 2024

*By Laura Hagemann, Vice President*

The April hybrid chapter meeting of HLAA-TC (with attendees both at Courage Kenny in Golden Valley, MN and on Zoom) was a presentation by staff from Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division (DHHSD).

**Sarah Maheswaran**, Program Director of Telephone Equipment Distribution (TED) spoke about that program and the various assistance devices people can get for telephone equipment within the state of Minnesota. Details can be found on their websites:

[Phone Access for people with hearing loss](#)

[TED Program Eligibility and Application Forms](#)

[TED Program Website](#)

**Dan Millikin**, Director of DHHSD told of the various services and programs that DHHSD can help with for those with hearing loss within Minnesota.

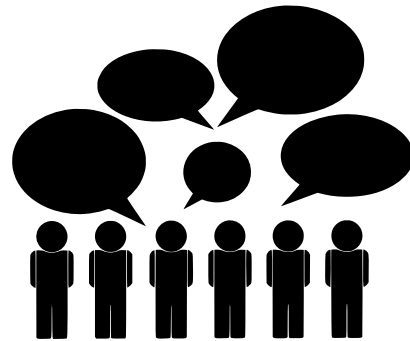
Some of the programs Millikin spoke of were:

- DHHSD Mental Health Program: A statewide program serving deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing adults.
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialists provide information and resources to help consumers obtain communication-accessible services through training, direct assistance and advocacy,
- Also provide training and consultation to service providers on how to make their services accessible to people with hearing loss.

DHHSD website: <http://mn.gov/deaf-hard-of-hearing>

DHHSD phone: 800-657-3663

Thank you to Sarah Maheswaran and Dan Millikin.



Byrdie adds:

I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation and gratitude for the speakers at our April Chapter meeting. Sarah Mahewaran Saghari Program Administrator of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service TED Program and Dan Millikin, JD, Director of DHHS Division so kindly and wonderfully presented on free services ranging from products to mental health services that are available to Minnesotans can be access through DHHSD.

One of the points he shared was the difference in the work of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division and the MN Commission of Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing. Please see below for the detailed description.

## Differences between DHHSD and MNCDHH

### • DHHSD

- Division of Minnesota Department of Human Services, a state agency that carries out Governor's Office agenda
- Mission: Promotes equal access and opportunities for Minnesotans with hearing loss through effective communication, collaboration and direct services.
- Provides direct client services and manages grants for people who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing and late-deafened through:
  - Assistive technology and equipment distribution
  - Deafblind services
  - Individual advocacy
  - Interpreting and captioning access (communication access)
  - Education and training
  - Mental health services
  - Mentoring services

### • MNCDHH

- Stand-alone independent commission
- Mission: Advocating for communication access and equal opportunity with the 30% of Minnesotans who are deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing.
- Lobbies with Governor's Office, Legislature, State Officials and Policy Makers
- Increase communication access statewide through:
  - Group advocacy for policy and systems change
  - Civic engagement and public participation

### **Center for Applied & Translational Sensory Science**

is a project out of the University of MN – **CATSS**.

How does this project relate to HLAATC? Robin 'Byrdie' Coninx, HLAATC President, and Christy Myers, HLAATC Director-at-Large board members are on the CATSS advisory board and we attend the advisory meetings that will take place throughout the year.

What is the goal of our involvement? Hearing loss awareness and research is vital to the hard of hearing community and this is but one way the voice of hard of hearing individuals can be heard.

Where will the community engagement be held? Either in person or through email that HLAATC will send out to our list serve at the request of CATSS.

For more information about who CATSS is and their purpose – click on this link: <https://catss.umn.edu/>

## May is Better Hearing Month

**I would like to do a shout out to all within HLAATC who volunteer and volunteer their time to support individuals who are hard of hearing in MN!**

**--- Byrdie**

One hot topic on Capitol Hill is the following (information below was provided by HLAA, Melissa Kruse).

HLAA is a founding member of the Coalition of Organizations for Accessible Technology (COAT) seeking passage of the Communications Video and Technology Act (CVTA), S. 2494/H.R. 4858.

To move this legislation forward, the support of **all HLAA state organizations and chapters** is needed to convince Congress to act. To add your organization to the growing list of supporters, please click on this link below and add your information as a supporter. More information about how CVTA will be a positive impact is below.

<https://www.cvtaaccess.org/support-the-cvta>

CVTA, (S. 2494/H.R. 4858) would allow the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to keep pace with and ensure that people with disabilities have full access to the range of mainstream communication, video programming, and emerging technologies needed to participate equally in the professional, educational, recreational, and civic aspects of their lives. This includes:

- Easy activation and customization of closed captioning for video streaming and on devices such as remote controls.
- Require equitable access to 911 services and location information.
- Allow the FCC to keep pace with artificial intelligence, virtual reality and other emerging technology.
- CVTA has the potential to positively impact compliance with the ADA requirement providing for effective communication in healthcare settings. When a healthcare provider uses telehealth services, these platforms must include the ability to provide captioning to accommodate people who need them.

For more information about CVTA and the COAT coalition, click here

<https://www.cvtaaccess.org/>



## April was Deaf History Month (resources related to Minnesota Deaf History)

*[Note: All information retrieved from [the Minnesota Proclamation on Deaf History Month \(April 2024\)](#). Links and resources gathered by Laura Hagemann]*

“In recognition of National Deaf History Month, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz has also proclaimed April 2024 to be [Deaf History Month](#).” You can read the Proclamation by Governor Walz [here](#). In the proclamation several interesting facts and resources were shared. Below we have listed and linked those items of interest.

### Historic Deaf Minnesotans

- Olof Hanson (1862–1933), the first Deaf architect (read this [Gallaudet University post](#) on Hanson and view the [Virtual Exhibit](#) on Hanson.)
- Agatha Tiegel Hanson (1873–1959), first female graduate of Gallaudet University (and wife of Olof Hanson) (read this [Gallaudet University post](#) on Tiegel Hanson.)
- Cadwallader Lincoln Washburn (1866–1965), a well-known Deaf artist (you can see some of Lincoln Washburn’s artwork and read more on the [MutualArt website here](#).)
- Gerald “Bummy” Burstein (1926–2018), a notable teacher and parliamentarian (read a [transcript of an interview with Burstein](#) done for the MNCDHH Oral-Visual History Project.)
- Doug Bahl (1950–2014), a famous Deaf historian, teacher and advocate for the deaf (read [this Pioneer Press article on Bahl](#).)
- Blanche Wilkins Williams (1876–1936), the first African American woman to graduate from the Minnesota State Academy of the Deaf (read [this blog by historian Dr. Jaipreet Virdi on Wilkins Williams](#).)

### Historic Landmarks in Minnesota (related to Deaf history)

- Historic national landmark [Charles Thompson Memorial Hall](#), “built in 1916 by Margaret Brooks Thompson in memory of her husband, both of whom were Deaf, and designed by architect Olof Hanson, to be a space where Deaf Minnesotans and friends could gather, free of charge”

### Schools for the Deaf in Minnesota

- The [Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf \(MSAD\)](#), established in 1863 in Faribault, serves students who are Deaf, DeafBlind, and hard of hearing
- [Metro Deaf School](#), a free public charter school serving students ages 0–22 in Saint Paul, was established in 1992

### Organizations in Minnesota Serving the Deaf Community

- [Minnesota Department of Human Services, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division](#) (DHHSD)
- [Minnesota Commission of the Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing](#) (MNCDHH)
- [Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens](#)
- [Minnesota DeafBlind Association](#)
- [Hearing Loss Association of America – Twin Cities Chapter](#)
- [St. Paul/Minneapolis Black Deaf Advocates](#)
- [Minnesota Deaf Muslim Community](#)
- [Deaf Women of Minnesota](#)
- [Minnesota Deaf Queers](#)
- [Minnesota Deaf Senior Citizens](#)
- [Deaf Equity](#)
- [ThinkSelf](#)



## April Book Club Summary and Next Book

*By Laura Hagemann*

On Tuesday, April 23rd the HLAA-TC Book Club met on Zoom to discuss the nonfiction book [“My Maggie” By Rich King](#). King is a retired sports broadcaster from Chicago and he wrote this book about his childhood sweetheart and first wife, Maggie King. Maggie was eventually diagnosed with Usher Syndrome and became DeafBlind. She also suffered and eventually died from cancer. Rich King wrote about those experiences in his book.

See below for a summary of the things talked about during our discussion of the book. Also below is listed what the next book is and when the next book club will be.

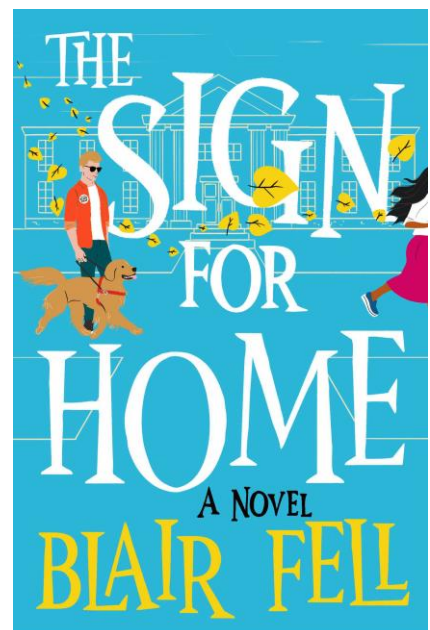
- My Maggie on Rich King’s publisher’s site: [My Maggie | Eckhartz Press](#)
- [An interview Rich King did about “My Maggie” that was for a “Clinician Round table”](#) (Note: If you need captions, you will need to use a Live Caption/Transcription app/website: [Live Captions on iOS 16 \(Apple\)](#); [Google Chrome Live Captions](#) (computer); [Otter](#); [Ava](#)
- Rich King’s newer book on his second marriage (after Maggie), co-written with his new wife : [“Back in the Game” By Rich King and Lindsay Eanet](#)
- [A podcast where Rich King talks about his book “Back In The Game”](#)
- [Usher Syndrome Society](#)
- [Usher Syndrome Coalition](#)
- [Further reading on diagnosis and testing of Usher Syndrome from the National Eye Institute](#)
- Another novel talked about during book club (that has a deaf character and is written by a Minnesota author) that we will add to our list [“This Tender Land” By William Kent Kruger](#)

### Next Month’s Book and Date:

MAY 2024: [“The Sign for Home: A Novel” by Blair Fell](#) (fiction)  
BARD/NLS: In process: Braille BR 24152; BARD: DB 11605.

Tuesday, MAY 28, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. CST  
[\[ZOOM- Register Here\]](#).  
[Amazon: Book Summary](#)

“Arlo Dilly is young, handsome, and eager to meet the right girl. He also happens to be DeafBlind, a Jehovah’s Witness, and under the strict guardianship of his controlling uncle. His chances of finding someone to love seem slim to none.”



## Laura #CanDoAnything!

The #CanDoAnything campaign showcases people who are deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing at work...this campaign shows what our community can do, which is anything!



Laura Hagemann was born in Fargo, North Dakota, and is the daughter of two teachers. She has a Bachelor of Arts in English Writing from Wartburg College, a Master of Arts in English Literature from St. Thomas University, and also a Master of Library and Information Science from St. Catherine University.

After getting her BA, Laura moved to the Twin Cities and started to work in marketing communications and advertising, first as a proofreader and then as a project manager. Since experiencing a severe Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) in 2016, she has been on disability and has gotten involved in volunteering for organizations that have helped her since her injuries. Most notably, she volunteers as the Social Media Specialist for Hearing Loss Association of America - Twin Cities Chapter (HLAA-TC) and she serves on the HLAA-TC Board of Directors as Vice President.

**Read Laura's full #CanDoAnything story:** <https://mn.gov/deaf-commission/advocacy-issues/employment/can-do-anything/index/laura-hagemann.jsp>

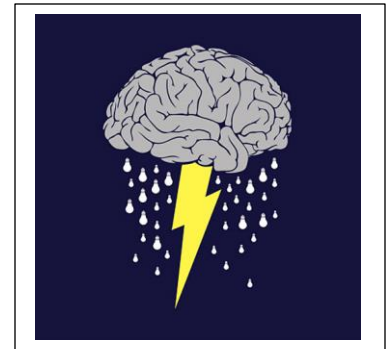
To read more about Laura's experiences with a TBI, check out her blog at [Writing by Laura](#).

## What's Your Vision for Our Meetings?

Christy Myers will be convening a meeting to plan for the speakers and events for our HLAA-TC Chapter meetings over the next year. Please consider participating in this meeting so that you can share your ideas on the subjects, speakers and events for our Chapter.

Our Chapter meetings are one of the primary ways our group has to fulfill its mission of providing education and community for people who have hearing loss. Let's plan a fun and energizing year.

If you can participate in the planning meeting or have suggestions to share, please contact Christy at [cmyersphoto@gmail.com](mailto:cmyersphoto@gmail.com).



## Meeting information

The next meeting of the Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter (HLAA-TC) will be held at Courage Kenny 3915 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley MN May 18, and on ZOOM.

**To register for this *IN-PERSON-only* meeting**, email: [president@hlaatc.org](mailto:president@hlaatc.org) or call 763-447-9672 and leave a message with how many people are attending in your party. Then, join us at Courage Kenny 3915 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley MN 55422 on May 18 (the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month).

**Meeting time:** Social time in person begins at 9:30 AM. Formal meeting is at 10 AM

**Accommodations:** All meetings are realtime captioned by Captioners from Veritext/Paradigm ([www.captioning-paradigm.com](http://www.captioning-paradigm.com)).

**HLAA TC**  
**PO Box 26021**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55426**



**Next meeting: May 18, 2024 in-person only**

### **First Class**

#### **HLAA Twin Cities Chapter**

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Address.....

City.....

State.....Zip.....

Phone.(area code).....

E-Mail.....

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**Mail to: HLAA Twin Cities Chapter**  
**PO Box 26021**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55426**



Welcomes You!

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**Treasurer – Robin Coninx** [treasurer@hlaatc.org](mailto:treasurer@hlaatc.org)

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