

# HLAA TC

## September 2025

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

October 18, 2025  
*Robin Coninx*  
HLAA-TC President

“Experiences at the 2025  
HLAA National Convention”

(In-Person Meeting)



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### President's email

Robin Coninx – [president@hlaatc.org](mailto:president@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)

The next Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter meeting  
(HLAA TC) will be held on October 18, 2025

**See page 11 for further details**

**President's Message**  
**Robin Coninx**  
*President, HLAA-TC Twin Cities chapter*

## One Size Fits All?

When shopping for a shirt or dress, you might come across a style you love labeled "one-size-fits-all." It may or may not work for you, but you can usually find a similar item in a size that fits better. Can we say the same for individuals who are hard of hearing? Is there a one-size-fits-all solution for technology, communication access, and community support?

From my perspective, not necessarily. While hearing aids, cochlear implants, and closed captions are valuable tools, individuals with hearing loss often have unique preferences and needs. To better understand what to consider, check out this helpful resource from our parent organization, the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA): It provides a simple outline to facilitate meaningful conversations with hard of hearing individuals.

<https://www.hearingloss.org/resources/hearing-loss-toolkit/>



We all share a fundamental need to connect, engage, and show value to one another for a richer, more fulfilling life.

Visit our local chapter website at <https://www.hlaatc.org/> , and join us in person at the Hearing Loss Association of America – Twin Cities chapter meeting! (Courage Kenny, 3915 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55422)

Come be part of our community and help make a difference!

## September 2025 Chapter Meeting Presentation on YouTube

*By Laura Hagemann*

The September 20, 2025 HLAA-TC meeting is on our YouTube channel (with captions). For a link to the presentation:

<https://youtu.be/KNfz80W27fw>

Thank you to presenter Dan Millikin, Director of Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing State Services Division (DDHSD) for presenting during our first Monthly Chapter Meeting of Fall 2025 on Saturday, SEPTEMBER 20th. Dan's topic was "Discussion: Ways to facilitate collaboration with the state." Dan talked through the DDHSD Website during the presentation: <https://mn.gov/deaf-hard-of-hearing/>

Remember that monthly chapter meetings have resumed for HLAA-TC and are held the third Saturday of the month from now until May. All chapter meetings are in person at Courage Kenny in Golden Valley, MN. We will continue to record and post all the presentations that we get permission to do so.

Link to our YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@hearinglossassoctwincities>

**Subscribe to our YouTube Channel** to be notified of future recordings.

"Discussion: Ways to facilitate collaboration with the state (MN) [for HOH]"  
By Dan Millikin, Division Director, Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing State Services Division (MN)

**MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING**  
*September 2025*  
[www.hlaatc.org](http://www.hlaatc.org)

**HLAA**  
Hearing Loss Association of America  
Twin Cities Chapter

**REC**  
Zoom Presentation Recording

((( Minnesota )))

Zoom meeting grid on a laptop screen with hands typing on the keyboard.

## **Give to the Max!**

HLAA-TC is the Twin Cities voice for people with hearing loss. We are a chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), the nation's leading 501 (c)(3) organization representing people with hearing loss. We believe people with hearing loss can support one another, advocate for change, support the community and live vibrant, full lives.

Donate here:

<https://www.givemn.org/organization/Hlaatcmn>





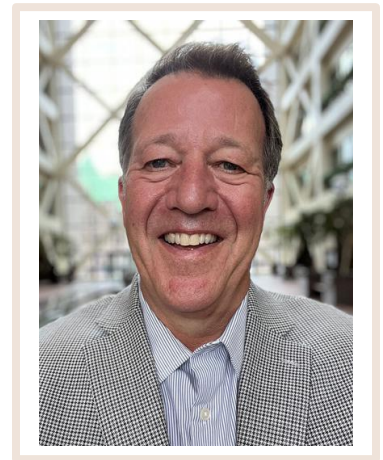
Board member Mark Daly speaks to our communities through the Sun newspapers about the challenges of hearing loss:

“The bottom line for me ... is that social interactions are a balancing act: our desire to participate in conversations versus our desire to be polite”.

Read Mark’s article here:

[https://www.hometownsource.com/sun\\_sailor](https://www.hometownsource.com/sun_sailor)

*Mark Daly is a former KARE 11 reporter from Hopkins. He began experiencing hearing loss at age 40 and serves on the board for the Twin Cities Hearing Loss Association of America. Reach him at [dalymarkd@gmail.com](mailto:dalymarkd@gmail.com).*



## Who Knew?

Consumer Reports magazine (July-August 2025) reports a hard-of-hearing reader’s comments on their experience with an electric induction range:

“...You failed to mention a major drawback of induction ranges: they can create an electromagnetic field that interferes with the function of cochlear implants. My devices screeched nonstop at a friend’s dinner party...”

CR offered this follow-up: “We spoke to an audiologist who confirmed that certain cochlear implants will respond to an induction stove or cooktop as you described...and it’s not just implants: hearing aids that use a telecoil can also react to induction appliances.”

*(Editor’s comment: we CI users know that others will not hear this interference - but it could be a conversation-stopper for us.)*

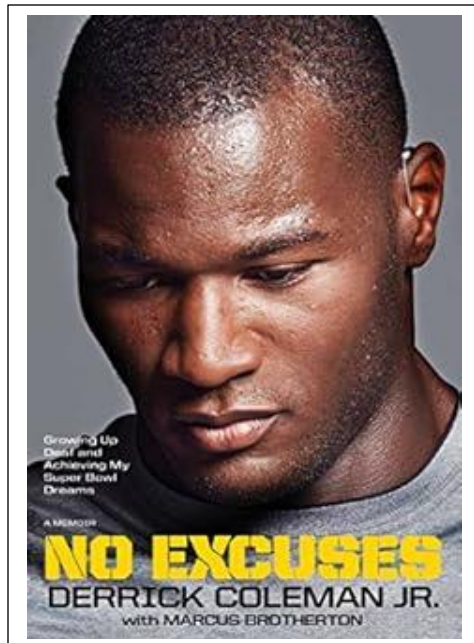


## September Book Club Summary

*By Laura Hagemann*

Here is a listing of links mentioned and related to the September book club from Tuesday, September 23rd when we talked about the memoir of the first deaf NFL offensive lineman Derrick Coleman, Jr.: [“No excuses: Growing up deaf and achieving my Superbowl Dreams.”](#)(Nonfiction) By Derrick Coleman, Jr. We didn’t have the author attend this book club.

- [Derrick Coleman, Jr.’s Packer’s webpage](#) (he currently works for the Green Bay Packers assistant director of player engagement)
- [Derrick Coleman, Jr. on Wikipedia](#)
- We talked about how Deaf culture (in particular Gallaudet University) started using a technique that is now ubiquitous with American Football (and some other sports): The Huddle:
  - [Wikipedia entry on The Huddle](#)
  - [Gallaudet University webpage on The Huddle](#)
- [A webpage listing Deaf and Hard of Hearing NFL players](#) (including Coleman, Jr.)
- [Coleman Jr.’s Duracell Commercial](#) (from 2015 when he was in the Superbowl with the Seattle Seahawks)
- [Coleman Jr. interviewed on Good Morning America](#) to promote this memoir





## Author William Kent Krueger is attending October Book Club

By Laura Hagemann

HLAA-TC Book Club is excited to be welcoming celebrated and *New York Times* Best Selling author William Kent Krueger to our October book club on Zoom. Krueger is originally from Oregon but has called our home state of Minnesota home for many years and sets his novels in Minnesota, including *This Tender Land*.

**OCTOBER BOOK CLUB: *Different Day than usual: Wednesday- October 29*, 5 p.m.**

**Western/ 7 p.m. Central/ 8 p.m. Eastern Time NOW WELCOMING AUTHOR**

**WILLIAM KENT KRUEGER “This Tender Land” (Fiction) by William Kent Krueger, DB 102149 [ZOOM-Click to Register] Zoom Meeting**

In our book club we often read books about hearing loss or disability or featuring a character with those characteristics. In October’s selection, William Kent Krueger’s novel *This Tender Land*, one of the main characters, Mose, is rendered mute by a horrific mutilation that happens to him and his friends communicate with him using sign language.

HLAA-TC  
VIRTUAL  
BOOK CLUB

REGISTER ON OUR  
WEBSITE  
FOR ZOOM LINK  
[www.hlaatc.org](http://www.hlaatc.org)

Book Club Talk with Author  
William Kent Krueger  
on his novel  
“This Tender Land”  
Wednesday, October 29, 2025  
5pm Western/ 7pm Central/ 8pm Eastern

## How to Pay Less for Nothing *by Vicki Martin*

It's been a year or two since our landline phone service - the one that provided us with sound, captioning, message storing, and relative ease of answering – has been reliably usable.

Sometimes there would be such a loud buzz on the line that no one could hear. Even the captioner couldn't make anything out. Sometimes there was no service at all, for weeks at a time.

We kept paying our bills on time, but the service didn't improve. Over time, we saw a pattern: if it rained or snowed, service would be degraded, or go away completely.

Numerous service calls failed to provide us with an answer. Finally, a worker gave us the reason:

*When there is melting snow, or rain, [can you think of a Minnesota season without either of these?] water gets into the boxes with the copper wire, and when the wire gets wet, the service is affected.*

Can they fix this vital infrastructure to keep the wires functional?

*Well, yes, but we are not doing repairs because copper wire is not being used any more, and will be replaced with fiber optic.*

Can we change to fiber optic?

*No, we are not doing fiber optic.*

When will it be available?

*We don't know. Some time in the future.*

Calls to other service providers turned up one that could give us fiber optic *now*. We got an estimate, and it was actually somewhat less than the copper wire service that wasn't working. What did we have to lose?

Change is risky. Especially when you use many devices that all have to work together for any of them to be useful. (Think, captioned telephone, hearing aid with T-coil or paired streaming device, CI processor with the same, programs on your hearing aid, settings on your CI, internet connection...). But in this case, making the change was a no-brainer: Even if it didn't work, we'd actually be paying LESS for nothing than we already were.

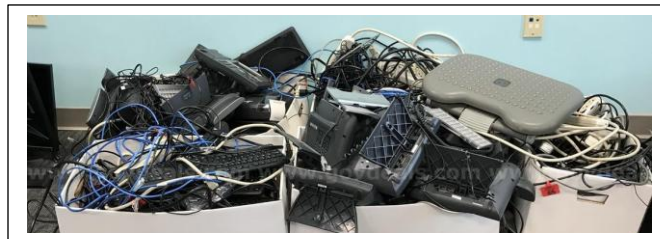


*(Pay less for nothing, cont.)*

So we gave it the nod, and decided to schedule a serviceman to come *asap*.  
Oops – strike that idea, because changing service from wire to fiber is -- like everything else these days -- a do-it-yourself job. They send you a box of wires, plastic pieces, connectors, (well, you know – “parts”), and you do what you have to do with it.

It took some time, but, hey, hadn't we already spent two years trying to figure out why we didn't have landline service? Now we do, and it works OK, though there are a few annoying inconveniences (more about that next time). In any case, it is now possible to make a phone call on our landline (Captel) phone. Yay!

I can't wait to find out what the next “big thing” in telecommunications will be...



### Modifiable Risk Factor

Can hearing loss cause dementia? Though causation has not been established, correlation is observed.

“The scientific consensus is clear: untreated hearing loss in at-risk people is strongly correlated with cognitive decline and increased dementia risk. While definitive causation remains elusive... the weight of epidemiological and clinical evidence supports hearing loss as a major modifiable risk factor.”

Read the full article in Hearingtracker.com, or cntl/click here:

<https://www.hearingtracker.com/opinion/untreated-hearing-loss-hearing-aids-and-cognition-correlational-outcomes-2025>

## Tick-Tock

by Vicki Martin

Have you ever wondered why our languages have clocks saying “tick-tock” instead of “tick-tick”? Neither had I, really, until my quiet reading time was interrupted by a tick-like sound occurring softly and repeatedly.

We have a lot of devices, electronic and otherwise, in our home, and I was curious as to what might be near my reading chair that was making that repetitive sound. There are electric lights. There is a WiFi router, there is a phone jack (currently without a phone), and several other things with wires and lights. And there is a small, shy little battery-operated clock on a nearby side table.

The clock has a second hand, and I thought I might be hearing the clock tick. But when I watched it, I noticed that I was not hearing each movement of the second-hand. Interesting. I picked up the clock and held it, finding that the sound was indeed emanating from the clock, but only with every other movement of the second-hand. Holding the clock to my CI processor, I discovered I could also hear the alternate second-hand movements – and they were a different pitch!

So at first, I had heard only the “tock”, which I took to be a “tick”. Closer listening brought forth the ticks, completing the clock’s phrase. So now I know. Clocks really do say “tick-tock”!



## Dues Due!

### Membership Payments

This is a reminder that your HLAA-TC memberships are due for the 2024/25 fiscal year. For only \$25, you support this group and enable it to continue.

You may pay your annual dues online using the following link to CheddarUp, or, if you prefer to write a check, please complete the membership form on page 11 of this newsletter and mail it with your check to HLAA-TC, PO Box 26021, Minneapolis, MN 55426/.

Pay online here: <https://annual-membership-renewal-62030.cheddarup.com/>

## Membership form

To join the HLAA TC Chapter, please print and complete this form and mail to:

HLAA TC Chapter  
P.O. Box 26021  
Minneapolis, MN 55426

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/TTY#: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Type:

(Please Select One. All Memberships are annual and renewed on September 15th of each year)

☐ New Membership

☐ Renewal

☐ (\$25) - Individual Membership

☐ (\$50) - Professional Membership

☐ (\$15) - Printed Newsletter (optional - all memberships include a newsletter via email)

☐ (\$\_\_\_\_) - Donation

**Please add up totals and mail this form along with your payment to the address listed at the top of this form.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Total Enclosed**

**\*NOTE: National Membership is a separate membership with privileges and publications (see [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)).**

### RECEIPT

This is acknowledgement that \$\_\_\_\_\_ has been received by HLAA-TC for \_\_\_\_\_

from:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

## Meeting information

The next meeting of the Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter (HLAA-TC) will be held on October 18, 2025.

**Location:** Courage Kenny, 3915 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55422

**Registration:** (TBD)

**Meeting time:** Meeting begins at 10 AM (social time at 9:30).

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

*The meeting room is also looped for enhanced hearing directly to your hearing aids or Cochlear implant using T-coil.*

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



## **First Class**



Welcomes You!

**President - Robin Coninx** [president@hlaatc.org](mailto:president@hlaatc.org)  
**Vice President - Kim Fishman** [vicepresident@hlaatc.org](mailto:vicepresident@hlaatc.org)  
**Secretary -** [secretary@hlaatc.org](mailto:secretary@hlaatc.org)  
**Treasurer – Sharon Witt** [treasurer@hlaatc.org](mailto:treasurer@hlaatc.org)

### **Directors at Large:**

**Mark Daly**  
**Michael Smith**  
**Eve Boaheng**

**Contact Info. -** [info@hlaatc.org](mailto:info@hlaatc.org)

**Social Media - Laura Hagemann** [social@hlaatc.org](mailto:social@hlaatc.org)

**Newsletter Photographers: Vicki Martin**

**Newsletter Editor: Vicki Martin** [editor@hlaatc.org](mailto:editor@hlaatc.org)