

# HLAA Twin Cities

Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter October 2007



See the captioned trailer for this film “**Music Within.**” October 26<sup>th</sup>, opens in theatres, movie inspired by activists for the disabled. Rated R  
<http://www.musicwithinmovie.com/>

**Med-El** - Smaller incision, smaller device titanium cochlear implant available. Harold Pillsbury, M.D., the Chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, MD performed the surgery September 5. Lorne Parnes, M.D., Otolaryngologist at London Health Sciences Centre, performed the surgery in Ontario, Canada on Sept. 11, 2007. The SONATATI100 was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration earlier this year. For more information, visit [www.medel.com](http://www.medel.com) or call 888-MED-EL-CI (633-3524).

## Captions Online

Newsbreak Oct. 4, 2007.

AOL, Google, Microsoft, Yahoo have united to advance online media captioning. In order to combat the problem of gaps in media presentation to the Deaf and HOH, MGBH of Boston and those above have joined forces to make captioning for more videos online.

Visit [www.wgbh.org](http://www.wgbh.org) for more information.

October 2007



✖ 25 And Counting	Page 4
✖ Bits and Pieces	Page 7
✖ Calendar of Events	Page 3
✖ Gravity Shift	Page 5
✖ Guthrie hits NY	Page 9
✖ Help Me Hear Fdn	Page 6
✖ Officers & Editors	Page 12
✖ President's Message	Page 2
✖ Sponsors/Advertisers	Page 11

THE **NEXT MEETING** IS  
OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup> AT 9:30 AM  
AT THE COURAGE CENTER  
ED ROOMS 1 & 2

Courage Center  
3915 Golden Valley Road  
Golden Valley, MN 55422-4249

HLAA TC Website

[www.hlaatc.org](http://www.hlaatc.org)

contains map to our location,  
resources, officers, upcoming  
events and newsletters.

HLAA National:

[www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)

MN Contact Information:

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



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE October 2007

Well, our new year at HLAA TC has started. We were introduced to a most valuable resource, namely the **MEC** or *The Minnesota Employment Center* for deaf and hard of hearing people. If anyone wants to contact one of the speakers for help or further details, here are their email addresses and phone numbers. The MEC website is currently under reconstruction.

Michelle Rimmer: 651-265-2364 (voice) 651-227-0107 ( TTY)

Email: [micheller@lifetrackresources.org](mailto:micheller@lifetrackresources.org)

Erika Nordin: 651-265-2413 (voice) 651-225-9248 ( TTY)

Email: [erikan@lifetrackresources.org](mailto:erikan@lifetrackresources.org)

For those who were present at the meeting, please share the information with your deaf and hard of hearing colleagues and friends. “ *Pay it Forward!*”

Do you want to weigh in on an important issue and help make a difference? Vice -President Vicki told us about her test on how to locate TTY access at *our airport*. This was a very timely anecdote because problems affecting deaf and hard of hearing travelers at **Airports** figure highly on activists’ action lists.

As you may know, the San Francisco Airport was sued because – after an \$ 84 million renovation – accessibility for passengers with hearing loss had fallen by the wayside. We do not want to have that happen here.

The MCDHH ( Minnesota Commission serving Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deafblind people) is working with representatives from the **MAC** ( Metropolitan Airports Commission) on how to improve our own systems. However, they still want input from us, the passengers with hearing loss. An MCDHH sponsored *Airport Access Forum* in July drew a lot of feedback. A special page was added to the website where *hearing related* access incidents can be reported. [www.mncdhh.org](http://www.mncdhh.org) Click on the left side.” Tell Us Your Airport Stories.”

Please, be *clear* and *precise*. People tend to share *airline* stories. Even though the issues can be somewhat intertwined, we need information about the **Airport**.

Our representatives need **details** - some real “meat”- that they can take back to the people at the MAC. **When** did the incident happen? Include date and time. The more recent, the better!  
**Where** did it happen? Concourse? Security? Transport within the facility?  
**What** happened? Think about this one. Regardless of our hearing status, some problems arise because of our poor travel habits. In your case, was the incident due to the fact that the airport truly lacked ways and equipment for communicating with the hearing challenged passenger? Untrained personnel? Telephone/paging problems?  
**Who** was unhelpful or nasty? An airport employee? A manager? A guard?  
**How** could the incident have been avoided? Any **suggestions for improvement** are welcome. Might you be able to share some **positive experiences**?

Anything to report? Go ahead and sign on! As Napoléon Bonaparte once said: “ Ten persons who speak make more noise than ten thousand who are silent.”

*Monique*

**October 20, 2007** - Rick MacPherson - Attorney with the MN Disability Law Center

**November 17, 2007** - Hearing and Service Dogs of MN

**December 15, 2007** - Brian Alexander - OSHA – noise safety standards and regulations

**January 19, 2008** - Michael Block – Starkey Tinnitus Clinic

**February 16, 2008** - Mary Hartnett – Minnesota Commission serving the Deaf, HOH, Deafblind (MCDHH) (topics for the upcoming legislative session.

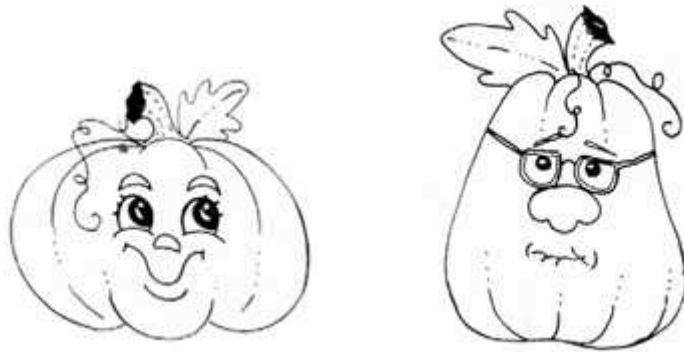
**March 15, 2008** – Lion Dwight Maxa - Board of Directors for Lions Foundation

**April 19, 2008** – Dr. Kristen Swan – Region’s Hospital – returning psychotherapist

**May 17, 2008** – Elections and potluck

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

HLAA Twin Cities Chapter meetings are held at the **Courage Center** on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month (except June, July and August). Meetings start at 9:30 AM and last until Noon.



**A man and his music gone, he builds his last guitar**

From the Washington Post, September 9, 2007, Page W18 written by Doug Fields

The sun rose one Saturday morning the without warning, as if awaking in a in my left ear. It sounded as if my ear electric guitar amplifier roaring at full-beyond hurt to an excruciating, own voice, my own footsteps, were if I were inside a trash can -- that it If that were not enough, the room in me around in a disoriented, dizzy daze.



same as any other, except that I awoke DEAF. It came Kafka nightmare: nothing but an incessant painful scream were pressed against a powerful blown-out Marshall bore. The slightest sound was magnified and distorted overdriven rage. I could not speak above a whisper. My intolerably loud and painful. Sounds were so distorted -- as was difficult to comprehend speech through my other ear. my living nightmare shifted like the deck of a ship, heaving The rest of the story: **Guitar Hero**

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/04/AR2007090401785.html>

## **25 and Counting: An Accommodations Odyssey**

By Vicki Martin

Twenty-five, I confess, refers to my service credit years, not my age. OK, you knew that. In any case, at -- um, more than 25 -- years of age, I ought to know enough to figure out what I need and ask for it. After all, that's what we try to teach our children.

The service anniversary celebration was a gala affair, more extravagant than I had imagined. A thousand people, dazzling in their splendid apparel, acknowledged one another over drinks, anticipating the elegant dinner, polished presentations and entertainment that was to follow.

Seeing so many beautiful women in cocktail dresses reminded me that I too could have pulled out all the stops and gone for the glitz, or whatever approximation of glitz I can still muster. I may not be up to sequined decollette any more, but I could have dressed with a little more panache than my brown pants, brown jacket, and brown blouse conveyed.

But never mind, because we never made it to the cocktail party anyway. That is because, having bantered back and forth for two months on the question of whether an ALD could be provided, one finally came to light. So instead of having drinks with the company glitterati, we stood alone in a vast, empty room waiting to pick it up. After nearly an hour of such waiting, the reception was over and people began coming into the hall for dinner. But I did finally get my hands on the prize: an ALD, which actually worked -- sort of.

I had asked for an ALD, not because I really thought it would enable me, but primarily to see if they would provide one. I brought my own neckloop. Yes, I know -- I should have asked for that too. But let's take one thing at a time, here, OK? I shot for the ALD, I wasn't about to try for the loop too. But in fact, as I found out, it would be best for the provider to furnish the loop as well, because not all brands make contact in exactly the same way. I was able to make it "work", but it wasn't a perfect fit.

The most sophisticated media technology brought speakers, singers, and interpreters within everyone's view. When I saw these big screens, I actually had some hope that I might be able to understand the speakers. Great sound along with a great view is sometimes enough. But -- million-dollar media equipment notwithstanding -- the industry has a way to go before speechreading by projection can be useful. With the sound and the screen image slightly out of sync, it read like a badly dubbed foreign movie. It might be possible for a talented, alert speechreader to make it work, but it was a bit beyond my grasp. And after that second glass of wine, all bets were off.

The screens, however, would have been the perfect vehicle for CART. I know, I should have asked for it. But I didn't. I did not imagine that there would be a way to use CART at a large banquet with multiple speakers and entertainers. How would it be possible? Would they seat a captioner by me at the table (should I offer her some salad?). Would they plant a portable screen nearby to project the captions (and block the view?).

Now, this is no doubt one of my failings as a human being, but if I can't think of a way to do something, I assume that no one can. And so, with no idea how it could be done, I did not ask for CART.

Finally, I must add that we had a wonderful evening anyway. The meal was superb, the company congenial, and the music was good.

I don't know if I will still be around for the next milestone anniversary celebration. But if I am, I will know just what to do: I will ask for CART. And dress with a little more glitz.

# **Gravity shift**

## **By Sue Brabeck**

No, I'm not referring to the 'gravity shift' that seems to hit all of us once we reach our mid-40s, although I could easily write an article about my experiences with that.

I'm referring to a different, more personal gravity shift, one that occurred quietly, without me realizing it.

I have been following a recent corporate finger-shaking, reminding employees to clean out our work e-mail cache. More saved e-mails means more storage costs, and thus lower profits, right? Ok, I'll be a good employee and do that.

I started wading through my personal e-mail file first. There were dozens of e-mails that I had written about two years ago, when I began my first major descent into a crisis of hearing loss in my right ear, the only "good" ear that I have. I was frantically trying to hide it from my management. I was embarrassed by my disability. Would I be fired? I didn't know how to advocate, or even what I could advocate for. I was terrified that I was losing all of my hearing and would become deaf.

The tone of these e-mails is one of not-so-quiet desperation. I was reaching out to my employer's medical group, our Disability Advisory Committee, our ergonomics area, human resources, the State of Minnesota – anybody I could grab hold of that would listen to me. Each e-mail was land-mine of emotion.

Through time in these frightened e-mails, there is a shift in tone. Slowly, I am launched out of self-pity, and into a world of advocacy. I'm getting much-needed support from Vicki Martin. I'm writing for information, getting answers, getting direction, getting involved.

Reading these once more, before hitting 'delete', I was reminded of how far I have come, and how far so many of us have come. Vicki took me to my first HLAA –TC meeting in December 2005. Since then, being a member of HLAA-TC has given me such a sense of finally 'belonging' somewhere. It is one of the few safe havens that I have, where it is absolutely ok to say "Huh?" or "Could you repeat that?" as many times as I need to. It's a place where people know how to talk to me, and where I can connect with those that have gone through exactly what I have gone through. I have learned so much from the HLAA-TC members, and I thank Vicki and every one of you for that support and encouragement.

I felt like I was off-loading a memory of pain and heartache with each touch of the "delete" key. Am I still embarrassed by my disability? No way. Am I afraid to advocate? Just try and stop me! Am I still terrified of losing what little is left of my hearing? Oh yeah, absolutely.

## **Press release source: Help Me Hear Foundation**

Kevin McHale Instrumental in Forming the 'Help Me Hear Foundation'

SAINT PAUL, Minn., Aug. 15 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Kevin McHale is one of five board members to start the Help Me Hear Foundation ("HMH"), a non-profit organization incorporated in Saint Paul, Minnesota. McHale will also act as the spokesperson. HMH was created to gift cochlear implants to impoverished deaf children who would otherwise never be able to obtain one. Dr. William House, the "true" inventor of the cochlear implant, also sits on the Board of Directors.

While the burden of deafness on an individual of any age is substantial, the burden on infants and developing children is debilitating. The first three years of life are considered the "critical period" of normal speech development. Children who cannot hear sounds during this critical period experience deficits in speech development and academic achievement.

A deaf child who is given a cochlear implant is given the opportunity to hear sounds, which in turn, affords them the opportunity to learn how to communicate orally just as a hearing child does. Being able to communicate orally with the hearing world will allow these deaf children a chance to lead a "normal" life. In fact, most people who meet a 10 year old child who was given a cochlear implant at age 1 or 1 1/2, would likely be surprised to learn the child was born deaf.

In the United States, the real cost of a cochlear implant, required implant surgery, and follow-up rehab, ranges from \$50,000 to \$100,000. HMH, however, will buy a cochlear implant, locate an experienced surgeon willing to donate services, and coordinate the needed follow-up therapy all for just \$7,000 per child.

Because of the prohibitive cost, it is estimated that only 1% of the world's deaf population will ever receive a cochlear implant. HMH hopes to change that statistic by raising funds to provide impoverished deaf children with cochlear implants.

When asked why he supports such an organization McHale responded, "Because every child deserves a chance to hear. I love the fact that the goal of this organization is to create independent, productive people. It's a small, one time, investment that will have a lifetime of benefits. The impact will be felt not only by the children, but, by the families of these kids. I'm just happy to be apart of it."

Help Me Hear Foundation

[www.helpmehearfoundation.info](http://www.helpmehearfoundation.info)

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### **Ever think of getting a hearing dog?**

Read the short clip from "Dogs For the Deaf" Canine Listener Newsletter.

Dear DFD Staff,

I have been receiving my mother's newsletter for several years. This last newsletter reminded me that it was time to say thank you for letting Mom have Teddy (who failed his training as a Hearing Dog, but was the best companion ever). ( Continued on next page under "Dogs" )

# BITS AND PIECES

**KSTP-TV, Minnesota, September 5, 2007**, see **Bill Austin's** lab as he is interviewed. He was also visited by **President Bush** last month. Mr. Austin is the founder of the Starkey Hearing Foundation in Eden Prairie and world-renowned philanthropist.

VIDEO Not captioned (unbelievable): <http://kstp.com/article/stories/S185537.shtml?cat=1>

\*\*\*\*\*  
<http://www.bionicear.com> **Advanced Bionics** has a new website

\*\*\*\*\*  
 How about a non-conventional way to **practice learning your ASL ABC's**. Post them in the bathroom where you can see them easily, and before you know it you'll be down you the last letter Z...easy and no stress right? School in the lou why not?

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Actor **Jodi Foster** is now a hearing aid wearer see picture <http://tinyurl.com/2wgrb6>

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 The movie "**Music Within**" starring Ron Livingston (Office Space, Band of Brothers, Little Black Book) will feature Starkey. It's the true story of Richard Pimentel, an American who lost his hearing in an explosion in Viet Nam. After being fitted with CIC's from Starkey he began what he feels is his calling, working on behalf of Americans with disabilities. "Music Within" is being distributed by MGM and is opening Oct. 26 in select cities and Minneapolis is one of them. More info. <http://www.musicwithinmovie.com/>

\*\*\*\*\*  
 The **Better Hearing Institute** has created a new tool to help America appreciate the impact of hearing loss. Featured on BHI's Web site, the new tool <http://www.betterhearing.org/sound/>

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 Come join the fun. **Hearing Loss Association of Florida** sets sail on Feb. 3-9 aboard the "**Jewel of the Sea**" in Ft. Lauderdale destination the Caribbean. Prices start inside room at \$749 per person. Ports: Key West, Cozumel, Costa Maya and Belize City. Please contact Barbara Maher at GO Travel to make your reservation toll free 877-371-7970 or email to [Barbaram@contus.com](mailto:Barbaram@contus.com).

\*\*\*\*\*  
 To read the current issue of "**Hearing Loss**" magazine put out by National HLAA in Bethesda, Maryland go to <http://www.hearingloss.org/> and click Join ant then Hearing Loss Mag.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 To gain some really good writing tips, go to **T S Writing Services** <http://ww.tswriting.com> put together by Trudy Suggs, author, editor etc. etc. and one of our speakers last year on registration and voting.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**"Dogs" continued from Page 6.....**

Teddy was Mother's constant companion, even when dementia had truly taken its toll. He slept beside her bed, sat next to her feet, and only left her side to take walks with me, play in the yard, or get a bite to eat. He seemed to know that he was her dog no matter her condition or awareness. Last summer, they both passed away—Teddy was probably over 12, and Mother was 93.

Thank you again for rescuing him and helping him find a companion. Mother loved him dearly and so did we. Christy G., Colorado

For more information: <http://www.dogsforthedeaf.org/newsletter.php>



## HLAA TC Meeting September 15, 2007 Synopsis

Our guest speaker was Michelle Rimmer, with Erika Nordin, from the Minnesota Employment Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing. MEC works with both employees and employers to foster best placement and good communication and understanding in the workplace.

Michelle said that it can actually be more of a challenge to [set things right] for a hard of hearing person than for a deaf person. The reason is that it is harder for employers and co-workers to realize that there is a communication barrier, when the HH employee speaks and can sometimes follow a conversation. Among the things the HH employee can do to promote good communication are to ask the person to repeat, and ask (when given an assignment) for a written list of tasks, or expectations. She reminded us that your boss feels even stupider than you do under the circumstances! MEC does long-term follow up support when it is needed or requested.

Michelle used the example of four sentences that lip-read the same, but mean very different things:

- I love you.
- Olive juice.
- I'll have two.
- Island view.

Don't tell the waitress "I'll have two" when you are with your hard of hearing girlfriend!

An OCS (occupational specialist) at MEC is much less restricted than an interpreter. They may do some ASL translating, but are not bound by the rules of interpreting. They are free to engage in conversation with the client, and to explain thing to either the client or the employer as needed. They can help clarify what is really being asked, and [clarify] some misconceptions about lipreading.

MEC does all levels of coaching, from preparing for interviews to actually going to the interview with the client.

Michelle has an audio tape that demonstrates to hearing people what hearing loss sounds like. Each level represents a progressively more severe hearing loss. Unfortunately, she could not play the tape for us because our amp went out. Those of us who have heard it before remember that to us, they all sound alike! But it is an eye-opener – or rather, ear-opener – for hearing people who are experiencing it for the first time



*Wicki*



From the newsroom of the Broadway World, New York City, New York,  
Friday, September 21, 2007 .....

## **The Guthrie Offers Open Caption Performances Nov. 8 & 10**

Striving to make performances accessible to all patrons, the Guthrie will open caption upcoming performances of *The Home Place* on November 8 at 7:30PM and *Jane Eyre* on November 10 at 1PM. Tickets for this service are priced from \$17 to \$27 and are on sale through the Guthrie Box Office at 612-377-2224 (voice), toll-free 877-44-STAGE (voice) and 612-377-6626 (TTY for patrons who are deaf).

Open captioning is a general term used to describe text displayed simultaneous to live speech, dialogue or performance. As opposed to closed captioning, which requires special equipment for viewing, Open captioning can be seen by anyone via a screen placed adjacent to the stage. The system has gained world-wide attention and support for its universal appeal, while introducing a wave of new audiences and offering opportunities to those who can finally return to the theater.

Guthrie performances will be captioned by c2 (caption coalition) inc, a consultant and service provider of Live Performance Captioning and CART (Communication Access Real-time Translation) Captioning for hard of hearing and deaf users at live theatrical and arts events. To date, c2 members have captioned 600+ theatrical productions in more than 150 venues.

For the open captioned performances, a 4-foot wide screen will display dialogue from the show in real-time. This unique system allows the theater to expand its menu of access services. Currently, the Guthrie offers ASL interpretation, audio description, sensory tours, wheelchair and companion seating, courtesy wheelchairs and fully accessible public restrooms. In addition, the Level 4 Service Center offers the following equipment (at no charge) for all performances:

- FM receivers for hearing assistance and audio descriptions
- High magnification (2.8X) glasses to benefit patrons who lose vision clarity from a distance
- Audio cassette tapes, Braille and large print programs and brochures.

Access programs at the Guthrie are sponsored by Xcel Energy Foundation, with additional support by Allianz Life Insurance.

The Guthrie is located at 818 South 2nd Street (at Chicago Avenue), in downtown Minneapolis. To purchase tickets or season subscriptions call the Guthrie Box Office between 10AM-8PM daily at 612-377-2224 (voice), toll-free 877-44-STAGE (voice) and 612-377-6626 (TTY). For more information, or to purchase tickets online, visit [www.guthrietheater.org](http://www.guthrietheater.org).

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Closed/Open Captioned Movies in Twin Cities for Oct. and click - colander.

<http://www.mnocfilms.org/ocaptions.html>

To find a movie by location, distance traveled or date see Fomdi: [www.Fomdi.com](http://www.Fomdi.com)

Rear Window Captions available in:

AMC in Eden Prairie Mall 18

AMC Rosedale 14 in Roseville

Crown Theatres Block E15 in Mpls.

<http://ncam.wgbh.org/mopix/nowshowing.html#MN>

The movie "The Music Within" will be showing at one of these theatres after Oct. 26.

**What: Aloha Get-together**

**When: Saturday, October 13**

**Time: 5:00 pm to ?**

**Where: Lynne Voss's home in Blaine**

**What: Pizza, Poker and Chit Chat**

**Details: Pizza at \$2 per person**

**If you plan to attend, please RSVP to me**

**[ThibodoID@aol.com](mailto:ThibodoID@aol.com) (651) 423-2249 by**

**Friday, and I will then send you**

**directions to Lynne's house. Ellen**

## BDA

*Celebration of the St. Paul/Minneapolis Black Deaf Advocates (BDA) 10th Anniversary! Saturday, November 10, 2007 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown St. Paul.*

Our keynote speaker for the evening is Sheryl Emory of Detroit, Michigan. Sheryl is among the early founding Executive Directors of the National Black Deaf Advocates organization. She is known and respected throughout the country and especially in her region as the first Midwestern Regional Representative, advocate and friend. We are delighted to have Mrs. Emory kick off our evening on November 10th. For more info. contact Liz Brown at

[Liz.G.Brown@state.mn.us](mailto:Liz.G.Brown@state.mn.us)



Various updated performances are available by voicemail

VSA arts of Minnesota,

612-332-3888 or 800-801-3883 (voice/TTY)

<http://www.vsaartsmn.org/>



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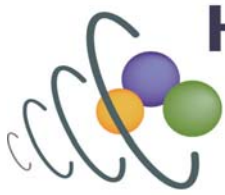


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# Hearing Loss Association of America

## Twin Cities Chapter

PO Box 8037

Minneapolis, MN 55408-0037

### First Class



**Next meeting: Saturday, October 20, 2007**

#### HLAA Twin Cities Chapter

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#### HLAA Twin Cities Chapter Welcomes You

**President** – Monique Hammond,  
*E-mail:* president@hlaatc.org

**Vice President** – Vicki Martin,  
 vicepresident@hlaatc.org

**Secretary** – Sue Brabeck,  
*E-mail:* secretary@hlaatc.org

**Treasurer** – Bob Knoll,  
*E-mail:* treasurer@hlaatc.org

**Aloha Event Coordinator** –  
 Ellen Thibodo, (651) 423-2249 (TTY)  
*E-mail:* [ThibodoD@aol.com](mailto:ThibodoD@aol.com)

**Contact Info.** info@hlaatc.org

**Website** [www.hlaatc.org](http://www.hlaatc.org)

**Newsletter Editors** -  
 Linda Senechal, cilinda97@yahoo.com  
 Merrilee Knoll, Rknoll5200@aol.com

This month's editor is Merrilee Knoll

**Meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month September through May at the Courage Center in Golden Valley, MN. We gather at 9:30 to socialize and the meeting starts at 10 AM. All meetings are real time captioned by Lisa Richardson and her staff of *Paradigm Captioning (www.paradigmreporting.com)*. Please visit the chapter's web-site at [www.hlaatc.org](http://www.hlaatc.org)**