

SHHH News

Minnesota Chapter #1 Volume 20 Issue #19 November 2005

Self Help for the Hard of Hearing

Calendar of Coming Events

November 19, 2005 - Ron Pettit speaks on air travel for people with disabilities

December 6, 2005 - Cochlear Implant Coffee and Chat at the U of M, 10:00 AM

December 17, 2005 - Annual Christmas Party - Pot Luck Luncheon, White Elephant gift exchange, cookie sale

January 10, 2006 - Feed My Starving Children (see page 5 for more info.)

January 21, 2006 - Dr. Jon Shallop, Mayo Clinic, speaking on "Causes and Treatments for Hearing Loss"

February 18, 2006 - Tina Childress, M.A., CCC-A, Advanced Bionics

April 12, 2006 - Steak Fry to raise funds for SHHH



NOTE:

If you did not pay your dues in September this will be your last newsletter.

Meetings are held at:

Courage Center
3915 Golden Valley Road
Golden Valley, MN 55422-4249
September through May.
See the bottom of Page 12 for contacts and time

November 2005

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YOUR UNITED WAY CONTRIBUTION CAN BE DIRECTED TO SHHH

Even though SHHH is not a United Way agency, you may designate SHHH MN Chapter 1 as your "donor choice" for your United Way fund drive. The form should have a space to "designate" United Way funds to another charity. If not, you can write SHHH MN Chapter 1's information (PO Box 8037, Minneapolis, MN 55408-0037) anywhere on the form and notify your Financial Coordinator.

Hello Fellow SHHH'ers,

Its that time of the year were we give thanks for our lives being surrounded by family and friends. I am thankful for having your friendships, and I look forward to each month seeing you. I would like to remind you that our December meeting is coming sooner then we think. Once again we will have our annual cookie sale, with proceeds going back into our treasury. We will also be doing the white elephant gift exchange which has been very fun in years past and I must say is a highlight of that meeting. So I encourage you to attend our meeting in November when we will have Ron Pettit, he chairs Norwest Airlines Advisory Board.

Respectfully,
The Prez



EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Nov. 2, 2005--The Starkey Hearing Foundation today announced that it will be completing six major hearing aid mission trips over the next six weeks through which it will provide more than 6,000 hearing aids to nearly 4,000 adults and children in five countries. The mission trips will include stops in Guadalajara, Mexico; St. Domingo and Santiago in the Dominican Republic; Cali, Colombia; Kingston, Jamaica; and sites in the United States.

The Federal Communications Commission is taking a closer look at its closed-captioning rules. The move comes as a result of a petition submitted by five national organizations for deaf and hard-of-hearing people. The FCC wants to know if it should work harder to enforce existing rules, and what should be done when the rules are broken. "This will be the biggest change in captioning rules in years," says Kelby Brick, director of law and advocacy for the National Association of the Deaf. Sheila Conlon Mentkowski, chair of NAD's technology committee, agreed: "The FCC must hear from consumers on this important issue." You can take action by going to www.nad.org/CaptioningAction.



Driven to Access

By Vicki Martin

OK, I'll admit it. I'm obsessed. Wherever I look, I see things that need to change to accommodate us. Big things. Little things. It doesn't matter. If it doesn't accommodate, I have to say something. Sometimes I say quite a lot.

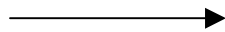
I was hoping I wouldn't become one of those annoying "rights" people. But here I am, I guess.

I don't want to get political, and I don't want to get legal. I want to be armed, not with laws, but with knowledge. Sometimes, that is all that is needed.

I have been amazed at how many omissions there are of public accommodations, even when those accommodations are very cheap – so cheap, sometimes, that they are nearly free. TTY phones, for example. I have been renting one for \$6 a month at home. But try to find one at the main airport in the Twin Cities.

Signage is another very inexpensive way to communicate. Maybe there really is a TTY in the county hospital, but you can't use it because you don't know where it is. Neither does anyone you ask. A sign where the other phones are located would solve this problem cheaply and easily.

Including TTY numbers in telephone books, intra-organizational directories, and all of the "help" pamphlets distributed by service



and commercial agencies wouldn't cost a dime, but it would sure help us when we need to place a call. I was thrilled when I learned that one medical insurance group I use does have a TTY – at least, until I tried to find out the number. (I had to make a *relay* call to track it down.)

I can only conclude from these experiences that either people do not know, or they do not care how beneficial and important these communications are.

I will not be tackling the "do not care" part. I will leave that to Politics and Law. But the "do not know" part I am going to work on.

So I complain. I make noise. I'll fire off an email at the drop of a hat, or less.

Last year, I sent one to my bank detailing the 13 relay calls and three personal visits it took me to find someone to help with an online banking question. This year when I had another question I went in person to the bank, expecting that another string of relay calls and visits would ensue. Instead, I was given a business card, and on it was listed – a TTY number! Shocked into stupidity, I asked the clerk, "Is this a *real* TTY number?" She nodded happily. I thrust my hands into the air and threw my head back in a display of unabashed glee. "YESSSS!!!"

It can happen. It *is* happening. And our diligence (all right then, obsessiveness) in speaking out can provide the momentum it needs to keep going.

And by the way, this year I got the answer I needed with *one* phone call.

He's arrived!!

We have a new little boy in the family! His name is Josiah Neil Miller and he arrived on Saturday September 10th at 11:35 pm. Mom and baby are doing quite well. Big brother Micaiah is enjoying his little brother so far – hopefully he'll keep that up! Dad is doing just fine – enjoys the time with the family and will be missing them when he has to return to work.

Check out pictures on Josiah's web page: <http://www.millershome.com/Josiah/>

Here's a brief snippet of the little guy: The Miller Family



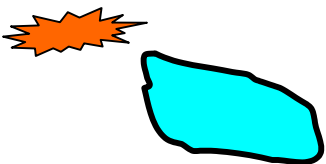
A Fremont, Calif. woman got a high-tech hello from her son who is serving in **Iraq, reported CBS News** on Sunday. Suzie Jacobs, who is deaf, was able to communicate in **sign language** with Lance Corporal Justin Jacobs through a video teleconference that was made possible by the Freedom Calls Foundation. Justin calls home frequently, but hadn't been able to speak to his mom until now. The foundation provides conferencing, phone and Internet services **free of charge to more than 30,000 soldiers and marines**

Did you know? All batteries are toxic and dangerous if swallowed, keep away from children and pets. Typically batteries last 7-14 days based on 15 hrs. per day or use. Batteries average \$1 apiece. Generally the smaller the b. size the shorter the battery life. The sizes of batteries are listed below along with the standard # and color code.

**Size 5 RED/ Size 10 (or 230) YELLOW/ Size 13 ORANGE/
Size 3 12 BROWN/ Size 675 BLUE**



BITS AND PIECES



Letters to the editor....one of our members suggested we have a "Letters to the Editor" column. If you have something on your mind about the newsletter or the meetings, send them to Linda or I in an email, snail mail or a note with your comment and bring it to the next meeting. This would be a good way to have your voice heard by the membership.

Our **annual cookie sale**, which helps support, our chapter will be held again this year at the **December 17th** meeting. Please make an extra effort to have the cookies be home made if you can. This makes the cookies even more appealing. If however you are not able to bake, feel free to purchase some cookies at your local grocery store and bring them to share. Each year this sale makes it possible to pay for one month of CART.

Advanced Bionics is pleased to announce the introduction of the Auria [®] iConnect™ adapter in the United States. The Auria iConnect adapter provides cable-free access to the Phonak MicroLink MLxS FM receiver, the most common advanced miniaturized FM receiver used in schools. www.bionicear.com to learn more

<http://www.puredirectsound.com/id19.html>

Looped Buildings by state, unfortunately MN is not listed, but it tells how we get looped

Have you ever sat in a restaurant or store waiting for service or food with the TV on, but **no captions**? Well, why not ask for the captions to be turned on. Many people have never seen captions on TV. Many more will benefit from the captioning than you can imagine.

SHHH name change? There has been some talk at the national level of changing the name of SHHH to something different. It is only in the talking stages now, but some feel that a name change is in order, some do not like the acronym, some do not like hard of hearing being in the name etc. etc. What do you think of a name change?

SHHH National is launching a new **educational program** to certify people in hearing loss support. The American Academy of Hearing Loss Support Specialists establishes a set of core knowledge and understanding for individuals who work with people effected by hearing loss reports SHHH. Classes began on Oct. 5, 2005 and continue with rolling admissions after Dec. 5, 2005. The online course takes from 50 - 70 hrs. to complete and costs \$300. Register before Dec. 31, 2005 for a \$25 reduction. for more info. visit www.hearingloss.org/academy

Poster child Matthew Holmstrom of St. Paul received hearing aids from the Starkey Hearing Foundation two years ago. He sang "Amazing Grace" to the audience of 1, 500 at a Starkey celebration.

According to the United Nations, 40,000 children die every day from starvation. Volunteers at **Feed My Starving Children** packaged over 8.2 million meals to starving children around the world in 2005. The meals packed in Brooklyn Park and Eagan were sent to Namibia, Haiti, Jamaica, Peru, Azerbaijan, and the Dominican Republic. Throughout the year, Feed My Starving Children will provide food to children in over 25 countries. Many meals were sent to the southern states after the recent hurricane damage. MN SHHH has a date set up to package meals at FMSC in Brooklyn Park on Tuesday, January 10, 2006 from 8 to 9:30 PM. This is located at 6750 West Broadway. We have pledged to provide 24 volunteers. Third graders and up are able to help package these meals. No one is too old! Everything is set up, and you and your family will find this to be a very rewarding experience. Please send an email to Linda Senechal at LSenechal@mn.rr.com and let her know how many will be coming with you. Let's volunteer together!

NCHAT Program Coordinator
Karen Frohrib

Janice Alvaredo from Monkey's Elbow, Kentucky, writes:

I have a cochlear implant for my right ear and wear a hearing aid in my left ear. I go through a lot of batteries. My audiologist said the batteries are toxic and I'm worried about throwing them in the trash. Can hearing aid batteries be re-used or recycled? What do you do if child or pet swallows a battery by accident?

Karen answers:

Those are great questions! Hearing aid batteries are classified as toxic or hazardous waste as they can leak harmful chemicals into the environment when decomposing or cause injury to wildlife if swallowed. Hearing aid batteries may be recycled at some local branches of Radio Shack and at some local recycling centers. To find information on battery recycling at the recycling center near you go to this website:

<http://www.earth911.org/master.asp?s=ls&cat=1&serviceid=104&type=-1>

There may be a small disposal fee for hearing aid batteries.

Disposable hearing aid batteries should not be recharged as they could leak or explode and cause damage to a hearing aid or a chemical burn on skin. There are manufacturers of rechargeable hearing aid batteries and chargers which may be found on the Internet. You should contact your audiologist or hearing instrument specialist to see if rechargeable batteries may work with your hearing instrument.

All batteries should be stored out of reach of little hands and paws. While it seems obvious, it is worth noting that hearing aids should never be placed in the mouth or stored near pills, as there have been several reports of adults accidentally swallowing them. Behind the ear hearing aids often have battery compartments which can be locked to help prevent children or people with developmental disabilities from accidentally swallowing the batteries in their hearing aids.

Swallowed hearing aid batteries can cause choking, burns, obstructions with swallowing and perforations. If you suspect someone may have swallowed a hearing aid battery call the National Capitol Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222 for advice. This number should be stored near a landline telephone or on a wireless phone for emergencies.

An x-ray at a local medical center is likely to be recommended to determine if a battery was swallowed and if it requires extraction. The National Capitol Poison Center is a non-profit agency. More information about preventing accidental poisoning is available at their website www.poison.org.

If you can't afford a hearing aid, where should you turn?

- (1) Vocational Rehab wants to keep you in the job market, check with them.
- (2) Audient
<http://www.audientalliance.org/>
- (3) Lion's Clubs of America
- (4) Starkey Hearing Foundation
- (5) MEI information
<http://www.envoymedical.com/>

SHHH - Name change:

From the desk of Terry Portis

November 11, 2005

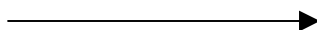
After a vigorous and extended debate, the Board of Trustees voted this weekend to amend the bylaws and change the corporate name of our organization to the **Hearing Loss Association of America**.

While we have a basic outline developed about our transition to this new name, we will move slowly to make sure we do things correctly. We will develop a concise plan to allow us to move forward. We anticipate a transitional period of at least one year.

We have already heard from some states and chapters who were in attendance that they want to begin designing new stationary, brochures, etc. Again, we want to proceed slowly, our current materials are working fine! We do not want this to be a financial hardship on anyone, and advise that you use your current materials.

We have a lot of work to do, and lots of questions to ask and answer

We ask that everyone allow us time to put our plans together properly. We also need your input! Please email directly with specific questions you have, so I can include these issues in plans. I will not answer every email, but each will be read and considered.



We will be awarding small grants for transitional expenses to chapters. We will let you know how to apply for those funds before the end of the year.

The feedback we have received through this listserv in recent weeks has been exceptionally helpful. I appreciate all of you who have written and your commitment to our cause.

(Terry Portis is the Executive Director of SHHH with headquarters in Bethesda, MD)

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division, Family Support Connection of **Lifetrack** Resources, Cued Speech Association of MN, and Minnesota

Chapter of the AG Bell Assoc. for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing have teamed up to design a survey for families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing. They want to identify needs and areas of interest to develop presentations and workshops to better help MN families. The survey can be taken at the following link:

http://survey.dhs.state.mn.us/snap/dhhsd/dhhsd_survey.htm

Visor Card - to download your FREE copy:

<http://www.hearinglosshelp.com/VisorCards.htm>



Dora (VP), Linda (Editor), Cliff (VP), Bob (Assistant Treas.)



Dave (Former Pres.) Joe (President), Lori (Secretary) Dora (VP), Cliff (VP)

Future Meeting Dates

2005	2006
November 19	January 21
December 17	February 18
	March 18
	April 15
	May 20

From: National – Tax Credit Bill

Your help is needed to impress upon members of the Ways and Means committee how important the tax credit bill is to you. Please click link below to see the word doc that gives you directions of what we need you to do. Thanks

<http://www.hearingloss.org/word/TAXCREDIACTION%20ALERT.doc>

Brenda Battat
Associate Executive Director



CI Tip of the month: New CI wearer Karin Oshima showed us a great tip at the November CI Coffee and Chat. Karin had some small clips that she purchased at Target that attached to her hair to the processor cord and helps her behind the ear speech processor in place. Great idea, Karin! Thanks for sharing



June 29 –

July 2, 2006

National SHHH Convention in Florida

The **super saver registration rate** is offered to members in good standing until **December 31, 2005**. After December 31, rates will be \$50 more for individual registrations and \$110 more per couple (a couple is two people from the same address.)

If you are not a member, it is not too late to join and receive these savings. To join go to http://www.hearingloss.org/html/join_.html

**SHHH
Members
Bonus**



Get 15% off using your SHHH member number when shopping at Harris Communications!



www.harriscomm.com

To take advantage of this offer, use promotion code "ads-shhhpc15" when you checkout.

Please have your SHHH member number ready when ordering by phone or online.



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www.hearingconcepts.com



National Website:

www.hearingloss.org

Minnesota Website:

<http://deafvision.net/shhmn1/>

MN Contact Information:

shhmn1@hotmail.com

Please note

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the person submitting the information and not necessarily those of SHHH MN Chapter #1. Mention of goods or services does not mean endorsement nor should exclusion suggest disapproval.

**THIS SPACE IS
AVAILABLE FOR
REACHING HARD
OF HEARING
PEOPLE.
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rknoll5200@aol.com**

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First Class



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PO Box 8037
Minneapolis, MN 55408-0037**

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This month’s editor is Merrilee Knoll

Meetings are held the 3rd 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*. Please visit the chapter’s web-site at www.deafvision.net/shhhmn1