

HLAA TC

February 2022

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 2021-22 season:
(email treasurer@hlaatc.org for invite)

February 19, 2022

Anne Barlow, Director
Brenda Hommerding,
Guide by your side manager
Minnesota Hands and Voices

(coming soon):

March 19, 2022

Kristin Swan
Open discussion
with our communication partners

April 16, 2022

Audiology Concepts
Hidden Hearing Loss

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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 President's Message February 2022

February is such a volatile month weatherwise. I would rather not talk about all the other volatile situations we are encountering lately!

On the upside, if you were at last month's Chapter Meeting, you heard that Barb Schneider was appointed Acting Vice President and Laura Hagemann was appointed Acting At Large Member. Christy Myers is now the Acting Secretary. We are happy to have them on the Board!

We so appreciate all of you who reached out to offer your support to our Board and the Chapter. No one wants our Chapter to disappear or pause. People in Minnesota with hearing loss need us! They need to know that they are not alone!

We are in the process of growing a strong, viable, and talented Board with the goal of growing HLAA-TC into a robust organization. Thanks to all of you, we believe it can be done!

Be sure to check out the proposed amendment (in this newsletter) to change and add some Board positions: three additional At Large Members and eliminate the Past President position. We will keep the immediate Past President slot. The amendment will be voted on during the February Chapter meeting.

Our February presentation will be regarding Minnesota Hands and Voices. I am also very excited to announce that in March we will have an open discussion (and feedback) from our

“communication partners” (aka: friends, family, significant other), led by Kristen Swan. We want to hear from them and hope all communication partners will share their stories.

In April, we will have a presentation by two audiologists from Audiology Concepts. They will be talking about Hidden Hearing Loss and new technologies and advances in hearing aids.

As always, we welcome your input and feedback. This is YOUR organization!

Sending warm and positive thoughts your way!

Christine

Board Members

Christine Morgan
President

Barb Schneider
Acting Vice President

Christy Meyers
Acting Secretary

Lionel Locke
Treasurer

Laura Hagemann
Acting Director at Large

HLAA-TC Newsletter Editor
Vicki Martin

Social Media Specialist
Laura Hagemann

February Speakers

Anne Barlow and Brenda Hommerding
Minnesota Hands and Voices

Guide By Your Side Manager Brenda Hommerding lives in Rice, Minnesota with her husband, Lynn. They are parents of adult twin girls. The girls along with Brenda cover the whole spectrum of high frequency sensorineural hearing difference from mild to profound. Brenda comes from an extensive line of family history with hearing differences including her maternal grandparents who were deaf and attended a deaf school in Minnesota. Brenda and Lynn have also been blessed with one grandson who is deaf.

Over the course of 15 years, Brenda has served on several regional and state advisory boards that support deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing individuals, and is currently serving as both a regional and state level board member.

In 2017, Brenda received the Miss Congeniality Award at National Hand & Voices. Her passion to collaborate with community stakeholders has been instrumental in connecting families with their parent guides and deaf/hard of hearing guides.

Brenda has been involved with Minnesota Hands & Voices for many years starting out as the Central Minnesota Parent Guide in 2006 then transitioned into the Lead Outstate Parent Guide and now has been the Guide By Your Side Manager since 2017.

Brenda Hommerding
Guide By Your Side Manager
Minnesota Hands & Voices
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Brenda:

(February Speakers, cont.)

Director of MN Hands and Voices Anne Barlow has been with Minnesota Hands & Voices since December of 2013.

She began as a Parent Guide where she was able to share her 25+ years of experience as a parent of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing. As Director, Anne is honored to lead a diverse and passionate team who strongly believe in our mission of parent support and empowerment.

Anne lives in the northwest Metro area. She and her husband are the proud parents of two adult children, the older of whom is Deaf, and are grandparents to 2 KODA's (Kid of a Deaf Adult).

She is a "retired" OTR (Occupational Therapist) and has also worked as a para and/or volunteer in special education at the elementary level for many years. She loves to read mysteries, bake, bike, swim, and swing in a hammock. She tries to learn something new every day.

A note from Anne: "Because Minnesota Hands & Voices did not exist when we were learning about our son's hearing loss, I had deep feelings of isolation and anxiety about how to proceed. I feel honored to be able to help support new parents on their own journey to find information and resources as quickly as possible so that they feel empowered and confident to make choices that work for their children."

Anne Barlow

Director

Minnesota Hands & Voices

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www.mnhandsandvoices.org



Summary of HLAA-TC Meeting January 15, 2022

Barb Schneider

President Christine Morgan called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and introduced the officers. Board updates announced at the meeting are detailed in Christine's message in this newsletter. Thank you to all who stepped forward to volunteer to help guide our chapter – it is very encouraging. Thanks also to Lisa Richardson, our CART transcriber this month.

Our speaker, Darlene Zangara, Executive Director of the Minnesota Commission of the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing gave updates on what's happening. She became Executive Director right before Covid hit, so has been working from home the past two years, a challenge in itself. Their Board is a policy governance Board, focused on developing a new vision and strategic plan.

The four points of the plan are:

1. Develop a sense of community considering who we serve;
2. Work with all three branches of government to address the making, enacting and enforcing of well-informed decisions;
3. Public awareness of our community, our potential and contributions, including accessibility needs, resources, and tools available for us;
4. Address what it means to have quality of life, looking at all areas of life.

Civic engagement efforts include building voter capacity in the DDBHH community, lobby days, and information sessions on legislative topics. Public awareness this year is dedicated to captioning and T-coil education. The Commission has hired a hard of hearing consultant whose husband is also hard of hearing and a military veteran. They hope to step up advocacy for veterans.

Legislative agenda: Top three items that have key bill authors and support, and are feasible:

1. require telecoil education by hearing aid providers;
2. deaf-blind classroom intervenor option;
3. remove restrictive language from statute to have members from more diverse backgrounds.

Additional agenda items include:

- establish a Task Force to address having an ASL licensure board;
- require closed captioning for TVs in public places;
- require certified deaf interpreters (CDI) for ASL in classrooms;
- formation of website accessibility grants for local governments to provide CC
- screen readers for blind persons.

(January Meeting Summary, cont.)

These priorities are the result of surveys, focus groups and other communications with stakeholders. Having bill authors and legislative support is an ongoing work.

During Q & A, Darlene clarified that in the classroom, the Commission is advocating for language assessment for each child to see what works best, not one size fits all. Elderly people who lose hearing and/or sight also have loss of independence, a major life event for which many are unprepared. Technology is only part of the solution to this; there is a need for more human connections.

Darlene said Covid bills are getting a lot of attention, and the budget surplus causes competition for funds. She is trying to get funding for accessible smoke alarms since the Red Cross has been unable to supply them in recent years.

Adrienne spoke about the practical issues of deaf-blind people in outstate MN who want to be involved with HLAATC and how technology is vital to their well-being since travel is difficult to arrange.

Monique has important info on technology issues.

Laura shared more interesting titles for the book club, and continues to seek more author visits.

Many layers and players are involved in what we do as a group to fulfill our mission.

Thank you for your interest and participation. This is an exciting time for our chapter!

Hearing loss in the news:

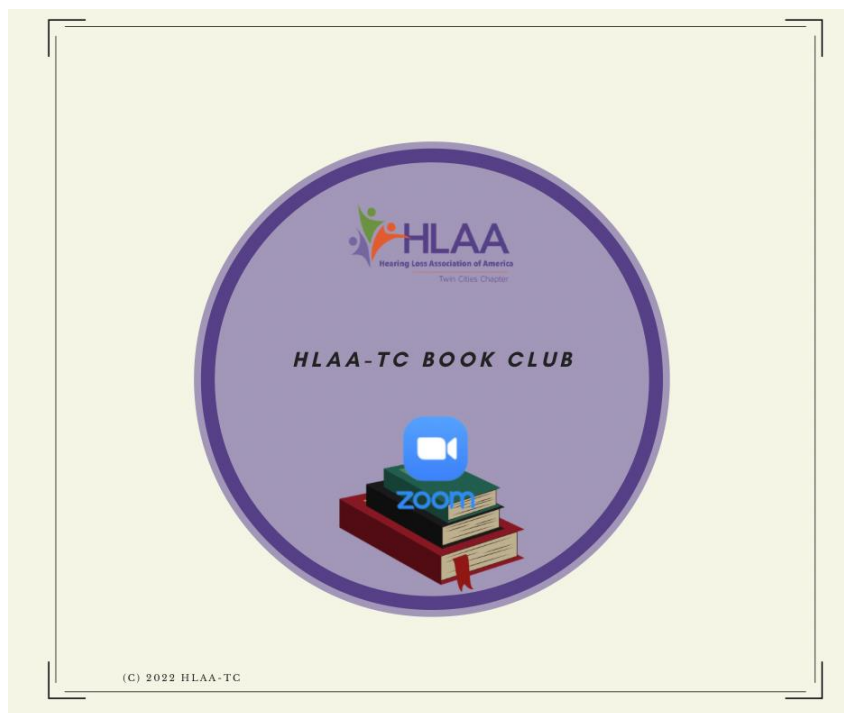
Hidden hearing loss (Minneapolis Star-Tribune 1/9/22)

Hidden hearing loss is a condition in which people can detect sounds but struggle to understand them in noisy settings. A person with hidden hearing loss can pass a traditional audiogram, raising her hand any time a technician plays a beep of varying volume and pitch, and can have a conversation with another person in a quiet room. But in a noisy place, it feels like her companion is speaking gibberish. Some facts noted about hidden hearing loss:

- About 10% of patients with the condition left the audiologist without getting a diagnosis. – and this is among only those who decided to get an appointment.
- Hidden hearing loss tends to strike earlier than traditional hearing loss.
- Hair cell damage shows up on traditional audiogram but brain cell damage (which accounts for the hidden hearing loss) does not.

Book Club February Selection: Related Links

By Laura Hagemann



The HLA A-TC Book Club met on Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. (Central Time) for our February book club session. We alternate between reading fiction and nonfiction each month. In February the nonfiction book we discussed was “Signs of Survival: A Memoir of the Holocaust” by Renee Hartman with Joshua M. Greene. Hartman wrote of her experience surviving the Holocaust when she was 10 years old. Renee and her sister Herta (who is deaf) tell of their experience in the book. “Signs of Survival” is billed as a “Children’s Memoir” and therefore reads very quickly.

Since the book was short this month, here are some additional resources related to the author(s) and subject matter:

- [“Renee Hartman, \(Season 1, Episode 6 of “Those Who Were There” podcast\):](#) This is a podcast episode of “Those Who Were There” that features Renee Hartman. This recorded testimony of her experience is the basis for “Signs of Survival.” This webpage offers a video with captions of Renee’s interview for the Yale Fortunoff Video Archive For Holocaust Testimonies. There is also a transcript of the podcast available on this page.
- [“Those Who Were There” podcast \(website\):](#) This is a podcast in its second season that shares stories from the Holocaust. Renee Hartman’s story was featured on this podcast in the first season, episode 6.
- [Yale- Fortunoff Video Archives For Holocaust Testimonies \(website\):](#) The website of the video archives that Renee Hartman and thousands of others provided testimony for.

- [Joshua M. Greene \(website\)](#): Joshua M. Greene is the writer who helped Renee Hartman get her story in the book that would become “Signs of Survival.” Mr. Greene writes about the Holocaust and has written several books about the subject.

Even though the book was a quick read, the above material made for a more in-depth experience.

The next book club will be in March and we will be discussing the novel “The Listening Eye” by Patricia Wentworth. We haven’t selected a date yet but when we do it will be announced on our blog, the [book club page](#) of our website, and our social media.

If you would like to join us in March please email Laura Hagemann at social@hlaatc.org and she will send you a Zoom meeting link before the book club meeting. All meetings are open to all (you don’t have to be an HLAA or HLAA-TC member to participate), free and live captioned. We keep the meetings to an hour and a half and we have had several authors and guests (see the [book club page](#) for a list of authors and guests we’ve had).

Dr. Archelle Georgiou

Have you been enjoying the weekly consumer-directed medical news segments on channel 5 Eyewitness News? Dr. Archelle Georgiou’s clear and candid explanations of health policies have gotten my attention during the past two covid years.

But did you know she is also the Chief Health Officer for Starkey Hearing Technologies, a global hearing technology company headquartered in Eden Prairie, Minnesota? She is responsible for the company’s commitment to improve individuals’ overall wellness and quality of life through products that deliver better hearing

- One of her projects has been “creating and developing video content for Starkey Hearing Technologies that highlighted the health consequences of hearing loss.”

It could be argued that the hearing industry has lacked adequate communication strategies to connect with the consumer base.

Perhaps Dr. Georgiou can help pave this rocky path to better hearing.

Bring 'em out!

Most of us might agree that Google captioning is generally pretty good. But in a recent three-way siblings’ meet, one sister commented on the flowers her husband had brought her, noting that “in February they bring out the daffodils”.

The captioning read “in February they bring out the Deaf Adults.”

I guess it’s our month, folks!

Three studies (plus one):

Are you willing to support hearing loss research? Consider joining one of these studies!

1) University of Minnesota, Mankato

Kristi Oeding, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Minnesota, is conducting a research study examining speech in noise and noise tolerance. To qualify, you must be between the ages of 18-85 with hearing loss, use hearing aids, can read English, and can complete 2-3 sessions. Each session will last 1-2 hours. An online survey will be completed and equipment (tablet and headphones) will be dropped off at your home or at a place convenient for you. You will be compensated for your time. If interested, contact Kristi by email at: oedi0004@umn.edu or by phone: 314-910-9432.

2) George Washington University

Our studies are conducted completely online. We have 2 pre-training zoom sessions which are ~30 minutes to an hour typically and a post-training zoom session that is ~1hr. Depending on the study there are 8 or 10 training sessions that are about 30-45 minutes each and done on your own by logging into the seehear.us website. The code to enroll in the study is given during the first session.

The purpose of this study is to develop effective methods for training lipreading for adults with hearing loss. While we do not think that most people with hearing loss need to rely entirely on silent lipreading, we know that lipreading can be very helpful during face-to-face communication in noisy environments in which listening is very difficult.

To get started will need to schedule an initial teleconference as part of the study. Please respond to this email with possible dates and times in the coming 2 weeks that would work for you for getting started. The teleconference will require about an hour of your time.

Questions? Contact Edward T. Auer, Ph.D. eauer@gwu.edu George Washington University Associate Research Professor, Communication Neuroscience Laboratory

3) University of Minnesota Listen Lab

Ongoing studies are often in need of participants. Current projects are in speech perception and the things that make it difficult or effortful. They compensate at a rate of \$25 per hour. Studies take place on the U of M campus in Shevlin Hall, 164 Pillsbury Drive SE, Minneapolis, MN. If you need parking, they can arrange that. contact Katherine Teece at henn0158@umn.edu.

PLUS - Mayo Clinic

Would you like to participate? The Mayo Clinic is developing a product for hearing loss through an educational program as part of the Office of Entrepreneurship. They would like to speak with individuals who would eventually become users of the product to better understand the user's needs. A 10-15 minute phone call/video chat is how you would participate. If interested, fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/GoGEzM9DCNV51nMe9>

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE HLAA-TC
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
FEBRUARY 2022**

BACKGROUND

The constitution may be amended at a general meeting by a two-thirds vote of the partners. Any partner(member) can submit the proposed amendment, and if the motion is seconded and passed, all members will then be notified at least (10) days prior to the next meeting. Approval of any amendment requires a two-thirds majority vote at the next meeting. In this case, the January meeting announcement of the upcoming amendment then calls for the vote which would be the February 2022 meeting.

The change has been prompted by upcoming term endings on the Board as explained by the recent letter sent to the membership. The proposed changes are articulated in the balance of this document.

CONSTITUTION

Article III-OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION

Section A: The officers of HLAA-TC shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and a 1 Director at large. **The Amendment changes the number to four (4).**

Which will read and **FOUR (4) Directors at Large.**

BYLAWS

Article VI-Officers

TITLES AND DUTIES:

A: The amendment changes the number of directors from ONE (1) to FOUR (4) in this article.

(proposed amendments, cont.)

The amendment also changes the immediate past presidents from two (2) on the Board to one (1) on the Board. This change continues the practice of having an odd number of votes on the HLAA-TC Board. The amendment changes of 2 to 1 will be also change the language found in Section B Sub section e to reflect the number change **IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT** rather than past presidents. Under Article VII Governing Board, the immediate past president's language will also change from 2 to 1. This amendment will also fix any spelling errors found in the existing bylaws as revised in September of 2019. **The word report was spelled incorrectly.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lionel Locke, Treasurer

HLAA-TC

Marilyn vos Savant, the woman with highest documented IQ score in the world, tackles a lot of challenging questions. Here's a recent one:

Why do we like listening to loud music when it damages our hearing in the long run?

Her answer includes the following reasons:

- Loud music captures our attention and takes us out of our individual real worlds...
- The positive emotion may cause euphoria
- Loud music is intensely exciting because in nature loudness is always associated with major events
- It functions as a recreational drug
- [young people] don't really believe the warnings - they think (it) is just talk from pesky elders

What do you think? (Don't be intimidated by her IQ. You might know a thing or two, too!)

HCAA TC
PO Box 26021
Minneapolis, MN 55426



Next meeting: Zoom on February 19

First Class

HLAA Twin Cities Chapter

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Newsletter via email included in all memberships

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



Welcomes You!

President -
Christine Morgan - president@hlaatc.org

Acting Vice President –
Barb Schneider vicepresident@hlaatc.org

Treasurer –
Lionel Locke treasurer@hlaatc.org

Acting Secretary –
Christy Myers secretary@hlaatc.org

Acting Director at Large -
Laura Hagemann 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 February 19, 2022. 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.

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