

HLAA TC

October 2023

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 21, 2023

Jim Curran

Audiologist (retired)

History of Hearing Aids and
Technology

November 18, 2023

Dr. Susan Sealy Arquette, PhD

Tobias Wilde, MSW, LICSW

Mental Health



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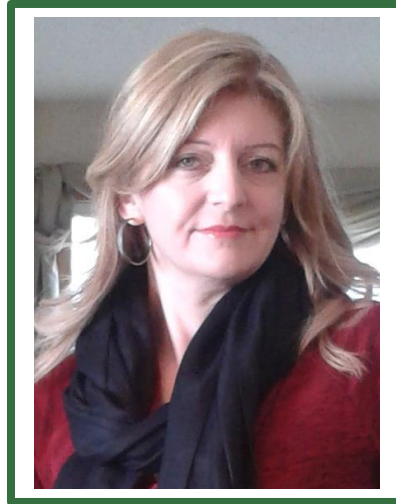
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HLAA National - Maryland

www.hearingloss.org

The September Hearing Loss Association of America Twin Cities Chapter meeting (HLAA TC) will be a hybrid meeting (in person and Zoom) on October 21, 2023
To register and receive zoom meeting link, follow instructions on page 11

President's Message
HLAA-TC President's Message – October 2023
Robin Coninx



HLAATC has a great line up for October and November Chapter meetings. Please join us to hear the following speakers on the "History of Hearing Aids" by James Curran this month and "Mental Health" in November with Susan Arquette, HLAATC Secretary and Tobias Wilde, MSW, LICSW of DHHS. Here is a little more about our presenters:

October 21, 2023 HLAATC chapter meeting

"History of hearing aids and hearing technology"

James R Curran, M.S. was one of the very first dispensing audiologists. He opened his dispensing practice in 1967, leaving his PhD studies at the University of Wisconsin. In 1970, he joined a hearing aid manufacturer as one of the pioneer audiologists in the hearing aid industry. Over the years he has been involved in hearing aid research, authored chapters in audiology textbooks and many articles in professional journals, and has had extensive experience in speaking and writing on industry topics.

A member of many industry organizations and professional societies, he was elected to the Board of the American Academy of Audiology and to the Executive Committee of the American Auditory Society. He was a founding member of the Minnesota Academy of Audiology, and in 2013 received the honors of the AAA, the Sam F Lybarger Award for Achievements in Industry.

James will be discussing the history and issues involved in hearing aid fitting over the years, and comment on the recent introduction and application of over-the-counter hearing aids.

(President's message, cont.)

November 18, 2023 HLAATC chapter meeting

“Impacts of Hearing Loss on an Individual's Mental Health”

Dr. Susan Sealy Arquette and Tobias Wilde, MSW, LICSW will share valuable information about some of the mental health issues directly related to hearing loss:

Identify common signs and symptoms of potential mental health issues.

Provide tips to help cope with and stay connected to loved one dealing with mental health and hearing loss challenges.

Offer tips to improve communication about challenges and self-advocate for necessary services.

Provide greater awareness about issues children with hearing loss are facing in 2023.

Thoughts or ideas for presentations are welcome from all!

Please email: president@hlaatc.org

HLAATC Mission: To open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education and advocacy.

Robin 'Byrdie' Coninx
HLAATC President

Thank you to last month's supporters from DHHS!

HLAATC would like to thank Calla Kevan and Natalie Regenscheid of DHHS of MN for their training at our September Chapter meeting. They have supplied information relating to the training that will be sent out to the attendees of the training.

Thanks to all who attended our first HLAATC hybrid Chapter Meeting. We had a total of 29 attendees! YAY! Some kinks we were able to work out immediately and others will be addressed before the October Chapter meeting. I am working with Veritext, the CART agency we use, to attend the meetings in person and provide in room captioning and a link to online access as well.

Please check out the Minnesota's DHHS website for general information on supports for people with hearing loss: <https://mn.gov/deaf-hard-of-hearing/>

Meeting Summary, HLAATC meeting Saturday, September 16, 2023

By Laura Hagemann, Vice President

Robin “Byrdie” Coninx opened our first hybrid chapter meeting of HLAA-TC (with attendees both at Courage Kenny in Golden Valley, MN and on Zoom). She introduced the two presenters: Calla Kevan, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialist with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division (DHHSD), working in the Rochester area and Natalie Regenscheid, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialist for DHHSD, serving the metro region. They spoke on “Living Independently with Hearing Loss.” The presentation focused on helping Minnesotans with hearing loss get the accommodations they need and are available to them.

They first reviewed various Assistive listening devices: a personal amplifier (connected to a microphone, headphone, a headset or a neck loop); an FM system; infrared system (similar to an FM system except it has a wireless sound system); audio induction loop (uses your hearing devices’ T coil); Bluetooth; and hearing aid accessories (talk with your audiologist).

Real time captioning/CART is a reasonable accommodation through the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This is provided by trained and certified professionals using a stenography machine to translate what is being said to written text for the listener to see. It can be provided in many settings.

Real-time captioning is different than the automatic speech recognition (ASR) software used for computer generated captions that can be offered on websites and apps like Zoom and Microsoft Teams. ASR recognizes sound and writes it out in text, but it’s not always as accurate as CART.

There are different types of American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters: certified deaf interpreters; medical, mental health interpreters; legal interpreters; oral interpreters and cued speech transliterators.

They asked the group to consider what type of accommodation you would request in different situations and how you would ask for those accommodations. If you find that your needs are not being met, you can ask to speak with an ADA coordinator or a patient advocate. In doing so, you can share with them what your needs are and how they are not being met. You can also contact DHHSD for assistance.

They gave examples of venues where one may want accommodations, and offered practical tips like calling ahead at a movie theater to make sure the devices will be charged and ready for use when you are planning to attend a movie.

They also talked about Emergency Preparedness (Visit the DHHSD website: [DHHSD Emergency Preparedness Information for those with hearing loss](#)). Do you have an emergency plan in place? Can you communicate with EMTs about your hearing loss? Communication cards or pictures may help. DHHSD has communication cards to help identify your access needs. These can be printed from the website or they can be mailed to

(Meeting summary, cont.)

you. ([DHHS Communication Card for people with hearing loss \(advocating for communication needs\)](#)).
[Traffic Stop Communication Card \(by DHHS\)](#)

It is important to ask for accommodations before they are needed. It's beneficial to know which accommodation works best for you before you make the request. If you are unsure about what kind of accommodation is best for you, you can contact DHHS. They can provide resources and accessories for you to try, so you know exactly what accommodations to request.

There are state and federal laws (ADA, the Americans with Disabilities Act) to make sure that whether a person is deaf, hard of hearing, or late-deafened, their communication accommodations are protected. DHHS can suggest resources that fit your needs, and provide training to agencies and facilitators, making sure that they understand how to work with people who have hearing loss.

DHHS offers many services:

Recommending assistive technology and tools,

Telephone distribution: ([TED\) Program from DHHS](#))

Mental health services: ([Adult Mental Health Services from DHHS](#)) DHHS's counselors are trained in working with people with hearing loss, and they have people fluent in sign language that can provide those services directly.

Some DHHS offices, including St. Paul have tech labs where assistive equipment may be tried. Contact them to "schedule a free one-on-one demonstration of devices and apps that benefit people who have a hearing loss! You can also arrange demonstrations of a limited number of devices for your small group".

In addition, there is the STAR program through the state for loaning equipment:

[A System of Technology to Achieve Results \(STAR program\)](#)

and [Minnesota Assistive Technology for All: AT Device Loaning Program](#)

There are five regional offices for DHHS:

Duluth

Moorhead

St. Cloud

St. Paul

Rochester

General contact information, voice or preferred relay service: 800-657-3663;

Video phone: 651-964-1514;

Email: dhs.dhhs@state.mn.us

They also provided the following list:

[apps for hearing loss recommended by DHHS](#)

Thank you
Calla Kevan and Natalie Regenscheid
for your very helpful and informative presentation!

Renew or Join HLAA-TC

Message from our VP



Laura Hagemann

Just a reminder that [HLAA-TC memberships are up for renewal](#) every September, so please send in your dues now. Membership dues are \$25 for individuals, \$50 for professionals, \$100 for supporting members and \$15 for newsletter only. We also encourage membership in the national HLAA organization, (for HLAA National membership, see below).

HLAA-TC (TWIN CITIES CHAPTER)-

For NEW or RENEWAL membership, please print one of the applications and mail with your payment.

PDF format – [HLAA-TCmembership2023.pdf](#)

DOCX format – [HLAA-TCmembership2023.docx](#)

Mail with payment to:

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

HLAA (NATIONAL ORGANIZATION)-

HLAA-TC membership is different and separate from HLAA National membership. You do not have to be an HLAA National member in order to join our chapter. For information on joining the HLAA National visit: <https://www.hearingloss.org/make-an-impact/become-a-member-renew/>

Meet the Board



Christy Myers
Director at Large

Christy Myers is beginning her second, non-consecutive, term as a Director at Large on the Board. She has been a member of HLAA TC for several years and feels our organization plays an important role in helping those of us with hearing loss access good information and tips on living well and productively with hearing loss. She brings to the Board experience from over 30 years as a consultant in municipal finance and more than 60 years living with hearing loss.

Christy lives in St Paul with her husband Gordon and enjoys traveling, gardening and spending time with her family. During winter meetings she will join you via Zoom from Mazatlan, Mexico!



News from National:

(Christy Myers reports on news from the HLAA National organization)

We are the Twin Cities chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America. Here is some news from the national office:

The location of the HLAA 2024 conference has been announced. It will be held from June 26 - 29 at the Sheraton Grand Resort at Wild Horse Pass in Phoenix, Arizona. Early bird registration opens on Friday, December 8, 2023 at hearingloss.org/2024-convention/

Executive Director Barbara Kelley has been appointed to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Council of Councils. This adds yet another influential position among many at the national level where the issues of hearing loss are being represented by members of HLAA.

WEBINAR—Mission Possible: The Sky's the Limit for Disability Workplace , Thursday October 19th from 6-7pm ET. Hear a panel from Astro Access, dedicated to making space accessible to people with disabilities, discuss their roles in the December 2022 Zero Gravity Space Flight. For more information and to register, go to: hearingloss.org/calendar/

Site of the 2024 HLAA conference:



Open Captioned Arts & Culture Events In October 2023

The Minnesota Access Alliance (MNA) provides this Accessible Arts & Culture Calendar

Thursday, October 26, 7:30 PM — “Jesmyn Ward Reading & Conversation” at Northrop Auditorium, Minneapolis — https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/jesmyn-ward-reading-conversation-asl-oc/?mc_id=10709.

Saturday-Sunday, October 28-29, 2:00 PM — “The Boy Wonder” at History Theatre, St. Paul — https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/the-boy-wonder-oc/?mc_id=10508.

Sunday, October 29, 1:00 PM — “For the People” at the Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis — https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/for-the-people-oc/?mc_id=10653.

Sunday, October 29, 2:00 PM — “Philharmonia Fantastique: The Making of the Orchestra” at Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis — https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/philharmonia-fantastique-the-making-of-the-orchestra-asl-oc-sf/?mc_id=10691.

Wednesday, November 1, 8, 1:00 PM — “For the People” at the Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis — https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/for-the-people-oc-3/?mc_id=10655.

Friday, November 3, 7:30 PM — “For the People” at the Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis — https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/for-the-people-oc-4/?mc_id=10657.

Saturday, November 4, 1:00 PM — “For the People” at the Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis — https://calendar.mnaccess.org/events/for-the-people-oc-2/?mc_id=10654.

(Thank you, MNA!)

Board News

By Christy Myers

HAAA-TC President Robin Coninx, and Director at Large Christy Myers have been appointed to the Board of the University of Minnesota’s CATSS program.

CATSS (Center for Applied and Translational Sensory Science) is a Program designed to foster training and research that includes collaboration between the academic, public and business sectors in the areas of sensory science, including hearing and vision.

More information on CATSS can be found at <https://catss.umn.edu/mission-and-goals>

ALD cool!

Tour guide systems have been around for a while, but were seldom seen by travelers, who had to make their own arrangements for hearing the guide (such as standing right in front him, or holding up a microphone). The September 2023 AARP Bulletin notes that tour group listening headsets are becoming popular with travelers of any age:

“A change that started with boomers: ‘whisper sets’, the audio headsets that allow groups to hear better on guided outings. ‘Now it’s an expectation on tours, regardless of age’”.

If you do not use hearing aids, or if you have in-the-canal or in-the-ear hearing aids, by all means, ask for a headset. You won’t be the only one! But for those of us with behind-the-ear hearing aids or cochlear implants, headsets are not likely to work. So, a tip to hard of hearing travelers: continue to bring your own streamer, if you have one.

It might even be cool to use an ALD!



988 News

WCCO TV news: “The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline’s addition of nationwide American Sign Language (ASL) services for people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing, as part of ongoing efforts to expand accessibility to behavioral health care for underserved communities”.

Direct dialing to 988 from a videophone will be available in the coming weeks, and in the meantime, ASL callers can call 1-800-273-TALK (8255) from their videophone to reach ASL services.

Learn more here:

[988-crisis-lifeline-ASL](#)

988lifeline.org

Director Mark Daly and Access Press

Mark Daly, new this year to our HLAA-TC board, also serves on the board of Access Press.

In regard to my inquiry, he affirmed the continued presence of Access Press in the community in 2023 with the following remarks: “Access Press is still very much alive, publishing hardcopies of the newspaper monthly with an additional online presence...HLAATC announcements and events should definitely be sent to the editor. I would be happy to assist”.

He included a link to the newspaper: <https://accesspress.org>



HOW TO JOIN OR RENEW YOUR HLAA-TC MEMBERSHIP



www.hlaatc.org/membership



Visit the website

Go to hlaatc.org/membership and print off a member form.



Fill Out The Form

Fill out the information on the form, write a check: memberships are up for renewal every September. Membership dues are \$25 for individuals, \$50 for professionals, \$100 for supporting members and \$15 for newsletter only.



Mail it

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



Also join HLAA (national)

This just gains you membership in the local chapter (HLAA-TC), We also encourage membership in the national HLAA organization:
<https://www.hearingloss.org/make-an-impact/become-a-member-renew/>



Thank You!

Your membership helps our chapter continue to serve you and the local hearing loss community.

HLAA TC
PO Box 26021
Minneapolis, MN 55426



**Next meeting: October 21, 2023 in-person and Zoom
First Class**

HLAA Twin Cities Chapter

Name.....

Address.....

City.....

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

Phone.(area code).....

E-Mail.....

Newsletter via email included in all memberships

_____ Individual \$25

_____ Professional \$50

_____ Supporting \$100

_____ Newsletter only \$15

_____ Contact me for newspaper advertising

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



Welcomes You!

President – Robin Coninx president@hlaatc.org

Vice President – Laura Hagemann vicepresident@hlaatc.org

Secretary – Susan Arquette secretary@hlaatc.org

Treasurer – Robin Coninx treasurer@hlaatc.org

Directors at Large:

Christy Myers

Karla Sand

Ed Benck

Mark Daly

Contact Info. - info@hlaatc.org

Social Media - Laura Hagemann social@hlaatc.org

Newsletter Editor: Vicki Martin editor@hlaatc.org

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 October 21, 2023, and on ZOOM.

To attend the meeting on ZOOM: Prior to the meeting, click the “register here” button on the HLAATC website. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

To attend the meeting IN PERSON: Join us at Courage Kenny 3915 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley MN 55422 on October 21 (the 3rd Saturday of the month). Sign-in begins at 9:30 AM.

Meeting time: Social time in person begins at 9:30 AM (no social time on ZOOM). Formal meeting is at 10:00 AM for both in-person and ZOOM

Accommodations: All meetings are realtime captioned by Captioners from Veritext/Paradigm (www.caption-paradigm@veritext.com).