



HLAA NYSA Board Officers for 2019-2021



Name: **Daniel Brooks**

Position: **President**

Dan Brooks was born with a severe to profound hearing loss and was not diagnosed until he was almost four (4) years of age. He is the youngest of five (5) children and grew up in the countryside of Penfield, New York. In the beginning parts of his life, he was put through the system to receive therapy in an effort to be mainstreamed so he could receive higher education and ultimately live a “normal” life in the hearing world. With much support of his parents and others around him, he was able to achieve just that and graduated from S.U.N.Y at Buffalo with a Bachelor’s of Arts in 1996. Throughout his life he learned how to use various assistive devices, public assistance, trial & error and other techniques to navigate everyday life both personal and professional. Now he is sharing his struggles and successes with others with hearing loss so they too can learn to better cope with hearing loss in everyday life. He is now the Immediate Past President of Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) Rochester Chapter but still serve on its’ Board of Directors. He is still very active within the Rochester Chapter and is one of the trainers of the Demo Center. He is also a Co-Chair of Healthy Living with Hearing Loss (HL2) with Mary Chizuk. His goal in life is to provide research, support, education and advocacy on the topic of hearing loss. Hopefully with his efforts and others, he (WE) will play a major role in creating more awareness in all the communities statewide to help create a better tomorrow for those with hearing loss.



Name: **Kassey Granger**

Position: **Vice President**

Kassey Granger, She first learned she had hearing loss when she was in first grade. She didn’t do anything about it until she was in her 20’s. At that time she only wore one hearing aid because the other ear lost most of its word recognition. Being fitted with a hearing aid in that ear didn’t help. In 2010, she received her first cochlear implant. The cochlear implant was such a success that she loved it and wish she had done it sooner. In 2014, the second ear was implanted. Since her first implant, she had such a strong desire to help others understand that cochlear implants has improved so much that she worked with Cochlear America to help start a support group in Albany. To this day she still helps run that support group. Also in 2010 she started teaching sign language to adults and children. This year she has decided to devote some of her time in other areas so she no longer teaches ASL. At her local Lions Club, she is the VP and does a lot of volunteering. This year she also became the Zone chair. She is now in charge of 5 different clubs within her zone to help them grow. Her full-time job is with CapTel captioning telephone. She is the outreach person for New York State and parts of Vermont. She grew up with caption phones in the household because of her mother and grandmother both used CapTel and so did she. So it was a perfect fit when CapTel offered her a job 7 years ago. She looks forward to serving as the incoming VP of the HLAA New York State Association!



Name: **Mary Kate Owens**

Position: **Secretary**

Mary Kate Owens serves on the Planning Committee of the HLAA Albany Chapter for 2 years now and is the current Newsletter Editor. She has retired in 2016 from the NYS Office of Court Administration as a Principal Budget Analyst with 30 years of service. She wears a BAHA for single sided deafness for the past 15 years.



Name: **Tom Corteville**

Position: **Treasurer**

Tom Corteville was born and raised in Palmyra, NY and now resides in Penfield, NY. He has a wife named Holly. Together they have two children. The oldest is Bennett, age 19, and he is freshman in college. Their youngest is Haley, age 15, and she is a sophomore in high school. Some of Tom's favorite pastimes are gardening and camping. Professionally Tom is a licensed CPA and has an extensive wealth of experience. He is currently working as a consultant for various firms. He also serves on the board of directors of the HLAA Rochester Chapter as the Treasurer. He also is a committee leader of the Rochester Chapter Finance Committee Group. He does not have hearing loss but has a strong desire to help those with hearing loss and volunteer his expertise.



Name: **Jerry Bergman**

Position: **Immediate Past President**

Jerry Bergman is a retired public relations executive. He began losing his hearing over a decade ago and relies on both a cochlear implant and a hearing aid for severe-profound hearing loss. In 2009, Jerry joined the Hearing Loss Association of America. He is a member of the New York City Chapter and also a past chair of the Hearing Loop Committee. He founded the Hearing Accommodation Task Force of New York in 2011 to advocate for hearing accessibility. His work led to the adoption in 2017 of a NYC law requiring major construction and renovation projects receiving city funds to include assistive listening technology. Jerry is a graduate of Gallaudet University's Peer Mentoring Certificate Program to help train deaf, hard-of-hearing and late-deafened individuals to meet the diverse needs of individuals with hearing loss. He serves on the New York State's Hearing Aid Dispensing Advisory Board as the member with knowledge of hearing loss issues. He recently received the Hearing Loss Association's Marcia Dugan Advocacy Award at HLAA's 2019 National Convention!

HLAA NYSA Board Members for 2019-2021

(Alphabetical order)



Name: **Peggy Bell**

Position: **Board Member**

Peggy Bell splits her time between south Florida and Long Island, NY. She serves as Secretary of the Board for the South Palm Beach County Chapter of HLAA which has monthly meetings in Delray Beach and bi-monthly support group meetings in North Palm Beach. She is also employed by Audio Directions, Inc. which is based in Hopewell, NJ. Her role there, marketing and research director, involves delivering the right combination of assistive listening technology and staff training to places of public accommodation. Prior experience includes Marketing & Communications Director roles at Boys & Girls Club of Martin County (FL) and The Green Vale School (NY), and as a group publisher of trade journals in healthcare, architecture/design and facilities management. Her personal experience with hearing loss includes her father and, with auditory processing deficits, her son and grandson. ***Her belief:*** We all thrive when effective communication is routinely practiced and it takes all of us, not just the hearing impaired, to make that possible.



Name: **Florence Butler**

Position: **Board Member**

Florence “Fluffy” Butler is a long time member of the Mid-Hudson Chapter. Fluffy has served for many years on the New York State Hearing Aid Dispensing Advisory Board (HADAB) as the public member who is a hearing aid user. As a HADAB member she often was in the face of the opposing views of the audiologists and hearing aid dispensers, she inspired others to join her in raising the voice of consumers in the board’s deliberations.



Name: **Mary C. Chizuk RN MS Ed**

Position: **Board Member**

Mary Chizuk RN MS Ed is retired from many years of service at the VA in Rochester, NY. She attended her first HLAA Convention in 1988 which was in Rochester! She is also a past president of the Rochester Chapter. Currently she is the committee leader of the Rochester Professional Advisory Committee (PAC). She was previously a board member of the HLAA New York State Board of Directors. She is also the founder of Healthy Living with Hearing Loss (HL2) where she currently Co-Chairs with Dan Brooks. HL2 is a community based research that is working on improving the lives of people with hearing loss (HL) both in the workplace and in the healthcare settings.



Name: **Eric Matson**

Position: **Board Member**

Eric Matson represents the Rochester Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America, where he is an active member of both their Education & Outreach and Technology Committees. Before retiring, he was the Principal Engineer of Carrier Corp.'s Global Operations Group, tasked with technology application at 106 factories and 30 major distributorships all around the globe. He's a former Million Mile Flier on 4 different airlines, and has lived in England and Singapore for over 12 years. Eric had to retire when his hearing loss prevented proper telephone use, and he has since become much attuned to the affliction's forms, causes and technology-based "solutions". Eric is NOT an audiologist, but he works alongside of several, has a lot of personal experience, and perhaps best of all... ***he doesn't sell anything!***



Name: **Susan Miller**

Position: **Board Member**

Sue Miller is a member of the Rochester Chapter and has been involved with SHHH/HLAA since September of 1983, when she first met Rocky Stone. Nine hard-of-hearing Rochesterians met on November 1, 1983, to discuss forming an SHHH group and all agreed it was a great idea. Sue has also been active at the State and National level of HLAA since the beginning of its existence. She has worn behind-the-ear hearing aids for sixty years, and considers them to be miracle workers. On a personal level, she attended Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. While there, she met her husband, Scott, and in April of 2020, they'll be celebrating their 60th anniversary! They have three adult sons and daughters-in-law, a fabulous bunch of grandchildren, and their 6th great-grandchild was just born last April! And of course, she thinks they are all adorable. Sue loves to read, attend church, and does volunteer work at a local hospice on Fridays. She and her husband also enjoy traveling. In addition to her family, she has an incredible passion for HLAA and has always been a firm believer in advocacy! Sue is excited about the goals Jerry Bergman has come up with that could benefit New Yorker's with hearing loss. As representatives across the state, she says if we collectively support legislation to promote these goals, we'll succeed!



Name: **Jonathan Taylor**

Position: **Board Member**

Jonathan Taylor, got his first hearing aids in 1992, he only wore them in the privacy of his home to protect his career as a free-lance musician. In 1997, when his hearing loss had progressed from mild to severe, and his pitch discrimination had deteriorated, he decided to stop performing and wear his hearing aids in public. During his career as a trombonist, he performed and recorded with the Brooklyn Philharmonic, Paul Taylor Dance Company, NY Philharmonic, Orpheus Chamber Ensemble, Empire Brass Quintet, and others. His career also included performances with more than twenty Broadway shows and numerous ballet and opera companies.

After graduating from Harvard College in 1971, he earned an MS in developmental psychology from Yale. Jon returned to school in 2011 and earned a Ph.D. in developmental psychology at the Graduate Center of CUNY in 2015. His recent research, an analysis of the admissions test to NYC's elite public high schools, was published in the *Journal of Women and Minorities in Science and Engineering* and has been discussed in the *NY Times* and *Wall Street Journal*.

He is fortunate that his three children and two grandchildren all live in NYC. His wonderful wife, Mary Sano, a neuropsychologist, is director of the Mt. Sinai Alzheimer's Disease Research Center. HLAA has become an important part of his life since he joined in 2016. He is currently vice-president of the Board of Directors of the NYC chapter.



Name: **Steve Wolfert**

Position: **Board Member**

Steve Wolfert, His professional background consist of marketing, advertising, public relations and commercial real estate. He has been a member of the HLAA Westchester Chapter for 10+ years! Currently he is the acting President of the Westchester Chapter. He is also a past Co-Chair for multiple years of the Westchester/Rockland Walk4Hearing. He currently resides in Irvington, NY with his wife Andrea. Has 2 adult children. Steve is very involved with HLAA mainly due to his son having a cochlear implant. Steve himself does not have a hearing loss.