

# HLAA Community Outreach

BY CARLA BEYER-SMOLIN

**H**LAA Chapter and State Organizations have been busy this past fall carrying on the mission of HLAA in their communities, reaching out to newcomers to hearing loss and revitalizing HLAA members and leaders. We applaud HLAA leaders for their volunteer efforts.

## HLAA-NYSA Recharge, Reconnect, Reimagine Conference

About 150 people participated in the HLAA New York State Association (HLAA-NYSA) Conference in Glens Falls, New York, September 16-18, 2022. Attendees, in-person and on Zoom, were inspired by keynote speaker, Justin Osmond, CEO of The Olive Osmond Hearing Fund, and attended workshops, including one by Kevin Franck, Ph.D., chair of the HLAA board of directors. In-person attendees met with exhibitors, participated in fundraisers, viewed a special showing of the Academy Award-winning movie, *CODA*, and celebrated with a cocktail/dinner reception. The conference was a major revitalization accomplishment for HLAA-NYSA.

## Hop on Track to Better Hearing at the HLAA Wisconsin State Conference

The HLAA Wisconsin State Association held its first statewide conference since the beginning of the pandemic on October 15, 2022, in Madison, Wisconsin, hosted by the HLAA Madison Chapter.

Michelle Frisbie, HLAA-WI treasurer and conference committee member gave her comments on the conference:

“Everyone was so glad to see each other in person! It was a wonderful day of informative presentations, good food and great friendships! All who came hopped on that train to better hearing and walked away with valuable information, empowering coping strategies and new friends!

During the presentations, we found out about how to find and review hearing loops on Google Maps, learned more about what HEAR Wisconsin and its Mobile Audiology Clinic have to offer and discovered research underway at University of Wisconsin-Madison’s Waisman Center. We also learned a lot about how to



*HLAA Wisconsin State Conference Attendees*

become hearing-empowered and what life is like for a person with hearing loss who works for a railroad.

I look forward to future state and national conferences, as I always come back filled with new information and ideas! It’s great meeting new people and sharing strategies for improved hearing outcomes.”

## Hearing — Handle with Care: When is Loud Too Loud? Conference Hosted by HLAA Twin Cities Chapter

On October 15, 2022, in conjunction with the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Deaf and Hard of



*Christine Klessig, Tom O'Connor, Juliëtte Sterkens, Au.D., Max Maxfield, Julie Olson, and Michelle Frisbie represent HLAA Fox Valley Chapter at the conference.*



*Robyn "Birdie" Coninx, HLAA Twin Cities Chapter president*

Hearing Services Division (DHHSD) and the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, HLAA Twin Cities Chapter (HLAA-TC) sponsored the Hearing—Handle with Care: When is Loud Too Loud? Conference on noise-induced hearing loss. People attended both in person at the Minneapolis Marriott West in St. Louis Park, Minnesota, and via Zoom.

The conference began with a brief introduction and welcome by new HLAA-TC President Robin "Byrdie" Coninx and Mary Bauer, and TJay Middlebrook from DHHSD. A team of experts gave presentations on various aspects of noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL). University of Minnesota audiologists Kerry Witherell, Au.D., and Peggy Nelson, Ph.D., spoke about the dangers of noise exposure and how to prevent further hearing loss. Monique Hammond,

R.Ph., presented ways to protect your hearing in the workplace, and Kristen Swan, M.A., L.P., discussed grieving the loss of your hearing.

Find a local HLAA Chapter at [hearingloss.org/chapters-state-orgs/find-a-chapter/](http://hearingloss.org/chapters-state-orgs/find-a-chapter/)

For more information about starting a chapter, email Carla Beyer-Smolin, chapter coordinator, [cbeyer-smolin@hearingloss.org](mailto:cbeyer-smolin@hearingloss.org). **HL**

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## Are you a veteran living with hearing loss, tinnitus or other auditory issue?



HLAA stands ready to help our nation's veterans live successfully with hearing loss and related issues. In addition to a complimentary Online Membership and first-timer convention attendee registration, you can participate in the HLAA Veterans Across America Virtual Chapter.

The mission of the HLAA Veterans Across America Virtual Chapter is to provide education, be an advocate for veterans with hearing loss and to provide a support system to help them return to civilian life.

**For more information, go to [hearingloss.org/Veterans](http://hearingloss.org/Veterans) or email [chapters@hearingloss.org](mailto:chapters@hearingloss.org).**

