



August 2019

Greetings new and renewing Members!

The **Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA)** is the nation's leading consumer advocacy group whose mission is to *open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing **advocacy, education, information and support.***

This year marks the **36th anniversary** of the **Rochester Chapter**. Sincere thanks to the founding members that had **the vision**, made the **commitment** AND sustained the **dedication** required to grow an organization that *could* and *would* serve the community so well. Who knew we would become the largest and most active chapter in the nation??!!

As an entirely volunteer run organization, our growth and impact has been enabled by the support of our members. Whether you or a loved one has recently joined the 48 million Americans living with hearing loss, or join us as a seasoned hearing aid/cochlear implant user, *we invite you to get involved* - volunteer when or where you can, attend programs, share your story or just stop by to visit at one of our monthly meetings. We are here to support YOU. Please consider one or all of the following to help us spread the word:

- **Day and evening program meetings** are offered on the 1st Tuesday of each month September – June. Carefully vetted speakers educate and inform us. An induction hearing loop and live captioning are used at every meeting to ensure a 'hearing friendly' environment. Often our members remark that *"I have learned so much. I wish I had started attending meetings sooner; the people are so warm and welcoming. I have made so many new friends!"*
- **Attend a monthly HOPE (Hearing Other People's Experiences) session.** Conducted by a retired audiologist these sessions offer professional, yet unbiased information and support especially useful to those just beginning their journey with hearing loss. As a popular addition to our programming, attendance has grown significantly each month. Listen and learn from others, while sharing your own experiences in a friendly/supportive environment.
- Read the award-winning **Chapter Newsletter** published September through June to coincide with our meetings to stay current on Chapter news, obtain helpful hints, get easy access to listings of local captioned theatre productions and more. Get it delivered to your door with paid membership and access it online 24/7 via our website hearinglossrochester.org. BOOKMARK IT! It is the go-to resource catered to those living with hearing loss.
- **Assistive Listening Device Demo Center (Demo Center):** Open the 3rd Thursday of each month from 10AM-2PM, the center provides a stress free environment in which to learn about and actually *test-drive* the latest in Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs). Conveniently located at **Lifespan**, visitors are individually guided by skilled trainers and offered the unique opportunity to explore options prior to purchasing. Of note: *Many devices will benefit both those **with** or **without** CI's or hearing aids.* So be sure to bring friends!
- **Scholarship Program:** Since 1996 HLAA Rochester has proudly awarded \$114,500 in scholarship funds to 130 hard of hearing or deaf high school students headed for college. What an amazing privilege!

Our work is conducted by people that care deeply for the cause, due to the companionship and real-life story of what it is to live with hearing loss. Year after year, we witness the positive impact we have made within the community at large. That work is made possible *only* with support from **YOU, our members.** Please **join or renew your membership today.** Strengthened by numbers, we will help make tomorrow's living with hearing loss that much easier for ourselves and generations to come. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margaret Cochran'.

Margaret Cochran
Membership Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Johnston'.

Suzanne Johnston
President, Board of Directors