



## Minutes October 8, 2016

The October 8, 2016 Hearing Loss Association of America-Greater Richmond Chapter (HLAA-GR) meeting was called to order at 10:45 am at Beulah United Methodist Church, North Chesterfield, Virginia. Those in attendance included: Thom Casey, HLAA-GR Treasurer; Officer Craig Eckrich-Chesterfield County Police Department; Brenda Eggleston, HLAA-GR Secretary; Matt Eggleston, HLAA-GR Vice President; Cyndy Greenacre; Debbie Greenacre; John Greenacre; Larry Herbert; Mattie Howell; Tom Minnicks; Kevin Mowen; Carlos Shedd-Assistant Fire Marshall, Chesterfield County Fire and EMS; and Linda Wallace, HLAA-GR President.

The meeting began with Officers Eckrich and Carlos Shedd providing information to the group about what to do and not do during traffic stops, what first responders look for during a home emergency, and smoke alarms for the hearing impaired.

- **TRAFFIC STOPS:** During a traffic stop, keep your hands where they can be seen. Do not reach for anything in the car (this includes the orange visor cards that say you are hard of hearing). Reaching for something may be misinterpreted by the police officer approaching the car. Instead, wait until the police officer is next to your car, then let the officer know you are hard of hearing. At this point let them know what you need to show them (this includes the orange visor card). Officer Eckrich indicated that DMV has license plates that have "HI" on them which indicates that the driver has a hearing impairment. Police officers have limited training in dealing with people with a hearing problem.
- **FILE OF LIFE:** Each File of Life kit contains a blank medical card, plastic pocket and a decal. The card should be filled out in pencil, to allow changes, with the patient's name, medical history, prescription information, and emergency medical contact numbers. The medical card slips into the plastic magnetic pocket that protects the card and the patient's privacy. The FILE OF LIFE information card is held inside a magnetic red vinyl sleeve marked FILE OF LIFE, which the user posts on their refrigerator. The provided red FILE OF LIFE sticker should be placed on your front door so first responders are alerted to this important information on your refrigerator. In the event of a medical emergency, the FILE OF LIFE alerts first responders to your specific medical conditions and needs. First responders are trained to look for FILE OF LIFE information on refrigerators.
- **YELLOW DOT PROGRAM:** To help save lives, the Chesterfield Adult Services Interagency Task Force and Chesterfield Triad have partnered to provide the Yellow Dot Program to Chesterfield County residents. By completing a medical information forms, placing them in their vehicle glove boxes and affixing yellow dots to the rear driver's side windows, participants alert first responders that life-saving information is easily accessible in the event of an emergency. By having this pertinent information, emergency crews can respond more rapidly to an individual's unique needs.
- **SMOKE ALARMS:** Smoke alarms for the hearing impaired will have a strobe light and a vibrator pad for

the bed. The cost of smoke alarms with the strobe/vibrator pad is \$60-\$160. If you are a Chesterfield County resident and need assistance with the purchase of a smoke alarm for a hearing impaired person you need to contact Lieutenant Jason Elmore, Public Information Officer for Chesterfield Fire and EMS at 804-318-8342.

Officers Eckrich and Shedd also mentioned that a dog clicker is a useful device in getting a person's attention. Dog clickers can be purchased from Petco. Chesterfield County does not currently have TEXTING TO 911 ability. The Chesterfield County Police Department has monthly meetings in which they provide useful information to the police officers. Officer Eckrich is planning to share information he obtained from the group at an upcoming meeting.

Linda Wallace mentioned that October is Audiology Awareness Month. To celebrate, there will be free seminars during which attendees will have the opportunity to learn and ask questions directly to audiologists. All seminars are one hour and include lunch, educational material and give-a-ways. Seminars are being held on October 11, 12, and 13 from Noon-1:00pm. If you plan to attend you will need to RSVP. Flyers containing additional information were on the information table.

Linda Wallace reminded attendees that Walk4Hearing is being held on October 22, 2016 in Alexandria, Virginia. The chapter has reserved a charter bus which will leave the VDDHH Offices located at 1602 Rolling Hills Drive, Henrico, Virginia 23229-5012 at 8:00am and return at 6:00pm. The event will occur rain or shine.

Linda Wallace mentioned that there will be no chapter meeting in November 2016. Instead, the chapter will have an informational table available at the James City County, Virginia Live Well Expo, being held November 4, 2016 from 8:30am-Noon. This event is being held at the James City County Recreation Center located at 5301 Longhill Road Williamsburg, VA 23185.

The motion to accept the September 10, 2016 minutes as distributed was made, seconded and passed.

The motion to accept the October 8, 2016 treasurer's report was made, seconded and passed.

Linda Wallace encouraged chapter members to attend the Looping Initiative Meeting being held on November 14, 2016 from 1:00pm-3:00pm at VDDHH located at 1602 Rolling Hills Drive, Henrico, Virginia 23229. The meeting is open to the public, to anyone whose life is affected by hearing loss or wants to make their facility more accessible for people with hearing loss. Dr. Juliette Sterkens, Hearing Loop Advocate for HLAA National, will be discussing why people with hearing loss say they can hear but can't understand, how hearing loops help you hear better in large public places, and how to get your favorite venue or church interested in a loop. Larry Herbert mentioned that during the renovations at UVA in Charlottesville, Virginia nine classrooms were looped. Dr. Juliette Sterkens is planning to speak to the graduate students at UVA about the looping initiative as well.

Linda Wallace was happy to announce that the Chapter has finally received its exemption from the Department of Agriculture. With this exemption, the chapter is able, once again, to accept chapter fees (formerly referred to as chapter dues). Thanks were given to Thom Casey for all the work he did in assisting Linda in obtaining the exemption.

The Chapter will have its Holiday Social in the meeting room at Beulah United Methodist Church, North Chesterfield, Virginia on December 10, 2016 from Noon to 2:00pm. Members are encouraged to attend and to bring a side dish or dessert.

Larry Herbert mentioned an app for smart phones called LEDit-the LED Banner App which displays LED messages on your phone. LEDit turns your iPhone/iPad into a ticker display. It allows the user to communicate with their friends in noisy bars, parties or concerts. It can also be used in places where shouting would be inappropriate such as meetings, classes or libraries.

Larry mentioned a captioning app for cell phones called InnoCaption. It's a free real-time captioning app for smartphones. For additional information regarding InnoCaption, please visit <http://www.innocaption.com/>.

The motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting at 12:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Eggleston  
Secretary HLAA-GR Chapter