



**Hearing Loss  
Association  
of America**  
Greater Richmond Chapter  
**Minutes**  
**May 9, 2015**

The May 9, 2015 Hearing Loss Association of America-Greater Richmond Chapter (HLAA-GR) meeting was called to order at 10:50 am at Beulah United Methodist Church, North Chesterfield, Virginia. Those in attendance included: Alan Brown, HLAA-GR Vice President Emeritus; Brenda Eggleston, HLAA-GR Secretary; Norman Eva; Larry Herbert; Kevin Mowen; Liz Mowen; Audry Sitten; and Linda Wallace, HLAA-GR President.

The motion to accept the March 14, 2015, minutes as distributed was made, seconded and passed.

The group welcomed Larry Herbert, the newest chapter member, to the group.

Beulah United Methodist Church has [tentatively] approved the HLAA-GR chapter having a storage cabinet at the church. The group made several suggestions of possible places which could be checked for a used storage cabinet. Alan Brown and Linda Wallace each indicated that they would continue to check out businesses which might have a storage cabinet which the chapter could buy.

The motion to accept the treasurer's report was made, seconded and passed. The idea of combining the responsibilities of the secretary and treasurer into one position during the election of officers in January 2016 was mentioned during the meeting.

A copy of the 2015 Consumers Guide to Hearing Aids will be placed on the monthly meeting informational table for members to review. The Chapter has an extra copy of the 2015 Guide which is available for purchase for \$7.00. Members were asked to contact Linda Wallace if they were interested in purchasing the extra copy of the 2015 Guide.

Alan Brown and Linda Wallace are planning to submit a grant application to the Community Foundation in order to obtain grant money which the chapter can use to fund the hospital kits and outreach programs. The preliminary proposal deadline is November 5, 2015 and the grant application is an online process. The following chapter members indicated they would be willing to help work on the grant application: Alan Brown, Brenda Eggleston, Kevin Mowen, and Liz Mowen. Audrey Sitten agreed to look into grant funding that the Camron Foundation of Petersburg distributes on a yearly basis.

Linda Wallace discussed the Virginia Chapter Leaders Seminar that was held April 25, 2015 and how important it was to get out the chapter name and logo through branding. Another idea mentioned during the Seminar was the "elevator speech," which is a 15 second discussion highlighting the chapter's mission.

Linda Wallace also discussed the Unity Health Fair and VDDHH Focus Group which the chapter participated in on April 18, 2015. Thom Casey was able to provide free hearing tests to people attending the health fair and the chapter provided information to people who stopped by the information booth. Linda Wallace indicated that the Unity Church would love to have the chapter participate in the health

fair again next year. Several chapter members were also present at the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH) 2015 Focus Group, which provided hands-on sessions of equipment which enable people with hearing and sight problems to live a more enriched and fulfilling life. VDDHH also had a session in which attendees were able to get apps and tips for their cell phones and tablets.

A suggestion was made to have a speaker come to one of the monthly meetings to discuss the effects of medications on a person's hearing. Linda Wallace advised that the chapter has a copy of the ototoxic drug handbook which members can check out if they are interested.

Linda Wallace provided a presentation on the hospital kit she had received from the San Antonio, Texas HLAA Chapter. Discussion followed regarding possible modifications that could be made for a hospital kit offered by the HLAA-GR Chapter.

Linda Wallace mentioned that the VDDHH Advisory Board is seeking people to fill three consumer member seats and one professional member seat. The Advisory Board meets four times a year. If you are interested in becoming an Advisory Board Member please contact Kathi Mestayer (phone: 757-229-6575; email [kwren@widomaker.com](mailto:kwren@widomaker.com)) for more information.

Larry Herbert volunteered to create a list of places that are looped in the Greater Richmond area. Larry will initially focus on places that are looped and then expand the list to include places that provide assisted hearing devices for the hearing impaired. This information will eventually be placed on the chapter's website, as well as being available as a printed document.

Members were reminded that the chapter will not meet during the summer. The next chapter meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2015 at Beulah United Methodist Church, North Chesterfield, Virginia. The speaker for the September meeting is Ariva Priola from the disAbility Resource Center in Fredericksburg. She will address the issue of HOH rights and responsibilities regarding hospital visits. She also will advise our chapter on introducing our Hospital Kit Project to area hospitals.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Eggleston  
Secretary  
HLAA-Greater Richmond Chapter