



## **Minutes September 10, 2016**

The September 10, 2016 Hearing Loss Association of America-Greater Richmond Chapter (HLAA-GR) meeting was called to order at 10:40 am at Beulah United Methodist Church, North Chesterfield, Virginia. Those in attendance included: Thom Casey, HLAA-GR Treasurer; Brenda Eggleston, HLAA-GR Secretary; Matt Eggleston, HLAA-GR Vice President; Norman Eva; Cyndy Greenacre; Debbie Greenacre; John Greenacre; Larry Herbert; Mattie Howell; Kathi Mestayer; Kevin Mowen; Liz Mowen; Melissa Schutt; and Linda Wallace, HLAA-GR President.

Linda Wallace encouraged members to attend the next Chapter meeting being held on October 8. Lt. Jason Elmore, Chesterfield Fire & EMS, and Career Officer Craig Eckich, Chesterfield County Police Department, will be our special guest speakers addressing several issues regarding First Responders and hearing loss.

The motion to accept the May 14, 2016 minutes as distributed was made, seconded and passed.

The motion to accept the September 10, 2016 treasurer's report was made, seconded and passed.

Linda Wallace advised that the 2016 Walk4Hearing is being held in Alexandria, Virginia on October 22, 2016. The HLAA-GR Chapter has chartered a bus to take the chapter members to the Walk4Hearing event. Those interested in participating in the Walk4Hearing event on October 22, 2016 were asked to be at the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH) building located at 1602 Rolling Hills Drive, Richmond, VA 23229 at 7:30 am. The bus will be leaving for Alexandria, Virginia at 8:00 am and returning to Richmond around 6:00 pm.

Linda Wallace advised that John Greenacre has agreed to maintain both the HLAA-GR website and facebook page. Kevin Mowen has agreed to be the alternate person for maintaining both these sites. John Greenacre mentioned that he will investigate what it will take to obtain access to both sites.

Brenda Eggleston gave a brief presentation of the hospital kit and asked for feedback regarding the kits. Several good suggestions were made by chapter members on how to reduce the cost of the kits, tracking the number of kits requested on a monthly basis, and what to charge for the kits. Overall the hospital kit was well received.

Linda Wallace mentioned that chapter members can purchase short sleeve polo shirts with the HLAA-GR logo for \$25.00 each. Those interested in purchasing a shirt should contact Brenda Eggleston. A chapter member inquired about the possibility of purchasing a long sleeve shirt with the logo on it. Brenda Eggleston indicated that she would find out about the availability and cost of a long sleeve shirt.

Linda Wallace advised that the chapter now has a heavy vinyl chapter banner compliments of VA Relay and VDDHH.

Linda Wallace is still working on resolving the issue of collection of funds with the Department of Agriculture. The chapter has suspended collection of all dues and/or contributions until resolution of this issue.

Norman Eva mentioned that there was a small company, Auris Medical Holding, who has been conducting testing regarding tinnitus. The company completed a test last month and has decided that due to its findings that it will be conducting additional testing in the field of tinnitus.

Linda Wallace has contacted the church regarding the Apple Festival being held this year. No one from the church was able to provide her with any information regarding the Apple Festival. Since no information was available regarding the Apple Festival, Linda asked the chapter members if they wanted to participate in the James City County Parks & Recreation Live Well Expo being held November 4, 2016 from 8:30 am to noon at the James City County Recreation Center, located at 5301 Longhill Road, Williamsburg, Virginia 23188. The chapter members agreed to participate in the Live Well Expo event this year instead of the Apple Festival.

Liz Mowen advised that she has a portable canopy the Chapter can use for future outdoor events.

Linda Wallace mentioned that there is a Deaf Awareness Week Open House being held on September 23, 2016 from 4:00 pm-6:00 pm and September 24, 2016 from 10:00 am-1:00 pm at the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH) located at 1602 Rolling Hills Drive, Suite 203, Richmond, Virginia 23229 and the Virginia Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) located at 8004 Franklin Farms Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23229. Attendees will be able to learn about the many services and organization designed to meet the needs of Virginians who are deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened and deaf-blind. Attendees will also be able to watch demonstrations of the latest assistive communications technologies at the VDDHH.

Kathi Mestayer gave a presentation on Hearing Access in Hospitals: Where "Getting it" Matters. The presentation focused on what people hear and how the brain processes this information, the hazards of misunderstanding what a person says, what hard of hearing people need in order to better understand what is being said, and tools of the trade such as ASL interpreters, real-time captioning and assistive listening devices. Kathi also gave examples of situations where people have misinterpreted what a person said and the results upon the person who misinterpreted what was said. A copy of Kathi's presentation was provided to those who attended the chapter meeting.

The motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Eggleston

Secretary HLAA-GR Chapter