

HAAA MEETING.

5/16/2020.

[MEETING STARTED AT 11:00 A.M.]

>>SHARON: Well welcome, everybody. We knew there were going to be some glitches despite our steering committee during the week. Vivian and Tim spent many hours yesterday trying to smooth it out. I know not all the software is compatible with zoom's captioning abilities. It's a test meeting but we wanted to get everybody together because we miss your faces. We were so close to moving to your new location. We were within a week and a half or so. Obviously there were bigger plans for the world, sadly. There's obviously no ability as to when we'll be able to see that place. They'll be more opportunities we'll be able to reconnect virtually. For those of you who don't remember me, I look 20 years older because I haven't dyed my hair. I'm Sharon and I'm the president of the LA chapter. We have most of our committee here with us. I'd like if everybody can reintroduce ourselves starting with Tim.

>>TIM: Hi, everyone. Can you guys see me? If you can't I'm sorry I went for a run. I'm still recovering. Thank you guys for joining on the steering committee. This is our first attempt at doing this. We appreciate your patience. We're using this to have a sort of steppingstone for future meeting. I'm glad to see most of you again. I know it's been quite a time we've been going through. I think more than anything this meeting was just to see your faces again, just to talk about what's been going on, just to reconnect. Despite the challenges we're going through, I'm just happy to see your faces. So it's good to see everyone.

>>SHARON: Okay, Sandy, you're next on my gallery screen. Introduce yourself.

>>SANDY: Thanks I'm Sandy Blake I can't see anybody anymore because of the captioning. I'm doing well. We're doing the best that we can. I agree with Tim that it was lovely to see all of your faces and just have that moment to realize that we're all in this together I'm wishing the best for everybody and as we go on with this experiment of this meeting and surviving this pandemic I'm glad I'm in the boat with all of you.

>>: Wendy, you on?

>>SHARON: Wendy, are you there?

>>WENDY: I'm looking at the speaker view and for some reason Diane's keeps coming up in the middle of Sandy and Tim.

>>: That's because you miss me.

>>WENDY: In any case, I'm Wendy. I can't see anybody now. I am on the steer committee. Actually, vice president of the chapter and just happy that we have this opportunity to get together and just take each other. I think we'll get something out of it, glitches and all. Thank you for coming out this Saturday morning.

>>SHARON: Georgia, are you there? Are you on, Georgia?

>>GEORGIA: Hi I'm here. I am Georgia. I am on the committee. This is all new for me. I just got the iPad last week. I'm real [INAUDIBLE] I saw everybody's picture at the beginning and it was great seeing everybody. Lisa, hi. But now I just have the captions and I am grateful for the captions because I have a really hard time lip reading on my iPad. We had a couple of meetings last week. Anyway, I'm grateful to be here today and see all my peeps. I miss all of you and I hope to see you all real soon in person. Thanks for being here today.

>>SHARON: Wonderful thank you. So, Garry, I don't know if he is on. I imagine he's on tax season, but hopefully he'll be able to join us next most. Like a lot of us said, we wanted to reconvene. We'll start with a wrap session where we can have some of our issues with this current situation as it affects our sense of isolation, ability to communicate with wearing masks with a lot of different settings, just give everybody an opportunity to express some of the things they may want to share with the group. We thought we would do a Q&A format as we've done in person many times in our prior meetings. Wendy will be moderating and I will really turn it over to her. We can get started with her and at the end we'll discuss brief chapter business and let everybody get on their way. Wendy I'll turn it over to you to get started.

>>WENDY: So as I'm looking, I see we only have about 16 participants. But I do well know our group is larger than 16 people. I think we had anticipated a lot more people and allocated time for that. Sharon, can you mute because I can hear a lot of noise. Is that you Diane making all that noise? Okay cut it out. Everybody should be muted at this point until it's time for them to speak. Let's just mute everyone so we don't hear all this ambient noise.

>>SHARON: Just remember when you do raise your hand to unmute yourself. Click on the red line through the mute button.

>>WENDY: So what we would like you to do is just raise your hand. It's been almost three months since we met. We haven't had a chance. Many of you had an opportunity to communicate online but we just haven't had our chapter meeting. I just want to start off with finding out if anybody is experiencing any hearing issues, anything to do with hearing, your devices, ability to communicate, providers, any issues or concerns that you had related to your hearing. Please speak. Tell us your situation.

>>: Can I say something?

>>WENDY: Yes.

>>GEORGIA: This is Georgia.

>>WENDY: Whose hand is up? Who is speaking?

>>: I'll go after Diane. Georgia, did you want to go or did you want me to go?

>>WENDY: Georgia?

>>GEORGIA: Okay. I'll go first.

>>WENDY: Did you have something to say?

>>GEORGIA: I had a doctor appointment a few weeks ago. I had a growth on my arm. I needed to take care of it. I didn't want to wait because it was getting bigger and bigger. I had an appointment with my dermatologist and when I got there, they didn't take my temperature but everybody had a mask on there was hardly anybody in the waiting room. So I checked in and I said I'm Georgia, yes we know we're expecting you. I said I'm deaf, yes, we know. Then the nurses came out to get me whoever they were they came to get me. They all had had a mask on. Then the one lady had a big piece of paper and a pack. I can't read lips, you know. Everybody was wearing a mask. Right away she wrote everything down on a piece of paper. She was asking me questions, follow me, go into this room. I went into the room. I was flabbergasted, they just wrote everything down. I just felt like I was a real princess or something. They really wanted to make sure that I heard everything. So I just wanted to share that with you. I didn't have any problems. They were there for me.

>>WENDY: Thank you, Georgia. Diane.

>>: Like Georgia, I haven't had any problems. What I discovered is almost like a whole new world. Thanks to Katie and Tony found out how to use zoom. I've been to a lot of zoom lectures, workshops, concerts and it's been amazing. I can only use zoom on my iPad. This is the mini mic for my cochlear implant. The sound goes directly into my implants. Usually my calendar has nothing on it. All of a sudden it's like everyday there's one or two zoom or video chats or different things. This has been a learning experience. So that's my story.

>>WENDY: Thank you, Diane. I just want to share too because half of our screen is captioned for those people -- maybe you're already doing this -- you do have options. You can have it in the gallery view where you could see everyone. If you would prefer to get a better look at their face and read their lips as opposed to all the reading on the captions. Just go change your view to speaking view and only the person who is speaking will be the visible one. That might make it a bit easier for people who want to hear and see. I know we have a tendency to read lips and see faces. On the upper right hand corner just change it to speaker view. Okay is there anybody else who would like to share any issues? Lesley?

>>: My son is deaf. He had problems with his tubes. If you wear hearing aids one of the businesses that's open is arcade hearing in Santa Monica and they can deal with little emergencies. I think in LA county if you're disabled you don't have to wear a face mask. The problem we have Johnny is deaf. I'm wondering if HLAA if you're in a family group, John can -- at least one family member at a time who is talking to him doesn't wear the mask.

>>WENDY: I don't have any answers. I think that's an interesting concept. I didn't hear anything about what the accommodations for disabilities are. I think that would be reasonable to have at least one person who is accompanying you to be able to take their mask off or not wear one. We may need to look into that especially if the county has issued any information about that. We want to be certainly informed about our rights. A few weeks ago I did see a webinar and the ADA still applies. We do have rights. It may be more difficult to get those rights implemented but if new things come up we should know about that so we could be sure to advocate for ourselves around that.

>>: I have a suggestion.

>>: I know they have face masks with clear plastic. I would be worried that that would fog up. I'm not sure if that's a solution for me to get one of those.

>>: I think the problem is that I've talked to several doctors about that. The problem is the mask is not perceptible against Covid. That's definitely something I think we should advocate for us.

>>: I have another suggestion. Do you have cellphones because there are apps you could put on your cell phones that will give you captioning. You can talk to your grandson but not have to take your mask out. You can hold out your phone.

>>: It's not a problem in the house. It's just a problem when we go for a walk outside. I don't see why if the disabled person is not required to wear the mask, I don't see why the LA county can't say if you're with a deaf person you can take off your mask while you walk with them. It seems to me that would be a reasonable accommodation.

>>: Does anybody have any contact with people in LA county? LA city? That might be able to help with us? I wonder if Richard Ray might be able to help us?

>>WENDY: Well I think at this point if we don't have any information it's certainly something we are aware of and can start to explore possibly on some websites. If anyone does come up with additional information, please share it with us, send it to the steering committee, put it on line. Those are the things we do want to know about. Does anybody else have any hearing related issues? I have to say my story has been [INAUDIBLE] related. For some reason I must have opened three new batteries just trying to get one of them to last longer than a few minutes. I was really frustrated putting on a new battery and then getting that signal. I've been switching just trying to get the battery, is it in the hearing aid? I opened a new pack. Finally I tried reconnecting with the app which I didn't think has anything to do with my batteries. Apparently and I can't say that that was the issue but once I reconnected with the app that seemed to have resolved the problem fortunately I didn't throw away those batteries that seemed to be no good. Now I have open batteries but it seemed to last more than five minutes. It's very frustrating because it went on the day and I had other things to do. That was my battery issue. Anybody else have any hearing issues? Communication issues?

>>: Hey, guys. I don't think I seen any of you for four months.

>>WENDY: Can I ask, what is this also on the screen? I want to know what's being shared on our screen? I see the captions and I see something else?

>>TIM: Sharon, you're sharing your email. We're seeing your email. Thanks.

>>WENDY: Go ahead.

>>: First of all, what I've noticed is interesting about the mask. Of course none of us can lip read but also now all the normal hearing people are also having to deal with not being able to see other people talk. They are experiencing what we do and they are like can you speak up? I can't understand you because of the mask. It's like the shoe is on the other foot now. I know I've been zooming a lot. I have two pairs of hearing aids. I've had the older ones that are phone acts and with my com pilot. The new hearing aids that I got through medical are basically crap excuses for my language. They don't have any bells and whistles. I try to use these when I'm online so I can hear better. I have been experiencing a lot of issues. This one is great but some of the others the audio quality is very poor. Everybody says they are on Macs and they thought I'm the problem. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. I've been switching back and forth. If it doesn't work then I change back to the other one and I pull up the web captioner. It does fairly well. Maybe 85 percent accuracy. I just have to keep going back and forth. I have to change the ear pieces and put them on. It's kind of a hassle. Like you were saying about batteries I've been running out because I've been using 2 pairs. But I'm doing what I have to do.

>>WENDY: I'm not sure because I buy Costco batteries which are way cheaper than buying them at any other place. I don't know if they are of the same quality. I seem to be going through batteries like crazy. I don't know if it's me or the batteries. If anybody else has that issue, I seem to be going through quite a few batteries.

>>: I wonder if it has anything to do with -- because you're working, Wendy?

>>WENDY: Who is speaking?

>>: This is Nancy. Are you working right now? I'm going to guess that because of all the zooming, it's probably taking more juice out of your batteries than normal. I think it's a tech thing.

>>WENDY: I do know the more you use your bluetooth the more you drain your battery. I would go with that. Although I'm not using my bluetooth with zoom. Like right now I'm not using it. My laptop is not picking that up. I can use it on my phone. So maybe just more using bluetooth. Anybody else have any hearing issues? Or any ear stuff?

>>GEORGIA: I have a question but it doesn't have anything to do with hearing issues. Can I speak up?

>>WENDY: No, Georgia no.

>>GEORGIA: I'm wondering if I got a Macbook is that better than an iPad for zooming?

>>WENDY: I think so. I think a laptop or desktop system is the best device for video conferencing. I think a desktop and laptop are a little better.

>>TIM: Those are ideal. So you have more flexibility. I have two monitors. It's a work in progress. We have two more people with their comments coming up. Mindy would be next.

>>WENDY: Okay so --

>>SHARON: I think Mindy has her hand raised.

>>TIM: Mindy is next.

>>: I was going to mention I'm using a Chromebook through the district because the computer we have at home is super old and won't work with zoom. I have to like Wendy frequently [INAUDIBLE]. Can anybody tell me because I can't get captioning through work not that I ever could. But it's easy to understand people. How do you feel with work and zoom? That I was able to catch everything being said.

>>WENDY: Mindy, one of the things that I do is that right next to my laptop I have my cell phone and I use it depending on which kind of phone you have. If you have an android you can use live transcribe. If you have an iPhone you can use otter. You set up your captions and I put them on my computer so I can see what people are saying. It picks up the audio from the computer. Set up your iPhone or android phone and use the captions and put it right by your computer. That has worked really well. Have you ever used Otter?

>>: I have used live transcribe on my cell phone which I used at work. Never tried it on a computer. Do you think it will pick up with what the teachers and students are saying?

>>WENDY: Since you're familiar next time you have a zoom meeting, make sure it's charged up and it's by you're an computer turn on your live transcribe and it will caption your meeting for you. It's wonderful.

>>: I'll try that.

>>: Mindy, what school district are you working with?

>>: LA unified. Los Angeles unified.

>>: Because my understanding is that many of the students and teachers are using Google hangouts and Google meet.

>>: It is set up already. And only one teacher I'm with is using Google besides zoom. We got into the Google classroom with her last week.

>>: I know one of the things I get frustrated with is zoom doesn't have captions. There is a way for the host to enable captions but most of them don't know how to do it and I don't know either. One of the things I've wanted to share with people when you have a 1-on-1 meeting -- [INAUDIBLE] I've been trying to get my department to use Google meet. My understanding is I know some of the people who work at LAUSD and it hasn't been a problem using Google meet.

>>WENDY: So it's not a problem to use Google meet. I think it's an awesome feature. Zoom became widespread across the district. Now that people have been accustomed to using it you do have people like Wendy -- well because we've always used Google classroom. But she's kind of stuck with whatever platform people are using. Right now the vast majority of people not just in our district but across the country are zooming hopefully there are other options. In the meantime, if you are in a Google meet you can tell them to use the captions. And you're in zoom you can use your cellphone captions. Our district has widely used zoom. Every meeting is predominantly zoom.

>>: I just had a big meeting with 60 people the day before with people from my work using zoom.

>>WENDY: Wow that's pretty big. I would say for now until they start to utilize other options just pull up your Otter or live transcribe and that would be a big help.

>>: Okay.

>>WENDY: Okay does anybody else have any hearing slash communications concerns?

>>: I'd like to hear from Lisa. We haven't talked to her in a while.

>>WENDY: We're not just inviting people to speak. We want to hear from the issue. Does anybody have any tech issues? Any hearing issues? Anybody? I can't see anyone?

>>SHARON: Hearing issues, I like a lot of the things people were talking about with regards to the different formats because this is our first time and most people are doing zoom. We thought this would be a good way to start. We certainly are opening statements to experimenting to different formats that would allow us to function and hear or read our best to do whatever we need to do. Diane, I wanted to speak to a couple of people that spoke. This has been a lifesaver for me is my mini mic. I am a cochlear implant wearer and I wear a hearing aid in my other ear. I mentioned that because the streaming accessories synchronize for both of those brands. This microphone plug into my laptop accept it's not charged. It allows the sound to stream in. When my ducks are in a row I'm hearing better in zoom meetings than I do in face to face meetings. Our meeting with the T-coil setting benefited me. But this takes it from the 70 percent at a high volume with a 90 plus percent. If any of you have any questions on that and want to reach out to me or Diane please do so. I'm finding assistive technology extremely. The key is to have every device on you. Batteries are going quickly as Nancy said. Everything is getting drained. My laptop I have to charge many times a day. I wanted to speak to Leslie's comment about plastic masks. There was a zoom meeting for chapter and state leaders for HLAA. A gentleman spoke about the fact there's a lot of price gouging. Companies are selling them for \$65 a piece. Which is outrageous. Hopefully some third party will bring the price down to earth. It's important for the people around us so we could lip read them. That might go into wider distribution at some point soon. And hopefully if they become more medical grade they might be rolled out to hospital and health care settings. One of the questions I have I'm not going to see an audiologist. I generate a lot of wax as a result of my hearing aids. I've been trying to use Debrox. I'm curious if anybody else has had that experience. If you've used any over-the-counter products or have any advice to give.

>>WENDY: Is anybody else having that experience?

>>: No but when my son had had ear wax, he was told to use Debrox to soften it before he went to the doctor. I think it loosens it. I think it's been 3 or 5 days before he went to the doctor. But I don't know I think Sharon your concern is a good one. I don't know if it would be an audiologist. The other question I had is on the face mask, have you heard anything about them fogging up?

>>SHARON: I did not. A gentleman was talking about the fact that right now they are very very expensive and Barbara Kelly mentioned the free market that we live in, if there's enough demand somebody's going to come out. The generic ones are not medical grade. It isn't just us people with hearing loss that are struggling. One of my doctors who speaks in a very quiet voice. Just people who have normal speech, it's hard for people to hear with good hearing. And wearing the mask is complicated. My mother-in-law has been out of the ICU. Even getting hearing aids to her, I downloaded Otter. It's very helpful. She was intubated for a while. The ability to have somebody talking in Otter is really valuable in real pressure situations sadly a lot of people are experiencing right now. Not perfect but it's a good stop gap because of the social distancing. I found Otter works pretty well. Within six feet you could still get a decent transcript.

>>WENDY: Lesley, was that Lesley who said that? I was at a webinar a few weeks back. There is a definite fogging up issue which is one of the reasons people are -- it also creates a lot of heat and whatnot. It works seemingly good in some instances. It doesn't necessarily protect. I think we decided we would use the regular mask for your protection and the clear mask just for communication. Like okay let me move this up and put the clear one on so I can speak to someone that needs to see me. Then when I'm not talking put the other one back down and they do fog up. That's the main issue with those.

>>: That relates to my earlier comments about having the nondisabled person take off their mask. What I wanted is an exception so a family member or whoever is living in the household with the deaf person. Or maybe the person in the store can take it off if they are greater than six feet away. I want to make sure my son is protected and not having other people take off their mask. He is profoundly deaf. He can't understand the people in the store. He can't function that way. So I don't know. It is a problem for the deaf people. I don't know if you guys have an idea. I don't know if HLAA can write a letter to the county and say we like these accommodations. Maybe government workers would need to have a mask with plastic or one of those face shields if they came down far enough or something it might work better I don't know.

>>WENDY: We'll see. As products develop, please share with us. We're all in a similar situation and sharing as much as we can. I know we're already doing that. Some people seem to get faster information than others. Just put it out there and good luck with trying to get whatever you need.

>>: I have a comment. A friend of mine who was very crafty decided she wanted a face shield for herself. She took a sheet protector, a hat with a visor and duck tape and made her own face shield. She takes it to the market. Creative and crafty folks.



>>WENDY: I could say I was one of them. I do want to switch gears for a moment. We have talked a lot about our shared issues. That's what we're here to do at the same token, for many of us we have been in stay at home lock down if you will for three months. For me my last day working outside on campus was on the 13th of March. That's April, May, it feels like it's been about 4 or 5 months. I don't know if anybody else has had that experience where it feels much longer than it has been. I would also like to ask if anyone has had had in addition to or without hearing issues but anything else that they've experienced in other words a challenge or not over these last couple of months during this lock down of Covid-19 situation. If you have anything else that you want to share or talk about or ask, please feel free to do so now. This does not have to be hearing related.

>>: It's a silly thing. We're at the point where we're taking food out. We call and go there and order it and pick it up. If we do that and I'm wearing a mask and they are wearing a mask nine out of ten times they get the order wrong. They are not hearing what I'm saying and I'm not hearing what they are saying. I think it's going both ways right now. If you're going to order food do it on the phone or order through yelp.

>>: We've been going online through post mates or something. Sometimes our neighbor will call. There's a California pizza kitchen down the street. Once in a while we've called and she'll go and pick it up. The problem we've had is with grocery orders. It's amusing with the people. They are doing a tremendous job. It's amusing we've been saying no substitutions. I think the issue has been this overall feeling of anxiety. It mostly comes out in the middle of the night. I have to stop watching the news truthfully. It's just too much.

>>WENDY: Maybe I should switch my view. Is anybody else's hand up?

>>SHARON: I totally agree with what Diane's saying. I know lack of sleep or not sleeping consistently definitely affects hearing comprehension. There's a strong correlation between how well I hear and how rested I am. Over the course of the day my hearing in the morning is probably significantly better than it is after 8 o'clock at nine. By 8 o'clock I'm pretty spent. My husband is wanting to talk and that's when he's wound up and I'm usually so fatigued often. I know the news is very anxious. I'm trying to do more meditative and calming exercises. One of the things I'm experiencing as we all are experiencing. I'm trying to social distance. What I do is I use assistive technology. I use a phone clip that streams into my cochlear hearing aid. I'll literally have a phone call from a friend of mine who is on the other side of the street. It feels like we're walking next to each other. It blue teeth streams into my ear.

>>: Does anyone have issues being in the same house with someone for 2 months? I need my solitude. That's why sometimes I'm in my room. I got the door closed. I need to feel like I'm here by myself.

>>WENDY: Mindy, did you have something to add?

>>: [INAUDIBLE] if he needs a Dodgers show we put the Dodgers on or we do [INAUDIBLE] there's a mystery channel we go to that instead of always having the news. Right now, I recently heard something on the news, I wanted to throw something. It got me so upset. This is ridiculous and we can really turn something else to get away from the news. In addition there was something about

apartments that they had on recently. It took us two and a half-hours to get to that segment. Two and a half-hours later it showed up. But if I write, who do I write to?

>>WENDY: Okay so I'm reading the captions trying to be sure. I couldn't understand exactly what you were saying. Could you repeat. What happened for two and a half-hours?

>>: It was a [INAUDIBLE] in our apartments. It kept saying coming up on rent. You're having difficulty this is what you could do but it took us two and a half-hours to get that first. They did not seem to be any other station that was showing anything about that?

>>WENDY: Okay. So this had to do with your television watching? Is that right? Okay do you have directV or spectrum? Who do you have?

>>: Spectrum.

>>: I think what she's getting at is that Channel 4 was teasing coming up we're going to talk about what people with disabilities can do if they can't pay their rent. She was sitting and waiting for that. It took them all that time to get to that story.

>>WENDY: Oh, okay. So you know a lot of people are just getting their news from other venues. They want to keep you on that channel. It can be two hours. Then when they do finally show what it is you've been looking for it's not very much. I wanted to say to Diane and Sharon, I agree with Mindy about just not watching so much news. Even if you could watch the news earlier in the day and not have any news from 8 o'clock, 7 o'clock on. Studies have shown if you watch -- whatever you watch late at night affects your rest and your sleeping. I long since even before this stopped watching the news late at night. Before this it wasn't very good. I never watched it late at night. I even stopped watching some of my mystery shows with gruesome bodies and killing. Maybe watch some of those earlier hopefully that helps. I've also had trouble sleeping over the course so I understand that too. Anybody else having frustrations? Issues? Concerns? With this whole quarantine.

>>SHARON: I see Marla's hand up.

>>WENDY: Is your hand up?

>>: It is. Can you see me? I just wanted to give a shout out for LA stars for the walk for hearing. You guys always walk. You guys are always in the lead for donations. That's great. Keep it up. We got a couple more weeks. The long beach walk is on the thirty-first. Has anybody been watching the virtual walks and what are your impressions so far?

>>WENDY: So I haven't had any experience with any of the virtual walks. For me this year it's been totally different. I have not been a participant of any kind so it's been a little too much for me. I say that as a person who has been doing walks for I don't know the last 13 years or so. This year is just totally different. I've kind of taken a step back and whatever they do I'm happy with it's just too much for me personally. I really would be interested in knowing what the virtual walk even looks like. I will attend

that on the thirty-first. I have no idea what that is, what it looks like. Thank you for bringing it up. I would love to hear from other people.

>>TIM: Wendy, about the walk. Hi, everyone. This is Tim. I've not actually seen one. Ronnie has been sending out all the links to all the walks. You can join any walk. It's a 40-minute online celebration. I think Wisconsin had one. There's one coming up this weekend. You can get online for any of them and watch the festivities. You don't have to wait for the thirty-first to get a glimpse. I think anyone can join. It's just a link you click on to join it.

>>: In fact Ronnie would like all the team captains to submit a video to her and she will put it in the celebration just commenting about your experience with the walks about your team, whatever. She's really looking to see videos about all the teams that are involved at the walks.

>>TIM: That's a good point to do one.

>>WENDY: Have the captains been notified?

>>SHARON: They are not on the call. I was going to mention at the end of this meeting the walk is on the thirty-first. It's virtual. Like Tim said, I think it's 30 minutes. I also haven't seen any others and was going to wait till the 30 first to see our team. Thanks to Wendy last year who helped us raise \$10,000. Obviously the numbers are going to be lower this year because of people's economic challenges. We'll do the best we can and hopefully people will log and if you go to walk for hearing dot org. If you do want to watch it on another date there are many opportunities to do so before and after the 31st of May.

>>: Yes.

>>WENDY: I guess we'll have to do since neither of our walk people are in this meeting. I guess we'll have to do some online stuff and communicate that more and see where they are with it. I don't really know how much you have attended them?

>>: I've seen three of them so far. They are very good. They have somebody who does an introduction to video. I submitted the introduction videos. They have somebody who is the national sponsor do a speech. Gale does a hilarious bit. They give away one doll and they show various pictures from the past walks for that area. Ronnie would like to get videos from the team captains. Just giving a glimpse of your chapter and your team. What HLAA means to you. And she shows those. I know it's different. It's a change and sometimes change is a little uncomfortable for people. This is much more than what we're used to because of the social distancing phenomenon. I think this is a viable alternative. I would encourage anybody to go to walk for hearing dot org and you can register to view the walk. It's an interesting experience and I think it's a viable one that so far seems to be working.

>>SHARON: If anybody has any pictures or videos from past walks you could forward them. Submit them to info slash HLAA dot org. We will make sure they get passed on to Derek hopefully we'll have some pictures to submit for ours.

>>WENDY: As we get closer to the ending of our meeting, on the bright side has anybody experienced anything that was very surprising or unusual or funny that has happened over these last couple of months that they would like to share? Funny? Unusual? Surprising? Anything like that happens. I can't see my hands. Anybody?

>>: We have been ordering so much online that I keep filling up the dumpster. My mom had a birthday in between birthday and mother's day. We got a lot of jigsaw puzzles. We got huge. They had to be about this size. Chocolate covered strawberries. And one of my cousins sent over a box of chocolates. It's just weird things. We have signed up for food delivery for an emergency program for seniors. The first batch box we got two huge boxes. One for each of us that have five meals, five cartons of milk. It was the most inedible food I had ever had. They called the next day to check on us. We said thank you. We think there are more people who are more deserving. Just stop delivering. We're still getting delivered. I feel like I'm wasting this food. The biggest thing is trying to find ways to keep yourself going and find humor in this situation if you feel like when is this going to end. That's about what we've been doing.

>>WENDY: Is anybody else's hand up for anything funny, unusual, surprising that has happened? Hands up let me check the views.

>>: I've been involved with a nonprofit that supports seniors and others with physical disabilities with food deliveries and groceries mostly. We had a homebound program that I've been involved with that was maybe 15 or 16 families every Sunday night. Well, since the middle of March that now exploded to almost 200 households we're getting people who are at high risk for the virus. Anyone who can't go out and shop for themselves anymore, we have both pickups and deliveries. There's people that come to the warehouse and get food if they can drive. But there's a lot of people who can't because of a physical issue or because they don't have a car or they lost their job. There's so many people out there that are struggling. So my involvement has grown to be I feel like I have a full time job now trying to manage the back end. The incoming request, we had to set up. That's been consuming most of my time in my life these days. I still have to work and do my business, my writing and freelancing. It's been really hard to find the time for that. At the end of the day I'm putting Netflix and I'm done by 7:00. That's been my life the last two months.

>>SHARON: I think after this we have about five minutes left to wrap up.

>>WENDY: I just want to say thank you so much for what you're doing to help others. That's awesome and I understand that must be very challenging. You know the long day and it exploded. That seems to be happening across the city especially in the county. We're seeing the number of people who are desperately in need. It's staggering. Thank you. Thank you for your service.

>>: I'm involved with the coordination. Of course everyone's got a mask on and we're having a meeting and I'm like I can't understand you. I don't feel good doing it. I feel like I would rather be done with that part and just do the behind the scenes stuff and not be involved with the hands on anymore.

>>WENDY: That's a lot. Please take care of yourself too. We can't forget about ourselves. There's a lot of things on line about self care and stress. Please let's remember, you can't help anybody else if you're not well. Hopefully you're able to get some self care time in. Thank you again for all you're doing. That's awesome. So as Sharon said there's only a couple more minutes. I can't see hands but I kind of wanted to end on a high note. I think helping people is very high. If there's anyone -- I can't see hands but if anyone else has something they want to share and if not I want to share a little levity. Tim, do you see any hands? Let me get this levity then. Here we go. Maybe you've heard this. Two princes meet and exchange meetings, then Bob says to John my whole life changed. I'm wearing a new hearing aid that's the latest electronic. It cost me \$6,000 but worth every penny. And John says that's wonderful what kind of it? Bob looks at his watch and says it's a quarter past four.

>>TIM: That's a good one, Wendy.

>>SHARON: Thank you so much for doing that. Thanks to everybody for coming to do and putting up with this pilot project. We really want to keep the momentum and continue meeting monthly. We want to go back to our usual schedule of meeting on the fourth Saturday of the month. Our next meeting will be on June 27th. We thought it was 11 o'clock. If that works for everyone. We'll be in touch before. Obviously as Marla said we'd love everybody to join on the virtual walk to see what that's about. We have some excellent news. Our chapter is awarding a college scholarship to an extraordinary young woman. She will be receiving \$1,500 for college. She has not made her final decision. Like myself, she wears a cochlear implant in one ear she's had to overcome a lot of challenges to get where she is now. We're very excited to be able to help her find her college dreams and health, Michael and myself were a part of this committee and we're thrilled we can do something good in the world on behalf of all of us. We look forward to meeting her. I'm sure she will be very successful in whatever choice she makes of college and in her future endeavors. That's really good news I want to leave on a high note as Wendy did. Despite all the challenges there are a lot of silver linings. We haven't had the time today but we hope to get out a survey to everybody. We want to get a sense now that we're in this new world, what kinds of things people would like to do to see to hear we have different opportunities. Maybe to have subgroups discussing different areas like cochlear implants or certain hearing aid brands or assistive technology or having the ability through technology to do things in smaller subgroups. Any ways, we're going to reach out and try to get feedback from you guys as to what you think would be the most valuable way to spend your time. I thank you all. If anybody has any last comments. I don't know Tim if you wanted to add anything. Just thank you all for your support and showing up today.

>>TIM: Just a couple things. Thank you Vivian for the captioning I know I know 90 minutes is a long time. She's behind the scenes. Thank you for doing that. We do have a special guest from the east coast here. Lisa, do you want to say something to tell us how you're doing before you disappear?

>>: I thought I was off the hook.

>>TIM: Diane reminded me thank you.

>>: One of the benefits of this whole pandemic is being able to connect with people through zoom. I've missed all of you. I don't know many of you but it's really great to see all of you. I really miss the LA chapter. We're doing well here in D.C. We miss you all, though.

>>TIM: Thanks, Lisa. We miss you too. That's one advantage to zoom: we can have people all over join us.

>>: Hi, Lisa.

>>SHARON: We'll see you on the thirty-first of May and again on the 27th of June. I wish everybody good health for yourselves, family. And Terry, kudos for the work you're doing. Wonder. And very proud of you honestly. Keep well and healthy and we look forward to seeing you in a few weeks.

>>TIM: Thanks, everyone. Bye.

>>SHARON: Is there anything that we can do to support you?

>>GEORGIA: Keep in touch. Keep up the meeting.

>>WENDY: How are you doing with your new iPad?

>>SHARON: I miss giving you -- I'm giving you virtual hugs. Once he's rules get -- it's hard to keep my kids from going to the beach and you know.

>>WENDY: Georgia, do you like your new iPad? .

>>GEORGIA: I spend a lot of time on it.

>>WENDY: Welcome to that world. A lot of people spend a lot of time.

>>SHARON: We tried so much time trying to get everything together yesterday even with Tim's brilliant mind. I wish you all good health and an enjoyable weekend. I'm going to send you an email on hearing aids. I have the subscription. I know they've done stuff on hearing aid batteries.

[MEETING ADJOURNED]