



Transcript Christmas Potluck Program, December 15, 2018

This is an edited version of the transcription projected on the screen during the program portion of our annual Christmas Potluck. The transcriber used the "TypeWell" method synthesizing the essence of the discussion using advanced abbreviated software. Thus, the following is not necessarily verbatim.

Mike Sweeney, Chapter President: That was a wonderful meal. Thanks everybody for bringing the food.

We have a bit of food left. We would like for you to take this home with you. There are some plates set up with saran wrap. Help yourself and take the rest of the food home so we don't have to take it home and eat it tonight.

We are all set for next years monthly programs except March. We haven't finalized it yet. There are some copies on the table. Once we firm up March, we will make a new copy of the 2019 Programs Calendar. On the back of the calendar is information about the workshops being offered by Charlene MacKenzie on April 27 and October 26, 2019. This information is already on our website. Thank you Tanya. *(Tanya Griffey, Chapter Treasurer and Webmaster)*

We have a couple of gifts to offer, a thank you card and two types of gifts. You can take one or the other.

Larry Wonnacott, Chapter Vice President: A dehumidifier. Most cochlear people have a dry box. But this is just for your hearing aids. Pam can tell you more about it. It is good to store your hearing aids in it.

Pam Spencer, Programs Chair: Some of you might have seen these before. This is a dry desiccant. You take it out of the bag and put it in the container. When you take your hearing aids off you put them in the door. That keeps them fresher for

a longer period. When you wear a hearing aid inside your ear you get a lot of condensation. It can break the receivers down. Eventually the receivers will go green or blue. When that happens, take them out and put them in the microwave for a minute or two until it goes back to yellow. (DO NOT put the hearing aid in the microwave!)

The directions are in here. You want to hang on to those. They also include an audio wipe, a moist wipe. This is a sample. You can wipe your hearing aid clean. It is a disinfectant wipe for your hearing aid.

If you have questions about this don't hesitate to ask me.

Mike: Thank you for putting that together. Our logo is on the dehumidifier. We have another gift that was made by Tanya. These are nice little carryall bags. It has our new logo on it. It will hold things well. It has a flat bottom when you open it up.

The first people that we want to thank are Jim and Cindy Oberlander. We appreciate your efforts throughout the year setting up the room for our meetings and setting up last night for today. If you would come forward, we have a gift.

Cindy: We appreciate the opportunity to be a part of the group!

Mike: On behalf of the HLAA Whatcom County Chapter, thank you for your help. We have known you for many years and appreciate your efforts.

Cindy: It is a privilege for us. Thank you for inviting us to this. And your generosity is not necessary at all.

Mike: You are much appreciated. Thank you.

[Applause]

Mike: Please come forward as we call your name. We are going to use this as a photo opportunity also. The first person we want to honor is Larry! Larry does everything. He is our vice president. He has been such a big help to me for the last year and beyond. He does so much for us that we appreciate. Not totally.

Thank you, Larry for all you do.

Larry: You are welcome! I was recently elected to the board of trustees to the Washington state Hearing Loss Association of America. At my first meeting, I realized how special our group is. Because if we aren't the last group in the state - there is one other, a support group -- we are definitely the strongest, the only group that is growing and vibrant. The reason for that is our volunteers. That is what makes us unique. Thank you everyone here for all you do. Everyone here does something in this group and that is what makes it so fantastic.

Thanks to all of you!

Mike: Our Executive Committee has been such a big help. We have done everything as a group. We have come together and have a strong leadership team. Tanya is also part of our leadership team, will you come forward? She is our treasurer, our member directory manager, and our webmaster. Tanya does more than I just said, and she will do more in the future. She is very appreciated. Thank you.

Joyce Sweeney? The secretary. She takes care of the membership drive. She writes all the letters. She advises me on everything. We are lucky to have her.

Pam Spencer is our programs chair. She takes care of the kitchen supplies. She can do it all. We are happy to have you, and lucky to have you. Pam will continue next year as program coordinator.

Pam: It is my pleasure!

Mike: Charlene McKenzie is our co-founder, our membership drive chair, our mentor, our hearing loss workshop leader, our substitute secretary. Charlene will help next year in any way we ask her. Thank you, Charlene.

Bert Lederer is our co-founder with Charlene, hearing aid battery recycler, member of the Executive Committee, our patriarch. We are fortunate to have you in our leadership and all that you have done for us and all that you continue to do for us. Thank you, Bert.

Bert: The thanks of for you. This is our 15th year as a strong HLAA chapter. I

think we only missed one monthly meeting in that 15 years and that was because of weather. A heartfelt thanks to you. We are one of the largest and most active HLAA chapters in the United States.

Mike: Don Gischer is our past treasurer, our past Executive Committee member. He will concentrate his efforts on looping as I am as well. I look forward to working with you in the future. We have some good news about this with the city council.

Don: I had heard that the city was considering looping the council chambers. It is in the budget for next year. They are also providing live captioning for Monday their meetings. The meetings are broadcast and captioned the following day or two.

Mike: We have targeted a lot of places in town to advocate looping. Our next target is the county council. Lou is working on the city council in Mt. Vernon. We plan to target some Whatcom Educational Credit Union buildings, the Pickford theater, the library. Senior Activities Center, audiologist offices, and numerous places where we hope to get the ball rolling. A special thanks to Jerry and Joanna Olmsted for pointing us in the right direction and being our mentors and advisors.

Jeri Mamacos is on our kitchen crew and membership committee. She also helps with the hospitality table. We appreciate your help. Thank you!

Elizabeth Wonnacott is our new kitchen manager. She also helps with hospitality. She helps any way she can.

Elizabeth: I don't remember getting promoted!

Mike: Elizabeth is an artist. Her art has been in Lynden beginning December 6th. What is the name of the location?

Elizabeth: The Jansen Art Center. It is up until March 1st. It has started. Thank you!

Mike: Joyce McDaniel is our name tag maker, roster manager, and sending meeting notices. Her daughter Kris works with her. Now they do the sunshine

cards. Joyce also is assistant to the volunteer coordinator.

Doris Canup does a lot. She works the hospitality table, takes care of name cards, sends out thank you cards, and follow up with people who are newcomers to meetings. Doris is much appreciated.

Janet Gilda, Joanne Boschman, and Darlene Godard are on the hospitality team. Your service is much appreciated.

Wayne Godard is recovering from his recent surgery. We were fortunate to have him to do our roster, our meeting notices and many other tasks. He recently retired and rightfully so.

Wayne: All the volunteers are high paid! We are highly paid by the contribution that everyone makes to the total. Thank you all!

Mike: Bev Nelson is our refreshments coordinator. She will also be doing video and photography next year. Thank you!

Bev: I am so thankful! We are all set for refreshment volunteers through April! Thank you for those who signed up! You will hear from me the week before the meeting.

Nooty Kennedy takes care of the resource table, serves in the kitchen and is on the hospitality team. Thank you! We appreciate your help.

Stephanie Bowen manages our Facebook page. If you haven't seen it, you should. There are articles on hearing loss and other interesting post.

Robert Campbell is our retired webmaster. Thank you, Robert.

Robert: Sometimes being retired brings good things!

Mike: Neal Bauman is on our looping team. He will help next year with looping and was here early to make sure the looping is working. The last luncheon you presented about the history of hearing aids. That was interesting and much appreciated. Thank you.

We expect more great things from Lou Touchette. He is on our looping team. As I said earlier, he looped this room today. He is working with Mt. Vernon's City Council and other places where some of us live. There are many venues Lou will investigate next year. Thank you for your help and expertise, Loopin' Lou!

Nancy Graham has offered join our looping team. She says she can help us with contacts and writing letters. We are looking forward to working with Nancy.

We appreciate Kyle, our captioner. He does a fine job.

Soren Ficklin, our technical specialist, photographer, and sets our sign up out by the road every month. Soren come tell us about your special project. He is quite talented.

Soren: During the last three months, a group us have been writing a musical that we are going to perform it on January 25th, 26th and 27th. I will send a link to that when I have it.

Mike: Soren also will bring flyers to the January meeting. He is writing, producing, directing and performing. He used the bonus we gave him in towards a new iPad that he uses here and in our meeting room to operate the sound system.

Bev: I want to tell a story about Soren. I met him through this organization, of course. I was prepared to sing at the Jansen Art Center with the jazz program. I wanted to record it and I thought of Soren to handle the camera, so I could send shots to my friends and family in Ohio. I paid him because I knew I would get good work. The irony of the whole thing, he came with his dad. I was to play with the orchestra, a 20 piece mostly wind orchestra. It was the song "That's All."

I warned him, I told him that the orchestra performs in a room with superb acoustics. I thought it might be hard on his hearing. We know about that. But there we were, both of us, this music blasts! You can't imagine the acoustics of a 20-piece wind instrument band! I brought ear plugs for Soren because I thought it wasn't healthy! We met at a hearing loss association meeting and we know certain decibel levels are dangerous! We were in the middle of that situation! It

was humongous noise! But we both chose not to do anything. I have to hear what the orchestra is doing to sing, and he took his chances.

That was such an irony. We know about hearing loss and the causes but never the less the show went on. I got to know Soren better that way. We are very lucky to have him with our group.

Mike: We have two cards for Joan Baker. Joan, you have served as our president and on the Executive Committee.

Joan: Thank you. It has been a pleasure to be a part of this group. I have been a member since 2009. I have seen how much it has grown and how much we care about each other.

Tonya: We need volunteers for several things through next year. We need a backup webmaster. There are several other positions. We are looking for people to volunteer and help us out.

Joyce: We take everyone's help and appreciate it. It is wonderful that people see a need and help. Please contact me or Mike or Larry if you want to do something! We will put you to work!

Mike: Next meeting on January 19th we will vote on the officers and ratify appointees to the Executive Committee. We will do that in January. If anyone would like to volunteer to be on the Executive Committee, please let us know.

Now we are ready to sing! Bev is our director!

Bev: I won't sing any solo songs, but we are ready to sing. One custom I am sorry to see fading away is singing, especially around the holidays. People used to go door to door and serenade people. You go to someone's party and house and someone plays guitar or accordion, people joining in with song? That doesn't often happen anymore. I am happy to keep this alive here.

Here are your song sheets. I am going to lead, and you pick the songs on the sheet you would like to hear and we will go for it. Tell me by number. You might want to pick "Silent Night" and that is number 5. You decide! We will sing what

you like!

Speaker: How about number 1?

Bev: OK, "deck the halls"! Joan Baker at the grand piano will give us the starting key.

[Deck the Hills]

That was excellent! Let's keep going!

Speaker: Number 8.

Bev: OK, "We Wish You A Merry Christmas"!

[We Wish You a Merry Christmas]

Bev: Alright! Number 9. "White Christmas." It is hard to bring the grand piano in here.

[White Christmas]

Speaker: Number 2.

Bev: OK, we have a request! Rudolph!

Elizabeth: We must act it out too Bev!

[Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer]

Speaker: Number 5.

Bev: We have a request for number 5. OK, a nice quiet song. If you know the harmonies join in.

[Silent Night]

Bev: That was very nice! That really sets the mood for the season. Thank you.
Larry: Thanks Bev.

Claydene Lederer: Melanie Cool's (presenter scheduled for January 19th) youngest son, Luke is going to Rome the day after Christmas to march in the New Year's day parade. There will be over 100,000 spectators. The parade ends at the Vatican where all will be blessed by the Pope. Luke is representing Bellingham High School where he is the Drum Major and jazz band member.

[Applause]

Mike: Thank you for sharing that. OK, I think we are done here! Thank you everyone!

[End of meeting]