

The MI-SHHH-IGANIAN

Michigan Self Help For Hard of Hearing People

Volume 10 Number 4

WINTER 2005

SHHH & YOU

More than 24 million people in the U.S. have a hearing loss that can hinder daily communication. That translates to one in ten people. By age 65, one in three people has a hearing loss. This invisible condition affects us, family, friends, co-workers and everyone around us. SHHH believes that people can help one another, can be helped, and can participate successfully in society. The mission of SHHH is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, advocacy, and support.

Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, Inc. (SHHH) is the largest international consumer organization dedicated to the well-being of people who do not hear well.

If you are not a member of national SHHH, you are encouraged to join. Membership includes the bi-monthly SHHH journal, Hearing Loss, an outstanding information source. Dues are \$25 for USA individual/family, \$50 for Professionals. Make checks payable to "SHHH" and mail to:

SHHH National Office
7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 1200
Bethesda, MD 20814
V/301-657-2248
TTY/301-657-2249
www.hearingloss.org

In this issue:

Happy Anniversary to MI-SHHH	1
Importance of SHHH Membership	2
MI-SHHH Honors 10 Years of	3
Volunteer Contributions	
Chapter Activities	4/5
Sponsors and FYI News	6
Donors and Subscription Info	7
Rich Baldwin Cartoon	7
Michigan SHHH 2006 Technology	8
Conference and EXPO	

Happy 10th Anniversary Michigan SHHH!!!

There is a special kind of energy that is generated by people who come together to help and be helped at the same time. That is the essence of Self Help for Hard of Hearing people. And that is exactly the kind of energy that propelled Michigan SHHH into existence.

1993:SHHH National Convention, San Diego - The SHHH Board of Trustees introduces the concept of State Associations. Ann Liming and Howard Potrude, State Coordinators, attend a meeting held for state leaders to learn about this new structure. There was a need to establish an SHHH presence as well as recognition within states.

1994:SHHH National Convention, Baltimore - The state of Michigan is encouraged to become a State Association. However, it was decided that an "umbrella" structure worked better for Michigan at the time.

The concept of the "umbrella" was embraced because it was highly focused on chapters. This structure was needed to network the Chapters and be a link to hard of hearing people throughout the state. A committee of leaders from around the state was formed to formulate a plan for organizing SHHH at the state level. This small group included Susan Frymire (Traverse City), Barbara Manegold (Jackson), Bill Miller (Kalamazoo), Ann Liming (Lansing), and Howard and Georgia Potrude, also from Kalamazoo. These six individuals met periodically over the next several months to write the by-laws and to plan the first statewide Michigan SHHH Umbrella meeting.

1995:November 12 - The first Advisory Council meeting was scheduled to meet in Lansing at MADHS (Michigan Association for Deaf, Hearing and Speech Services). All existing Michigan SHHH Chapters, at that time, were invited to have a representative attend. The mission reflected that of the national SHHH organization - to provide information, education, advocacy and support.

1996:February 11 - The first officers were elected. President: Al Buck, Vice President: Donna Cook, Secretary: Juanita Wikman. Ann Liming and Howard Potrude served as State Coordinators. Bill Miller was appointed Financial Director and he took the lead in obtaining the tax exempt and incorporation status for the Michigan SHHH Umbrella.

One of the early goals was to publish a statewide newsletter. This was made possible through a TECH 2000 grant from MDRC (Michigan Disability Rights Coalition). Barb Manegold became the first newsletter editor and served in that capacity from 1996 to 2002. The newsletter, and Barb, were honored for outstanding achievement at the SHHH National Convention in Philadelphia in 2001.

Over the past 10 years, Michigan SHHH has encouraged the use of many marvelous technologies. They have explained the value of sophisticated hearing aids, pocketalkers, amplified phones, visual and vibrating alerts, Captioning, and real

The **MI-SHHH-IGANIAN** is the official newsletter for Michigan Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (MI-SHHH)

Michigan SHHH:

President: Janet Haines
jhaines@mi-shhh.org

Vice President: Caroline Caughell
ccaughell@mi-shhh.org

Secretary: Betty Yagi
byagi@mi-shhh.org

Treasurer: Juanita Wikman
jwikman@mi-shhh.org

Chapter Coordinators:
Liz Kobylak
kobylak@mi-shhh.org

Brenda Stimson
bstimson@mi-shhh.org

Newsletter Committee:
Caroline Caughell, Editor
Liz Kobylak
Howard and Georgia Potrude
Betty Saputo
Marla Schindler

The MI-SHHH-IGANIAN is published quarterly. Submit letters and questions by January 31, 2006 to:

Michigan SHHH
PO Box 4808
Troy, MI 48099-4808

Web-site:
www.mi-shhh.org

E-mail:
info@mi-shhh.org

For information about MI-SHHH Programs, call:

517-487-2583 V/TTY

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the person submitting the information and not necessarily of Michigan SHHH.

Mention of goods or services does not mean endorsement by Michigan SHHH, nor should exclusion suggest disapproval.

Continued from Page 1

time reporting, Caller ID, cell phones, and e-mail. Public venues have been wired to accommodate hard of hearing people. Hearing Technology Resource Specialists have been trained to carry this information to every part of the state. Chapters continue to provide personal support.

What a wonderful legacy for the many people who have worked so hard for SHHH. It almost takes one's breath away to think about what technology, science and the power of the human spirit will produce for us in the future. We should never be without the hope of hearing better.

Editor's note: Ann Liming, Barb Manegold and Howard Potrude contributed to this article.

SHHH Membership Offers Many Advantages

By: Liz Kobylak

People sometimes ask me why they should join the SHHH National Organization. What do they get for their membership fee? It's easy to respond by saying that members receive the terrific bi-monthly magazine **Hearing Loss** as part of their membership. However, there is SO much more to SHHH membership and what it accomplishes on behalf of persons with hearing loss! I'm grateful for the opportunity to share this with our readership.

The membership fees (\$20/Student; \$25/Individual; \$50/Professionals; \$100/Corporate) help provide and sustain the following:

- **Advocacy** on behalf of persons with hearing loss - the higher the membership number for SHHH, the more weight the efforts carry. SHHH is very active in advocacy on public policy at the federal and state levels that affect people with hearing loss.
- **Informative Website** that can be reached at: www.hearingloss.org
- **Bi-weekly SHHH E-Newsletter**
- **Support network** of State Organizations and Local Chapters
- **Annual Conventions** that are exciting and educational
- **National Academy** for Hearing Loss Specialists
- **National Information** and Training Center for Hearing Assistive Technology
- **Online store** and library

There are many benefits to SHHH Membership. For me, finding SHHH was a life changing experience and I am honored to support it with my membership.



Please Note!

Michigan SHHH will hold officer and Board of Trustees (BOT) elections at the January 15, 2006 meeting. The meeting will be held in Lansing.

Any SHHH member living in Michigan (who receives the Hearing Loss Journal publication) is eligible to be nominated for election to the BOT.

The deadline for submitting nominations is January 4, 2006. For more information check out the MI-SHHH website: www.mi-shhh.org or send an e-mail to: info@mi-shhh.org

Applause for Michigan SHHH Volunteers!



By: Janet Haines

Volunteerism is at the heart of Michigan SHHH. In fact, Michigan SHHH is a non-profit, ALL-VOLUNTEER organization. That means we have absolutely no one who gets paid for what they do and yet the organization manages to publish a quarterly newsletter, maintain a web site, have a team of trained volunteer Hearing Technology Resource Specialists, hold annual Chapter Leader Workshops, hold bi-annual State Conference and so much more! And we have been fortunate to have wonderful volunteers working on projects such as the above for 10 years! The all-volunteer status of Michigan SHHH may very well be one of the most remarkable, yet least known, things about the organization.

Michigan SHHH was formed in November of 1995 by a group of individuals who were inspired by similar SHHH organizations in other states.

The dedication that individuals have shown to this organization during the last 10 years deserves recognition and the highest accolades! However, we could not possibly list all our valued volunteers by name, so we created the following chart in order to provide a sampling of how tremendous the effort has been. A huge THANK YOU to all our volunteers, past and present. The success of Michigan SHHH demonstrates that that ordinary people with a big vision, by pooling their resources, can accomplish the extraordinary!

Happy 10th Anniversary Michigan SHHH!

Committee Volunteers	Number of Years	Estimated No. of Hours
20 Board of Trustees Members	10	16,800
60 State Conference and EXPO Volunteers	5	6,000
35 Hearing Technology Resource Specialists (HTRS)	10	4,200
13 Chapter Leaders	10	4,600
4 Chapter Coordinators	10	8,320
20 Newsletter Committee Members	10	8,000

The above chart adds up to 48,000 total volunteer hours!

Dividing that number into "8 hour work days" illustrates that 600 days out of the year, someone is working 8 hours a day on MI-SHHH programs/projects that keep the organization going strong.

Remember this is just an average, many have spent more time than we could possible count.

Free Gifts for the Hard of Hearing - Appropriate Year Round

Some of the best things in life are free! The suggestions below can reduce stress and increase the likelihood of successful communication.

Keep the following "free gifts" in mind when talking with people who have hearing loss...

- Get the persons' attention before beginning the conversation (by gently tapping their arm or shoulder).
- Face the person to whom you are speaking.
- Don't eat, chew gum or hide your mouth while speaking.
- Move away from background noises.
- Good lighting helps speech readers.
- Speak clearly and at a moderate pace.
- Don't shout or overemphasize words.
- Rephrase if you are not understood.
- Use facial expressions and gestures.
- Be patient, positive and relaxed.

Communication is a two-way street. Creating the best possible environment for effective communication is empowering. People who have hearing loss can give these "free gifts" to help the communication process in the following ways...

- Identify the factors that influence understanding.
- Tell others how best to talk to you.
- Speak clearly and in a way which you would like others to emulate.
- Admit it if you do not understand, don't bluff.
- Pick your best spots in listening situations with regard to lighting, quiet and proximity to speaker.
- Anticipate difficult situations and plan out coping strategies.
- Use visual clues and ask for written cues, if necessary.
- Keep a sense of humor handy.

MI-SHHH Chapter Activities

November 5-6, 2005: MI-SHHH Chapter Leaders (and potential future leaders) gathered in Ann Arbor for the 6th annual MI-SHHH Chapter Leadership Workshop/Training. These gatherings are enriching and strengthening experiences for all involved. It was very gratifying to see so many new faces in attendance this year. Presentation topics included the following:

*Update on MI-SHHH Activities
2006 EXPO*

*Day at the Capital
Cochlear Implants*

Advocacy with Legislators

Academy of Hearing Support Specialists

Staying Connected With SHHH

*Funding Sources for Hearing Aids and Hearing
Assistive Technology*

Michigan's Chapter Leaders are a very dedicated group of volunteers (applause, applause). It is an honor to know them and work with them.

There is a wealth of information as well as fabulous fellowship to be shared through the chapter experience. Please check out the meetings in your area on the list to the right.

*Contact Liz Kobylak at: kobylak@mi-shhh.org or
Brenda Stimson at: bstimson@mi-shhh.org to see if we can
work together to get a chapter started close to you.*

BIRMINGHAM AREA SHHH

The Chapter applied for, and received, GREEN Grant funding from MDRC (Michigan Disability Rights Coalition) to produce, and sell "Hospital Kits For Persons With Hearing Loss".

December 8 - Annual Holiday Potluck Lunch

January 12 - Relaxation Techniques

February 9 - "What's Important to YOU?" Rap Session

March 9 - Cochlear Implant Update

Note: Speech-reading practice is part of every BA-SHHH meeting and begins at 1:45pm.

DEARBORN AREA SHHH

December - No meeting, Happy Holidays

January 18 - Legal Rights of Persons With Hearing Loss

February 15 - Effective Advocacy Techniques

March 15 - Captioned Video, Kathy Buckley's, Hear This!

Note: Speech-reading practice is part of every DA-SHHH meeting and begins at 1:15.

DOWNRIVER AREA SHHH

December 20 - Holiday gathering at Smokehouse 1897 Restaurant.

January - Celebration of the 101st birthday of one of our members.

February - Performance of the play, Mr. and Mrs. Bickerson, with follow-up discussion of coping strategies.

March - Visit from PAWS With a Cause.

Please contact the chapter to verify meeting dates and times.

Self Help in Michigan... If you do not already belong to a MI-SHHH Chapter, we hope you will find one near you and plan to attend meetings. Programs benefit not only those with hearing loss but also their families and friends. Everyone is welcome at all MI-SHHH functions, regardless of hearing ability.

Please contact the individual chapters, or visit www.mi-shhh.org for further meeting information. The street addresses below provide meeting locations.

BIRMINGHAM AREA SHHH CHAPTER

Meets 2nd Thursday of the month

12:30 - 2:30 PM

Birmingham Area Senior Citizen Center
2121 Midvale Avenue, Birmingham 48009-1509

Contact: birmingham@mi-shhh.org

CAPITAL AREA SHHH CHAPTER

Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month

6:30 - 8:30PM

Foster Community Center, Room 110
200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing 48912-4104

Contact: lansing@mi-shhh.org

DEARBORN AREA SHHH CHAPTER

Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month (except July & August)

12:30 - 2:00 PM

Dearborn Senior Center
Ford Community & Performing Arts Center
15801 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn 48126-2904

Contact: dearborn@mi-shhh.org

DOWNRIVER AREA SHHH CHAPTER

Meets 1st Tuesday of the month

1:30 - 3:00 PM

Ford Senior Center
6750 Troy ST, Taylor 48180-1633

Contact: taylor@mi-shhh.org

GRAND RAPIDS AREA SHHH CHAPTER

Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month (except July & August)

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Metropolitan Hospital (West Conference Room)
1919 Boston SE, Grand Rapids 49506

Contact: grand-rapids@mi-shhh.org

HEAR ME NOW SHHH CHAPTER

Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month

9:30 - 11:30 AM

Waterford Senior Center
6455 Harper, Waterford 48329-1338

Contact: waterford@mi-shhh.org

Hi/Low TONES - ROYAL OAK SHHH CHAPTER

Meets 4th Tuesday, monthly (except July & August)

6:30 PM Social, 7:00 PM meeting

1st Presbyterian Church
529 Hendrie Blvd., Royal Oak 48068

Contact: royal-oak@mi-shhh.org

JACKSON AREA SHHH CHAPTER

Meets 3rd Tuesday of every other month
 6:30 - 8:30 PM
 Disability Connections
 409 Linden, Jackson 49203-4065
Contact: Jackson@mi-shhh.org

KALAMAZOO AREA SHHH CHAPTER

Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month
 7:00 - 9:00 PM
 First Congregational Church
 129 S. Park St., Kalamazoo
 Corner of W. Michigan & Park St.
Contact: kalamazoo@mi-shhh.org

MACOMB COUNTY SHHH CHAPTER

Meets 4th Thursday of the month (*except July & August*)
 1:00 - 3:00 PM
 Knox Presbyterian Church
 25700 Crocker Blvd., Harrison Township
Contact: macomb-co@mi-shhh.org

MI CI SHHH CHAPTER

This is a "mobile" chapter, meeting in 3 different locations throughout Michigan.
Contact: See MI-CI SHHH, on this page, for information.

MID-MICHIGAN SHHH CHAPTER

Meets 4th Monday of the month
 7:00 - 8:30 PM
 Voice for the Hearing Impaired
 4274 State Street, Saginaw 48603
Contact: saginaw@mi-shhh.org

NORTHERN LightSHHH CHAPTER

Meets 2nd Sunday, monthly (*except July & August*)
 1:30 PM
 Traverse Area District Library
 610 Woodmere Ave, Traverse City 49686
Contact: traverse-city@mi-shhh.org

WASHHH CHAPTER

Meets 1st Monday of the month
 7:00 PM
 Turner Senior Resource Center (Sun Room)
 2401 Plymouth Rd., Ann Arbor 48105
Contact: info@washhh.org

WESTERN WAYNE COUNTY SHHH CHAPTER

Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month (*except July & August*)
 6:30 - 8:30 PM
 Garden City Hospital
 6245 Inkster Rd., Garden City 48135-4001
Contact: wayne-co@mi-shhh.org

WESTSHORE SHHH CHAPTER

Meets 4th Monday of the month
 6:30 PM social, 7:00 - 8:00 PM meeting
 Roosevelt Park Community Center
 3106 Roosevelt Rd. Muskegon 49441
 Corner of Roosevelt Rd & Glenside Blvd.
Contact: muskegon@mi-shhh.org

GRAND RAPIDS AREA SHHH CHAPTER

January 11 - Information on Cochlear Implants from a professional and a recent patient.
February 8 - Norma Bauer, Michigan Disability Rights Coalition, with an introduction to the disability community and benefits offered to hard of hearing people.
March 8 - An overview of the Oral Deaf Education Program at Shawnee Park Elementary School
April 12 - A briefing on Hearing Loss Awareness Month (May) and a Day at the Capitol by former State Representative, Vic Krause.

KALAMAZOO AREA SHHH CHAPTER

December 14 - Holiday Dinner at **Perkins** (Sprinkle Road and Cork St.) 6PM. Bring a \$5 wrapped gift to exchange.
January 11 - Michelle McGowan from Disability Resource Center (DRC), will speak on what they do and how this chapter may be of assistance to them.
February 8 - Rap Session, topic to be determined.

MACOMB COUNTY SHHH CHAPTER

December 15 - Holiday Potluck! Bring a dish to pass. Joyce Sheehy will provide harp music and there will also be a piano sing-along. If you wish to participate in a gift exchange, bring a \$5 wrapped ornament or candle.
January 26 - Audiologist, Jason Dria, will present on the topic of Tinnitus.
February 23 - Kenya Lowe, former Miss Deaf Michigan, will discuss CapTel.
March 23 - Noreen Gibbons, our chapter's Professional Advisor, will lead us in speech reading. We also will be filling "Goodie Bags" as our chapter contribution to the upcoming EXPO.

MI CI SHHH CHAPTER

MI CI SHHH is on Winter Break. We will resume meetings in the spring. For support and information during the winter, please contact:

Roy Hammond at: Mt-Pleasant-CI@mi-shhh.org
 Pam McGuinty at: Ann-Arbor-CI@mi-shhh.org
 Julie Armstrong at: Grand-Rapids-CI@mi-shhh.org

March 18 - Mt. Pleasant, finger food potluck

April 16 - Ann Arbor

Cochlear Implant support during the winter and more information about the spring meetings is available at:
 from Ruth Fox at: rifofox@comcast.net, 231-740-1534, or
 MI-CI-SHHH-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

MID-MICHIGAN SHHH CHAPTER

December 13 - Holiday dinner at Damon's in Saginaw at 6pm.

Please note new meeting location starting in January! Information is provided on this page.

WESTSHORE SHHH CHAPTER

December 13 - Holiday Potluck and Gift Exchange

January - No meeting

February 27 - Technology Workshop

March 27 - Captioned Video, Gael Hannon's "Unheard Voices"

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors!

DIAMOND DECIBELS

Silent Call Communications
800-572-5227 V/TTY
Web: www.silentcall.com
E-mail: sales@silentcall.com
"A Better Way to Stay in Touch"

GOLDEN DECIBELS

Rich Baldwin
Live, laugh, love and be happy!
Les and Liz Kobylak
Appreciating SHHH and CGC

SILVER DECIBELS

Kathy Bieri - Bieri Hearing
Ed Brengman - Hozer's Hearing
Deaf C.A.N. - www.deafcan.org
Deaf & Hearing Impaired Services
Downriver SHHH - In Memory of Andy Posa
MDRC - www.copower.org

Information about sponsorship opportunities may be obtained by contacting Michigan SHHH at: jhaines@mi-shhh.org

For Your Information!

A Day at the Capitol

By: Vic Krause

Join Hard of Hearing people, families and friends for a Day at the Capitol, in Lansing, on Wednesday, May 17th, 2006.

- Start with an 8:30 AM continental breakfast in the Speaker's Library (hearing loop access) with invited guests Governor Jennifer Granholm, Secretary of State Terri Land, and Attorney General Mike Cox.
- See and hear State Legislators debating and passing laws from the Senate and House Galleries (FM hearing sets provided).
- Have lunch in the Speaker's Library with your elected officials.
- Hear House Speaker Pro Tempore Jerry Kooiman (R-Grand Rapids), sponsor of Hearing Loss Awareness Month, speak about the legislative process and how SHHH can advocate legislation to benefit people with a hearing loss.
- Receive a free copy of "A Citizen's Guide to State Government".
- Adjourn at 3 PM and return home.

Watch for detailed information in the Spring 2006 issue of the MI-SHHH-IGANIAN on how to register for this exciting, informative and inexpensive Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, May 17, 2006.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Interested in CapTel Service?

The FCC is now considering whether to require captioned telephone services throughout the United States.

On October 31, 2005, 13 national consumer organizations petitioned the FCC, asking the FCC to make captioned telephone service available to any person in any state.

If you are interested in seeing captioned telephone service become a permanent, full time service in all states in the US, you have an opportunity to share your views with the FCC before December 30, 2005. If you wish to see a copy of the consumer coalition petition, it is available online at: www.hearingloss.org/html/fccpetition.html

Instructions for filing brief comments (less than a page)

- Go to: <http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/ecfs/Upload/>
- Scroll down and click the circle next to "Telecommunications Relay Service Docket 03-123"
- Scroll down and click "continue"
- Fill in name and address in the form provided
- In the section marked "Send a Brief Comment to FCC", tell the FCC whether you believe that captioned telephone service should be mandated.

If sending comments by mail, please refer to CG Docket No. 03-123 in your correspondence.

- Mail comments to:
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20554

How to receive this Newsletter

There is no subscription or membership fee required to receive The MI-SHHH-IGANIAN. We would like all hard of hearing people to receive it regardless of ability to pay. At the same time, we must use the dollars wisely that have been contributed. If you wish to be added to the mailing list or continue to receive this newsletter, please fill out this coupon, or return a photocopy of this page. *If you have responded in the past twelve months you will continue to receive it and do not need to respond again.* This newsletter is separate from local and National SHHH memberships. **If you have been receiving this newsletter for the past year and have never responded, this may be your last issue.** Contributions will be listed in the next edition unless you request to remain anonymous. Remember no contribution is necessary, but notification is a must.

I would like to receive (or continue to receive) this newsletter. Please read the above paragraph.

Name _____ E-mail _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

I learned about this newsletter from: _____

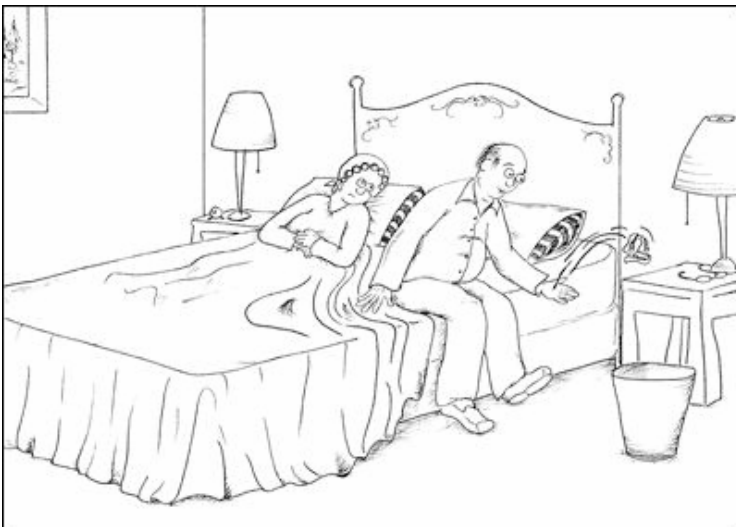
? Enclosed is my contribution of \$_____ to support the outreach programs of the Michigan SHHH. Donations are tax deductible and will be acknowledged in the next newsletter.

? I wish to remain anonymous.

? I wish to reduce MI-SHHH-IGANIAN production and mailing costs. Please notify me at the above e-mail address when the MI-SHHH-IGANIAN is available online. I understand that this means I will no longer receive the newsletter through the mail.

**Donations should be made payable to: Michigan SHHH
Please send to: Michigan SHHH, PO Box 4808, Troy, MI 48099-4808**

*In this issue we present another cartoon by
Rich Baldwin. Enjoy!*



Ralph wasn't wearing his hearing aids at the dentist office. He was sure he heard his hygienist tell him to toss his teeth before going to bed.

Thanks

It costs approximately \$1500 to print and mail out each edition of this newsletter. Please consider helping to defray our costs. We are a non-profit, all-volunteer organization. Without your generous support, we are unable to continue this newsletter.

Thank you! To the following donors:

Marianne Brady	Immanuel Lutheran
Claudia Damian	Nancy Kay
Thomas Hall	Inez Stieve
Patricia Hanson	Earl Tingstrom

Anonymous - 1

Dottie Wendell - In Memory of Eleanor Lindstrom
Liz Kobylak - In Memory of Bruce King
Liz Kobylak - In Memory of Betty J. Stimson

Michigan SHHH is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and your donation is fully deductible within the limits of the law.



**PO BOX 4808
TROY, MI 48099-4808**

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TROY, MI
PERMIT No. 355

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Hear Here 2006 - Don't Miss It!

Circle April 28th and 29th of 2006 on your calendar and be part of a very exciting event in Grand Rapids!

You don't want to miss ***Hear Here 2006***, the bi-annual Michigan SHHH Technology Conference and EXPO! The EXPO Planning Committee is dedicated to making your conference experience as enjoyable as possible.

The Crowne Plaza Hotel, in Grand Rapids, has been selected as the site of the 2006 event. We are excited about the location for a variety of reasons.

First of all, the hotel is easy to access by car, about half a mile from I-96. The Grand Rapids Airport is less than 10 minutes from the hotel, with free shuttle service provided by the Crowne Plaza.

Once you arrive, you will be met by a friendly staff who will have received awareness and sensitivity training about the needs of persons with hearing loss. This includes all areas - front desk, catering, maintenance, etc.

All rooms have amplified phones as well as captioned TV's. Oh, gosh, and the bedding is simply fabulous :-)

Join other EXPO attendees at a social gathering in the MI-SHHH Hospitality Room on Thursday night: snacks, beverages, games and fellowship :-)

If you have not visited the Grand Rapids area before, you are in for a treat. Local attractions include: Frederick Meijer Botanical Gardens; Grand Rapids Children's Museum; John Ball Zoological Garden; and the Van Andel Museum Center.

An added bonus is the opportunity to experience a Rear Window Captioned Movie. The first site in Michigan to offer this technology is located just a few miles from the Crowne Plaza!

EXPO Registration Forms have been mailed to all persons currently in the MI-SHHH database (those parties who receive the MI-SHHH-GANIAN quarterly newsletter). If you need additional Registration Forms, they can be printed out from our website at: www.mi-shhh.org or contact: info@mi-shhh.org for more information.

We encourage everyone to register for the EXPO as soon as possible and to reserve their hotel accommodations early! It makes our jobs much easier to make arrangements for attendees in advance. See you in Grand Rapids!