

## MY FIRST HLAA CONVENTION

I was thrilled to be able to go to Rochester to the Convention. To see and (hear) new things. I was not disappointed. At each of the presentations I learned many new things. One of the most interesting was the IDA institute in Denmark who has designed a form that audiologist can fill out that helps you and your family understand how hearing loss affects you. This was part of person-centered care by audiologists that the IDA Institute in Denmark is working on.

At the opening ceremony there were over a thousand people in the auditorium. Wow – all I could think of is we as a group have power to change things for the better.

In the exhibit hall I found many new listening devices, information on hearing aid companies, including my own. Sandy Spekman and I talked to AVA which may be a new way to caption our meetings.

There were several presentations on HAT (Hearing Assistive Technology) that were very interesting and up to date. All presentations were captioned, and many had sign language interpreters also.

All presentations allowed questions at the end.

Asked would I go again? Absolutely! I hope I can attend the next Convention in 2020 that is planned in New Orleans.

Petie Blanchard