



FLA NEWS



Golden Anniversary - Founded 1952

Volume 3 Issue 1

Florida Laryngectomee Association

Member IAL

January 2002



THE PRESIDENT'S VOICE

Charles E. Blair

NEW YEAR, NEW OUT REACH PROGRAM, NEW WEBSITE

The new year begins with a lot of promise! The FLA's Outreach Committee developed the concept for an excellent educational program! The FLA's Executive Committee accepted their recommendation to develop a new head and neck cancer rehabilitation seminar to better attract professionals. The Executive Committee also elected Dr. Ed Stone as its Director and he has named it the **FLA HEAD and NECK CANCER REHABILITATION INSTITUTE**. The new seminars will cover most head and neck cancers as well as Laryngectomee. More detailed and specific information on this new effort will be included in subsequent issues of this Newsletter as well as in our website. At press time, Ed was preparing the curriculum and completing his faculty for the inaugural seminar.

The FLA now has a website up and running (with only minor "tweaking" left to do) thanks to some really dedicated, hard work by Larry Switzer. Larry is our FLA webmaster as well as webmaster for the Broward County Club website. Check us out at

www.f-l-a.org

In addition to all this *NEW* stuff, our 2001 convention (we will refer to it as Annual Meeting in the future) was in a new (just different for us) hotel . We had a rather

small turn-out, but a record number of first timers and individual speech evaluations thanks to Dr. Stone , Nancy Blair , Lisa Proper and Annette Miller.

Another new item is our *new* 2nd Vice President, Mr. Joe Acosta. We sadly report that Mr. Fred Carter recently reluctantly resigned for personal reasons, and Joe was elected to complete his un-expired term. While most of our members know Joe very well, we are including a short Bio for our new folks. (see page 3)

Most of this edition is devoted to reporting of our 2001 Convention in the hopes that we can make you feel *really bad* for having missed it! (Just joking folks! We know that a lot of you had conflicts or other legitimate reasons for not being able to attend.) It's just that a lot of our members that do so much work and are so proud of their efforts, that we want to see *all* of you there! Maybe this October! Finally, we have decided to revise our initially proposed Annual Meeting and FLAHCRI Seminar dates in order to resolve other conflicting meeting dates. **The FLA Annual Meeting will be Oct. 25-27, 2002 and the inaugural Seminar will be Oct. 25-26, 2002 in the Holiday Inn-Daytona Beach Shores** More specific information later.

GOODBYE OLD FRIEND



HELLO NEW



The FLA's Voice Institute was sadly absent last year having died a rather sudden death at the 2000 FLA Convention. Because of a myriad of reasons the VI was no longer attracting professionals. Actually the VI's 2000 proposed program (as we had come to know it) was canceled and a VI "type" of program was developed specifically for the laryngectomee in lieu of training for the professional. In other words, we developed a similar type of VI program, shortened it, used VI faculty and presented it as part of our 2000 annual FLA Convention Program. This "demise" of the VI was discussed during the panel discussion at 3:30 pm, Nov. 4, 2000 in the Tradewinds room of the Treasure Island Resort. During those panel discussions, it was also announced that a committee had been formed and directed to evaluate alternate programs that would fulfill FLA's educational goals. The FLA Executive Committee accepted their subsequent recommendations during its last meeting and Ed Stone announced it during the Business Meeting on Oct. 28, 2001. We now have a new FLA educational venture called the **Head and Neck Cancer Rehabilitation Institute**, relating to most all head and neck cancers in addition to laryngectomees.

RAMBLINGS ABOUT THE FLA CONVENTION

Judy Ramboldt First Vice-President

Okay, Gang, Here we go. The convention was held in a new venue - The Holiday Inn in Daytona Beach Shores. The Blairs and the Ramboldts checked it out before the major decision. Great place the Blairs found. The lobby is spacious with very comfortable chairs and benches and a lot of mirrors. Just what we need, ourselves repeated over and over again. I think the seating areas in the lobby were comfortable - didn't have time to sit down. The motel rooms were clean and spacious -ours had a view of the ocean. The employees did everything they could to make us comfortable. We had water all the time - and everyone knows how much we larys love water.

Bill and I helped with the registration. Thanks to the Blairs, a great form was developed so that the people signing in could pick and choose what they wanted to attend. And it made it easier for me to collect the money (the Blairs did not know I have problems with adding, etc.) But everything was easy, so I hope I did not make a mistake. Bill sold the raffle tickets, and sold, and sold. I think he was a barker at a carnival in a former life.

A lot of us pre-registered so the name tags were already made up. Great idea, Charlie and Nancy. If I keep praising them, their heads may get bigger but, seriously, this was a smooth running convention and we have to thank the Blairs as we know they worked their butts off. What a hard act to follow.

The speakers were great and funny. Yes, funny. The main

speaker was Dr. Salassa from Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville. Loved the title of his speech - "Cancer for Dummies". I know we all learned something from his speech. I never could figure out where my pharynx is before. Funny, I never thought about my larynx until I lost it.

Dorothy Lennox (Luminaud) gave us all the updates on Medicare. What a treasure we have in that woman. She is always worried that her speeches are dry but they are not. She makes Medicare sound easy for us. Love that Gal.

All of our breaks were sponsored by one or more of our vendors. Lord, what would we do without our vendors. They talk, they fix, they teach. And they always have a smile for us.

There was a break out session for the larys and the spouses, caregivers and friends. Charlie Nail ran the lary session. Got some questions from our new larys and old larys and great discussion. The spouse session went well, according to Bill. He is the only male in the spouse breakout session. And he loves it.

Had a great time at the "Meet and Greet". Met some of the new larys. Then on Saturday night, we had the banquet. Great food, great company, and wonderful thoughts. We opened the banquet with a silent prayer for the terrorist victims and sang "God Bless America" while Joe Acosta displayed the Stars and Stripes. After dinner, we had the raffle. And what a raffle. Almost everything that was not nailed down was raffled off, even the table decorations which were made by the SunCoast New Voice Club of Clearwater, FL. Thanks

everyone.

On Sunday, we had breakfast and the general meeting. We had to vote to fill a vacancy in the 2nd vice president position. Joe Acosta was nominated and won. He will finish the one year left on the 2nd vice president's term. Okay, Joe, Robert's Rules at 10 paces. (inside joke).

Everything went marvelously at the hotel. All the meeting rooms were on one floor. No more getting to the 11th floor and then down to the 2nd floor for another. The arts and crafts table was also in the lobby area - the auxiliary had a great sale.

Only one hitch - Friday there was no hot water in the hotel. Their heaters had broken down or something. We all giggled about taking cold showers - in the morning - and having to wash our hair in the sink but we weathered that minor storm.

One of our new members, who actually is not a laryngectomee - he had cancer of the esophagus and he can still talk "normally" is a real card. Rush and his wife, Wendy, work with the hospice program in their area and he always carries silly things in his pockets. He had frogs for us. Fill them with water and it is great to spritz someone. I got a yellow frog. Not the right color, really. I collect stuffed frogs. But did we have fun. A bunch of us ganged up on Dr. Stone and he got soaked. Thank goodness he is a good sport.

It was one of the best conventions Bill and I have attended even with the jobs we had to do. Not as many people as we would have liked to see but hopefully we can get more next year.

Goodbye, 2001 convention and onto the 2002 convention.



2001 Annual Meeting

Opinion Survey Results

Thanks to all who participated in the Opinion Survey at the 2001 Annual FLA Meeting and a special "Thank You" to Jerry Hough who created the survey form.

Following are the results:

25 persons responded (including the forms mailed in after the meeting). (Please be aware as you analyze the data that not all respondents answered all questions) Of the 25, 12 were male and 13 were female. 15 were laryngectomees. The average time since surgery was 5 yrs with a range of 2 months- 15 years. 6 were first time attendees and 18 were repeat attendees.

Each presentation was evaluated as Excellent, Good, Average or Of Little Interest. Total ratings for all combined presentations were: Excellent 107, Good 26, Average 7 and Of Little Interest 3. Social activities were rated as Positive, Okay or Bummer. The total combined ratings for Vendor Participation, The Meet and Greet Reception, The Rap Sessions and The Banquet were: Positive 84, Okay 3 and Bummer 0.

The meeting site was rated as satisfactory by 17 and unsatisfactory by 2. The following room rates were acceptable to the number of respondents indicated:

\$60-\$70—9, \$70-80—7, \$80-\$90—4, \$90-\$100—1 and \$100+—0. The number in favor of holding the meeting in various locations throughout the state was 11

and 9 were opposed.

Seventeen persons indicated they "almost always" attend their local club meeting which is held monthly.

The following suggestions for the 2002 FLA Annual Meeting Program were written in by the respondents

1. More Doctor participation
2. More time on esophageal speech, TEP and ALs for SLPs
3. Sing a long
4. More attention to spouses and what they can do as caregivers
5. Additional trauma or cancer disfigurement
6. Head and Neck rehab
7. Photocopy slides for handouts
8. Nutrition , product updates
9. Bring back Tom Beneventine.
10. This year's program was fine
11. Tapes with dinner rather than waste money on DJ unless live entertainer is present
12. Lengthen lunch breaks by 15 minutes.
13. What is necessary after several years?
14. Joint rap session as well as separate sessions.
15. Pre and Post Operative Visitation
16. Alert public to Larys as being neck breathers and emergency procedures
17. Dealing with side effects of laryngectomy
18. Effects of other medical issues
19. Ideas for local club speakers

These responses will all be considered during planning of the next program.

**YOUR OPINION
COUNTS!**



2001 FLA HALL OF FAME

DECEASED— Roger Dann

Roger attended the Voice Institute as a VIP in 1994 and was very active with support groups in SE Florida, later becoming President of the Indian River Laryngectomee Club. Roger was with us but for a short time yet left his mark every place he went . Roger remained active with the FLA and was last with us at the '99 Spring Fling.

LIVING- Gerald "Jerry" Hough

Jerry had a partial laryngectomy in Aug '82 and a total 9 months later. He attended his first FLA meeting in 1984 and has been a regular ever since. He has been President of the Suncoast New Voices, the FLA and the IAL. This allowed him to be active on Executive Committees and participate in the American Cancer Society's Patient Services Committees at the local, state and national levels. Jerry continually speaks to students on the dangers of tobacco use, does frequent pre and post-op counseling, and presently is serving on the Florida State Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. He is editor of The Suncoast New Voices and plays some "mean" golf!

JOSEPH "JOE" ACOSTA FLA 2nd VP

Joe has been a laryngectomee for over 12 years and active with the FLA and the Broward County New Voice Club for most of that time. He is past President of both the FLA and his local club and has remained active with each. He is helpful, friendly and energetic.

CLUB TALK**2001 Convention Participants**

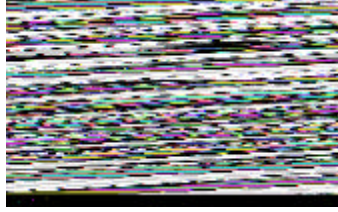
Vendors-	13(10 companies)
Broward Co.-	12*
Suncoast -	11*
Day. Beach-	7*
Chatterbox-	6*
Non club member-	6
Space Coast-	5*
Treasure Coast-	4*
JLA (Jax.)-	3*
GOLF-(Orlando)	3*
Professionals-	3
PALS (PNS) -	2*
Indian River-	2*

*Denotes a Florida Laryngectomee Club.

This represented 50% of our total State clubs. All of the Clubs represented above donated either \$25 gift certificates, cash or valuable wrapped gifts for use as raffle prizes at our Saturday evening banquet. Great support from our Clubs! Thank you all!!!!

EDITORS NOTE

A recent "computer crash" sent my individual Club membership address lists into the world of the unknown. It would be extremely helpful if each of you would send me a another copy of your current updated list to Bill Ramboldt, 2640 Derby Dr., Deltona, FL 32738 Thank you very much!



FLA AUXILIARY REPORT ANNUAL MEETING 2001

The FLA Auxiliary held its annual meeting during the afternoon break on Saturday, October 27, 2001. The main item of business was whether or not to hold the Craft Sale the next year due to limited sales. The question was whether or not the amount of effort yielded enough monetary support for the FLA. The consensus was that the Craft Sale should be continued at least one more year. The primary participants agreed to again shoulder the responsibility of pricing, displaying and selling the crafts. The nucleus of the Craft Sale committee is Wini Mogk, Ellie Nail and Evie Acosta. Nancy Blair agreed to continue to publicize the sale and the request donations from the local clubs. Donations of all types of crafts, home canning and used books will be accepted.

This year the Suncoast New Voice Club supplied the centerpieces and decorations for Saturday night banquet. Garlands of colored leaves, ceramic jack-o-lantern sacks and black cats depicted the theme, "Fall Fantasy".

The total income from the Craft Sale was \$530 (5 FLA Logo shirts were sold at \$20 each for a total of \$100) and was donated to

the FLA at the Sunday morning Breakfast Annual Business Meeting.

Two auxiliary members, Ellie Nail and Wendy Oliver, volunteered to provide the decorations for next year's dinner and dance. A theme was not selected but will be left to the choice of Ellie and Wendy.

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