



FLA NEWS



Golden Anniversary - Founded 1952

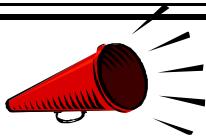
Volume 3 Issue 3

Florida Laryngectomee Association

www.f-l-a.org

Member IAL

Sept 2002



THE PRESIDENT'S VOICE

Charles E. Blair

CHANGES ON THE HORIZON!

They say that all good things must eventually come to an end and so this is my last column and last Annual Meeting as President. I have enjoyed the past three years but am now ready to serve under a new energized leader. The FLA Executive Committee will also change somewhat this fall with the election of a new president, 2nd VP and Treasurer. Our new outreach educational venture will conduct its first seminar on head and neck cancers with particular emphasis on laryngectomees. On a somber note, we continue to lose many of our veteran and active club members and while the individuals are too numerous to list here we are all deeply saddened by this loss. We will have a moment of silence and reflection for these individuals during the program phase of the Saturday evening banquet. Clubs, please send me the names of your recently deceased members. On a more positive note, we are actively encouraging and registering more "first timers" for our upcoming fall meeting. We are receiving registrations from a considerable number of very recent laryngectomees. It would be very helpful if our statewide club presidents and officers would encourage your new members to attend our fall meeting and participate in the individual speech evaluations if they desire some speech improvement or suggestions. Another benefit to first timers in attending is the strong participation of our vendors. Come to the convention and meet them "face to face". We continue to hear concerns over the demise of the old Voice Institute and the fear that this somehow signifies a lesser FLA commitment to the overall rehabilitation of the laryngectomee. I can speak for the FLA officers and Executive Committee members by saying that this just is not the case. Please read our bylaws in their entirety to gain a full insight as to the real purpose of the state organization. The bylaws serve as a guide for the governing body of FLA between Annual Meetings. If further changes to the bylaws are needed to ensure this, then now is the time for you to act by sending me your specific comments and suggested changes. See the currently proposed changes in the right-hand column, which reflect comments received to date. The Sunday morning business meeting is the perfect place to air any lingering concerns you have. We will discuss this once again during the club panel session on Saturday, yet another opportunity for your input and comments/suggestions. I appreciate the opportunity to have served you the past 3 years!

Spring Fling May 16-18, '03, Jacksonville Riverfront Hilton, Details at FLA Convention , next newsletter and www.f-l-a.org

FLA BYLAWS PROPOSED REVISIONS

Redrafted on 9-28-02

Proposed change 1.

Article II Purposes Add new paragraph as follows,

"6. Encourage and facilitate the formation and growth of local laryngectomee support groups within the state of Florida."

Proposed change 2.

Article II Purposes

Delete existing par. 2 and replace with, ***"2. To encourage and maintain an exchange of ideas and methods for the learning and teaching of alternative methods of communication."***

Proposed change 3

ARTICLE V OFFICERS Duties

- Correct typo on second line, change "arid" to ***"and"***

Proposed changes 4, 5, 6

ARTICLE VI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Membership

- Add ***"2nd VP"***.... to the listing of officers
 - Change .."Director of the Voice Institute"... To ***"Director of Education of the Outreach committee"***
 - change, ... ***"and up to three members-at-large"*** ... to ***"and up to four members-at-large"***

Proposed changes 7, 8

ARTICLES VII COMMITTEES

- Add ***"2nd VP."*** to the listing of officers.
 - Replace existing par 3 with, ***"There shall be a permanent standing committee called the Outreach which will strive to fulfill FLA's outreach educational goals. Its director will be appointed by the FLA Executive Committee and will serve at their pleasure until terminated or the director resigns. The Outreach committee will be operated and governed by the Director and his designated appointees, subject to broad and general oversight by the Executive Committee"***

ACCOUNTABILITY

All our Webwhispers members will recall the recent post and subsequent discussions concerning a laryngectomee's attempts to reach his speech pathologist by phone on what he considered to be somewhat of an emergency. She failed to promptly return his call and the ensuing email posts turned into a tirade against the "unresponsive" SLP and just what form of legal or punitive actions should be taken. Later, after many more negative email posts on the subject of unresponsiveness, the original writer reposted and stated that the matter had been resolved, that the receptionist had not given the SLP his message, that the SLP had finally learned of the calls and called him, given him her Cell ph number for future urgent calls and took care of his initial problem. Not a single post was submitted lamenting the lack of responsiveness by the clerical employee. Does this employee not have a degree of accountability in this situation? Don't we all have some degree of accountability for our actions or inactions. Jim Sansing of the PALS Club has written an excellent article on the above situation in their August newsletter. It is titled "The Name of the Game" and with his permission we are including on our FLA website. Check it out! www.f-l-a.org

GOT YOUR LEIS?

OK, no corny jokes here! You know what they are. Very nice plastic leis will be provided at the luau. But do you want to have the real thing shipped direct to you fresh from Maui? At a surprising reasonable cost? Try www.paradiseflowers.com call 808-878-2592, fax 808-878-1864

FLA AUXIALARY



The banquet theme this year is **Hawaiian Luau**. How appropriate to use a theme based on our 50th state for our 50th Anniversary!! So find those flowered shirts, long skirts—grass if you dare—and join us for a casual evening of fun and celebration.

Be sure to bring your crafts for the craft sale. Remember this is the way we raise money to support the FLA program and operating expenses. Bring all kinds of crafts, jellies, pickles and used books. Sorry, only used books can be sold. No other "white elephants" invited

THE BANQUET IS TOO FORMAL... AND I CAN'T DANCE!!

We have heard this before so decided to do something different this year. The theme fits perfectly into our golden anniversary celebration. We will have good food, comfortable dress and music. Can't dance, just sit and listen. It is good music and not loud. We have a program midway of the banquet and also conduct our popular raffle. There are so many prizes almost everyone wins something. We will have an elaborate luau. (see menu, last issue). Also, ATOS is sponsoring twin, island punch fountains! The banquet cost of \$25 is the actual "breakeven" cost. A real bargain!

Be there or be square!

ORGANIZATIONAL BYLAWS

The creation of parliamentary procedures is credited to the late General Henry M. Robert. He defined bylaws "as a document adopted by an organization which contains the basic rules for governing itself. Bylaws define the primary objective of an organization and describe how that organization will function. Bylaws should *help* not *hinder*. They should serve to strengthen and protect a group, ensuring fulfillment of the purposes for which it was organized. Good bylaws are concise, clear in meaning, and well organized so that they are easy to use, They should never be unduly restrictive." Bylaws should offer guidance which can be clearly interpreted by the organizational governing body, ie an Executive

Committee or Board. Consequently, the organizational membership should take a keen interest in our bylaws and these latest proposed changes. But, review them in context with the full and current set of bylaws. If you do not have access to our website and would desire a "hardcopy" then call or write me and one will be sent by USPS. (see note below)

While reviewing the full bylaws, let us know if *any other* changes should be considered.

(Note: A copy of the current Bylaws is included on our website for review, download and copy.)

Send comments to: Charles Blair (727) 391-3473, pg 4 for address. cblair2@tampabay.RR.com.



**Condensed Program
FLA Annual Meeting (AM)**

Saturday, Oct. 26, 2002
Option A
8:00 Esophageal Voice
9:00 Use of AL
Or Option B
8:00 Joint Rap Session II

**Friday, Oct. 25, 2002
AM**
9:00- Vendor Set up, Craft Sale,
SIGN-IN Table

10:30 Refreshments

PM
1:15 Presidents Welcome
1:30 FL's Hearing Impaired
Program
2:30 Refreshments
2:45 Effective AL Phone Use
3:15 Joint Rap Session I
6-7 Reception (cash bar)

9:30 Refreshments
10:00 AL Problems –
Maint. & Repair
11:00 Club Panel
12:00 Lunch
1:00 Pulmonary Function
2:00 Refreshments
2:15 TEP
6:30- Banquet-Raffles

Sunday, Oct. 27, 2002
8:00am Brkfst/Bus mtg



**FEATURED
Speakers**

- Mark Finrock, Kapitex
- James Forstall, Director, FTRI
- Joy Gaziano, M.A., CCC-SLP
- Matt Griffin, Griffin Laboratories
- Jim Lauder, Lauder Enterprises, Inc
- Lisa Proper, M.S., CCC-SLP
- R.E. "Ed" Stone, PhD., CCC-SLP

**FLA ANNUAL MEETING (AM) REGISTRATION FORM
COMPLETE AND RETURN BY OCTOBER 1, 2002**

Event	Fee (Advance)	#	Amount
General Registration includes all sessions/exhibition	\$10	_____	_____
Banquet Saturday Night	\$25	_____	_____
Breakfast/Business Mtg. Sunday Morning	\$10	_____	_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Name for **each registrant** as it will appear on the name tag: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State ____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ Club _____

Make Check Payable to: **Florida Laryngectomee Association**

**ADVANCE REGISTRATION
IS REQUIRED**

Mail to: Charles Blair, Pres.
8745 Maplewood Rd.
Largo, FL 33777

Hotel Reservations must be made directly with the Holiday Inn Daytona Beach Shores, 800-722-3297 by Sept. 25, 2002. Rates are \$62 for standard oceanview or mini-efficiencies; \$72 for oceanfront efficiency, based on availability. Rates are based on up to Quad occupancy. Local taxes 11.5%.

Complete the following:

I want an individual speech evaluation during the convention (circle one) Yes No

First time attendee Yes No

I am requesting financial assistance Yes No (must include phone # for contact if requesting aid)

I would like to attend Option **A** **B** of the Saturday morning Program (see program above, A based on availability)

CLUB TALK



REQUEST TO ALL FLORIDA CLUBS

.This time of the year we remind our loyal statewide clubs of the long standing policy of supporting the FLA by bringing or sending a \$25 gift, or gift certificate for our raffle during the Saturday banquet. Your support in this has made the raffle one of our most popular and entertaining convention activities. Many clubs send a gift certificate to something that is found throughout the state, like Publix or Home Depot. Also,, we would like for each state support group to have a representative on the "Club Panel" portion of the Annual Meeting program from 11 am to noon on Oct. 26, '01 . This gives you a chance to answer questions and generally promote your club to the many "first timers" in attendance. A great opportunity to offer them a change to attend a local support group on a regular basis.

OCALA NUVOICE CLUB "SAD NEWS"

This from Jim McGrath, past president, "Our Club was being run by Mr. Bill Yearsley (who) was fatally injured in an auto accident in April 2002." Jim further states that efforts to find replacement officers have been unsuccessful and due to low attendance, 'I feel safe in saying the club has folded.'" Sorry to hear this, Jim!

JLA- JACKSONVILLE



Gail Pender, Co-President reports that Spring Fling plans are nearing completion. Dates are on the front pg., The Jax Riverfront Hilton (www.hilton.com) room rates are \$69 sgl/dbl, a really good rate for a luxury hotel. Gail hopes to keep the meeting registration fee down to a very reasonable \$35 pp. Proposed are Fri. evening reception, poolside overlooking St. Johns river, Sat. morning continental bkfst with short program, sight-seeing and shopping along historic riverbank shops, and Sat evening banquet. Further details at the FLA convention, next newsletters and on FLA website www.f-l-a.org

? LAKELAND ?

The last news we had on this club was meetings were infrequent and membership was low. Could someone in the area call or write the editor on your present status.? Thank you .

VA -MIAMI

Kathleen Wilson-Vazquez, SLP, is the contact person and facilitator for meetings.

VA-West Palm Beach

Member Gerald Nightingale has registered for FLA convention as "first timer" and for sp evals.

Oct. 25-26, 2002 Daytona Beach, FL
HEAD AND NECK CANCER REHABILITATION
INSTITUTE

Program topics: Medical treatment of Head and Neck Cancer, Dysphagia, Evaluation/Treatment; Diagnosis/Treatment in Speech, Voice and Resonance; Pulmonary Function and Tracheostoma Care; Tracheoesophageal Prosthesis; Esophageal Speech; Artificial Larynx Training and Patient Evaluations and Demonstrations; Program Director: R. E. "Ed" Stone, Jr., PhD, SLP. Cost: registration by Oct. 10, \$195; after, \$220; at the door \$250. CEU's: 13 clock hours. **Contact** Lisa Proper, e-mail:

proper.lisa@mayo.edu or (904) 953-2217
(Ad from Advance Magazine for SLP's)

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