



FLA NEWS



Volume 4 Issue 1

Florida Laryngectomee Association WWW. f-l-a.org

member IAL

January 2003

THE PRES SPEAKS.



Well, here I sit....staring at a semi blank screen of our computer. (Semi because Bill has already done the masthead and my lead in.)

What do I say to all the members of the FLA? How do I thank the people who have put their trust in me to serve as president? Should I be somber or silly? SILLY, OF COURSE!!!! Thank you, thank you, thank you. Wowie, kazowee. I'm finally here. I can hand people a business card that reads "President". Oh, and now Bill can say he is sleeping with the president of the FLA. And he even gave me a gavel with my name on it. Enough silliness. I have a lot to report.

As the attendees of the 2002 Annual Meeting already know – there were a lot of problems at the hotel – mostly because there were not enough staff to serve us. And, because we had such a great turnout – the largest in years – we found that the meeting rooms were not big enough for us. I really noticed that there was not much room for the larys to sit in on the Head and Neck sessions.

As you will read, the FLAHNCC (Florida Laryngectomee Association Head and Neck Cancer Course) was a great success. There were more SLPs than we have seen in a loooong time. And the reports back to us was very positive. Thank you, Dr. Ed Stone, Lisa Proper MS, Annette Miller MS and all the speakers. (Hope I got the right letters after your names). And we cannot forget the unflagging work by Nancy Blair.

Now we have an announcement. The Auxiliary have decided to end the craft sale. The women who have worked the tables for years have never been able to attend any of the meetings or sessions. And the sales were way down. We now hope for donations from members and vendors. Oh, and remember, Bill Ramboldt is the president of the auxiliary because he is the spouse of the president. Go, Bill.

Good news. We have a new venue for the 2003 Annual Meeting. Bill and I visited 4 different hotels in the Daytona Beach area. We got four proposals. Weighing all the pros and cons of each hotel, we decided on the Plaza Resort and Spas in Daytona Beach. It has been completely refurbished. The lobby alone will blow you away. Blonde wood everywhere, great restaurant, and the rooms are to die for. I signed the contract this week – the first official act of my presidency. Scary. Hope everyone who attends will like it. The meeting rooms go on and on. The banquet sit down dinner will have two choices of menu. The dates are Oct. 31-Nov. 2. More in the next newsletter.

Think about going to the Spring Fling in Jacksonville May 16 & 17. Gail Pender has worked hard on it. We lost her mother in December. What a trouper Elaine was. We will never forget her dancing with Earl Mogk, Charlie Nail, Jim Sansing, and, especially Joe Acosta.

I have dedicated my two year term to my husband Bill, my mentors Earl Mogk and Joe Acosta and to God. I will serve every lary to my best ability.

Judy Ramboldt Hear Me Roar



Club Talk

Ocala Nu Voice Club

If you remember, in the last newsletter we said that this club was going to disband. WELL GUESS WHAT!! Due to the interest of Maggie Geehan, this club is now back in operation and starting to prosper again. They had their first meeting in December with five members present. They elected officers and set an agenda for the future of their club. They will meet on the Second Saturday of the month at the American Cancer Society office in Ocala.

Great work Guys

If you need any help we are all here for you.

What a great way to start out the new year.

Chatterbox Club

I hear that your club has been having some super speakers lately. One on acid reflux and what to do about it, also, one from the Netherlands cancer institute about Smelling. After her talk you were all smelling good. More speakers in the future. Keep up the good WORK. You got things going in the right direction.

~~Space Coast New Voice Club~~

I see by your news letter that you can get your information via e-mail. This saves the cancer society some costs. It is quick and very efficient. You also have some high powered speakers in the works. Your club has gotten to the point that you have to meet in two different places to accommodate all the people. What a great feeling this must be.

GREAT WORK

New Voice Club of Broward County

Hear that you guys are starting a Mentor Program. All new laryngectomees would be assigned to a member of the visitation committee to provide vital one-on-one contact through those first critical months. That sounds like something some of the other clubs may consider. Keep us posted on how it is working

Nu-Voice Club Daytona Beach

This club is starting to create a handout to place in doctors' offices in Volusia County. This sounds like a good thing for new larys to get some information before they have the surgery. It also may answer some of their questions. Let us know how you guys make out and how it is working.

Greater Orlando Laryngectomee Family

At their Christmas party in December they gave Toys for Tots instead of exchanging gifts for themselves. These were delivered to a local T.V. station for distribution to needy kids in the area. Their speaking group has given talks to about 300 school children on the ills of tobacco this past year. They are on the go quite often and plan to continue in the future.

~~Suncoast New Voice Club~~

Jerry Hough informs me that your club has been making many visits to schools to talk about the Dangers of Tobacco. Bill Beurkens and Jerry have talked to about 600 children in the different high and middle schools in Pinellas county. It is working because the number of smoking students is less than when they started. Sometimes we need to know that what we are doing does work. This should be encouragement to all of us to get the word out.

Keep Up The Good Work.

Editors Note

As you have heard me say many times this is your newsletter. So, if you want your

club information in it, please let me know. My e-mail is on the last page of this letter and my snail mail address is.

Bill Ramboldt
2640 Derby Drive
Deltona Florida 32738

Now you have no excuses for not being represented in the letter. We want to include everyone if possible. If you know of a lary that is not getting this letter, please let me know and give me their address and I will put them on the mail list.

2002 FLA Head and Neck Cancer Course

The FLA recognizing the shrinking market for its nearly 20-year-old Voice Institute expanded its mission of training individuals to work with more than just laryngectomees. 2002, under the continuing presidency of Mr. Charlie Blair, witnessed the largest contingency of Speech Pathologists ever attending an education event sponsored by the FLA. These professionals came from as far away as California and Kansas. Most, however, were Floridians. Visiting with two of them on Sunday following the course, it was learned that they had been looking for a broad-spectrum event such as ours for over three years. "This course was a real bargain", one said, "having it in Daytona near the beach is an added attraction for us land-locked clinicians. Don't change anything about the course except maybe to have some time off during the week".

The success of FLAHNCC is attributable to the insights of Lisa Proper and Nancy Blair who suggested expansion of the traditional Voice Institute offerings to consider issues that might be of interest to care givers of all Head and Neck Cancer Patients. Logistics were handled by Annette Miller and Lisa Proper. Our erstwhile Sergeant -At-Arms, Earl Mogk, kept the meeting events on schedule and served the association well in his ability to see needs to be done, and doing it and rarely receiving sufficient credit.

Faculty of the FLAHNCC was world class. Don Weed, M.D., Donna Lundy, MS (former Director of FLA Voice Institute). Paula Sullivan MS, Mark Finfrock (continued on page 3)

Penny Fisher MS. Russ Buhl (a FLA member) contributed a patent's slant on being a victor over the removal of his esophagus.

The faculty and staff also provided consultations to those attending the FLA meeting who had indicated a desire for such assistance.

Financially this course can be considered a success as well, primarily because the (modest) registration fees that the Speech-Language attendees were charged, and because the faculty provided their services either freely or at rates substantially reduced from what is typical. Also the preparation of the handouts being contributed cost-free and through careful scrutiny of expense items and generous contribution of the FLA Auxiliary.

This article taken from a report to President Judith Ramboldt from Dr. Ed Stone.

VP's Thoughts

Jim Sullivan

It was with great anticipation that I looked forward to October 25-27

Of last year. Not only was it the FLA's 50th anniversary but I would be moving up to First Vice President as Judy moved into the Presidency and Charlie Blair walked off stage for a well deserved respite from his 3 years of unflagging service. We were once again having the meeting at the Daytona Beach Holiday Inn, which had done what I thought was such a fantastic job the year before. However, my bubble was burst shortly after my arrival, because it was obvious that upkeep and maintenance was not necessarily the hotels forte as in the previous year. Still undaunted and brimming with enthusiasm, I prepared for the pre convention Meeting.

The convention offered some innovations, Dr Stone, with the support and backing of the FLA, was embarking on a new program that would provide speakers on a much more intense and diversified subject matter which would include all of the aspects of head and neck cancers, It appeared that the 50th Anniversary was truly going to bring some unique programs, acquaintances and meetings.

As the first day began, and with Judy, and Bill and myself manning the

Registration desk (and me armed with my drawing tickets) it appeared in a very short while that this convention was truly going to be successful. Many of the attendees had pre-registered and the meeting rooms, auxiliary tables and hallways were bustling with vendors, caregivers and laryngectomees. By the afternoon, it was apparent to almost everyone that this by far would be the most successful convention yet.

For those of you who attended, I can't give enough accolades to the meet and greet, programming, banquet and camaraderie to do justice. As a matter of fact, I even met a laryngectomee who had come all the way from Kentucky to attend. As always it gave everyone an opportunity to renew old acquaintances and because of the high number of new attendees meet some new people who will hopefully be old friends by the years 2003 convention. For those of you who didn't attend, you missed a fantastic opportunity for support, education, camaraderie and fun. For those of you who did attend, I hope you had a good time.

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CUT ON LINE AND MAIL IN

FLA SPRING FLING/JLA HOST CLUB MEETING REGISTRATION FORM COMPLETE AND RETURN BY APRIL 20,2003 PACKAGE PRICE OF \$35.00 per PERSON

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NAME FOR EACH REGISTRANT AS IT WILL APPEAR ON NAME TAG _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ State _____ ZIP _____
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RATES ARE \$69.00 FOR SINGLE OR DOUBLE, REFER TO THE FLA SPRING FLING WHEN MAKING RESERVATIONS.

New FLA Officer.

Carl Kilmer is the newest FLA officer. He was elected the office of 2nd vice President at the 2002 convention in Daytona Beach. Carl is 68 years old, has been married to Dottie for 38 years. Retired from the travel industry, the last 15 as a travel agent and healthy. He had his operation in November of 1999 at Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville by John Salassa MD. John did a "near total" laryngectomy which means that Carl still has one vocal cord. He still has a stoma to occlude to talk, but does not have any artificial devices to create sound.

Welcome aboard Carl and hope you enjoy your term and look forward to moving up the ladder.

Spring Fling Program

Friday May – 16

4 – 6 PM Registration

7-9 PM Poolside Reception

Saturday May – 17

8-9 AM - Continental Breakfast

8-9 AM – Vendor setup and introduction of the FLA representatives.

9-10 AM - Program. Speaker DR. Richard A. Beck and Amy Moss. program on communication alternatives for Laryngectomees and voice prosthesis concerns and GERD (Reflux) in Cancer patients. Also a special Memorial dedication to Jeannetta Jones, a founder of the FLA Voice Institute in 1983.

10-11 AM- Vendor table information.

Lunch on your own, the registration package will provide information on where to go in the area, you are right on the St. Johns river, with lots of sites to see.

7-10 PM Banquet, featuring a swing band "The Manhattans". A memorial Donation of the JLA past President Elaine Curran.

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