



# FLA NEWS



Volume 4 Issue 2

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

member IAL

May 2003



## THE PRES SPEAKS

A lot of activity has been happening at the Ramboldt home. Bill has been working on the vendor registration and I have been working on planning the AM schedule. One Sunday, in fact, he was on the main PC and I was on my new notebook PC. Paper everywhere, the dog asking to go out, and the cat walking all over everything. Things have calmed down now. We had to put our boxer, Athena, down as she was very sick and old.

Anyway, you know about the new venue for this year's meeting – The Plaza Resort and Spa – still in Daytona Beach. I hope everyone will like it as much as we do.

Now to the AM schedule. I cannot believe that it came together as easily as it did. At least, after Lisa Proper and I figured out the break times so the students of the FLAHNCC and the AM attendees could share the time.

This year's AM schedule offers you some new speakers and some speakers you have heard before. The new speakers include a pharmacist, Mr. John Switz, who works for the Veterans Administration in Daytona Beach. He will help us understand about the drugs we are taking and if there are any problems mixing meds. We will also hear from Linda Stachowiak SLP from Moffit in Tampa. Her topic will be "How to handle a hospital visit". I'm sure most of us could have a little help in that area. And to top off the roster of new speakers, Mary Jane Renner, a staff member with the Head and Neck cancer Rehabilitation Institute in Indianapolis. Most of us know her name but have not met her. Mary Jane and Dr. Eric Blom designed and developed the "Neck Breather Medical Awareness Skin Decal".

Then, back from last year...James Forstall with Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. and Matt Griffin of Griffin Laboratories will be joint speakers and I'm sure that their topic will be the Telitalk (phone and AL combination), which is now available to any laryngectomee in Florida, free of charge.

Mark Finrock, a vendor and former paramedic, will be speaking to the FLAHNCC students and the AM attendees in a joint session.

Of course, we will have a rap session for larys and spouses. Also, there will a panel discussion headed by four laryngectomees who each speak in a different way. A question and answer period will follow the demonstrations.

The vendors are reserving space and committing to sponsoring the breaks and the Meet and Greet.

Please send in your registration as soon as possible. The banquet will have a choice of beef tips over buttered noodles or grilled chicken over pasta Alfredo. Bill and I are decorating the tables with no theme in mind. Just come and have fun.

If you are interested in voice evaluation, mark the space on the registration form. Also, if you need financial assistance (for first time attendees), mark that space.

Keep Oct 30-Nov 2 open and join the fun and learning at the 2003 FLA Annual Meeting.

Judith Ramboldt, President



## TeliTalk

By this time you have all received a copy of the special Newsletter about this phone. That is, all of you who live in Florida. I made a great OOPS and put in an incorrect phone number. The number for the forms is **1-800-222-3448** not as listed in the special letter.

FTRI is very proud of its TeliTalk accomplishments in working with both FLA and Griffin Labs. It was FTRI that originally conceived this special telephone during 1997 and worked with one company (Ameriphone) to develop the phone but the company was unable to continue with development because of financial limitations. When Griffin Labs met with FTRI in November 2001, FTRI resurrected the TeliTalk concept with Matt Griffin and working together, they were able to produce the actual TeliTalk. Other states are now considering including the TeliTalk as part of their respective specialized equipment distribution program. Over the years FTRI has pioneered several innovative ideas and products and is proud of all its accomplishments.

We are also putting a link on the FLA web page to FTRI's website. You can get more information there about the program. If you have not checked out the web site you should. There is a lot of good information there. The address is [f-l-a.org](http://f-l-a.org). Give it a try and see what you can find there.

## FLA CONVENTION OCT. 31 – NOV. 2 DAYTONA BEACH.

Included in this issue of your News Letter is the registration form for the convention. PLEASE pre register!! This makes it so much easier for us to get everything set and ready to go. There are always some last minute people and that is understandable but, for the most part early is better. Don't forget that you need to register with the hotel directly. These reservations need to be in by September 30, 2003. On the third page is a copy of the schedule for the convention.

## VISITATIONS

If your club has been making visitations to schools or other organizations, please let the FLA President know how many people you have talked to. This information is sent to the IAL and used to get funding of different projects that help laryngectomees all over the country. She has some information from a couple clubs but is sure there are more that have not informed her of their visits.



## FREE SPEECH EVALUATIONS

Free speech evaluations are being offered again this year as part of the FLA Annual Meeting. The evaluations were established to continue to provide professional Speech Pathology services to laryngectomees even though the Voice Institute was discontinued. Any laryngectomee may request an evaluation that will be tailored to individual needs. You may want information regarding an artificial larynx, a tracheo-esophageal prosthesis (TEP), standard esophageal voice, swallowing problems, heat and moisture exchangers, Barton Mayo button, general stoma care and/or a situation that is unique to you. The evaluation will be scheduled for one-hour sessions and done by certified and licensed SLPs. You must indicate that you want a speech evaluation when you pre-register for the Annual Meeting.

Life is 10% how you make it, and 90% how you take it.

Remember the 3 R's – respect for self, respect for others, and responsibility for your actions.



## Tentative Schedule for FLA Annual Meeting – Oct. 31 – Nov. 2, 2003

- Thursday, Oct. 30* Arrival of board members of FLA and principals of FLAHNCC  
(Florida Laryngectomee Association Head and Neck Cancer Clinic)  
7:00PM-9:00PM Board meeting (all officers) with representative of FLAHNCC
- Friday, Oct. 31* Morning (no formal programs)  
9:00 AM– 11:45AM Registration for the AM. Table in main lobby  
Vendor set up supervised by Bill Ramboldt. Ready for visitors – 10 AM  
10:15AM-10:45AM Refreshment break for HNC Students and early FLA AM arrivals
- Friday, Oct. 31* Afternoon  
1:00PM-1:15PM President's Welcome and Announcements  
1:15PM-2:30PM Florida Hearing and Speaking Impaired Program – James Forstall (FTRI) and Matt Griffin (Griffin Laboratories)  
2:30PM-3:00PM Refreshment break for students and AM attendees  
2:45PM-3:30PM Rap session for laryngectomees and spouses – separated  
Bill Ramboldt – spouses; Judy Ramboldt – larys  
3:30 PM– on Free time for AM attendees  
\*short meeting with club presidents or representatives at 3:30 PM  
6:00PM-7:00PM Meet and Greet – cash bar and hors d'oeuvres
- Saturday, Nov. 1* Vendors 8:00AM until 3:00 PM – Speech Evaluations (TBA)  
8:00AM-9:00AM Panel demonstration to show the different ways of speaking – with Q and A  
9:00AM-10:00AM Talk presented by pharmacist, Mr. John Swirtz  
10:00AM-10:30AM Refreshment break for Students and AM attendees  
10:30AM-11:30AM Visitation training – Linda Stachowiak – H. C. Moffit Center  
11:30AM-1:15PM Lunch on your own
- Saturday, Nov. 1* Afternoon  
1:15PM-2:15PM Mary Jane Renner (HNCRI)  
2:15PM-2:45PM Refreshment break for students and AM attendees  
2:45PM-4:00PM Mark Finrock (Kapitex) Pulmonary Function  
Combined with FLAHNCC  
4:00PM on Free time  
6:30PM-10:30PM Dinner/Dance Cash Bar
- Sunday, Nov. 2, 2003*  
8:00AM-10:30AM Breakfast – Business Meeting

This schedule is presented to you so that you can decide which talks you want to attend.  
And, also, help you schedule your time to visit our great vendors.

## In Memoriam

### GEORGE ACKERMAN

IAL immediate Past President George Ackerman died suddenly on March 31, 2003 in his sleep. The funeral service was held on April 5th. George served as IAL President from 1999 until 2002. His leadership and dedication to the IAL and all laryngectomees will be missed.

### JANET RAMAKERS

IAL Board of Directors member Janet Ramakers died suddenly on February 20, 2003, of a lung infection unrelated to her larynx cancer. Janet was the chair of the busy Publications Affairs Committee. Her energy and wit will be missed.



## FLAHNCC

The head and neck cancer course will be running concurrently with the Annual Meeting. This course is set up to instruct SLPs on many facets of treatment for head and neck cancers, with emphasis on partial and total laryngectomees.

Many qualified instructors are scheduled to speak to the group.

AM attendees can sit in (if space available). But, they cannot participate in discussions.

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