



FLA NEWS



Volume 6 Issue 1

Florida Laryngectomee Association

www.f-l-a.org

Member IAL

March, 2005

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Annual Meeting will be held on **Saturday and Sunday, October 8th and 9th**, at the Sheraton Studio City, 5905 International Drive, Orlando, Florida. It has been moved to Orlando to be more centrally located for the convenience of all the Florida clubs. The new location is a modern full service hotel, close to many attractions including Disneyworld, Universal Studios and Seaworld, with complimentary transportation to all. Dining and shopping choices are greatly improved with a large discount mall nearby. The hotel is easy to get to and is just off I-4 and the Florida Turnpike.

We are pleased to announce the brand new **FLA Visitation Training Program**, which will take place on **Saturday morning from 8 a.m. till noon**. The training will be conducted by Dr. Ed Stone and Penny Fisher MS RN CORLN, Clinical Instructor of Otolaryngology at the University of Miami/Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. This training was available in Tampa and was well received. Penny just conducted the program again in Broward County and she is great. This training will fully qualify you to conduct pre and post-operative visits to about-to-be and new laryngectomees. This is a super opportunity to gain essential knowledge for those who have never been on a visitation. It is also an opportunity for those who have been doing visitations to renew their knowledge of the basics. You may want to consider checking in on Friday night to be ready for the 8 a.m. program. We will have the same entertainer this year that we did in 2004, Lecy Fredo, playing the violin with taped accompaniment. We had so many compliments on Lecy in 2004 that we decided to stick with a good thing. We look forward to seeing you in October. A "Heads-Up". We recommend early hotel reservations because our guaranteed room block is limited and we have a good rate. Late bookers may have to pay a higher rate or may not even obtain a room reservation..

Carl Kilmer, President

FLA OUTREACH EDUCATION PROGRAM

What is this? The long running Voice Institute was a prime example with the short-lived Head and Neck Cancer Course being another. An active subcommittee is presently evaluating other projects to allow FLA to meet our goals in this regard. This sub-committee report will be presented by Annette Miller, and discussed at the FLA April Executive Committee meeting. We are evaluating ways to use our recently developed tri-fold brochure for Club use and informational hand-outs for prospective or recent laryngectomees. The possibility of training student Speech Pathologists is also being considered.. More later.

LET'S GO CLUBBING!

No, We don't mean single bars or show girls. If you are a laryngectomee or caregiver your local support group is the "in" place to go for not only good "ole" fashioned fellowship but guidance on improving your life, speaking better and coping with laryngectomy. You can receive health and rehab tips and your spouse/caregiver can learn better coping skills in their new and important role. You can meet new and helpful friends and not the shallow kind found in some "clubs" our swinging singles might frequent. For the support group nearest to you, see our website at www.f-l-a.org or contact (call/write/email) one of the FLA officers. (see 2nd page)

HOW ABOUT SURFING?

Surfing the internet, that is! What killjoys we are this issue. Seriously, surfing the internet can not only be a lot of fun but extremely interesting and beneficial, particularly if you visit the FLA website (address above). Interesting items with latest Annual Meeting information, links to other laryngectomee support groups, vendors of laryngectomee supplies and equipment, the meeting /contact info for our Florida Clubs and other interesting news. We need to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our able and tireless Webmaster, Mr. Larry Switzer of Fort Lauderdale. Here's to you, Larry!

Jerry's Journal

Looking for a Good Guy? This One is in OK!

Several weeks ago Dutch Helms, WebWhispers Webmaster, shared a story that some of you may recall; it was about two laryngectomees from Oklahoma who lived 115 miles from one another and had never met. That is until the one in Haskell wrote one of our valued vendors explaining that he had "one of those talk boxes" and tried for a year to get it to work. Apparently, acquaintances made fun of his speech to a point of frustration. His note was forwarded to WebWhispers and was emailed to the list and interpreted as a desperate call for help. Keep in mind he had no computer or phone and gave only his name and address which was a box number in Haskell a small Oklahoma town.

Well, Sam Beights from Miami, Oklahoma picked-up on the webmasters solicitation for someone to reach out and give an assist. He made a call to the Haskell police for information and armed with his brother's name and location he headed down the road for over two hours to Haskell. To shrink the story somewhat he located the gentleman that was having no success in communicating and being understood. Sam Beights reported that Harold*, the speechless laryngectomee, had not uttered an understandable word since leaving the hospital two years ago. Harold is 58 years old and the prospect for any good years was dim. His pad of paper and pencil was his only way to say hello from his well worn small apartment behind his cousins home.

Sam came armed with A Tru-Tone and a Servox and was determined to get some words from the patient. They worked together locating a different "sweet spot" and practiced until Harold began to speak several intelligible words, the first in a long time.

The Servox batteries ran low and a call was placed to a one of our suppliers who responded with new batteries pronto.

Sam Beights headed home after a lengthy electro-larynx training session with Harold. A commitment to follow-up was made by everyone involved. It was a day filled with dramatic and emotional accomplishments. From the phone calls to locate Harold, the trip, the three hour speech therapy and contact with a vendor for help would be enough to frazzle a person half Sam's 78 years. As I see it, this was one first class Good Samaritan gesture. Without question many of us have gone that extra mile to help others, yet this particular story reminded me that compassionate laryngectomees are a special class of people. Could you be one of the good guys or gals our world is looking for?

*Harold's last name omitted for privacy concerns.

(By Jerry Hough, secretary and newsletter editor of Suncoast New Voice Club)

Note: We have permission from WebWhispers to tell this story taken from their "for members only" email list and the same topic may also be found in Murray's Mumbles, March edition of Whispers on the Web, available to everyone at WebWhispers.org .

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(constructive comments welcome)

JUST HOW NICE IS OUR '05 HOTEL
Much nicer than any of our previous lodging facilities in Daytona Beach but a bit more expensive. Get an idea from their website. (see page 3) We are anxious to know if our members feel this quality upgrade is worth the expense. We will give our 2005 Annual Meeting (AM) attendees the opportunity to critique the meeting as well as the hotel facilities. Critique forms will be available at the AM but if you prefer, comments by phone, mail or email may be submitted later. We value and welcome your comments in any format but please be constructive and specific.

**CONDENSED PROGRAM
FLA ANNUAL MEETING
October 8-9 2005
Saturday, Oct. 8, 2005**
8am-noon Visitation Training
9:00 am - Vendor Set up
Craft Sale
SIGN-IN Table
10:30am Refreshments
1:00 pm Pres. Welcome
1:15 pm Speech Options
2:15 pm Refreshments
2:30 pm Use and Maintenance
of the AL
4:00 pm Speech Evals
(free time for others)
6-7 pm Reception

Sunday, Oct. 9 2005
8:00 am Advances in Laser
Surgery ; Q & A
9:00 am TEP
10:00 am Refreshments
10:45 am Tricks of the Laryngec-
tomee Trade
11:45 pm Free Lunch and Business
Meeting
1:00 pm Rap Sessions
2:30 pm Speech rehab (free
time for others)
6:30 pm - Banquet, Raffles

For full copy of the unabridged agenda
see www.f-l-a.org or send stamped self
addressed legal size envelope to Carl
Kilmer, at address below.



**FEATURED
SPEAKERS/FACILITATORS/
SPEECH EVALUATIONS**

Nancy Blair MS, CCC-SLP
Penny Fisher MS,RN,CORLIN
Joy Gaziano MA,CCC-SLP
Jim Lauder, Lauder Enterprises, Inc
Caryn Melvin PhD, CCC-SLP
Annette Miller BS, CCC-SLP
Lisa Proper MS, CCC-SLP
Dr. John Salassa, MD
R.E. "Ed" Stone, PhD., CCC-SLP

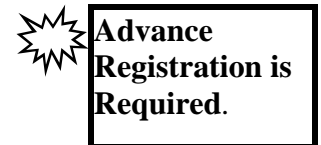
**FLA ANNUAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM
COMPLETE AND RETURN BY SEPTEMBER 6, 2005**

Event	Fee (Advance)	#	Amount
General Registration, includes all sessions & exhibition	\$10	_____	_____
Luncheon/Business Mtg. Sunday midday	Free	_____	<u>Free</u>
Banquet Sunday evening	\$25	_____	_____
Circle dinner choice chicken pork			
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
Mail to: Carl Kilmer, President
114 Wimbledon Lake Drive
Plantation, FL 33324



Hotel Reservations must be made directly with the Sheraton Studio City Hotel, Orlando, FL. Rates are \$89, based on single/double occupancy. Local taxes 11.5% and a \$5 per room, per night resort fee. Reservations required by Sept. 6, 2005. This is a critical deadline.

Call 1-800-327-1366 www.sheratonstudiocity.com

Complete the following: (circle appropriate choices in each line)
? I want a speech evaluation during the convention **Yes No** (If **Yes** list primary concern below)
? First time attendee **Yes No**
? I am requesting financial assistance **Yes No** (must be requesting speech eval and include phone # if **Yes**)

NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

- Your editor made his annual pilgrimage across the bay, bravely facing the "dreaded" I-4 Tampa traffic, to attend the February **Chatterbox** club meeting. Was it worth it? You bet! Not only did they have a large turn-out but presented a great program as well as serving the world famous Plant City strawberry shortcake. **Butch McMahan**, Club President, made a challenge that the Chatterbox laryngectomee club would have the highest attendance at the '05 FLA AM. **Can they do it?**

- **JLA**, the Jacksonville Laryngectomee Association reports that they are moving to a **quarterly** meeting schedule with meetings 2-27, 5-22, (off for summer),9-25, 11-11 (holiday party) with meetings starting at 3 pm in the St. Vincents Medical Center.

- We understand that **Charlotte County** is establishing a new laryngectomee support group with its first meeting on March 9. 2005. A hearty congratulations to those responsible! **Good luck** to this new group. More information in future issues..

- ACS has requested FLA prepare a report summarizing our overall contributions to their Programs. We consider our state-wide support groups (laryngectomee Clubs) to be a vital part of FLA and that effort. While we knew that our Clubs made a valuable contribution in that regard, we were truly amazed at just how much they actually do contribute. **It is substantial! Thanks to all of you!**

- Our state-wide Clubs are very supportive of the FLA and particularly our Annual Meetings. The FLA Officers and full Executive Committee extends its **sincere appreciation** for all that you do. The donated crafts are a valuable addition to our annual craft sales and the raffle donations add substantially to our Banquet entertainment. The proceeds from those contributions allow us to provide a complete and beneficial Annual Meeting agenda for the rehabilitation of both our veteran and new laryngectomees, particularly "First -Timers".



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