



# FLA NEWS



Volume 7 Issue 1

Florida Laryngectomee Association

www.f-l-a.org

Member IAL

August, 2006

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

### DEADLINE FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS SEPTEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>

The FLA Annual Meeting is October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, but September 5<sup>th</sup> is the closing date for hotel reservations at the reduced \$89 rate. The FLA will accept registration forms up to the last minute, although we prefer you register as early as possible, but your hotel reservation **MUST** be made no later than September 5<sup>th</sup>. Even if you are undecided about coming, it would be wise to guarantee your hotel reservation with a credit card. You can always cancel if you decide not to come.

Bob Smiley, Vice President and Co-Chairman of the Annual Meeting, has come up with a dynamic program. Saturday morning we will have a four hour program for Anti-Tobacco speakers. The rest of Saturday and all day Sunday will showcase a superb list of speakers and programs, plus speech evaluations conducted by the best SLPs in the state. Please indicate on your registration form if you would like a speech evaluation. The Meeting will close with our banquet on Sunday night.

It is my pleasure to announce that Philip Clemmons, new IAL President, will attend and give a short presentation just prior to the Sunday business meeting. This meeting includes elections for Officers and Members at Large.

Remember, this is a great chance to be in the majority, for you will be surrounded by laryngectomees. What a wonderful experience to talk to your fellow "larys", and to learn from our esteemed speakers. I will look forward to seeing you. there.

Philip Clemmons, IAL President will speak at the FLA Annual Meeting about the new directions the IAL is taking. He stated..."We are making some significant changes that I think will help all of us do a better job of laryngectomee rehabilitation. We are interested in working more closely with the FLA and the local clubs throughout Florida, as well as other state associations. I look forward to hearing from you regarding your upcoming conference, and also in hearing your ideas of how the IAL can do a more effective job in the future."

*Now this is an interesting twist! This column initially was anticipated to be devoted to the pros and cons of IAL membership with the cons featured this issue. However, the Executive Committee member charged with the task of writing the Cons column is on extended vacation and consequently plans to write it for the following issue, if now even necessary or desirable. Those of you that are active WebWhispers members know Philip very well. Those of you that are not are in for a treat when you meet him for the first time. His presentation should be extremely informative and interesting. This is a good opportunity to get to know Philip.*

### Grants Available for Initial Speech Evaluations

A \$300 grant is available for first time attendees desiring individual speech evaluations/rehab but are unable to attend the Annual Meeting without financial assistance. Just circle **Yes** at the appropriate location on the bottom of the registration form. Veteran laryngectomee attendees having never received financial aid are also eligible.

### EXHIBITION

The 2006 Annual Meeting will include our normal assembly of the nation's foremost Vendors of laryngectomee supplies and equipment., plus a few surprises this year. Be there to meet them face to face. This may be one of the highlights of our AM.

**FLA 2006 ANNUAL MEETING— Oct. 7 & 8, 2006**

**SHERATON STUDIO CITY HOTEL – ORLANDO (Rate: \$89 + 11.5% Tax)**

### OUTREACH COMMITTEE UPDATE

BY ANNETTE MILLER, CHAIR

During the month of March 2006, a phone call was made to each Florida laryngectomee support group president to thank them for all the work they are doing, to give them the opportunity to voice their concerns, to compile information of their recent local professional medical contacts and to invite them to attend the FLA State Association Meeting in October 2006. The FLA Brochures had been given to the presidents in a marketing packet in a previous mail-out. The following information is a summary of my telephone conversations with these presidents and speech-language pathologists:

1. Contacts are being made either by personal visits, telephone calls, letters and packets of information to ENT doctors and their nurses and to other professional medical personnel. This information and the FLA Brochures are being distributed either by the presidents, their spouses or an appointed contact person.
2. A good number of the support group presidents mentioned the importance of working closely with the local speech-language pathologists for referrals of new laryngectomees. They are the professionals who encourage the laryngectomees and their families to become involved in the local laryngectomee support group.
3. Several speech – language pathologists reported 3- 4 new laryngectomees in the past several months and the participation of the support group members “helping out” on request with hospital/treatment visitations. Utilizing the laryngectomee support group members has been extremely beneficial.
4. A significant number of contacts are being made by our support group members. A total of ninety-four (94) professional medical contacts have been reported to the Outreach Committee.

The FLA Brochure has been revised/updated and will be available at the FLA Annual Meeting. Please stop by the display table and pick up more brochures for distribution in your area. I am looking forward to seeing all of you and sharing more ideas for marketing.

### FLA AUXILIARY PLANNING NEW VENTURE

Dottie Kilmer reports that the FLA auxiliary will be having a **bake sale** in lieu of our customary crafts at the annual meeting October 7 and 8. We would appreciate the participation of as many members as possible. Items do not have to be limited strictly to baked goods, as jams, jellies, pickles and other tasty tid-bits will be welcome. The sale will take place during both days of the meeting, and we will probably not have refrigeration to store things overnight. Therefore, your items should be the type that will keep for the second day. It would be nice if you would like to include your recipe along with the item. If you can't make it to the Annual Meeting have a friend bring your contributions.

### FLA OFFICERS

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**Editor**- Charles Blair  
( comments welcomed)

### ACS Volunteers Still Needed

ACS needs volunteers in the following programs; **Resources, Information and Guidance (RIG)**, a program providing information about ongoing programs and services that serve cancer patients and people affected by cancer, and promotes early detection and prevention of cancer. **Road to Recovery Volunteer Drivers**. A full hard copy description of the RIG and the drivers job description are available by contacting **Charles Blair, Editor**.

<p><b>CONDENSED PROGRAM</b>  <b>FLA ANNUAL MEETING</b>  <b>Saturday, Oct. 7, 2006</b>                  8am-noon Anti-tobacco                  Speakers Training                  9:00 am - Vendor Set up                  Craft Sale                  SIGN-IN Table                  9:45 am Refreshments                  1:00 pm Pres. Welcome                  1:15 pm Natural Speech                  2:15 pm Refreshments                  2:30 pm Quality of Life                  3:15 pm Beyond the Basics                  4:00 pm Speech Evals, or                  4:00 pm Using the TeliTalk                  6-7 pm Reception</p>	<p><b>Sunday, Oct. 8 2006</b>                  8:00 am Dr Salassa, Medical Q&amp;A                  9:00 am Outreach Program                  10:00 am Refreshments                  10:30 am TEP Voice/HME's                  Noon Free Box Lunch and Business Meeting                  2:00 pm Rap Sessions                  3:00 pm Speech rehab (free time for others)                  6:30 pm - Banquet, Music, Raffles</p> <p>For full copy of the unabridged agenda see <a href="http://www.f-l-a.org">www.f-l-a.org</a> or send stamped self addressed legal size envelope to Carl Kilmer, at address below.</p>	 <p><b>FEATURED</b>  <b>SPEAKERS/FACILITATORS/</b>  <b>SPEECH EVALUATIONS</b></p> <p>Nancy Blair MS, CCC-SLP                  Joy Gaziano, MA, CCC-SLP                  Caryn Melvin PhD, CCC-SLP                  Annette Miller, BS, CCC-SLP                  John Salassa,, MD                  Jeff Searl, PhD., CCC-SLP                  R.E.“Ed” Stone, PhD, CCC-SLP                  Laura Corbin, Regional Tobacco Prevention Coordinator</p>
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**FLA ANNUAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM**  
**COMPLETE AND RETURN BY SEPTEMBER 5, 2006**

Event	Fee (Advance)	#	Amount
General Registration, includes all sessions & exhibition	\$15	_____	_____
Luncheon/Business Meeting <b>Sunday midday</b>	Free	_____	<u>Free</u>
Banquet <b>Sunday evening</b>	\$30	_____	_____
<b>Circle dinner choice</b> chicken pinot noir    roast pork loin			
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

340 Wilkinson Way  
 The Villages, FL 32162



**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%**

**Reservations required by Sept. 5, 2006. This is a critical deadline.**

**Call 1-800-327-1366    [www.sheratonstudiocity.com](http://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**)
- ?? I will be attending tobacco speakers' training **Yes No**
- ?? Questions for Dr. Salassa's Medical Q&A \_\_\_\_\_



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NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

Most of our Clubs are about to begin their fall meeting schedules with their summer hiatus behind them. Some never took a break. Be sure and let this editor know of your club news as you resume your regular meetings.

Charles Blair of the FLA has initiated a project to summarize and categorize each Club’s loan closet for a two-fold purpose; (1) to provide the ACS offices this information to use when they receive request calls from laryngectomees and/or health care professionals (2) to plan a **voluntary** redistribution/loan program for clubs with large closets to assist clubs with lean closets. We recently mailed each Club an easy to use form for completion by their **Club presidents or loan closet custodians**. The Suncoast New Voice Club of Clearwater is prepared to permanently donate several speech aids in good condition to those clubs having the greatest need. We hope other fortunate clubs will be able to do the same or at least offer temporary loans. I greatly appreciate your excellent cooperation and the many early responses.

**The Jerry Hough Memorial Service Award** will be announced at the business meeting on Sunday. It is to be given to a living laryngectomee who bests exemplifies Jerry’s dedicated service in all aspects of laryngectomee rehabilitation.

The inaugural Graduate Student Program will be “kicking off” this year and it has been named for the late Vic Baird. It is to be called the **Vic Baird Graduate Student Training Program**. There are no provisions for monitoring the course this year due primarily to space limitations, but we may evaluate future classes.

The FLA is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization depending solely on donations. The ACS has consistently provided us with grants for our newsletter and to support our individual speech lessons. We would not be able to present and conduct one of the nation’s longest running annual meetings if not for our loyal and dedicated vendors. We do not break even on the banquet and our registration fee is the lowest of any large gathering. We do this so our many club members can afford to be with us to learn, socialize and begin or continue complete rehabilitation. Our clubs can assist us by continuing the long practice of providing door prizes for our very popular raffle during the banquet.. The usual \$25 gift or gift certificate will be appreciated and helpful in this regard.