



FLA NEWS



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Florida Laryngectomee Association

www.f-l-a.org

Member IAL

November 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First, let me say that I am truly honored to have the pleasure of serving the FLA again. I am a strong proponent of laryngectomee support groups since my surgery in March, 1993. They helped me get on with my life and back to my full time job early and without any major complications. Of course great health care providers helped but I give a lot of credit to Florida support groups for helping me move comfortably back into the mainstream. I have fond memories of the Greater Orlando Laryngectomee Family (GOLF), FLA and it's Voice Institute, the Suncoast New Voice Club and the IAL. I have attended every meeting of the FLA, many IAL and local meetings since my operation in 1993 and learned something new from each session. My goal is to see that the FLA and the local support groups grow and prosper. I believe one way to begin that is to support the IAL with their new focus on state and local organizations. The primary purpose of each of our state and local support groups is to offer rehabilitation assistance to the laryngectomee at the time needs exist and to be there at the time the laryngectomee seeks assistance. This means we need to be available with contact numbers and information easily accessible. This does not mean that the size of individual clubs will continue to grow. The size of the club is not the true measure of its effectiveness in laryngectomee rehabilitation. Support groups will fluctuate in size as new laryngectomees join them for assistance and information and then leave them to rejoin their previous social groups and work places. That's rehabilitation. Let's not be disheartened when we go thorough the low points in such a cycle. We have a wealth of talent in our remaining veteran laryngectomees and our experience is invaluable when the pendulum swings back. As David Blevins states in "Keeping a Candle Burning", lets not overly worry about diminishing club sizes but reflect on our successes in the rehabilitation of former club members. Some of my objectives are to provide leadership in improving laryngectomee rehabilitation, improving our service to local clubs, support the IAL and to initiate review of our bylaws and strengthen as necessary. Our goals, taken from the FLA Bylaws, are posted on the last page of this newsletter, not particularly in order of importance. The adjacent top, right-hand column is the format of the award plaque given to Earl Mogk. by Carl Kilmer, President

THE JERRY HOUGH MEMORIAL SERVICE AWARD

Presented to

EARL MOGK

For unselfish, constant and dedicated service in "giving back" to the Laryngectomee community through personal contact, leadership in local, state and national support groups and for education of youth regarding the dangers of using tobacco products.

October 8, 2006

FLORIDA LARYNGECTOME
ASSOCIATION



Earl Mogk has held numerous offices and/or worked with the Broward New Voice club, the Florida Laryngectomee Association and the International Association of Laryngectomees. He has received the American Cancer Association's 1998 Courage Award, Southeast Region, and the JC Penny Golden Rule Award. Please go to the Events page at www.f-l-a.org to read more about Earl's contributions.

FLA 2007 ANNUAL MEETING : Sept. 14-16, 2007
SHERATON STUDIO CITY HOTEL – Rate: \$85 + 11.5% Tax

Farewell Message from Carl Kilmer

Dear Friends, It's been an honor to serve as your President for the last three years. Charlie and Nancy Blair and Bob Smiley did most of the work and I really appreciate it. Our attendance picked up this year and hope this trend continues. Thanks to all the exhibitors that help to make our Annual Meeting financially possible. My best wishes to the incoming officers. They all have experience now and I know they will do an outstanding job. Our 2007 Annual Meeting will be at the same hotel with an earlier date in September. Charlie returns from being President before, so he knows just what he is getting into. Good luck and God Speed to all. Carl **(Editor's note: Carl is being a little modest.. Due to unusual circumstances he was forced to assume the Presidency much earlier than normal and with little experience with FLA AM's. He wisely used an unusual but innovative approach by selecting members with AM experience to assist by being co-chairs. He obtained a copy of our Articles of Incorporation, established USPS bulk mail authority for our newsletter and obtained approval of IRS 501(3)(c) status, invaluable assets for FLA. Well done Carl)**

FLA AUXILIARY FUNDRAISER!!!! HOLIDAY SHOPPING !!!!

The FLA Auxiliary decided at the Annual Meeting to have a fundraiser that everyone could support----even those who cannot get to the Annual Meeting! So here it is!!! Pass this on to friends and family.

The Body Shop At Home Independent Consultant, Karen Griffin, has volunteered to donate 25% of designated retail sales from her website to the FLA.

1. Go to www.thebodyshopathome.com/web/kggriffin
2. Select your products
3. Go to checkout
4. Put "FLA" in as the host of the party

Karen Griffin, Independent Consultant

The Body Shop at Home

Please contact Karen with any purchasing questions!

www.thebodyshopathome.com/web/kggriffin

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A brief history lesson of sorts:

The FLA was incorporated on November 9, 1976 as the Florida Laryngectomee's Association. However, our IRS certificate and USPS bulk mail permit are both issued to the Florida Laryngectomees Association and that is why that version is used as our return mailing address.

2006 Hall of Fame

Living - Charlie Nail: Charlie is past President of the FLA and the Treasure Coast Club. He is currently a Member at Large on the FLA's Executive Committee and the loan custodian /contact for Treasure Coast. He has been a regular attendee of the FLA Annual Meetings and is an active participant in local anti-tobacco school presentations. He continues to serve the laryngectomee community well.

Deceased - Jerry Hough: The Hall of Fame Committee chose to break from tradition and selected Jerry, a previous Hall of Fame Living inductee (2001), due to his extraordinary history of service to laryngectomees. This honor in the memory of Jerry is especially meaningful to us and to his family since dual awards are expected to be rarely, if ever, repeated in future Hall of Fame selections.

2006 ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

In addition to our typical program agenda this Annual Meeting consisted of 2 new features, a 4 hour workshop for speaker's training on tobacco prevention and control and laryngectomy/rehab training for graduate speech pathology students from the University of Central Florida. Both ventures were deemed successful and well received. Total Annual Meeting attendance at all sessions consisted of 54 laryngectomees/caregivers (12 first timers), 8 faculty, 14 graduate speech students, 3 special guests and 14 vendor representatives. A total of 14 exhibition tables were provided to; American Cancer Society, FLA, Foundation for Voice Restoration, International Association of Laryngectomees, Students Working Against Tobacco, ATOS Medical, Florida Telecommunications Relay Inc., Griffin Laboratories, HealthSouth Sunrise Rehab Hospital, Inhealth Technologies, Lauder Enterprises, Inc. and Luminaud, Inc. We were privileged to have Phillip Clemmons, IAL President, in attendance and hear his exciting plans for its future. Phillip was an interesting and personable participant and is welcome to return at any time. Special guests at our business meeting were Mary Ann Hough with daughters Susan Donovan and Mary Sue Hadden for the presentation of the Jerry Hough Memorial Service Award. This was truly a poignant moment for our many members still grieving over the recent loss of our friend Jerry. Financial aid was granted to 2 laryngectomees with individual speech evaluations and therapy provided to six laryngectomees. Our raffle prizes continue to grow as more clubs are donating gift cards and vendors are donating more and more expensive gift items. The many raffle items given out at the banquet required most of the allotted time with the auction of 2 items of high value. Richard Crum was our guest auctioneer for two attractive offerings; a 2 night Cape Canaveral fully equipped ocean front condo with daily room service donated by Linda Smiley and a Spokeman personal voice amplifier with headset mic donated by Luminaud. Annette Miller had the high bid of \$90 for the condo package and Phillip Clemmons had the high bid of \$90 for the Spokeman. We wish to thank both our generous donors as well as the successful bidders. The banquet raffles and occasional auction has become the highlight of our social activities and a very successful fundraiser. Thanks to the planning of Bob Smiley, a nice feature this year was having the reception outside around the pool. Good weather, great lounging pool area, tropical refreshments from the convenient poolside bar and great hors d'oeuvres made for a great 'meet and greet' prior to dinner on your own at any one of the nearby fine dining establishments. Our faculty included Nancy Blair MS, CCC-SLP, Laura Corbin, BA, Joy Gaziano MA, CCC-SLP, Caryn Melvin PhD, CCC-SLP, Annette Miller BS, CCC-SLP, John Salassa, MD, Jeff Searl PhD, CCC-SLP and R.E. Stone, Jr. PhD, CCC-SLP. The bake sale offered lots of tempting items for sale. Most of the items were sold with proceeds of \$184 donated to the FLA. Due to the labor-intense nature of such activities the auxiliary voted to try another type of venture for 2007. See page 2 for details of this exciting news.

2007 Annual Meeting (AM) Announcement

Our hotel has agreed to reduce room rates to \$85 because we are moving to the earlier dates of **September 14-16, 2007**. We tentatively plan to end next year's meeting by mid-day Sunday and move the reception and banquet to Friday and Saturday evenings respectively. We intend to significantly increase the number of future **free** individual speech evaluations and rehabilitation sessions. We plan to increase the number of first timers next year by aggressive advertising, offering more free therapy and providing easier access to financial assistance. We will increase the number of students in the graduate student speech training sessions by inviting additional universities. The 2007 program is presently being revised to be new, fresh and exciting. Expect to see new topics, new speakers and familiar speakers presenting new topics. Don't miss it!

ACS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The FLA and most of our local Clubs receive valuable support from the ACS State divisional and/or regional offices. We anticipate continuation of our strong anti-tobacco advocacy, but there other ACS programs that **direly need our support**. We will provide more detailed information to each Florida Club President by a direct mail-out within the next few weeks. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated by FLA and ACS.

(from the FLA bylaws): **The purposes of this organization shall be as follows:**

1. To stimulate, support and improve the relations among persons who, due to the removal of the larynx because of cancer or other reason, have lost their natural voices.
 2. To encourage and maintain an exchange of ideas and methods for the learning and teaching of alternative methods of communication and with an outreach educational program.
 3. To assist laryngectomees and their families with the many areas of life adjustment, which occur after laryngectomy, offering direct assistance when possible or referral to appropriate sources in the local communities.
 4. To publish and disseminate helpful information for the better rehabilitation of those who have undergone a laryngectomy.
 5. To cooperate with the American Cancer Society-Florida Division, its units and affiliates and all recognized societies and organizations whose objectives are to combat cancer in all its forms.
 6. Encourage and facilitate the formation and growth of local laryngectomee support groups within Florida.
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Loan Closet Survey: Several clubs have yet to respond. We will be calling contacts for clubs within the following counties within the next few weeks; Bay, Collier, Orange & Palm Beach. We consider this effort to be a very important project and thank all of you for your input. Results will be shared soon.

FLA Bylaws: To read and copy the full bylaws go to www.f-l-a.org or call or write President/editor for a hardcopy. Some changes being considered are to more fully clarify the role and position of the FLA Medical Advisor to our organization., recognize the role of our website and email and clarify our bylaws if determined necessary. Let us have your comments on these of if you have other suggestions. All changes will be presented for vote at the next Business meeting and with advance notification of specific language.



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