



FLA NEWS



Volume 8 Issue 3

Florida Laryngectomee Association

www.f-l-a.org

Member IAL

August 2007

NEWS BITS

- ?? **We have extended our AM registration deadline to the end of August.** This will give all of you more time to do what is necessary to join us for a rewarding experience in Orlando this September 14-16 in Orlando. So complete that registration form on page 3 and send it in to us without delay! The deadline for hotel reservations is still August 20 in order to *guarantee* a room for the \$85 rate. After the deadline the hotel will *hopefully* continue to give us rooms at the same rate, but no guarantee of that!
- ?? Due to popular demand, **we have added a golf outing to our program on Friday morning, September 14, 2007.** See page 2 for details. Complete the registration form on page 3 to ensure inclusion. Editor not responsible for losses from friendly wagers.
- ?? We have coined a new phrase, **Net Lump Sum.** This defines one method of financial aid payments for those seeking individual speech evaluations during the AM. It essentially is a check at the end of the AM for meals, auto mileage and necessary miscellaneous expenses. Lodging will be provided by FLA in the meeting hotel as well as registration and banquet ticket expenses. Total not to exceed \$450.
- ?? More proposed bylaw changes; Change ARTICLES VII COMMITTEES par. 2. to read "There shall be an FLA Hall of Fame Committee consisting of *no more than* three persons."
- ?? We have completed our Florida Clubs' loan closet survey and tentatively determined we are in fairly good shape with an adequate supply of artificial larynges available for loan. It does not appear necessary to shift any supplies between clubs although one state club (Suncoast) does presently have an abundance of AL's available for sharing. Contact President/Editor for details and/or requests.
- ?? We are in the process of preparing our ACS FY 06/07 end of the year grant report and we appreciate our club's submission of data reflecting their support efforts for local ACS programs. This information will be very helpful in my preparation of the FLA's ACS FY 07/08 grant request. For your information, the ACS grant for their past FY was \$3,737. This generous amount enabled us to print and distribute 4 newsletter issues, supported our speech programs and its professional staff and made possible the granting of limited financial grants for those seeking speech evals and not otherwise able to attend the AM.. The ACS has been supporting our speech staff and newsletter for as long as I can remember. I want to let them know that we appreciate that excellent support. All they ask in return is that we achieve reasonable results in our stated purposes and support a few of their major programs. Cathi Carr, MA, recently left the ACS to pursue other personal and professional interests. While we will certainly miss Cathi, her successor, Michelle Edwards appears to be an able, qualified new Director of Patient Services. Michelle will be profiled in the next issue of FLA NEWS. We hope to have them at a table in the exhibition room at the next Annual Meeting to further explain their volunteer needs and respective duties. Come and talk to them.

FLA 2007 ANNUAL MEETING– Sept. 14 - 16, 2007
SHERATON STUDIO CITY HOTEL – ORLANDO (Rate: \$85 + 12.5% Tax)

NEW EVENT

We have selected nearby **MetroWest Golf Club** to host our golf event. Tee time is Friday at 8:00 am with transportation provided. Price of \$45 includes Greens fee, Electric golf cart, GPS yardage and scoring system on each cart, Range balls before the event, Tournament management, Tournament scoring, On-course contests, Guest services and service gratuities, Custom Scorecards and cart plates. Rental Clubs are available for additional charge of \$55.00 per set. Please note that Aerification starts September 4, 2007

FLA NEWS AND BULK MAIL SHORT COURSE

All issues of FLA News has been by bulk mail for some time now. Why? The cost is significantly cheaper and actually it is less labor intensive than first class in a business envelop as we did in the past. A difference between first class and bulk mail is bulk mail cannot be forwarded when folks move nor returned to sender when such mail is undeliverable. Additionally, it can not be sent to Canada or outside the US nor can it be held for longer than 30 days when someone files for "hold mail" service. This means that when our snow birds migrate back up north it is practically impossible for the FLA NEWS to follow them. However most of these problems may be overcome by proper management of our mail list. In our June FLA News issue you may have noticed the words "Return Service Requested" on the mailing panel. This in essence gave us somewhat equivalent information as first class mail. It was not automatically forwarded but returned to me with the new correct forwarding address. It also identified old incorrect addresses and "temporarily away " hold mail (1-6 months). As a result of this effort we identified 6 deceased members, 85 incorrect or old addresses with no forwarding info, 21 new forwarding addresses, 21 members moved out of state, 12 snowbirds and 2 Canadian addresses. Due to the pure logistics involved we have determined not to pursue mailing to our snowbirds nor the Canadians unless someone can suggest a reasonable method or procedure. Our current mail list now numbers 718 compared to our high of 964 in November, 2004. (Clubs; be sure to send me your club mail list address changes as they occur) As I tabulate the final results and separate by specific club members I will send each club the results. I anticipate requesting the same service annually in order to ensure the integrity of our mail list. Comments?

FLA OFFICERS

President/Editor -Charles E. Blair
8745 Maplewood Road
Largo, FL 33777
(727) 391-3473 (voice/fax)
cblair2@tampabay.RR.com

Vice President— Robert Smiley
6405 Dallas Ave.
Port St John, FL 32927
Ph/fax (321) 536-0831
smiley_robert@bellsouth.net

Treasurer-Earl C. Mogk
141 Eleuthera Drive
Dania, FL 33004
(954) 929-0136
fax 425-790-4361
mogkecm123@wmconnect.com

Secretary— Maggie Geehan
20550 SW Starling Drive
Dunnellon, FL 34441
Ph/fax (352) 489-7263
wagam1@bellsouth.net

Note: for a full size copy of the FLA 2007 Annual Meeting agenda or a copy of the Bylaws call, write or email the President/Editor as listed above. The reconstructed FLA website www.f-l-a.org is now online for those of you having internet access. You may view and copy the AM agenda , registration form, Bylaws, and other FLA related information.. Constructive comments are always welcome. Club news events and mail list changes are encouraged. We love to hear from you.. Keep up the good work!

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 and participation in Relay for Life events but there are other ACS programs that direly need our support, particularly **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 and **Road to Recovery Volunteer Drivers**. A full description of the RIG and the drivers job description are available .Contact FLA President/Editor or local ACS for more information or to volunteer. A win/win deal for all!

Florida Laryngectomee Association (FLA)
ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM
 Sheraton Studio City Hotel, Orlando, FL
 September, 14 - 16, 2007
 REGISTRATION FORM

Advance Registration is suggested by
August 31, 2007
Hotel Registration by August 20, 2007

<u>Event</u>	<u>Fee (Advance)</u>	<u># guests</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General Registration, includes all sessions & exhibit	\$15	_____	_____
Luncheon/Business Mtg. Sunday *	complementary	_____	<u>XXXXXX</u>
Golf Outing- Friday morning	\$45	_____	_____
Banquet Saturday evening	\$30	_____	_____
* (Please list total number planning to attend. Sunday luncheon)			
Circle Dinner Choice:	Chicken Marsala	Tilapia Dish with lemon sauce	
TOTAL ENCLOSED			_____

Name for **each registrant and guest** as it will appear on the name tag:

Address: _____ City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ Club or Affiliation _____

**A.M. Advance
Registration
by Aug. 31**

Make check payable to: Florida Laryngectomee **Association**
 Mail to: Charles Blair, President
 8745 Maplewood Road
 Largo, FL 33777

If lodging is desired or required , reservations must be made directly with the Sheraton Studio City Hotel, Orlando, FL. Rates are \$85, based on single/double occupancy. Local taxes 12.5%
Hotel Reservations required by August 20, 2007. This is a critical deadline.
Call 1-800-327-1366 www.sheraton.com/studiocity

Complete the following: **(circle appropriate choices in each line)**
 I want a speech evaluation during the convention **Yes No** (If **Yes** list ph. # above & primary concern below)
 First time attendee **Yes No**
 If requesting financial aid complete all below;
 I am requesting financial assistance **Yes No** (must be requesting speech eval and include phone # if **Yes**)
 Would you be able to attend without financial assistance? **Yes No**
 Do you wish net lump sum payment at convention end or actual? **Net lump sum Actual**
 Present method of speech: None -Writing tablet - Artificial Larynx - Esophageal – TEP
 Date of laryngectomy _____
 Speech Problem _____

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have been emphasizing the Annual Meeting for the last several issues for a very specific reason. We want you to join us there! Why? Because we can assist greatly in your rehabilitation, improve your speech, introduce your laryngectomee suppliers in a face to face setting, present new, beneficial and interesting information, introduce you to old and new friends and show you just a good ole time! You will learn new things, witness our brand new agenda, experience the excitement of our raffles and auctions at the super banquet and floor show galore! Presidents of both WW (Pat Wertz Sanders) and IAL (Tina Long) will be there. I have said this before but the strength of FLA is in our Annual Meetings. We have been doing them for how long now?? Does anyone outside of IAL have a better faculty (the core of the former FLA Voice Institute) than ours? We do our thing once a year in a convenient mid state location. Our local clubs provide their own valuable services once a month in a very convenient regional location. I think we complement each other very well.

I am predicting great things with a long future for our Vic Baird Graduate Student Program. Advance registration is going quite well and Ed has a very educational program. Students from UF, UCF and USF will be there.

Our meeting hotel, the Sheraton Studio City Hotel has changed ownership hands from the Kessler group to a FOUR POINTS by Sheraton. Still a Starwood hotel with the same frequent guest points. No physical changes initially but improvements planned. The only initial change is their website which is now www.sheraton.com/studiocity.

I am getting very excited about our banquet this year and the very different format. Still lots of raffles and auction items with music and dancing but finally a **floor show!** It is "*THE NEXT BEST THING*" and you read all about it last June in this very panel. Be there or be square!

Charlie Blair



FLA NEWS



Charles E. Blair
Florida Laryngectomees Association
8745 Maplewood Road
Largo, FL 33777

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