



# FLA NEWS



Volume 10 Issue 1

Florida Laryngectomee Association

Member IAL February, 2009,

## Meet our New FLA Governing Members President

Robert (Bob) Smiley, Port St. John, past FLA Vice President. and currently President of the Space Coast New Voice Club.

## Vice President

Paul Osborne, N. Fort Myers, member of New Voice Club of Ft Myers and Laryngectomee/Head and Neck Cancer Survivors Support Group of Charlotte County.

## Auxiliary President

Linda Smiley, Port St. John and married to our esteemed President.

## Secretary

Annette Miller, BS, CCC-SLP, Cantonment. Contact and medical advisor for the Pensacola Association of Laryngectomees and Spouses - PALS

## Director of Education

Jeff Searl, PhD, Overland Park, KS. Currently is an Associate Professor in the Hearing and Speech Department at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, KS

## Member at Large

Nancy Blair, MS, CCC-SLP, formerly Auxiliary President and Maggie Geehan, formerly Secretary now serve in this new position .

(See complete listing of Executive Committee members on page 2)

**Note: This space will be reserved for comments by our new President., Robert Smiley in subsequent issues. Welcome aboard to all!**

## 2009 FLA ANNUAL MEETING HIGH LIGHTS

I confess that there are some *low-lights* mixed in with this summary. Good news first - We had a record number of graduate students (39) with 5 speech Language Pathologists monitoring the Vic Baird Graduate Student Course; a total of 6 Florida graduate schools represented; 26 first timers; financial aid to 4 worthy individuals; 6 individual speech evaluations; 5 major vendors and 2 non-profits in the exhibition room for a total attendance of 109. A total of 10 Florida Cubs were represented. The new auxiliary raffle process worked very well. Our customary banquet auction was again entertaining and profitable thanks to the dynamic duo of Richard Crum (Inhealth) and Tom Lennox (Luminaud). A hardy thanks for extremely nice suction items donated by Bob and Lesley Herbst; InHealth Technologies; Luminaud (3items); Smoke Free Society; Laura Winthrop-Talmidge; Treasure Coast New Voice Club . A total of \$8560 was raised from the combined auction and raffles. This amount was donated to the FLA during the Sunday Business Meeting. A special thanks to all the hard working members of the auxiliary, the clubs that provided gift certificates and/or gifts and to Paul Bricker and Ian Kurka for their personal donations. Highlight of the banquet was the presentation of the Jerry Hough award to Dr. Ed Stone, our departing Director of Education.

**Now the bad news** - while the graduate student program made us look good we had only a total of 40 laryngectomees/spouses in attendance and lost money for the second straight year. Folks, that is not good! The very generous recent grant from ACS is an immense help at this time! Michelle Edwards, Director of Patient Services, American Cancer Society, Florida Division and her Mother, Christine, staffed a table in the vendors room and attended many of our Saturday and Sunday presentations as well as the banquet. It was a pleasure having them and getting to know us as well as their explanations of ACS volunteer needs. We promised to help them. How? See page 3.

**FLA 2009 ANNUAL MEETING– October 2 - 4, 2009**

**Four Points by Sheraton Orlando Studio City Hotel (Rate: \$85 + 12.5% Tax)**

## FLA 2008 HALL OF FAME

**Living: Carl Kilmer** - Carl was honored for exceptional work in the laryngectomee community both at the local and state level. While President of the Broward club, he was unexpectedly thrust into the presidency of the FLA. He initially presided over both clubs while showing his skills as a shrewd delegator. He appointed an interim FLA newsletter editor; established the FLA bulk mail process while undertaking the arduous tasks of printing and mailing the newsletter, and designated co-chairmen of the Annual Meetings. Major accomplishments included obtaining FLA's IRS 501 (3) ( C ) exemption and the Florida sales tax exemption certificate.

**Deceased: Harold Charles Kegel** (August 12, 1917 – April 27, 2007)

Born and raised in Illinois but spent several adult years off and on in Florida until permanently locating here in 1985. He had a laryngectomy later the same year. He was a longtime TEP-Prostheses speaker but started using the electrolarynx as his health began to fail in his later years. He began regular participation in the Suncoast New Voice Club shortly after his operation, seldom missing a monthly meeting, later served as the club President while continuing as an active volunteer for ACS. He was a regular attendee at the FLA Annual Meetings for many, many years until his eyesight precluded him from driving. Regardless, he attended several more FLA meetings by seeking rides with other local club member. Harold would literally leave the sick bed to attend a Suncoast New Voice Club meeting, missing only a few later on while confined to a hospital bed. When his health began to fail his voice became weaker. However his mind, wit and sense of humor remained consistently strong. He was an active supporter of support groups in laryngectomee rehabilitation.

## FUTURE MEETINGS

- **IAL Annual Meeting and Voice Institute** will be held in San Mateo, CA (just outside San Francisco).. The Voice Institute begins June 24, 2009. The opening ceremonies for the Annual Meeting and the vendors exhibit begin June 25, 2009 concluding with a banquet on the evening of June 27, 2009. Lodging by Marriott in San Mateo (\$109, sgl or dbl) at 1770 S. Amphlett Blvd. Call 800-556-8972 for reservations and ask for the IAL Annual Meeting and Voice Institute rate. DL is Sunday, June 1, 2009
- **FLA Annual Meeting**– October 2 - 4, 2009, Four Points by Sheraton Orlando Studio City Hotel (Rate: \$85). Same place different dates with dynamite programs for both grad students and laryngectomees/spouses. Details under development
- **The Mid-Atlantic Laryngectomee Conference -"To Life"**; September 18,19, 2009 at the Fox Chase Cancer Center, Fox Chase Cancer Center, 333 Cottman Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa.19111.

**Gentle Reminder:** It would be a **big** help to ACS *and* FLA if each Florida club provided several volunteers for each of the positions described on page 3. *Drivers.* can specify schedule and no out of pocket expense for Tallahassee trip

## FLA OFFICERS

& Executive Committee Members

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(See Bob Smiley)

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**Members At Large**

Nancy Blair. MS. CCC-SLP;

Seminole

Maggie Geehan; Dunnellon

Butch McMahan; Plant City

Charlie Nail; Palm City

**Florida's Cancer Patients Need Your Help.** The American Cancer Society is partnering with FLA to recruit volunteers to support initiatives that provide direct assistance to cancer patients and support cancer prevention and awareness initiatives.

**Road to Recovery** is an American Cancer Society service program that strives to improve the quality of life for patients undergoing cancer care by providing transportation for cancer patients to their treatments and medical appointments, then home again. Transportation is provided according to the needs and available resources in the community. It is estimated that the American Cancer Society will be asked to provide over 85,000 trips to life saving treatment this year alone. Volunteer drivers are desperately needed to continue this free and essential service.

**Qualifications:**

- Safe Driver who keeps their car in good condition and has personal liability insurance.
- Emotionally stable, friendly, and compassionate.
- Sensitivity to the cancer patient and tactful in both attitude and conversation.
- Respectful of the patient's right to confidentiality.
- Cooperative with other volunteers and staff.
- Willing to attend all training and evaluation sessions (twice a year).
- Reliable in following through on all commitments (based on volunteer availability).

If you, or anyone you know, are interested in volunteering to support this needed patient service, please contact Zuzel Gonzalez at 800-444-1410, ext. 4418 for more information.

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**FLA members can make a difference....**Each year, American Cancer Society volunteers travel to the State Capitol to meet with lawmakers and highlight priority issues for the Florida Legislative Session. This year's event will focus on efforts to raise the state cigarette tax by a dollar per pack. This large-scale event is a key component of the "Pass the Buck" legislative campaign. More information can be found at [www.acscan.org/florida](http://www.acscan.org/florida).

The Florida Division of the American Cancer Society is pleased to announce that its Day in Tallahassee event will be held on Tuesday, February 17th and Wednesday, February 18th. If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer to join us in Tallahassee as an Advocacy Day volunteer, please contact the regional American Cancer Society representative closest to you:

**North Florida:** Leonard "Parky" Parkhurst, [leonard.parkhurst@cancer.org](mailto:leonard.parkhurst@cancer.org), 850.294.0120

**Central Florida:** Jennifer Bourgeois, [jennifer.bourgeois@cancer.org](mailto:jennifer.bourgeois@cancer.org), 727.215.1727

**South Florida:** Mayte Canino, [mayte.canino@cancer.org](mailto:mayte.canino@cancer.org), 786.417.3463

To learn more about a other rewarding volunteer positions with the American Cancer Society, or for additional information about free cancer patient programs and services, please call 1-800-227-2345, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**The Florida Laryngectomy Association is supported in part by a Quality of Life grant from the American Cancer Society.**

**NEWS BITS**

- Dr. Ed Stone retires after 26 years of distinguished service to FLA.
- Dr. Ed Stone awarded the 2nd Jerry Hough Memorial Service Award during the Sept.
- Dr. Jeff Searl appointed FLA Director of Education.



**FLA NEWS**



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