

# FLA NEWS



Volume 12 Issue 3

Florida Laryngectomee Association

[www.flavoice.org](http://www.flavoice.org)

Member IAL

November, 2011

## **2011 ANNUAL MEETING RECAP**

The 2011 Annual Meeting was very successful. We had a total of 113 attendees. The breakdown was: 8 first time laryngectomees, 5 recent total laryngectomees, 64 Vic Baird Graduate Students from 5 Florida Universities and 2 students from the University of South Carolina and 3 requests for financial assistance with 2 being approved.

We did 3 speech intervention time slots for 1 hour each. During each of these sessions we had 7-10 small groups going with at least 1 laryngectomee in each group (most groups had 2 laryngectomees). 30-40 hours of time was spent on these sessions. There were 7 vendors and 1 sponsor displaying their products and services.

## **2012 ACS RELAY FOR LIFE**

Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society's signature activity. It is a unique event that offers communities an opportunity to participate in the fight against cancer. Relays are 18 to 24 hours in length, because cancer never sleeps, and are overnight. Teams of 10 –15 people camp out at a local high school, college, park or fairground and take turns walking, jogging or running around a track or path. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event.

Because Relay For Life is a community gathering rather than an athletic event, everyone can participate. Business, clubs, families, friends, hospitals, churches, schools and service organizations form teams. These teams share common purpose—their support of the American Cancer Society's mission.

The power of Relay allows a community to grieve for those lost to cancer and to celebrate those who have survived. For a newly diagnosed patient, Relay For Life offers an opportunity to meet others who have had the same type of cancer and survived. For the cancer patient in treatment, Relay offers the opportunity to share experiences with others. For the long-term survivor, Relay brings recognition that the community cares about their struggle and closure to a trying time in life.

Another group finding hope in Relay For Life is the caregivers. These individuals give their time, love and support of friends, family and neighbors who face cancer. At Relay, everyone understands the challenges and joys of being a caregiver. There is peace of mind in knowing that together we can face the challenges ahead.

To locate a Relay For Life event in your community, contact your local American Cancer Society office.

## **FLORIDA TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY, INC - A friend to Florida Laryngectomees**

Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. (FTRI) is a statewide non-profit organization that was established by the 1991 Florida Legislature's Telecommunications Access System Act (TASA) to administer the free specialized telecommunication equipment to Florida residents who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf/Blind and Speech Disabled. FTRI also promotes the Florida Relay Service (711).

FTRI offers equipment solutions that may benefit Laryngectomees, including: Teli-Talk—Designed in cooperation with Griffin Labs in 2002, the Teli-Talk uses the unique features of the TruTone Electrolzyrnix to allow speech impaired individuals the ability to communicate through the telephone. The phone has a hands-free speaker option and also includes a headset for complete hands-free use. Also available is an In-Line Amplifier-Laryngectomees with hearing loss may choose to use this device to amplify incoming speech up to 40dB. The device connects to the base of the Tele-Talk or a standard phone. Celebrating 20 years of Communication Freedom.

Applications for the FTRI program are available online or by contacting the Outreach Secretary at [orsecretary@ftri.org](mailto:orsecretary@ftri.org) or 800-222-3448. Copies can also be downloaded from the FTRI website at [www.ftri.org](http://www.ftri.org). Thank you for your continued support of the FTRI program.

A.J. Sondossi, Outreach Specialist  
Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc.

## **THANKS**

The FLA would like to thank the following vendors for their support in helping make the 2011 AM a success:

Atos Medical –Entertainment & donation for financial aid grants

InHealth Technologies - Friday night Meet and Greet

Lauder Enterprises - 2 Saturday Observation of Life as a Laryngectomee refreshment breaks & donation

Luminaud - Observation of Life as a Laryngectomee refreshment break & tote bags

Griffin Labs - Box lunch

We would also like to thank the American Cancer Society and the FTRI for their support.

**2012 IS THE 60th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLA**

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Vic Baird Graduate Student Program and the Florida Laryngectomee Association Annual Meeting was held at the Sheraton Four Points in Orlando, FL., September 30th to October 2nd, and what a success it was. Attendance for both totaled 111. The Vic Baird Graduate Student Program had 66 students from six universities located in Florida and South Carolina. There were two observers from Atos Medical AB, Sweden and were warmly received by all. The FLA conference had 52 attendees, 30 laryngectomees, (five new laryngectomees and one having their procedure performed after the Annual Meeting. Dr. Jeff Searl, University of Kansas and the Educational Director for the FLA, conducted three speech interventions for one hour each, assisting laryngectomees with speech or swallowing related issues. Additionally eight speech evaluations, with volunteer laryngectomees, were conducted, giving valuable hands on experience to the graduate students. The FLA granted financial aid to two laryngectomees and their caregivers. One received knowledge and instruction on using a Electrolarynx and help with their in-dwelling prosthesis. The other was experiencing difficulties with annunciation. The FLA Auxiliary conducted a very successful raffle and auction at the Saturday evening banquet. Thank you to all who donated and participated in this event. The Friday night "Meet and Greet" was held pool side and the weather made it more enjoyable. Preliminary work is already being done for the 2012 Annual Meeting. If anyone has comments or suggestions contact Kenneth Taylor or Bob Smiley. (Contact information on page 2.) This is your organization, get involved and support the effort to aid and help others who are in similar situations.

### EDITORS MESSAGE

This will be my last newsletter. FLA member, Ian Kurka will be taking over. He can be contacted at [iankurka@digital.net](mailto:iankurka@digital.net). If your club has a newsletter, send him a copy.

### ACS SUPPORT

The American Cancer Society-Florida Division Office has been very good to FLA with substantial annual grants to support our newsletter and our ability to provide speech evaluations/therapy during the AM. Most importantly, it provides funds to allow financial aid to laryngectomees to receive speech evals and attend the AM program. We sincerely thank them for their excellent support which also allows us to provide one of the finest faculties of professionals in any similar organization. Now is the ideal time to return that support by volunteering to assist in one of their critical programs. A ACS representative will be discussing their ROAD TO RECOVERY program. This Program transports cancer patients to treatment centers. You only need a dependable vehicle, basic insurance and valid drivers license. This is a rewarding, satisfying volunteer position.. You undergo a very brief telecommunications training session and have the opportunity to not only ask questions but to specify your available days of the week to drive and your geographical area limits. Come to the Annual Meeting and get more details and answers to all your questions as well as hopefully sign you up as a volunteer driver.

### RESCUE BREATHING

Order your free rescue breathing DVD and emergency card now. Thanks to efforts of a LCMC member, Dr Brook and Altos Medical, you can now receive the DVD and emergency card for free. It is available by calling ATOS @

### FLA OFFICERS & Executive Committee Members

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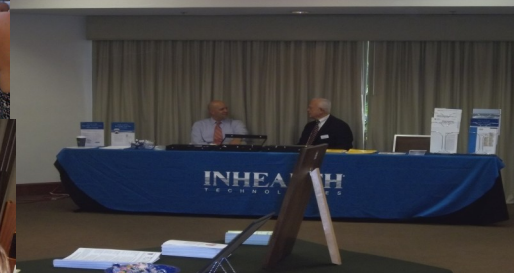
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**2011 ANNUAL MEETING**





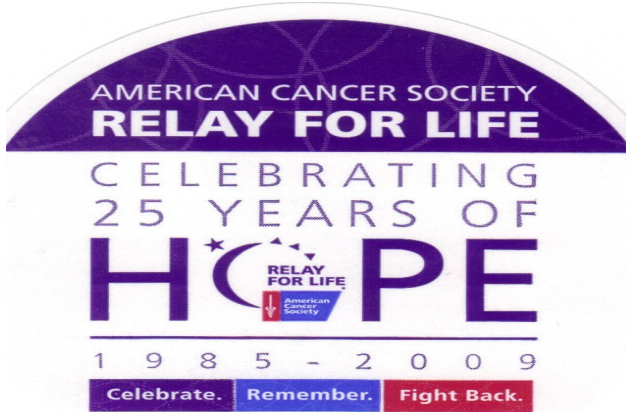
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### NEWS BITS

- Dr Eric Blom’s 34 year dedication to rehabilitation of patients following laryngectomy has taken another giant leap forward.. In 2010 he secured the commitment of an Indianapolis, Indiana based medical device manufacturer to produce a high quality, cost-effective Electrolarynx that would provide an affordable speech option at a fraction of the traditional cost. Today, Dr Blom and InHealth Technologies are excited and proud to announce the introduction of the **Blom-Singer Electrolarynx EL1000**, available August, 2011.
- **Lab-grown windpipe saves cancer patient**-A patient was recently discharged from a hospital in Sweden after his cancerous windpipe was removed and replaced by the world’s first artificial trachea, made from his own stem cells grown on a man-made plastic matrix. “This is the first artificial organ ever,” say Paolo Macciarini, professor of regenerative surgery at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, who led the international team. Just as remarkable as the man-made windpipe, he says, is how quickly it was produced. Collaborators in Sweden, London and the US created the trachea from scratch in just two days for the 36-year-old man whose cancer was so far advanced that only emergency offered any chance of survival. Rejection is unlikely because the new trachea was made of a special polymer and the patient’s own cells.
- **HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON**
- **ASCAN Advocacy Day** in Tallahassee will be January 18, 2012. We had 3 FLA members attend last year. If anyone is going, please let the newsletter editor know.