

FLA Mission Statement

Encourage and maintain an exchange of ideas for the learning and teaching of alternative methods of communication with both laryngectomees and Speech & Language Professionals... To encourage and help facilitate the formation and growth of local support groups..... To network with students and healthcare professionals, informing them of laryngectomees' special needs... and to assist laryngectomees and their families with the many areas of life adjustment which occur after laryngectomy

FLA Membership

May consist of any laryngectomee, his or her spouse, speech pathologists, physicians, nurses, rehabilitation specialists, counselors and any other person interested in the work of the Association or the fight against cancer in any form. The person may be represented by a local laryngectomee club or have membership as an individual.

Quarterly Newsletter

The FLA prints and distributes a newsletter free of charge. Contact Charles Blair, FLA News, 8745 Maplewood Rd, Largo, FL 33777 ph: (727) 391-3473
Email: cblair2@tampabay.rr.com

Annual Meeting

The FLA conducts an annual meeting in the fall with a comprehensive program for laryngectomee rehabilitation, including speech evaluations, product vendor exhibitors, welcome reception and dinner/banquet. It is educational, interesting and fun! Great value. at minimum cost!

FLA is supported in part by American Cancer Society - Fl. Div.

HOW MANY?

It is now estimated that there are over **57,000 laryngectomees** living in the United States - men to women about 6 to 1. According to the latest figures, around 10,270 Americans in 2004 will have some form of larynx cancer. The vast majority will survive diagnosis and treatment, via radiation, chemotherapy, or surgery, to go on to lead productive and meaningful lives, often returning to their same profession. (The American Cancer Society estimates a total of 1,334,000 new cancer cases during 2004 ...so new larynx cancer cases represent a small percentage of these - about .0076%)

Cancer of the larynx and throat has afflicted many people throughout the years - some of the better known have been:

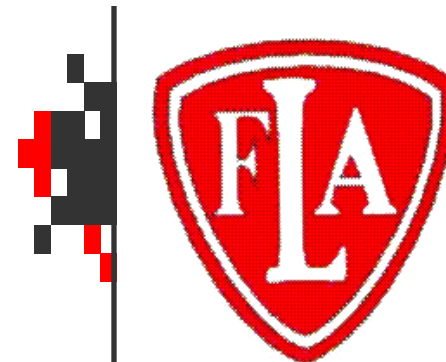
Hank Ballard, Sonny Barger, Amanda Blake, Humphrey Bogart, Richard Boone, Big Bill Broonzy, Enrico Caruso, Neville Chamberlain, Graham Chapman, Lon Chaney, Sammy Davis Jr., Joe Eszterhas, John Henry Faulk, Emperor Frederick III of Germany, Sigmund Freud, William Gargan, Jean Genet, John Gotti, Ulysses S. Grant, Hubert Green, Jean Hagen, George Harrison, Jack Hawkins, Judy Holliday, Jack Klugman, Roger Maris, Gordon MacRae, Roger Miller, George Murphy, Bruce Paltrow, Giacomo Puccini, Claude Raines, Ann Ramsey, Aldo Ray, Richard Rogers, Babe Ruth, Jack Soo, Billy Strayhorn, Doctor Suess, William Tallman, Lana Turner, John Wayne, Mary Wells. and Jimmy Witherspoon

Cancer can occur in numerous locations in the throat or larynx. Tobacco, alcohol, or simply genetics seem to be among the leading causes.

Note: Above information courtesy of Webwhispers, an internet support group, the largest on-line laryngectomee club in the world.

www.webwhispers.org

FLA is a member of the International Association of Laryngectomees www.larynxlink.com



**Florida
Laryngectomee Association
www.f-l-a.org**

A Support Group
for people who have lost their voices to cancer and those people who are interested in their well being. Includes a state-wide system of local and regional support groups.

County-Contact/Club/Place/Time

BAY - Anne Staley (850) 747-6028

Panhandle Lost Chord Club (infrequent meetings)

Bay Medical Health Plex.

Baldwin Rd at Hwy 77, Panama City

call Anne for meeting information

small loan closet

BREVARD - Robert (Bob) Smiley (321) 536-0831

Space Coast New Voice Club (unscheduled meetings)

Cape Canaveral Hospital- Cocoa Beach

Call Bob for meeting information— small loan closet

BROWARD - Earl Mogk (954) 929-0136

New Voice Club of Broward County (monthly meetings)

Conference Center at Holy Cross Hospital

3rd Sunday , noon to 2pm -

Therapy sessions available other dates, consult website

Website www.newvoiceclub.org

Loan Closet

CHARLOTTE - Mary Spremulli (941) 637-2450/241

Laryngectomee/Head and Neck Cancer Survivors Support Group. (monthly except September-May)

Charlotte Regional Medical Center (Wellness Center Aud)

809 E. Marion Avenue-Punta Gorda

2nd Wednesday 1-2:30 PM small loan closet

ESCAMBIA- Annette Miller (850) 494-6140

Pensacola Association of Laryngectomees and Spouses -

PALS (monthly meetings) Loan closet

West Florida Rehab. Institute

8391 N. Davis Hwy - Pensacola

3rd Thursday - 6:00 PM ; Monthly

HILLSBOROUGH-Butch McMahan (813)754-3379

The Chatterbox Laryngectomee Club (monthly meetings)

H. Lee Moffit Cancer Center Loan closet

12902 Magnolia Drive - Tampa

2nd Friday - 2:00 PM; September- May

INDIAN RIVER-James Gilbert (772) 567-0087

Indian River Laryngectomee Club (monthly meetings)

ACS Office small loan closet

3375 20th St. - Vero Beach

4th Thursday - 4:00 PM; September -May

LEE- Bob Smith (239) 574-9314

New Voice Club of Ft Meyers (monthly)

Lee Memorial Hospital Auditorium

Drs conference room

1st Friday - 1:00 PM

small loan closet

MARION- Maggie H. Geehan (352)489-7263

Nu Voice Club of Ocala (Monthly, x Sept -May)

2201 SE 30th Ave.

Ocala, FL

Email wagam1@bellsouth.net

small loan closet

MARTIN- Charlie Nail (772) 223-1743

Treasure Coast Nu-Voice Club (monthly)

Cancer Center at Marion Memorial Hospital

Osceola Street-Stuart

1st Wednesday - 10:00AM

small loan closet

ORANGE- Paul Bricker (407) 855-6885

Greater Orlando Laryngectomee Family - GOLF

Winter Park Hospital Library (monthly)

200 N. Lakemont - Winter Park

3rd Sunday - 2:00 PM ; September -June

Med. loan Closet

PALM BEACH- Martha K Husvar (561) 626-0793

Lost Chord Club (of the Palm Beaches) - few meetings

Contact Martha for details and schedule

3117 La Rosata

Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410 small loan closet

PALM BEACH- Loreen Blumenthal -(561) 422-6838

Veterans Laryngectomee Support Grp. -monthly meeting

V.A. Medical Center

7305 N Military Trail - West Palm Beach, FL 33410

2nd Thursday - 11:00 AM loan closet for veterans

PASCO- Louise Simm (727) 848-7070

Pasco Laryngectomee Club (Monthly)

Morton Plant Mease-North Bay Hospital

6600 Madison Ave. - New Port Richey

3rd Sunday - 2:00 PM; September - May

Small loan closet

PINELLAS- Charlie Blair (727) 391-3473

Suncoast New Voice Club (Outreach Only)

Pre-op, post-op counseling, SLP support and advice, limited anti-tobacco school talks.

Large loan closet.

VOLUSIA- Judith Ramboldt (386) 789-5836

New Voice Club of Daytona Beach (monthly)

American Legion Post , # 120

461 Walter St., Holly Hill 32117

1st Monday - 11:00 AM September - May

Loan closet

NOTE

Unless specifically noted otherwise, the above support groups (Clubs) have monthly meetings with programs addressing the needs of laryngectomees. Some skip the summer months and meeting time/places are subject to change. Call contact person to verify meeting information prior to first visit. New visitors are warmly welcomed and meetings are relaxed and informal. Most clubs have members trained in pre-op and post-op counseling and with different members illustrating a variety of speaking methods. Many have qualified anti tobacco speakers for school and other group presentations. Most have a "loan closet" of items and supplies for new and senior laryngectomees. Need a speaking device loaner or info on where to obtain supplies? Call the nearest support group contact. The local and regional support groups are the best places for the new laryngectomee to go to get practical information from others "having been through it". Some other clubs have recently reorganized to offer only "outreach" services in lieu of the continuing expense and effort of conducting monthly meetings. Each has a cadre of highly qualified veteran laryngectomees with a wealth of information to share with the new laryngectomee or others having problems. Most can offer qualified anti-tobacco speakers, offer pre and post-op counseling visits and provide loans of electro larynges to provide immediate speech for the recent laryngectomee or to tide you over during repair of your own.