

International Association of Laryngectomees
President's report
April 13, 2008

The Board of the International Association of Laryngectomees is proud to report on our progress and transformation since August 2007. I must admit it's not been easy and it's been slow going at times, but this Board of Directors has proven to be a hard working and devoted team. As many of you know, one of my mottos is "The IAL Board should be worker-bees, not royalty," and each person on this board is a hard worker and dedicated to serve our Laryngectomee community to the best of our ability.

This Board respects each other and values every opinion and comment made by fellow Board members and our community. Most of all - this Board is committed to "Doing the Right Thing!"

In this report I will give an up-date on each committee, for anyone who would like more information regarding a particular committee or project, please contact the committee chair. You can find all of our Board Member's names and e-mail addresses on the IAL Web-site. Please if you ever have any questions or concerns contact one of us or all of us.

Annual Meeting Committee:

Chairperson: John Ready

John Ready and his committee are planning a few changes to some of our programs, adding a couple of new presentations and bringing back one or two events that were "Lost." I think everyone will find something that piques their interest along with several venues where they can talk, meet and play with fellow Laryngectomees.

Our Voice Institute Director, Jeff Searl, has several presentations planned where both the Annual Meeting Attendees and Voice Institute can be a part of. This should give both groups a little more time together.

This year we will have a Commons Area; which will be located on a lower level away from the other main events. We did this so all the talking and laughter in the commons area will not disturb or disrupt the VI and AM presentations.

- 1) The commons area will be a place for anyone in our group who wants to sit and relax, visit with other laryngectomees and caregivers, get information regarding presentations, sights to see in Little Rock, and the trolley. We will set up a table and a "Post board" for all our AM and VI attendees to leave and retrieve messages.
- 2) Tables will be set up for people interested in playing cards, board games and putting together puzzles. We hope that many of our attendees will

organize Bridge tournaments, poker games, Bunko or even Canasta (please please, I would love to play a couple games of canasta.) Maybe we can get a group together for golf.

For the first time that I'm aware, we will hold a "Town Hall Meeting." This will be an organized meeting for any one who is interested in attending. This will give the Laryngectomee Community the opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions. This will also be a great place to learn more about our committees, and sign up to volunteer.

Herb Simon has agreed to be our moderator so everyone will have an opportunity to ask questions or make a suggestion. This will be an open forum, but we do expect everyone to be polite and courteous.

We plan to put the program for the AM/VI on the web-site soon.

Finance Committee

Chairperson: Sapp Funderburk

With Ian Milne's resignation, Sapp jumped in head first and filled in with out missing a step, taking care of our finances and bookkeeping.

Sapp has now been appointed and approved by the Board to serve as our Treasurer. The Board is in total agreement that Sapp has the expertise and the right principles to take on this position and awesome task.

Bylaws Committee

Chairperson: Sapp Funderburk

Sapp along with his committee have worked through the Bylaws sorting out numerous corrections and redefining numerous rationales. Several of the bylaws changes during the delegates meeting this year in Little Rock, will be simple corrections.

Public Affairs Committee

Chairperson: Elizabeth Finchem

The Public affairs Committee over sees so many different items: The IAL Newsletter, the IAL Web-site, Member, Club and Vendor data base, editing and printing all IAL brochures, AM/VI Program, club communications and much more.

Elizabeth and her committee have been working on the IAL Web-site and are in the process of a re-design for the Web-site. It's been a slow process, but one must take in to consideration the numerous layers of the web-site. This committee has been going over each page making corrections.

We are all very proud of our IAL Newsletter and feel blessed we were able to convince David Blevins to step in as our Editor. We also are blessed and thankful for so many people who have made a donation towards our newsletter. Support in any form is always appreciated.

Tom Herring has taken on the huge task of compiling and organizing a data base for our mailing addresses. Tom was doing all of this work months before he became a Board Member. This task had to be done quickly, to cut the cost of our bulk mailings and have the most current and updated information on our members, clubs, professional and vendors.

Nominating Committee

Chairperson: Terrie Hall

Terrie is now receiving applications to fill Board of Director positions that will be open in August 2008. Please send an application; which, can be found on our IAL Web-site, to Terrie: 4167 Highway 150 North, Lexington, NC 27295.

Rehabilitation and Medical Affairs

Chairperson: Philip Doyle

Philip and his committee along with the help of our host club, Lost Chord Club of Central Arkansas, are compiling information for medical facilities and hospitals in the area. This committee will also have a list of supplies no laryngectomee should be with out while traveling.

For any laryngectomee with an unusual condition that your ENT Doctor and/or SLP must manage, please have a letter from the SLP explaining the circumstance, along with a contact number for your SLP. This information would be most valuable if you must be seen by an ER doctor or any other medical person or team.

Speech Standards Committee

Chairperson: John Ready

John is working to obtain the information needed to complete and mail VI certificates and list of SLPs and LTs who have successfully completed the VI course.

Prohaska Funds Committee

Chairperson: Elizabeth Finchem

Elizabeth and her committee are looking for people who need financial help with medical expenses. There is information on the Web-site that will explain how to apply.

If you know of someone, in the laryngectomee community, who needs some assistance, please tell them about this committee.

Executive Director Search Committee

Chairman: John Ready

This committee is accepting applications to fill the Executive Director Position.

For more detailed information please check our web-site or contact John Ready.

Voice Institute Search Committee

Chairman: Philip Doyle

This committee is accepting applications to fill the Voice Institute Director Position.

For more detailed information please check our web-site or contact Philip Doyle.