

Nu-Voices Club of Mt Sinai Hosp, Inc

Member of IAL

June 26th, 2016

Dear Members and Friends,

A big thank you to Jay Hauben and Leslie Getz McDonagh for taking care of business while Saul & Gerry were away at the IAL meetings in Dallas, Texas. We will tell everyone about them at the July meeting. Leslie presided at the June meeting and Jay took excellent minutes – see last page.

We will have “special guests” at the August (Dave Barry, ATOS rep), September (Talia Schwartz, SLP @ Columbia) and October (David DiToro, InHealth rep) meetings. Chances for the members and guests to catch up on recent developments, maintain contacts between the SLP and laryngectomee communities and learn from each other. Saul is still making calls and email invitations for the July meeting.

Saul received an email invitation from a graduate student and his professor at the University of Minnesota. He is doing an online survey about laryngectomies as research for his graduate degree. We forwarded his email to those members with email.

Saul received another email from a man whose father was a laryngectomy. His father recently passed away and the man wanted to donate his Provox electrolarynx, batteries and battery charger. We wrote back and told him we would gladly accept it for our “loaner closet” and we wait for him to reply to make a time and place to meet and receive it.

Members at play in June.



Scotty gets a fluke



Saul at Kenny and Ziggy's NY Deli. He heard so much about it he made a special trip to Houston to go there



Saul & Gerry at the Johnson Space center, Houston Texas

The July meeting will be in our usual place; seminar room B, 2nd floor at 1470 Madison Avenue, between 101st and 102nd. We will meet at 1:30 PM on Sunday, 7/17/2016.

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Treasurer Leslie McDonagh called the meeting to order at 1:35pm. In attendance were four members, Don McDonagh, Leola Glover, Leslie McDonagh and Jay Hauben.

We missed everyone who could not attend. Cecilia Wennerstrom and Frank Deppolder told us by phone they could not attend. We heard from Scott Golden he would be away fishing. David Koslofsky could not attend because his Parkinson's disease continues to be a problem. Clarissa Bushman sent an email at the last minute saying, "I had been so excited to come to the meeting today, but I am not feeling at all well. I have waited a couple of hours, hoping that it would pass, but it has not. Drag." Later she sent another email telling of the old and new problems she is having with her eyes.

Leola read "The prayer for Laryngectomees and then Leslie spoke for Don to lead off the round table.

Next, Leola told more of her story. She has had three cancers: one on her vocal cord, one in her lungs and the latest breast cancer. Because of the first cancer she has only one vocal cord but somehow speaks anyway. Leslie said Leola's voice seems ok. Leola told us that when she was a teacher, the kids accepted her voice but some of their parents thought she must be a cruel teacher because she has such a rough voice. Leola says now that she walks with a walker she feels a bit more different than other people and that makes her uncomfortable. Leola also told us that her pulmonologist wants her to have a CT scan every six week.

Leslie introduced herself and then told the story of how hard it was for Don to decide he would go ahead with the surgery. He only decided the day before it was scheduled to go ahead when his doctor understood Don's reason for his reluctance and reassured him that no patient of his had died during the operation. He had the surgery. But because of medical error after medical error he could not leave the hospital for a full month. Since then he has had fewer problems than would have been expected.

Jay told how three urologists and an MRI radiologist all saw symptoms of a serious prostate cancer in his case. He had 14 biopsy needles taken of his prostate and waited a week for the verdict how serious was his cancer. Finally his doctor's office called to say Jay's prostate is full of inflammation but no cancer was seen. Jay asked "What? How could that be?" It turns out a rare condition called inflammatory granulomatous prostatitis always presents with the same symptoms as prostate cancer but is benign and usually resolves itself. That is what Jay was told he has. Everyone at the meeting was happy for that result.

Jay reported he heard from Saul and Gerry that their attendance at the IAL meeting in Texas was going well. But the indoor temperature was cold and the outdoor temperature very hot. They said next year's meeting would be in Virginia Beach Va. and hoped our members would consider attending.

We all wanted Clarissa to know that we are rooting for her. We also wondered how Larry Velez is doing and did Larry Powers know the meeting was today. Leslie said that she left a voice message on his phone.

After the silent prayer, the meeting ended at 2:35pm. After the meeting we sat around and discussed the Brexit and the US election. Jay argued that the people of the UK are right to rebel. The others weren't so sure. But everyone said in the US we are being asked to choose between two evils so we are in deep trouble.

[Submitted by Jay Hauben]