

Nu-Voices Club of Mt Sinai Hosp, Inc
Member of IAL
April 23rd, 2017

Dear Members and Friends,

President Saul Silver called the meeting to order at 1:40 PM. In attendance were 8 members and friends as shown and named below.



**Standing L-R: Erle Raterta, Jay Hauben Don McDonagh, Cindy Fontanez
Seated L – R Joe Fontanez, Saul Silver, Leslie Getz McDonagh**



**Ace Fotog
Gerry Silver**

We missed

- Cecilia Wennerstrom who was away at a trial with Sophia. She says she is a little obsessed with this, but she is almost there and she misses us.
- Clarissa Bushman who was out of town. She reports that she now has a permanent port and they use it to give intravenous fluids which make her feel better.
- Leola Glover - had intended to come, but wasn't feeling well. Not serious fortunately, just an upset stomach.
- Frank Deppolder who was suffering from Rheumatism

We heard from the two SLP students who had hoped to come to our April meeting, but class requirements prevented this. They now say they will come to the May meeting.

There have been several laryngectomies done at Columbia recently and Talia Schwartz has been getting in touch to arrange hospital visits between our members and the patients. One of those patients, had intended to come to our April meeting, but some problem cropped up at home that had to be dealt with. She and her husband, now intend to come to the May meeting.

Saul and Gerry met with 2 of Dr. Caruana's and Talia Schwartz's patients at Columbia after the meeting. One of them was ready for discharge that day. He is using an electrolarynx already and doing well. The second was a woman who had several other health issues besides the laryngectomy. She was going into a rehab facility from the hospital. We hope they continue to improve and we see them at a future meeting.

Erle Raterta read the "Prayer for Laryngectomees". Gerry Silver led off the round table.

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InHealth technologies has started to publish it's Speaker's Club again, with articles of interest to laryngectomees. The big change is that it is now published as a blog to be read online. Here is the link: https://www.inhealth.com/category_s/166.htm.

Thank you to Joe and Cindy Fontanez for the yummy donuts. Everyone gobbled them up. Joe has been seeing Dr Caruana, who performed the laryngectomies for Saul Silver and Frank Deppolder years ago. Joe has had surgery to keep his airway open and may have a series of rebuilding surgeries with Dr Caruana. They plan to do the first surgery to separate his fused vocal folds. Joe's attitude is just amazing, nothing stops him and Cindy said that Joe and the group had inspired her to take care of her own health issues.

We were happy to see Don and Leslie McDonagh. Don had just returned home after a stint in a hospital and a nursing facility where he was treated for a cellulitis infection. He looks great except for some bumps and bruises from falls. Leslie said he will get some physical therapy to help him get back to his old self.

Erle reported that he is having some vision problems and is going to go to an eye doctor to check them out. He (and we) hope this is not related to his diabetes.

The next IAL Annual Meeting and Voice Institute will be on June 14 – 17 in Newport News, VA. All the info about registering, hotels, etc was in the April issue of The IAL News. It is also available thru the IAL website, www.theial.com. Herb Simon has just published his latest newsletter and his newsletter as well as ours are also available thru the IAL website.

Jay Hauben reports that his current prosthesis has lasted for 9 months. The April issue of the IAL News reports on a study of 390 patients where the average prosthesis lasted about two months. Jay must be doing something right. He told us about his sister's unfortunate case. She has a very rare, inoperable cancer. There is a possibility of treating it with chemo and radiation, but even here she has a difficult decision to make as there are two types of radiation possible for the treatment and there is also a possibility that the treatment will destroy her sight. Jay has been in touch with Larry Estridge who was at our March meeting. He has ongoing health issues that make it difficult to get to our meetings, but we hope to see him again at a future meeting.

NOTE: The hospital needed our usual room for some special event, so our May meeting will be on the 5th floor of 1470 Madison, room 5-101 instead of the usual 2nd floor.

We ended the meeting about 2:45 with our usual silent prayer and posing for Ace Photographer Gerry Silver. The May meeting will be on the 5th floor, room 5-101 of 1470 Madison Avenue, between 101st and 102nd. We will meet on Sunday, May 21st at 1:30

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