

News from the March 17, 2007, Meeting:

Dystonia Support Group/Birmingham Chapter

03/17/2007

Guest Speaker: Stephanie Jones; local Allergan Rep

“Botox injections are an art form.” - Stephanie

We met on Saturday, 03/17/07 with 22 in attendance; Pat, Bill, Ken, Sherryl, Rita, Ken, Josefine, Ted, Judy, Stacy, Francine, Gerald, Dave, Brenda, Vincent, Juanita, Joyce, Jay & Linda.

WELCOME

We were all anticipating Brad attending his first meeting since his DBS surgery in January. There was such excitement and energy in the room when he walked in with a big smile on his face. He looked great and the success of his surgery is easily seen. He is also free of pain.

WELCOME BACK BRAD!!

A special welcome to Ramona and her husband, Bob. Ramona has been a member for over a year but this was her first meeting. She will be having DBS surgery at UAB in the future. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

I opened the meeting with prayer and Pat gave us an awareness update. We are in the process of increasing the number of libraries we provide with bookmarks from 119 to 250. State universities and community colleges will be added this year. This is a group effort, Ken is working the logistics and thanks to all of you who have provided a contact name or volunteered to deliver bookmarks. Together we can make a difference!

Sherryl provided us with business cards that have our web site address. These will be given to relatives, friends, physicians, etc.

We will participate in the health fair sponsored by Senior Living at Brookwood Mall on 05/30/07. We need volunteers to work our booth. Please contact Pat if you will be available and haven't signed up.

“Twisted” was shown at the “Shelby County Homemakers Group” in March thanks to Pat. Pat and Bill also provided bookmarks at the State Farm Retirement luncheon. An attendee asked what they were for to which Bill responded, “Do you know what dystonia is?” 60 more people know what it is now.

Thanks to Stephanie for an educational and interesting presentation on dystonia and Botox. A display area provided us with educational literature, pens, mouse pads, stress

balls, and forms for our docs to check muscles injected and number of units used. She suggested that we take responsibility for our health by educating ourselves. She stated that keeping a journal and documenting everything pertaining to our dystonia is most helpful in our care. I was pleased to hear that the cosmetic cash pay helps finance neurological research. Allergan invests \$100,000,000 annually.

After her presentation all questions were answered and we had an open forum discussion

Stephanie is a partner in raising dystonia awareness. She will provide each neurologist she calls on with our web site cards and will help work our booth at the health fair.

For more information on Botox: www.botox.com

Those not attending were missed and we hope to see you on 04/21/07 when Dr. Mark LeDoux will be our guest speaker.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Don & Betty on the loss of their 26-year-old grandson Wesley on 30/03/07. Don is also having health problems; please keep this family in your prayers. Betty told me that losing Wesley was the most difficult thing they had been through as a family.

Thanks to Stephanie for providing the delicious refreshments we all enjoyed. Rita, Ken, Josefine and Ted will provide refreshments for April.

Thanks to all of you who help make DSG a success,

Linda