

May 17, 2008

DSG-Alabama Newsletter

Those attending the May 17th meeting led by Pat Wyatt came away with lots of updated information on this mystical disease called dystonia.

In keeping with our summer schedule, the JUNE 14TH MEETING will be COMBINED with a JULY 19TH "Summer BBQ Social". This writer is furnishing the BBQ and members should bring the "trimmings"; i.e. potato salad, fruit salad, casserole's, chips, drinks and desserts. Please email Pat at pcangel1102@aol.com to tell her how many family members will join you and what "trimmings" you'll bring to the table.

See you Saturday, July 19th - no June meeting

GOV RILEY MAKES PROCLAMATION:

Pat and Bill Wyatt visited the Alabama Governor's office for the signing of the annual proclamation of June 1 through June 7, 2008, as *DYSTONIA AWARENESS WEEK*. This was sent as a Press Release to every daily & weekly newspaper in Alabama. We hope you read it in your local paper.

AWARENESS PROJECTS:

Leading up to the June Awareness Week, we redesigned the BOOKMARKS, printed 35,000, purchased 150 add'l Counter-top Lit Holders and obtained email permission from 162 Alabama public libraries to send/deliver to them a kit of lit holder w/200 bookmarks for display.

Pat & Bill Wyatt will be attending an American Legion convention and will distribute bookmarks at that event.

Numerous members personally delivered the library kits:

Kim Lowe	St. Clair County (7 libraries)
Sister "K"	Cullman County (6 libraries)
Tim Hornsby	Several counties in SE Alabama (18 libraries)
Josefine Spindle	Etowah County (3 libraries)
Pat Wyatt	Shelby County (12 libraries)
Ken Williams	Jefferson County (39 libraries)
Janet McCoy	Auburn, Sylacauga & surrounding cities (6 libraries)
Betty Parker	Alex City & surround areas (5 libraries)

Others were mailed to the librarian at each library who responded to our email saying "YES" --- Montgomery, Mobile & Huntsville used their courier service so we could bulk ship those kits to one location.

PELL CITY BLOCK PARTY - We all owe a "vote of thanks" to Ken Moore who single handedly took care of setting up the DSG Display Booth for the Pell City Block party on June 6th. Rita was still recovering from her recent surgery!!! But Ken handled it all.

SENIOR HEALTH FAIR - BROOKWOOD - We opted "NOT" to spend \$500 to again rent a booth at this event held May 28th. The last 2 years we had a booth display but success was questionable, so Pat and I made the "fiscal decision" to use that \$500 on

our rather large printing, lit holder purchase and postage/distribution expenses associated with the library project.

ALABAMA DYSTONIA SCHOLARS - The **COVER STORY** on the Univ of Alabama web site refers to the designation of 2 very, very deserving **honor scholars** who were awarded a \$20,000 research grant (The Worm Shack project proceeds) to work summers on Dystonia research in the Caldwell Lab at the UofA during 2008 and 2009.

Undergraduate student **Emily Kay Woods** is a freshman majoring in biology, graduated from Oak Mountain High School in 2007 in Shelby County and a student of the International Honors Program.

John Ricketts is a UA sophomore majoring in biology and a University Honors Program Student. He graduated from the Altamont School in Birmingham.

Go to this web-site for the full story as a Press Release from the University on 6/04/08:

<http://uanews.ua.edu/aneews2008/jun08/dystonia060408.htm>

Emailing me from New York where Dr's. Guy and Kim Caldwell were addressing the Michael J. Fox Foundation TODAY, Guy Caldwell said: "Both students display the creativity and dedication to the cause of finding a cure for Dystonia that I expect from my student researchers, especially those who qualify for generous funding raised by patients and their friends. I could not be more pleased with their efforts in our lab thus far and see them as significant contributors for years to come."

ALABAMA DYSTONIA CENTER - This project is under consideration via a \$10,000 Allergan grant I've applied for and other private funding. The "center" has been discussed with UAB, U of So AL, UAH, as well as the UofA/Tuscaloosa and would function as a "clearing house" and "coordinator" for all the research projects (at least 6 currently) not underway in Alabama. It would be a "first of its kind" right here in Alabama and WE can make it happen.

SILLY ME - *I know people don't like to hear about "money", but....only 24 persons on our "membership list" have actually paid their \$35 annual dues for 2008.*

Good news: 11 of the 24 contributed add'l monies that have kept us barely in the black for 2008.

Those who can't afford \$35...please send \$1 or \$5 or something to help out, please.

**SEE YOU AT THE JULY 19TH
SUMMER BBQ SOCIAL/MEETING.**

NO JUNE 21 MEETING.....

Ken L. Williams, Volunteer Director/Treasurer
Dystonia Support Group of Alabama
Chptr of DMRF

