

2003 New Jersey Laryngectomee Conference “Our Future is Now”

by Nancy Speelman, CSW, CADC, CMS

A conference was held on Saturday, September 20th at the New Jersey Hospital Association Conference Center in Princeton, New Jersey for laryngectomees and professionals in the field. Participants attended from the entire tri-state area, along with other parts of the



Members of the conference planning committee Bob Belloff, Nancy Speelman, Marty Murphy and Roy Boyd. Bob and Marty regularly visit middle and high schools to share the stories of their tobacco dependence and its consequences, which included laryngectomy surgery.

United States. This event began on Friday evening with a “Meet and Greet,” followed on Saturday with a day of special speakers and workshops.

The Conference began with Opening Remarks by Pierce Frauenheim, Vice Principal and football coach of Immaculata High School in Somerville, New Jersey. Pierce shared very encouraging words to

his audience of fellow laryngectomees. His presentation was followed by a Doctors’ Panel consisting of Mary Ann Deccicco, DMD from Skillman, New Jersey, Dennis Fuller, PhD from St. Louis University, Marc Geller, PhD of Somerset, New Jersey and Donald Richardson, MD Chief of Speech Pathology and Audiology from Philadelphia Veterans Hospital.

Workshops were presented on Esophageal Speech, Medicare and the Laryngectomee, Electrolarynx, Maximizing TEP Usage, Heat Moisture Exchange, Emergency Procedures, Understanding Tobacco Dependence, Alcohol and the Laryngectomee, Advocacy and a Family Panel.

The conference was well received and provided a forum for participants to ask questions about the life-altering surgery, exposure to various vendors and new equipment, along with connecting and relating with other laryngectomees. Continuing education credits were given to Speech Pathologists through Tracey Daly of Community Medical Center. Several vendors and organizations supported the event by donations or sponsoring various parts of the conference. Included in that list are the American Cancer Society, Atos Medical, Eagle Medical Supply, Griffin Laboratories, Inhealth Technologies, Kapitex, LTD, USA, Lauder Enterprises, Luminaud, Inc. Professional Speech Aids, Siemens Hearing Instruments, Ultra-Voice, and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, School of Public Health, Tobacco Dependence Program.

The conference was coordinated by Carolyn Anderson, Bob Belloff, Roy and Pat Boyd, and Marty Murphy of the Somerset County Miracle Voice Club of New Jersey. Other committee members include, Jim Batissa of the Garden State Nu-Voice Club, Jason Plaia of the American Cancer Society, Nancy Speelman of UMDNJ, SPH, Tobacco Dependence Program, Tracey Daly of Community Medical Center, along with laryngectomee sales representatives Dan Fitzgerald and Stan Murk.



Wishing you
Happy Holidays
and a
**Tobacco-Free
2004**
From
the staff of the
**Tobacco Dependence
Program**

