Tony Talmich, of Bethlehem, Connecticut, during the swim demonstration on Saturday

And A Good Time Was Had By ALL!!!

If you missed this year’s Annual Meeting/Voice Institute in Orlando, you missed a wonderful learning experience. I cannot begin to tell just how great it was. I want to thank our hosts, John Isler and Bob Herbst, our VI Director, Caryn Melvin and the most knowledgeable staff that she pulled together, our administrative Manager, Susan Reeves, our audio visual team of Johnathan and Kari, and so many others that helped in every way. We are so fortunate to have dedicated caregivers who contribute heartily - we thank them. A special thanks to Bob Herbst for providing transportation to Disney Springs and to John Isler for hiring and paying for the fantastic DJ. Scooter was very entertaining and kept many dancing until after midnight.

A big shout out to all of our vendors: Atos, Inhealth, Lauder Enterprises, Archer Medical, Luminaud, NuVois, and Griffin Labs. Without their help and support we could not hold these annual meetings. Thank you to Richard Najarian for helping with the WebWhispers banquet and for his generous gift to all laryngectomees that attended.

I am looking forward to meeting in California in 2019. Details will be forthcoming as soon as they are finalized. I also look forward to working with our new Board of Directors and all Clubs as I take the reins as president. Feel free to contact me at any time at: Agrath3004@aol.com.

Best Wishes to All,
Helen Grathwohl,
IAL President
Provox Luna has been designed to help you have better nights and prepare for better days.

The Provox Luna HME provides superior humidification compared to other HMEs and it has a low breathing resistance for easy breathing at night.*

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The IAL News is published four times a year by the International Association of Laryngectomees.

Information provided by the IAL News is not intended as a substitute for professional medical help or advice, rather as an aid in understanding problems experienced by laryngectomees and the state of current medical knowledge.

A physician or other qualified healthcare provider should always be consulted for any health problem or medical condition.

The IAL does not endorse any treatment or product that may be mentioned in this publication. Please consult your physician and/or speech-language pathologist (SLP) before using any treatment or product.

The opinions expressed in the IAL News are those of the authors and may not represent the policies of the International Association of Laryngectomees.

IAL Resources

- IAL Brochures
- IAL News order/change of address cards
- Orange Emergency Cards (English)
- Orange Emergency Window Stickers (English)
- “Laryngectomees Loving Life” DVD (35 mins) ($10 donation requested) (May also be watched on website)
- “First Steps” Available to download from the IAL website

Order From: IAL in Atlanta /email

Have a good idea or a helpful hint?

We welcome laryngectomees and caregivers to submit ideas that would be helpful for other laryngectomees.
My Journey
By Suzy Sullivan

My journey began some time ago. Most of my married life was about the same as other married couples. I was rarely sick, I had kids to take care of so I didn’t have time to be sick. After almost 20 years of marriage my husband had a heart attack. We went through open heart surgery and then pacemaker and then defibrillator surgeries over the next 24 years. Then, after a supposedly simple procedure, I lost him. Gone was my partner, best friend and confidant that I had from the age of 18.

We made it 47 years, and now I’m alone. Even though I had my 3 children and grandchildren and great grandchildren, I still felt alone. My life partner, soul mate, ‘til death do us part husband was gone. I was so lost in grief that I really did not care what was going on. My family all tried to keep my mind occupied and keep me busy during the day, but when the night came and our usual talk time came around, he was not there. That is when the loneliness and crying would start, missing the arms that had held me for so many years. Gone was the listening ear and the lips that would tell me “everything is going to be alright.”

I made it 5 months before I started to feel like something wasn’t right. I was having trouble swallowing, and I had a terrible pain in my right ear. I went for MRI, had a breast biopsy and was sent to an ENT. I was scoped and told to take Nexium for 6 weeks and come back. Every day when I would take that pill it would stick in my throat and burn like hell until it dissolved. When the 6 weeks were over and I went back, I told the ENT that it burned every time. They were not doing any scopes at that time so my doctor told me to keep taking the meds for another 6 weeks and come back. I took the Nexium for another 2 weeks and couldn’t stand it anymore. I told my PCP to please refer me to another ENT. The new ENT did a scope and put me on antibiotics and steroids. He also made an appointment for a week later if it was needed. He said “it’s easier to cancel a biopsy than it is to get one scheduled in a hurry.” The biopsy was positive. I was sent to the cancer center and was scheduled for Chemo and radiation therapies. I had to have a medi-port inserted and a peg tube. Now I would be getting my nourishment via a tube in my belly. Chemo and radiation were both so very scary. Even though I had all my family, and believe me, they were all great at trying to keep me positive and

Continued on p. 11
The 2018 Voice Institute was a great success. The faculty was outstanding and was comprised primarily of area professionals. Dr. Kavita Pattani, MD from UF Health Cancer Center opened the Voice Institute with a dynamic and informative talk on laryngectomy anatomy and physiology as well as future trends in surgery. Other UF Health Cancer Center faculty included Dr. Elizabeth Feldman who talked about oral care pre and post radiation and chemotherapy. Annette May M.A. CCC-SLP and Linda Stachowiak, M.S. CCC-SLP joined the faculty this year. Both had been on faculty when the Florida Association of Laryngectomees held annual meetings. Two other local speech-language pathologists, Bretton Jenks, MA CCC-SLP and Erin Guidera, M.S. CCC-SLP joined the faculty this year. Erin provided a talk on myofacial release that was very well received.

Our keynote speaker was Dr. Makki from Florida Hospital, Nicholson Center, who provided a thorough history of laryngectomy surgery and the tracheo-esophageal voice prosthesis. We were also fortunate to have Dr. David Estores give a talk on reflux and stricture following laryngectomy surgery.

Returning faculty included Kim Almand, M.S. CCC-SLP, Cindy Gordish, M.S. CCC-SLP, Lori Simpson, CCC-SLP, Candy Moltz, M.S. CCC-SLP, Susan Reeves, Med., CCC-SLP, and Byron Kubick, M.S. CCC-SLP.

Both InHealth and ATOS contributed to the Voice Institute by providing excellent speakers to round out the agenda. Jennifer Starkweather, M.S. CCC-SLP, clinical specialist with InHealth provided a talk on hands-free speech. Julie Bishop-Leone, M.S., CCC-SLP, Director of Clinical Education with ATOS gave a talk on pulmonary function and HMEs.

Our Friday afternoon outing was courtesy of Mr. Bob Herbst. This year’s destination was Disney Springs. Judging by the discussion about the outing on Saturday morning both students and laryngectomees had a great time and learned a lot from each other.

This year the Voice Institute hosted 56 attendees: 14 speech-language pathologists and graduate students and 42 laryngectomees. Bob Smiley, President of the Florida Laryngectomee Association, sponsored 12 persons with a laryngectomee from Florida to attend the VI.

This was the first year that social media was used to reach potential attendees. The Voice Institute set up a Facebook page as well as a Twitter account. Information was posted periodically regard-
YOU WERE THERE: Orlando!
A Tribute to Ed Chapman
By Susan Bruemmer, M.S., CCC

I first met Ed Chapman for a pre-op visit before his laryngectomy surgery in 2002. He came to my house with his wife, Barbara, who was in a wheelchair, following a stroke about 7 months prior. I explained the basics of surgery and the way he would look in the hospital so that he and his wife would not be surprised by all the tubes and drains coming out of Ed’s body. I discussed the many kinds of communication that would be possible following the laryngectomy. Ed said he was very grateful to learn what to expect and he matter of factly took the bull by the horns. Ed quickly learned to speak once the TEP was placed by Dr. Mitchell in Spokane, WA. He was very eager from this moment on to be the best advocate for future laryngectomees and soon became the president of our local support group, the S.E. Washington Laryngectomee Club in Kennewick, WA. He went to his first IAL meeting and was further inspired to bring the annual IAL meeting to Eastern Washington which he did 6 years later.

Having been a fire chief, Ed knew that first responders were not often prepared to care for laryngectomees’ breathing needs in emergency situations. He had had his own horror stories in the ER on a few occasions in which the medical personnel did not know how to extract his TEP from his lung or remove a large mucous plug from his trachea. Ed and I brainstormed ideas to “get the word out” about the existence of laryngectomees in our local area. Soon we were talking about how we could spread the word more globally. With the help of Dr. Brian Mitchell in Spokane and Ray Tansy, Spokane County EMS Coordinator, and many others in Spokane, we created the first program for First Responders called Emergency Actions for Laryngectomees. This program was presented a day prior to the 2013 IAL meeting in Spokane, Washington, for which our club was the local host. The program was well received and has been used as a template at most annual IAL meetings since then.

I truly feel that this was Ed’s legacy to continually educate people about this special population—laryngectomees. As Ed said in an article about his 5 year survival, “his laryngectomy was no different than a guy with a bad back...it’s just part of my life, a bump in the road. I just keep truckin’.” Sadly, Ed passed away on 2/12/15, shortly after his 10 year anniversary. I am honored to have known Ed and worked alongside him for 10 years for the betterment of the laryngectomee community.
From the New IAL President
By Helen Grathwohl

First off, I want to thank all our members for the confidence they have shown in allowing me to be the president of our organization, the International Association of Laryngectomees (IAL). I cannot do this job alone and need all the help and input I can get from each of you. Please text me (754-285-2992) or email me at: agrath3004@aol.com with any and all suggestions of ways to make us better and more helpful to all laryngectomees.

I would like to see some changes to our website: www.theial.com. There is a beautiful nature picture when the site opens up, but it has nothing to do with us as a group. My thought on this is to use pictures of laryngectomees interacting in everyday life; swimming, riding a motorcycle, flying an airplane working hard, or any other thing we have been told we cannot do. It would surely give others “HOPE.” I am asking for you to send me your pictures for this! Please share any photos you would like to see on this.

Another thing I would like to see improved and enhanced is the list of SLPs on our website. Unfortunately, in my own state, I only find one SLP listed, and I know of several more that should be included on there. The next time you visit your SLP, please ask him/her if they would like to be listed on our website as a resource. It will cost them nothing and it provides a real service. If they are willing, please share my contact information or give me their contact information and we will get their information loaded onto the website. As laryngectomees travel or move to a new area, they have a contact list of SLPs by state for assistance. If we all work together toward this common goal, we can get this done. Information needed from the SLP to include on the website: name, work address and phone number, hours available for appointment.

Are there any other changes you would like to see for our website? Please let me know.

Before we left Orlando, I appointed committees. I am sure that any member of the Board of Directors will be happy to hear your comments or suggestions. Emails may be found on Page 3. The committees are:

**Bylaws:** Carl DiPalma (Chair), Kyd Dietrich, and Tom Cleveland

**Speech Standards and Medical Affairs:** CindyLee Gordish, Lori Simpson

**Annual Meeting:** Kyd Dietrich

**Public Affairs:** New editor of Newsletter, Jewell Hoffman, and Dan Konz

**Nominating:** David Kinkead, Barb Nitschneider

Please feel free to write an article for the Newsletter and share your experiences, whatever they may be. Jewell will be looking for folks to submit articles, pictures, or funny stories. I just ask each of you to take a look at what you can contribute to help in any way.

I want to thank you in advance for assisting me in making OUR organization grow and improve for all.
ing faculty, agenda and the location of the meeting. Posts were shared to other pages as well including The IAL Facebook page, WebWhispers and Lary’s Voice. Throughout the year the Facebook page attracted many new potential attendees and was helpful in answering attendee’s questions and connecting them with scholarships.

The Voice Institute concluded on Saturday evening with the traditional banquet. This year’s entertainment was outstanding. John Isler provided the entertainment for the banquet and it was fantastic! Scooter the DJ had everyone dancing till midnight, something that has not happened in many years!

The Voice Institute is grateful for the support of our vendors, attendees, sponsors, IAL board members and faculty. We could not do it without all of you. Let’s do it again next year in California. Stay tuned for the exact dates. And ‘like’ and follow our Facebook page.

There you will find information regarding the 2019 meeting and you can check out some great photos and videos of this year’s meeting!

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**Orlando IAL Election Results**

The Saturday morning Delegates Meeting in Orlando elected a new Board of Directors. The results successfully filled several empty seats on the Board and will facilitate the work and mission of the IAL going forward.

President and Treasurer: Helen Grathwohl
Vice President: W. Kyd Dietrich
Secretary: Barb Nitschneider
Directors:
- Dan Konz
- David Kinkead
- Jewell Hoffman
- CindyLee Gordish
- Lori Simpson
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my spirits up, I still felt alone most of the time. They had their own families and lives to live.

Having the mask molded to me for the radiation treatment was a very scary thing, but that wasn’t the worst part of the business with the mask. I drove myself to almost all of my chemo and radiation treatments. I didn’t want my kids to know how scared I was, and I never wanted to be a burden to them. Every day laying on that table and being locked down with that mask was a terrifying experience. Even though the treatments didn’t take that long, I couldn’t move as the machine was running. I would lay there with my eyes closed and count and pray and talk to John until the machine would stop. On December 24, 2015, after treatment number 35, I got to ring the bell. It was a real Christmas present to me. My son and family were there to celebrate it with me. I couldn’t go out and celebrate, but I just knew that the end was in sight.

**WRONG** The feeding tube had to stay in, little did I know how much the radiation would damage my skin and make me more of a hermit. My throat inside and out was burned so badly I could not wear any clothes that would touch it. Every day for months I would go to the cancer clinic and the nurses would hook me up for hydration. A few times I thought that I did not need to go in and that was a mistake, I ended up in the ER via the ambulance.

Ten months later the feeding tube was removed. I had dreamed of food that sounded so good. As we all know, it was baby steps at first and by this time I had lost 138 pounds! Now I needed new clothes. What woman doesn’t like to go out and buy new clothes? Life was going to start getting better, and it did for a while. Then the pain started in my ear again and panic hit me. I was sent for another scope and PET/CT scans. The results showed the cancer was back. My ENT said he wanted me to see a surgeon in Seattle. We made the 4 hour trip over and the surgeon scoped me again. I was getting pretty good at letting them run that scope down. The surgeon was surprised at how much it had increased in size since the previous scope. He scheduled surgery for a month later, 3 days after my birthday, yeah... Now I was really getting scared. I met with a wonderful woman who is a retired SLP and she talked to my daughters and me about the laryngectomy. She introduced me to a woman that had a laryngectomy and spoke with an EL. As I look back, I didn’t think it would come to that.

My son came for the surgery and one of my 6 sisters came. The day of surgery finally arrived. The doctor told me that they would proba-
What Goes Into Planning and Executing the Voice Institute?

This was the first year that social media was used to reach potential attendees. The Voice Institute set up a Facebook page as well as a Twitter account. Information was posted periodically regarding faculty, agenda and the location of the meeting. Posts were shared to other pages as well including The IAL Facebook page and WebWhispers. Throughout the year the Facebook page attracted many new potential attendees.

Florida Universities and hospitals were contacted regarding the meeting. Follow up e-mails were sent 6 weeks prior to the meeting. The meeting was also posted on the Florida Speech Language Hearing Associations webpage as well as ASHA’s website. The following is a list of outreach regarding the meeting:

- ASHA Online Digest
- SIG 2 ~ Neurogenic Communication Disorders
- SIG 13 Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders Dysphagia
- Facebook Group Posts
- SLPs for Evidenced Base Practice
- Medical SLP Forum
- HNC SLP Group
- SLPs
- Speech Language Pathologist ~ Central Florida
- NSSLHA at FLU
- NSSLHA-USF Chapter
- National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA)
- UCF NSSLHA
- NSSLHA UF
- Universities (emails and phone calls)
  - Florida Atlantic University
  - Florida International University
  - Florida State University
  - Jacksonville U.
  - Nova Southeastern University
  - University of Central Florida
  - University of Florida, Gainesville
  - University of South Florida
  - Old Dominion University

Local faculty were recruited to assist in reducing the cost of the meeting. Eight of the fourteen faculty members were local. Five of the fourteen faculty members required reimbursement for travel. Eight of the fourteen faculty members stayed at the hotel for a total of 35 nights.

There were 44 Voice Institute attendees. 14 SLPs and graduate students and 42 laryngectomees.

Respectfully submitted,
Caryn Melvin, PhD, CCC-SLP, CPC
Voice Institute Director 2017-2019

Planning Ahead

Would your club be interested in hosting the IAL Annual Meeting during the summer of ? Please submit your application to the IAL Board of Directors! The IAL will be in California in 2019 and has been east more than west in the last few years. Can YOUR club help bring the IAL to your neck of the woods? There are complete directions on the IAL website at www.theial.com. Thank you.
bly take tissue from my wrist or possibly my thigh for the reconstruction. They started to prep me and asked why I was there. I jokingly told them a boob job. Little did I know that before it was all over that is what I would get, but only on one side. They had to take the pectoral muscle to make the repairs. The surgery was more extensive than they first thought. My family was told how bad it was. I was not told. When I woke up I had staples from below my right breast up through the middle and over to my right arm, a hole in my neck and staples along both sides of my neck.

REALITY slapped me in the face. I had no voice and I would never be able to talk in the same way again. I came home after 10 days in the hospital. Life went on for everyone except me. My world was shattered again. I started talking to the Angel that I have watching over me. I wasn’t always nice about it, I felt that he (my husband) should be here with me to hold me and let me cry on his shoulder. I would curse him because he had “CHECKED OUT ON ME.” I was feeling so sorry for myself with the ‘why me’ and ‘why are you not here with me.’ I felt like I was so broken and I knew that there was nothing my family could do for me. They would text me to ask how are you doing. What could I say except I’m fine.

I started writing a letter to my husband. I told him about my day and what I had done that day or what went wrong and how I felt. I didn’t write every day, but when I felt the need, I would just pick up where I left off and start talking to him. For me it was good therapy. In time I lost the resentment of him leaving me to face this alone. If he had been given a choice I know he would have been here. I still on occasion sit down and write to him.

Everyone should try to find a way to let their feelings out, whether it is talking to someone or writing it down. Join WebWhispers and talk to someone on line. There is always someone that will help if they can. We have all been through hard times with this Big C, and we are all trying to kick its butt.

I began going to the local laryngectomy club and met some very good people. Now I look forward to the first Monday of the month because I can go to the meeting. My outlook on life has changed so much in just the last few months. I’m more confident about going out in public and not worrying so much about other people seeing my badge of courage. I will always try my best not to offend anyone. There will always be some folks that do not know or will say something rude, but that is their problem, not mine.

I just returned from my first IAL conference and what a wonderful time. The most incredible people were there. I was made to feel so

Continued on p.14
The Laryngectomee Guide is available in 7 languages

“The Laryngectomee Guide” is very helpful for laryngectomees, their caregivers and medical professionals. It contains information about the side affects of radiation and chemotherapy; methods of speaking; airway, stoma, and voice prosthesis care; eating and swallowing; medical, dental and psychological concerns; respiration; anesthesia; and traveling.

The Guide is available now in seven languages (English, Italian, Bulgarian, Turkish, Arabic, Chinese, and Russian) and is being translated into more languages (Spanish, Portuguese, Iranian, Romanian, and Serbian) by medical professionals in the corresponding countries.

The American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery and other otolaryngological societies across the world have made the Guide available for free download on their websites. Paperback copies are also given to laryngectomees in Taiwan and Bulgaria thanks to generous grants.

Links to obtain the Guide are below. The eBooks versions are FREE.

**English:**  [http://goo.gl/z8RxEt](http://goo.gl/z8RxEt) for paperback, and  [http://www.entnet.org/content/laryngectomee-guide](http://www.entnet.org/content/laryngectomee-guide) for eBook.

**Russian:**  [https://tinyurl.com/m3r9c6w](https://tinyurl.com/m3r9c6w) for paperback, and [https://goo.gl/qxs97I](https://goo.gl/qxs97I) for eBook.

**Italian:**  [https://goo.gl/uxCXTc](https://goo.gl/uxCXTc) for paperback, and [https://goo.gl/oiEXiC](https://goo.gl/oiEXiC) for eBook.


**Turkish:**  [https://goo.gl/3njWUQ](https://goo.gl/3njWUQ) for paperback, and [http://goo.gl/c7LZXY](http://goo.gl/c7LZXY) for eBook.

**Arabic:**  [https://goo.gl/RsqqRG](https://goo.gl/RsqqRG) for paperback, and [https://goo.gl/PdSMKC](https://goo.gl/PdSMKC) for eBook.

**Bulgarian:**  [https://goo.gl/27KBLL](https://goo.gl/27KBLL) for paperback, and [https://goo.gl/a1w9Gg](https://goo.gl/a1w9Gg) for eBook.

An Expanded Edition of the Laryngectomee Guide has recently been published in English. It is twice the size of the original guide and contains new and updated information. The eBook version is available FREE at [https://goo.gl/gecLgq](https://goo.gl/gecLgq) and the paperback and Kindle editions can be obtained at: [https://www.amazon.com/dp/1976852390](https://www.amazon.com/dp/1976852390) I hope to make the guide available for laryngectomees throughout the world. The translation into Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic will be ready next month.

Itzhak Brook, MD, laryngectomee since 2008.

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Dr. Brook presented lectures in Taipei, Taiwan to the Asian Society of Head and Neck Oncology in conjunction with the publication of the Chinese edition of The Laryngectomee Guide. One to laryngectomees and speech pathologists about life challenges as a laryngectomee and the other to Head and neck surgeons about improving laryngectomee care.
Introducing NEW IAL Board Members

My name is David Kinkead and I live in Peoria, Arizona with my very supportive wife, Cheri, of 38 years. We are both huge Arizona Diamondbacks baseball fans and even travel a few times a year to see them play on the road. We also enjoy hiking and spend a lot of weekends hiking around the state. Cheri and I have two daughters, the youngest, Kristi, lives with her husband Dan in the Phoenix area, and Melissa lives in the Atlanta area with her husband Chris and our two grandchildren, Hattie and Luke.

I am very active in two cancer support groups in the Phoenix area and help facilitate support groups. I also do visitation to laryngectomees in this area. We have a local support group run by the Mayo Clinic that I am a part of. I am a moderator and list manager for WebWhispers. I had my Laryngectomy in July of 2013 and ever since have made it a mission to help others.

I spent my career in retail management both as a trainer and a store manager. I worked for a few companies but mostly in the electronic and office supply industries. I retired after my surgery and now I think I am busier than when I was working.

I am looking forward to being a part of the board of the IAL. I want to be able to give back to one of the organizations that helped me realize there is life after a laryngectomy.

Lori Simpson is a Speech-Language Pathologist who works in Texas and New Mexico. She has attended IAL meetings in Newport News, Baltimore, Dallas, and Orlando. For the last three years, Lori has been responsible for coordinating the ASHA continuing education credit hours for the Voice Institute at the IAL and Texas Laryngectomee Association.

CindyLee Gordish is a Speech-Language Pathologist with Sentara Health-care in Norfolk, VA. She graduated from Old Dominion University in 1998 and currently provides diagnostic and therapeutic services to both acute-care and outpatient populations. Cindy specializes in the care of patients with head/neck cancer. She follows laryngectomees throughout the continuum of care, from pre-op care through outpatient post-laryngectomy voice restoration. Cindy participated in the 2017 and 2018 IAL Annual Meeting/Voice Institute by providing a variety of lectures during the conferences. She received the Shirley J. Salmon IAL Clinician Award in 2017, and also served as the Assistant Director for the Voice Institute in 2018.

Jewell Hoffman was born 1/22/1958 and was laryngectomized when she was 22 years old. She is a 38 year survivor. Her first IAL Annual Meeting/Voice Institute was a year after her surgery in Philadelphia in 1981. It was at that meeting she achieved excellent esophageal speech. Jewell attended two Voice Institutes as a laryngectomee student and three as a laryngectomee trainee where she taught laryngectomees esophageal speech, including those from Japan, using interpreters.

For the last 38 years Jewell has visited laryngectomees in hospitals and taught them how to use ES and EL. She served as the president off and on for the Crescent City New Voice Club in New Orleans for over 23 years. She ran two very successful IAL meetings held in New Orleans where she was first to introduce a “pre-registration.” Jewell wrote and produced two IAL FunShows for two other IAL meetings.

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Jewell first served on the IAL Board of Directors at the age of 25 and continued on and off the Board for over 25 years. She served as chair for several committees and was appointed to the executive committee. Jewell also served on the New Orleans ACS Board of Directors and has spoken at schools all over Louisiana about the dangers of smoking, and to graduate students about laryngectomees. Jewell was active in PTA in her children’s elementary school and middle school. Jewell served as President and Secretary for her children’s elementary, middle and high school. For two years, Jewell belonged to the National Speakers Association and traveled and spoke all over the country.

Jewell Hoffman married at age 23 and had two beautiful daughters through natural childbirth. She adopted three more children (4, 8, and 12 yrs old) when her cousin died in a car wreck. She is mother of 5, grandmother of 8.
welcomed by everyone from laryngectomees, caregivers, SLP’s, doctors and vendors. Everyone should really try to make it to the IAL conference and feel the acceptance from everyone. I learned so much from everyone. Especially one laryngectomee that made it a point to help me to accomplish using the electro-larynx. I had not been able to use it for speaking because of lymphedema and scar tissue. He would not stop until he found a way for me to talk. I am now practicing with it and I know that I will learn to talk and people will understand me. It just takes practice, practice, practice. I can do this. Thank you Tony for the confidence you have given me. I can’t wait for next year in California. We can have a family reunion.

LOOK OUT WORLD – HERE I COME –
MY JOURNEY CONTINUES!

**Attention SLPs**

If you are listed in the IAL Directory of Alaryngeal Speech Instructors please check to make sure your information is current. If you wish to be included in this resource, please notify the IAL of your interest to serve as a resource using the same email. There is no cost to you. Report any problems or interest to: office@theial.com

**IAL Loan Closet is in Need**

The IAL has a loan closet available to laryngectomees in need of an electrolarynx. The closet is presently quite low on loaner devices. If you have a spare electrolarynx that you are not using or no longer need, please consider donating your device to the IAL using the actual office address at: 105 Westland, San Angelo, TX 76901. The IAL will make it available to a laryngectomee in need. Thanks for your help.

**Can You Sew or Crochet?**

The IAL office gets frequent calls requesting stoma covers. The office has need of stoma covers that are sewn or crocheted. There are patterns available, and some volunteers who make the stoma covers are quite creative. If that is your talent, please consider making/donating stoma covers to the IAL office. It is a great service project for active laryngectomee clubs. The stoma covers will be carefully distributed to those in need. Mail to: IAL Office, 105 Westland, San Angelo, TX 76902. Thank you for sharing your expertise with those in need.

Susan Reeves, IAL Administrative Manager
## FINANCIAL REPORT
### 2018 AM/VI CONFERENCE
#### ORLANDO, FLORIDA

### EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Travel expense</td>
<td>6,836.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lodging</td>
<td>7,214.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage, printing &amp; misc. supplies</td>
<td>1,449.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mears Transportation</td>
<td>550.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(buses to Disney Springs)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audio/Visual tech</td>
<td>500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration Refunds</td>
<td>840.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voice Institute Director</td>
<td>6,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday Inn (food for breaks and banquet, podiums, screens, etc.)</td>
<td>13,552.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>36,942.55</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registrations (Vendors and Attendees)</td>
<td>16,685.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations from Vendors</td>
<td>11,600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations from Bob Herbst</td>
<td>1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program ads</td>
<td>2,100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td><strong>31,385.24</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>DIFFERENCE</strong></th>
<th><strong>-5,557.31</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
The 2017-2018
IAL Board Members

Pres/Treas: Helen Grathwohl  V.P.: Kyd Dietrich  Secty: Barb Nitschneider  Admin Mgr: Susan Reeves

Dan Konz  Cindy Lee Gordish  Lori Simpson  David KinKead  Jewell Hoffman

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City, State, Country________________________

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Suite 316
Atlanta, GA 30309-3918

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Please remove my name from the list.

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_______Nurse ______Caretaker ______Other

Name____________________________________
Address____________________________________
City, State, Country________________________
E-mail Address (for receipt)________________

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