



BUCKEYE BULLETIN

OHIO CHAPTER

MYASTHENIA GRAVIS FOUNDATION INC.

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2006

VOL 34 ISSUE 1

Ohio Chapter email address: ohiochaptermgf@nci2000.net

Ohio Chapter website: www.ohiochaptermgf.org

OHIO CHAPTER MGF
2907 LINCOLN WAY E UNIT B
MASSILLON OH 44646
PHONE 330-834-9066

Dear Friends of the Ohio Chapter:

SUPPORT GROUPS

HERB BYER
MEMORIAL MG
SUPPORT GROUP -
CINCINNATI

Contact:

Sharon Meyer
513-242-7448
Sue & Jack Paas
513-831-7307

CLEVELAND

Contact:

Sandra Gardina
216-433-0535
Gloria Diane Mondok
440-835-1521

COLUMBUS

Contact:

Laura Imely
330-704-2737

FINDLAY

Contact:

Charles Neal
419-422-6725
Larry Kitchen
419-423-3906

STARK-SUMMIT

Contact:MG Office
330-834-9066
Ruth Albertelli
330-628-2148

We are beginning the New Year with success. Our finances are in a positive state and we thank all of you who supported our numerous fundraisers and who made generous holiday donations in 2005. As many of you know, we are continuing our 2006 annual membership drive. For those of you who have not paid your annual dues, (there will be a membership mailing in February) please submit them as soon as possible. Our annual dues help to purchase new and current Myasthenia Gravis literature on a regular basis.

The Chapter has already held some support group meetings in January. A special thank you to Laura Imely, who has returned from her studies in Europe. Laura has resumed the Columbus support group meetings. The January meeting had a very impressive attendance.

The National Myasthenia Gravis Foundation Annual Meeting will be held in Tempe, Arizona this April. Additional information regarding this conference is inside this newsletter. Anyone wishing to attend should begin making his or her reservations now. The Ohio Chapter hopes to develop some new programs this year, which will assist all of you.

Sincerely,
Sandra L. Merrill
Chairperson, Ohio Chapter MGF



SUPPORT GROUP MEETING SCHEDULES & UPDATES

CINCINNATI

The Herb Byer Memorial MG Support Group

DATE: March 11, 2006
PLACE: DRAKE CENTER
151 W. GALBRAITH ROAD
CINCINNATI OH 45216
TIME: 1:00 PM
TOPIC: TO BE ANNOUNCED
LUNCH IN CAFETERIA (OPTIONAL) 12:00 PM
CONTACT PERSONS: Sharon Meyer 513-242-7448 or
Sue & Jack Paas 513-831-7307

CLEVELAND

DATE: TO BE ANNOUNCED
PLACE: BROOKPARK BRANCH LIBRARY
6155 ENGLE ROAD
BROOKPARK OH
TIME: 2:00—5:00 PM
TOPIC: TO BE ANNOUNCED

CONTACT PERSONS: Gloria Mondok 440-835-1521 or
Sandra Gardina 216-433-0535

COLUMBUS

DATE: TO BE ANNOUNCED
PLACE: WHETSTONE BRANCH LIBRARY
3909 N. HIGH STREET
COLUMBUS OH
TIME: 2:00—4:00 PM
TOPIC: TO BE ANNOUNCED

CONTACT PERSON : Laura Imely 330-704-2737
(Leave a message) or call Lindie at 330-834-9066

FINDLAY

CALL LARRY OR CHARLES
FOR INFORMATION ON FUTURE MEETINGS

For more information call Charles Neal 419-422-6725 or
Larry Kitchen 419-423-3906

STARK/SUMMIT

DATE: MARCH 18, 2006
PLACE: TAYLOR MEMORIAL LIBRARY
2015—3RD STREET
CUYAHOGA FALLS OH
TIME: 1:00—4:00 PM
SPEAKER: TO BE ANNOUNCED

CONTACT PERSON: Ruth Albertelli 330-628-2148
Ohio Chapter Office 330-834-9066

CINCINNATI— Sharon reports: A small but enthusiastic group met in January. We discussed having an ophthalmologist as a featured speaker in the near future. Our next meeting will be Saturday, March 11, 2006. We all look forward to better and warmer weather when many of our friends will return.

CLEVELAND— Gloria reports: The Cleveland Support Group has suspended meetings for the winter months.....as we usually do. Olive Garden provided us a superb place for our Holiday Party with good food and good company. Since then, the holiday has been hard on our group so remember all of us in your prayers. We plan to resume meetings again in late spring. However, we could use help with ideas, and speakers for our gatherings. We welcome your input....contact Sandy, MaryAnn or Gloria.

- Note: Sandy Gardina's husband Jerry died January 11, 2006 after a very brief illness.

COLUMBUS—Laura reports: The January 22 meeting featured Speakers John T Kissel MD, Professor of neurology, OSU and Miriam Freimer, MD, Associate Professor of neurology, OSU. There were 25 people in attendance. The doctors gave excellent information to the patients and families in attendance. It was reported to be a wonderful and informative meeting. Welcome back Laura!

FINDLAY—Contact Larry or Charles for information on future meetings.

STARK/SUMMIT—Ruth reports: A group discussion was held at the January 21 meeting. There were 13 people in attendance including one new patient who benefited greatly from the discussion. The group would like to have a speaker on relaxation and laughter in the future. The next scheduled meeting is March 18, 2006.

We look forward to another busy year of informative meetings planned by our support group leaders.

Please plan to attend these meeting whenever possible. Your presence is greatly appreciated and your experience in coping with MG is important to any new patients who need support and information regarding living with Myasthenia Gravis.

We appreciate the hard work and planning by the support group leaders. They strive to bring you interesting topics, videos and speakers.

FALL HOLIDAY RAFFLE WINNER

The winner of the diamond dinner ring was **James A Kersteiner of Dayton OH**. The handmade crocheted afghan was won by **Marilyn Hoffman of East Liverpool OH**. Congratulations to our winners.

A sincere "Thank You" to all who participated. A profit of over \$750 was realized to benefit Ohio Chapter services.

HOLIDAY CARDS

Thanks to all who bought holiday cards this year to benefit Ohio Chapter services We appreciate your support.

2006 MEMBERSHIP

It's time to renew your membership to the Ohio Chapter MGFA. The membership renewal information will be mailed in February. We look forward to serving you again this year. Your continued support funds Chapter services including the quarterly newsletter. General dues are \$20.00 per year.

HOLIDAY DONATIONS AND GIFTS

Thank you for your continuing support of the Ohio Chapter through your holiday donations. Your donations enable us to provide information to new patients throughout the state and update our current patients on the latest information available regarding Myasthenia Gravis including research and treatments. Your support is greatly appreciated.

MYASTHENIA GRAVIS FDN OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING 2006

The National office of the MGFA will hold its Annual Meeting at the Wyndham Buttes Resort in Tempe, Arizona, May 4-6, 2006. See page 6 for details.

MG STAMPS

Conquer MG stamps are available through the Chapter office for \$1.00 per sheet of 50 stamps. Bring awareness to the disease Myasthenia Gravis by using these stamps on the back of your outgoing mail. The order form on page 7 may be used to order these bright red and white stamps.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.ohiochaptermgf.org

The Ohio Chapter Website has been updated with all the current information of the Ohio Chapter. Thanks to David Ewing for his fine work on the website.

NOTE OF SYMPATHY

We are saddened to learn that Jerry Gardina, husband of Sandra Gardina died January 11, 2006. Sandy has been a support group leader for many years in the Cleveland area. Our sympathy goes out to Sandy and her family in their loss.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Ohio Chapter member Donna Frank and husband Dean on their 50th wedding anniversary December 9th 2005. Happy Anniversary!

Congratulations to Ohio Chapter office manager Lindie Otto and husband Larry on the birth of granddaughter Kreslie Rae Eberly on November 15, 2005. Kreslie's parents and sister are Tessa and Joe Eberly and Delanie.

THANK YOU

Thanks to Kevin Pifher of the Cincinnati area. Kevin is a food merchandiser at Biggs, a chain of hypermarkets in Cincinnati OH. He had a sale of samples received from various vendors with the proceeds going towards MG. A total of \$117 was raised through his efforts. Thank you Kevin!

MESTINON INFORMATION

From Valeant Pharmaceuticals International

As of November 15, 2005, the MESTINON Rebate Certificates will no longer be available. The MESTINON Rebate Certificates currently in circulation will be honored until March 31, 2006. If you are currently holding a MESTINON Rebate certificate, please be sure to submit it for redemption prior to March 31, 2006.

MESTINON Tablet 60 mg, MESTINON Timespan or Mestinon Syrup **will continue** to be made available through your local pharmacies.

We thank you as patients, consumers, physicians, nurses and the Myasthenia Gravis community who have supported Valeant throughout the years by purchasing MESTINON.

If you have any questions, please contact Valeant Customer Service at 1-800-1937

FROM THE MGFA NATIONAL OFFICE

From: Mat Spaan <nspaan@nonprofitsolutions.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 08, 2005

Subject FW: MGFA—Medicare Prescription Coverage

Hello Chapters,

I am passing on to you an interesting article regarding the new Medicare Prescription Coverage (included below). Specifically, the article discusses what steps are needed to get a specific medication covered by a Medicare Prescription plan when it is not currently included in the plan's formulary.

It is still recommended that individuals eligible for the Medicare drug Coverage choose a plan carefully based upon their needs. At this time, the Medicare website, <http://www.medicare.gov>, offers a program that assists in locating Medicare prescription drug providers in any given state. To access the tool, visit the Medicare website, scroll to "Search tools" and click on "Compare Medicare Prescription Drug Plans".

And remember MGFA is neither directly nor indirectly involved with the Medicare Rights Center (www.medicarerights.org), and the information contained below is intended for informational purposes only. For more information on Medicare coverage, please visit <http://www.medicare.gov>.

Thanks

Mat Spaan

Chapter/Patient Services Manager

What can I do if the drug I need is not covered by my Medicare drug plan?

Section 111.k. Prescription Drugs

Question 7 of 20

Last Update June 15, 2005

If the drug you need is not covered by your Medicare drug plan or it is covered at a higher copay than other drugs, you have the right to ask for an exception to the plan's, formulary (list of covered drugs).

You have the right to request that your plan cover a medically necessary drug not on its formulary when:

You are using a drug currently covered by your plan, but that drug is removed from your plan's formulary for reasons other than safety.

your doctor prescribes a drug not on your plan's formulary because your doctor believes the drugs on the plan's formulary will not work for you.

You also have the right to request that your plan lower your copay for a medically necessary drug (cost sharing tier) when:

You are using a drug currently covered by your plan, but the plan raises your copay for that drug.

Your doctor prescribes a drug on your plan's formulary that requires a higher copay because your doctor believes the drugs covered by the plan with a lower copay will not work for you.

Your doctor must submit a letter certifying that the drug prescribed is medically necessary because other drugs are not as effective or may be harmful for you. Generally, plans must grant these requests—called exceptions—when they determine that it is medically appropriate to do so. **Each plan will create its own process** for how members can ask for the exception.

Plans must respond to your request within 72 hours. You can also ask for an expedited request when your “life, health or ability to regain maximum function” is in jeopardy. Plans must **respond to expedited requests within 24 hours.**

If a plan denies an exception request, **you can appeal the plan’s decision.**

Note: You cannot ask for an exception for drugs specifically excluded from Medicare coverage, including certain anti anxiety drugs, weight loss and gain drugs, and over-the-counter drugs.

The above article is for informational purposes only. For more information visit the website listed above.

OHIO CHAPTER FAVORITE RECIPES COOKBOOK

The Ohio Chapter cookbook consisting of 192 recipes from our members and friends is in stock for 2006. It is a collection of favorite recipes that you will enjoy using for your everyday dining or special occasions. Thanks to all who submitted their favorite recipes.

These cookbooks make great gifts for family, friends, neighbors, co workers, etc. Have a few on hand for easy gifts this year.

Please use the form below to order your cookbooks. The price is \$10 each, which includes shipping and handling.

Please send _____ copies of the Ohio Chapter Favorite Recipe cookbook to:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____

Return this form to: Ohio Chapter MGF, 2907 Lincoln Way E Unit B, Massillon OH 44646

MYASTHENIA GRAVIS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA, INC.

2006 ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 4 – 6, 2006

Wyndham Buttes Resort
2000 Westcourt Way
Tempe, Arizona 85282
Phone 602-225-90

Please join us at the 2006 Annual Meeting in Tempe, Arizona. This meeting promises to be one of the best we've ever had.

For information on required meeting registration and hotel reservations, call the National office at 1-800-541-5454.

Annual Meeting Schedule:

Wednesday, May 3: General Registration Open, MGFA Board Meeting

Thursday, May 4: General Assembly and Business Meeting, Welcoming Remarks, M/SAB Updates, Presentations, Welcome Reception

Friday, May 5: Presentations, Luncheon Speaker, Breakout Sessions, Chapter Development Sessions

Saturday, May 6: Presentations, Selected Tours, Reception, Awards Banquet, Special Entertainment

Featured Speakers:

Robert Pascuzzi MD,	Roger Hughes PhD,	K. Sivakuma MD,
Tim Miller MD,	Michael Pulley MD,	Mark Ross MD,
Dianne Pela, MAPC,	Tahseen Mozaffar MD,	Todd Levine Md,
Ashley Bermeo and family,	David Carfanno MD,	

Members of the MGFA National Board and office.

Registration Costs:

Full Conference— \$100 (Does not include Awards Banquet, Tours or Golf)

Single Day—\$40(Thurs., Fri, or Sat.)

Heard Museum or Botanical Garden Tour—\$12 each

Round of Golf—\$90

Awards Banquet—\$35 (Sat., 7:00-9:30 pm)

Visit the Annual Meeting Web page (www.myasthenia.org/annualmtg2006) on the MGFA Web site for complete details or call the National Office at 1-800-541-5454

ORDER FORM

_____ **HANDICAPPED PARKING APPLICATION** _____ **MG STAMPS (\$1.00 per sheet of 50)**

Your name _____ **Mail to: Ohio Chapter MGF**

2907 Lincoln Way E Unit B

Address _____ **Massillon Oh 44646**

City/State/Zip _____

The following Contributions to the Ohio Chapter were received through JANUARY 31, 2006

HONORARIUMS

FOR
EMMALOU CLARK
LINDIE OTTO
RUBY STONE, (Christmas Honor)

FROM
JUDITH VESCO
SALLY & JIM MENDELL
MARY KAY HAGER

MR & MRS CHARLES WATSON,
(Yankee cousins)

JOBETH & SONNY NELSON,
(Confederate cousins)

MEMORIALS

FOR
MARY IMELY
VERNA DITTER
JERRY GARDINA
JERRY GARDINA
JERRY GARDINA
JERRY GARDINA
JERRY GARDINA
JERRY GARDINA
JERRY GARDINA
JERRY GARDINA
PAUL BUCKLEW
MARTHA GREINER
HERB BYER
HERB BYER
DAVID HOFFMAN

FROM
LAURA AND LARRY IMELY
J WILLIAM DITTER
WAYNE & NYOKNA HAIRE
JOHN GERALDS
OHIO CHAPTER MGF
LINDIE OTTO
JOHN & SHARON YURKO
JACKIE HELD
EMMALOU CLARK
ELAINE & RONALD LACKIE
RON & ELAINE LACKIE
DR ROLAND DONNA HEYNE
PRISCILLA WOOD BYER
MARILYN HOFFMAN

**IN MEMORY OF
ADA BANGS**

FROM:
KAY WILLIAMSON
BOB & GINNY RIEMENSCHNEIDER
CHARLOTTE FULTZ (WHITE) & CLAY
MIRISOLA & COMPANY
GRETA GRAY
BILL & JANE BREMER
GERRY & GLORIA REXING
ALVIN & DIANNE TAO
UNA JOYCE BANGS

PAMELA & FELIX MOSS
VIRGIL & MONA BLANKE
C. J. SHAW
XPLM GROUP AT XEROX CORP.
ALAN & AMY KARPICK & FAMILY
ROGER & GARNET WOLFE
PETE & MARIAN BURNSIDE
DR & MRS MICHAEL LOCKWOOD
MARION & MARYANN HOLEVAS
DR & MRS ERICK BOURNIGAL

JANETTE SPREEN
HARTZEL & VIRGINIA SLIDER
KATHLEEN & ROGER POWERS
MARCIA & PHILIP SMITH
ARNETT CLINIC
CAROLYN H WENZELBERGER

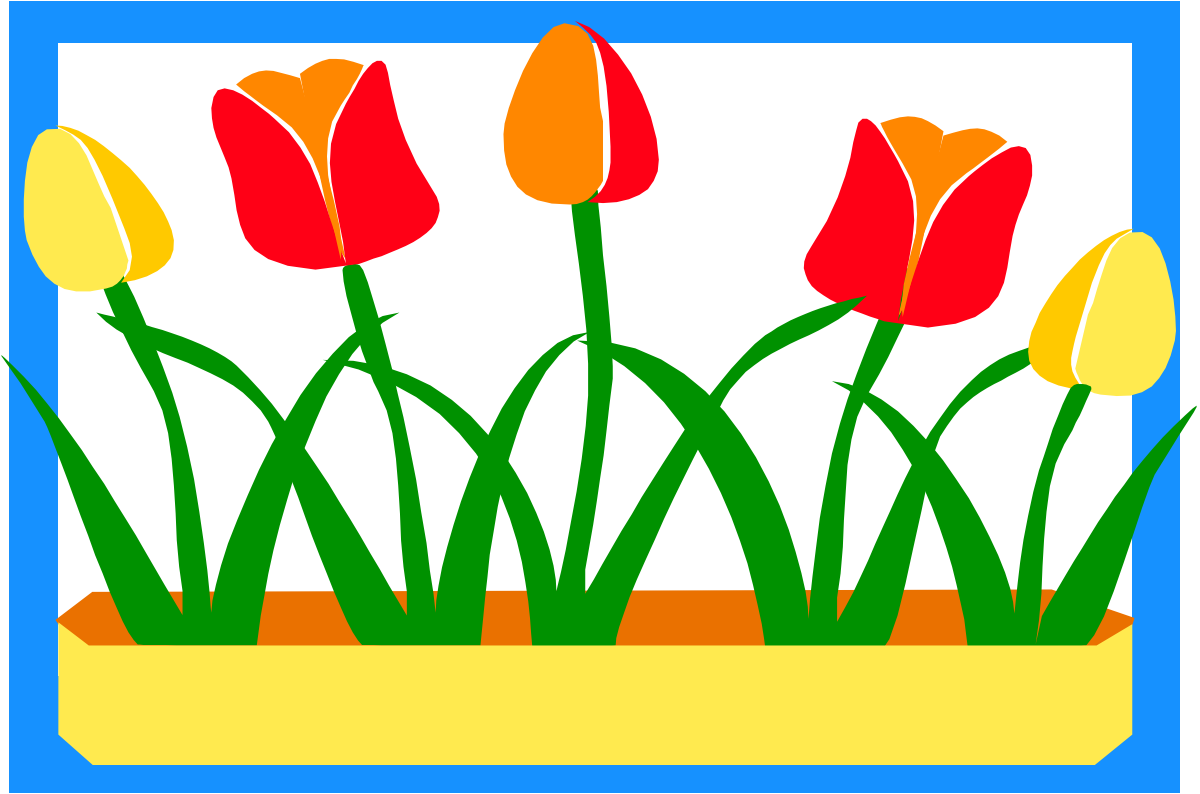
ARE YOU MOVING? PLEASE SEND YOUR NEW ADDRESS AND THE COVER PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER WITH THE CURRENT ADDRESS LABEL, TO: THE OHIO CHAPTER, 2907 LINCOLN WAY E, UNIT B, MASSILLON OH 44646

NAME _____

NEW ADDRESS _____

EFFECTIVE DATE _____ NEW PHONE NUMBER _____

THINK SPRING



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Massillon Oh 44646
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