



MYASTHENIA GRAVIS
FOUNDATION OF AMERICA, INC.
OHIO CHAPTER

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Buckeye Bulletin

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OHIO CHAPTER MGFA
PO BOX 487
MASSILLON, OH 44648
1-330-834-9066

EMAIL: ohiochaptermgf@att.net
www.ohiochaptermgf.org

Dear Members of the Ohio Chapter:

It is with sadness I must announce the closing of our physical location at 126 Gnau Ave, Unit B, Massillon OH. The Ohio Chapter will continue its operations through a home office and Lindie Otto will continue as office manager. The struggling economy and the sharp decline in donations and funding have left the organization with no other option. The Chapter plans to continue to provide literature, information, support groups, patient services, newsletters, and continued funding of research, but we must do so from a location where the payment of rent and additional utilities is not necessary. **Please note the new Chapter mailing address inside this newsletter.**

Tragically, in the last few years our membership of approximately one thousand (1,000) people in Ohio have not been forthcoming in supporting the organization through dues and/or fundraisers. Less than twenty percent (20%) of our membership has paid any annual dues. Only ten percent (10%) of the membership supports our fundraisers. Without more private support from the membership, the medical professionals, and the community at large, our foundation cannot survive. We are asking for donations or dues from any of you who have not sent them in so far this year. In addition, we are providing information in this newsletter about a new online giving method. By using online giving it will save on postage, mailings, and make it easier for an individual to send in a donation. We also have information about a gas card fundraiser included in this newsletter.

On a positive note, we wish to thank Laura Imely and her father Larry Imely (one of our board members) for sponsoring a walk-a-thon. The walk-a-thon was dedicated to the memory of Mary Imely. We appreciate the support of the Imely family and their friends. The walk-a-thon raised funds for the Ohio Chapter and the national foundation.

I want to assure the members that we are **not** folding the organization and we will continue to provide patient services. However, it is imperative for our membership to understand that the lack of financial support we have received over the years has forced us to shut down our physical location and leave us without an independent office. The Chapter has maintained an independent office for over twenty-five (25) years. If there is a time when funds are significant enough to justify re-opening a physical office, we shall do so. Please keep the organization in your thoughts.

Very Truly Yours,
Sandra L. Merrill
Co-chairperson, Board. of Trustees

SUPPORT GROUP INFORMATION

CINCINNATI—HERB BYER MEMORIAL MG SUPPORT GROUP

**Date: November 12, 2011,
Meeting time: 1:00pm to 3:00pm
Place: Mayerson Jewish Community Center (JCC) / The “J”
8485 Ridge Road Cincinnati, OH 45236 (just off Ronald Reagan Highway)
Upcoming Meetings: January 14, 2012
Meeting time: 1:00pm—3:00pm
Contacts: Sue and Jack Paas 513-831-7307 or Sharon Meyer 513-242-7448**

CLEVELAND SUPPORT GROUP

**Date: October 15th 12:00pm to 4:00pm (off to the “Islands” for a Luau)
Lakeside Yacht Club, 4851 Marginal Rd., Cleveland (reservations needed)
Christmas Party December 3rd, 2011— Macaroni Grill
Great Northern Blvd. and I-480 exit in North Olmsted
Contacts: Gloria Mondok 440-835-1521 or Sandy Gardina 216-433-053**

“NEW” COLUMBUS AREA SUPPORT GROUP

**Date: October 22, 2011
Time: 10:30—12:00 PM
Place: The Northwest Library
2280 Hard Rd.
Columbus OH 43235
Contacts: Jane Eickholt “new number” 614-389-3389 or Allen Williamson 614-565-2202**

FINDLAY SUPPORT GROUP

**Due to health issues the group is not active at this time, if you would like to volunteer to have meetings
please call Lindie at the Chapter office: 330-834-9066
Patient Contacts ONLY: Charles Neal 419-422-6725 or Larry Kitchen 419-423-3906
Charles & Larry are willing to speak to newly diagnosed patients or others wanting information**

STARK-SUMMIT SUPPORT GROUP

**December 10, 2011
Time: 1:00PM –3:30PM
Place: Cuyahoga Falls Library 2015 Third Street
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221
Contacts: Ruth Albertelli 330-628-2148 or Lindie Otto at Ohio Chapter office –330-834-9066**

*******NEW HURON SUPPORT GROUP*******

**Date: October 22nd, 2011
Time: 10:30AM—12:45PM
Place: Huron Public Library
333 Williams St
Huron OH 44839
Contact: Claudia Smith 419-433-4313 cell 225-247-2827 or Lindie at Ohio Chapter office: 330-834-9066**

!!! IMPORTANT NOTICE !!!
OHIO CHAPTER OFFICE
CHANGE OF ADDRESS

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2011
NEW CHAPTER MAILING ADDRESS:
PO BOX 487
MASSILLON, OHIO 44648-0487

FISHERS REWARDS PROGRAM
FOR CHARITIES IS BACK

(Stark County)

PLEASE REGISTER TODAY FOR A FISHER'S
REWARDS CARD! IT'S FREE.

You can help the Chapter just by being a Fishers rewards card holder and designate the Ohio Chapter Myasthenia Gravis Foundation as your charity. The Chapter will receive 1% credit for your purchases. We must have a minimum of **50** card holders registered to be eligible for funds. Card holders may go to: **www.fisherfoods.com or call 1-888-866-9186 to designate the Ohio Chapter as your charity.**

There is no cost to you the card holder and you will receive one point for every eligible dollar spent. Once you reach \$400 you qualify for a \$10 Fisher Foods gift card.

A PATIENT'S STORY

Please share your MG story with us, send us your story and we will share it with our members in a future Newsletter.

NEW FEATURE!!!
ONLINE GIVING
Available October 2011.

For your convenience, you can now make a donation in memory of or in honor of a loved one, pay your membership dues, participate in Chapter fundraisers or make a general donation to benefit patient services in a safe and secure online method. Please visit our website at: **www.ohiochaptermgf.org** and follow the prompts. All major credit cards accepted.



COMMUNITY HEALTH CHARITIES-
COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN, STATE EM-
PLOYEES COMBINED CAMPAIGN AND
UNITED WAY CAMPAIGNS

Annual Fall campaigns. If you work in these sectors and donate to these campaigns be sure to designate Myasthenia Gravis Foundation **Ohio Chapter** on your pledge card and/or check. This is a very important source of revenue that supports the services of the **OHIO CHAPTER** MGF. Thank you for your support!

2011 SPRING FUNDRAISER WINNERS

1ST PRIZE: Mary Helen Yung (Cincinnati)
\$500 Savings Bond
2ND PRIZE: Leon Deardorff (Waverly)
Handmade Crocheted Bed Size Afghan
3RD PRIZE: Lowell Myers (Streetsboro)
Longaberger Snowflake Basket Combo

★ ★ ★ OHIO CHAPTER MGF ★ ★ ★
2011 ANNUAL MEETING

DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29TH., 2011
PLACE: DIMITRI'S RESTAURANT
1830 SNOW RD. PARMA OHIO
TIME: 12:00PM TO 4:00PM
SPEAKER: TO BE ANNOUNCED

Lunch is available at \$14.45 per person (includes gratuity) payable to the chapter at the meeting. Please call the MG office 330-834-9066 if you are planning to attend the meeting.

Gift Basket Raffle to benefit Ohio Chapter Patient Services.

IMPORTANT DONATION INFORMATION

Fundraising and donation solicitations from the Ohio Chapter will always come to you with a return address of PO BOX 487, Massillon, Ohio 44648. Any other solicitations from other MG sources are **NOT** from the Ohio Chapter and does NOT benefit Ohio Chapter patient services. Funds received by the Ohio Chapter are used to serve YOU and are already assessed by the National office. Please watch for out of state solicitations. Choose carefully when donating much needed funds to MG.

“Black Box” Warning for Cipro® (ciprofloxacin) and Avelox®(moxifloxacin)

Bayer HealthCare, manufacturers of Cipro® and Avelox®, have issued an announcement that they have been directed by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to place the following boxed warning on the product labeling for these drugs.

Warning:

Fluoroquinolones, including AVELOX®/CIPRO®, may exacerbate muscle weakness in persons with myasthenia gravis. Avoid AVELOX®/CIPRO® in patients with known history of myasthenia gravis (see Warnings and Precautions).

The Warnings section in the product labeling within each package of Cipro® goes on to say:

Exacerbation of Myasthenia Gravis: Fluoroquinolones, including CIPRO, have neuromuscular blocking activity and may exacerbate muscle weakness in persons with myasthenia gravis. Postmarketing serious adverse events, including deaths and requirements for ventilatory support, have been associated with fluoroquinolone use in persons with myasthenia gravis. Avoid CIPRO in patients with known history of myasthenia gravis.

The Information for Patients section in the product labeling says:

“...fluoroquinolones like CIPRO may cause worsening of myasthenia gravis symptoms, including muscle weakness and breathing problems. Patients should call their healthcare provider right away if they have any worsening muscle weakness or breathing problems.” (There are similar statements in the Avelox® product labeling.)

Although worsening of muscle weakness in MG following administration of a fluoroquinolone antibiotic was reported almost 30 years ago, this is the first time that the FDA has required that a specific warning about this risk be placed on the labeling information for these drugs. (Another antibiotic with a specific warning for MG is Ketek® (telithromycin), which has also been associated with sometimes fatal worsening of MG). The FDA action in requiring these warnings resulted from reports submitted to their MedWatch Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program. The FDA receives and evaluates reports about possible drug related adverse events that are voluntarily submitted to the MedWatch program.

Submission of MedWatch reports is particularly important in identifying adverse drug reactions in rare diseases such as MG. Reactions that are specific for rare diseases are not discovered during the clinical trials performed to get new drugs approved because patients with such diseases are ineligible to participate in most drug trials. Also, because these adverse reactions occur in isolated cases, and many things can cause worsening in MG, it can take a long time for individual physicians to see enough such reactions to recognize a pattern pointing to a specific medication. Anyone can submit a MedWatch report- physicians, nurses, pharmacists, patients, even family members - and information about how to submit a report and submission forms can be found on the MedWatch website:

(<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/default.htm>) or by running an internet search on “MedWatch.”

Fluoroquinolones:

Avelox (moxifloxacin hydrochloride) tablets and Avelox (moxifloxacin hydrochloride in NaCl injection) IV
Cipro (ciprofloxacin hydrochloride) Tablets, Oral Suspension, IV and Cipro XR (ciprofloxacin extended-release tablets)

Noroxin (norfloxacin Tablets)

Levaquin (levofloxacin) Tablets, Oral Solution and Injection

Proquin XR (ciprofloxacin) Extended Release Tablets

Floxin (ofloxacin) Tablets

Factive (gemifloxacin mesylate) Tablets

NEWS UPDATE
OHIO CHAPTER MYASTHENIA GRAVIS FOUNDATION
PO BOX 487
MASSILLON OHIO 44648

2011 FALL FUNDRAISER
Drawing date: OCTOBER 29, 2011
Entry Deadline: October 28, 2011
PRIZE: \$250.00 – GAS CARD

Dear Friends,

The Ohio Chapter remains committed to our MG family, but regrettably funds for the Ohio Chapter are nearly depleted. We find that we are struggling just to meet our monthly expenses. The chapter office may have to close its doors in the near future if we cannot raise the funds to meet expenses and continue our services. Twenty five percent (25%) of the chapters' income is assessed to the national office; that is a considerable amount for a small chapter. However, we continue to pay that assessment yearly to keep our good standing with National. The Chapters only income is small fundraisers, dues, donations and minimal CHC donations. We are struggling to find corporate donations and to sponsor large fundraising events. We realize all of us are struggling during these difficult economic times, but please help us to continue our fight for myasthenia.

We are grateful to all who support the chapter by your dues and generous donations.

Please help us to remain open and continue providing services to all MG patients and families by participating in the fall gas card fundraiser with your **\$10 or more** donations. We urge you to solicit family and friends to participate.

All proceeds from this fundraiser are used to provide Ohio Chapter Patient Services.

Your name will be entered into a drawing once for each \$10 donation. Fill in the entry form below and return it to the Ohio Chapter office.

Sincerely,
Sandra L Merrill
Co-Chairperson
Ohio Chapter MGF

You may make copies of the form for friends and family

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Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone Number _____

Number of entries per each \$10 _____ **Total Donation Amount** _____

Mail to: Ohio Chapter MGF
PO BOX 487
Massillon Ohio 44648

OHIO CHAPTER—MYASTHENIA GRAVIS FOUNDATION of AMERICA

PO BOX 487

MASSILLON OHIO 44648

330-834-9066

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

CANTON, OH 44711
PERMIT NO. 1399



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
FALL 2011

ARE YOU MOVING?

PLEASE SEND YOUR NEW ADDRESS TO: Ohio Chapter MGF, PO BOX 487 MASSILLON, OH 44648

NAME _____

OLD ADDRESS _____

NEW ADDRESS _____

EFFECTIVE DATE _____ NEW PHONE NUMBER _____

If you wish to receive the Buckeye Bulletin Newsletter and any other Ohio Chapter correspondence via email to save the Chapter the cost of printing and postage, please check the box below and mail to the Chapter office at PO BOX 487 Massillon Ohio 44648, or reply via email at: ohiochaptermgf@att.net

Yes, Please send chapter correspondence via email to:

NAME _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____