
TRIGEMINAL NEURALGIA ASSOCIATION
NORTHEAST FLORIDA SUPPORT GROUP

TIC TALK



FEBRUARY 2005

NEXT MEETING IS SATURDAY, MARCH 5

I want to start out and apologize to everyone for not getting a TIC TOC out sooner, especially after our December meeting. I got caught up in the Christmas rush, traveling to Ohio for the holidays and then getting sick after we returned then having to cancel the January meeting. Thank you for all your patience with me.

Before I move to the report on our February meeting and the new business, I want to thank Charlie Doolittle and his lovely wife Eva for their help on our Christmas party/meeting in December. They once again out did themselves with their program. They always come up with the most interesting questions and good prizes to reward us all. Myron Morgan proved to be the most knowledgeable or was it the quickest to raise his hand (?) Thanks again to all who participated.

At this meeting we always take time to thank those who help us out during the year.

- Ruth Eisen-Past Support Group leader who is my right hand lady and really continues to be the Leader in our group
- John Vigneaux-our Treasurer who keeps track of all expenses and dollars and bill payments. And reminds us to support our National Headquarters Organization in Gainesville, FL.
- Jim O'Gallagher-who keeps attendance, makes nametags and reminds me when I forget to do something
- Laurice Hunter, Ruth Eisen and Florence Schwaner our telephone committee
- Jane Ferrier-refreshment list
- Grahle Neitz-Notification of meeting dates in the newspapers
- Our Friends & Family-who continue to support us as we find the best treatments for others and ourselves

I hope that I didn't forget anyone, if so you'll be thanked in the next newsletter.

Our February meeting was held the *second Saturday of the month, Feb. 13* due to the Super Bowl in Jacksonville on Feb.7th. The attendance was not as high, which again proves that I must try to keep our meetings on the first Saturday whenever possible.

We welcomed a new member to our group Bibi Figueroa. Bibi has been on our mailing list but this was the first opportunity that she had to attend one of our meetings. What a story she had to tell. Bibi moved here from New Jersey and shortly after began experiencing the pain in her face. Naturally the first thought was dental pain and was treated for that but the doctors could not find the cause. She then went to Shands and did several days of tests with no diagnosis. She was taking Advil, alieve and nothing helped. She was hospitalized again, had 2 spinal taps, MRI and no diagnosis. She then went back to her home country of Puerto Rico and went to doctors & dentists there, undergoing tests again, but still no diagnosis. She then went to a holistic doctor in Puerto Rico who immediately diagnosed Trigeminal Neuralgia. At least now with a diagnosis she was able to

receive treatment in the US and was prescribed Neurontin with increasing dosages, resulting in some hearing loss, pain, tingling and watering eyes. Bibi has recently been approved to see a neurologist at Shands. Currently she is on neurontin 800mg in the A.M., 400mg midday and 400mg in the P.M. We all know how Bibi feels and the enormous stress s that you go through until you are finally properly diagnosed.

When we started discussing the Holistic doctor and his ability to diagnose the problem. Rita Kelly talked a little about her vitamin and food regime that has helped her tremendously. Rita has agreed to cover us all at our **next meeting on March 5**. Rita has some very good information and is proof that it does work. I learn more every time I talk with her. We are very fortunate that she has agreed to talk about this with us.

Several members brought us up to date on how they are doing.

- JohnVigneaux has been able to get off Dilantin and is now taking Tegretol 3X a day and neurontin 3X. He is still a little dizzy from the medication but is doing better.
- Bennie Devane had the gamma knife last year and was relieved of his pain. Recently, his pain started up for about a week. He called Dr. Zeal at Baptist for a prescription, but he was referred back to his regular doctor for prescriptions. He is now again pain-free, but will get a new prescription from his doctor to be prepared if his pain does start back again. It's good to see him doing so well.
- Bonnie Lawton is currently on 600 mg Neurontin and 100 mg Tegrotol. The Tegrotol is making her foggy, and she is also experiencing some moodiness
- Laurice Hunter was unable to attend this meeting as she is experiencing some pain again. Laurice had been doing well on depakote but is unable to control her pain now. We wish her well and hope to see her at our next meeting.

Business items were covered in the meeting were the following: -Videos and DVD's have been ordered of the 2004 conference. Support group leaders also receive 6 free for their group. Since it was as economical to order a complete set of tapes as selecting 10 or 12. I ordered the complete set of videos and 6 of the sessions on DVD as the free ones. This will give us some flexibility when showing at our meetings or lending to our members. These will be available after April 15.

We voted to send a small gift of candy or fruit to the ladies at the Education Department of Memorial Hospital. They are very helpful in scheduling our meeting rooms. You may notice on the TV screen listing of activities at Memorial Hospital that time for our meeting will show from 1:30-4:00 P.M. now, instead of 2-4 P.M. Our meetings are still 2:00-4:00 but often last year when we would come early to set up, the meeting rooms were not open yet. So I now scheduled the room for ½ hour earlier hoping that the rooms will be open earlier.

Ruth Eisen served refreshments. And with her usual holiday flair we had a great Valentine spread. Ruth truly is our VALENTINE.

Rita Kelly has volunteered to help Elaine Campbell with refreshments in April.

Cindy Ezell will be coming to our April 2, meeting and will be our guest speaker. Cindy is one of the founders of our Northeast Florida support group, and now sits on our National Board in Gainesville. She knows more about TN than anyone I know, including doctors. She will be great source of information for us all. Try not to miss this meeting.



MARCH 5 IS OUR NEXT MEETING 2:00-4:00 P.M. Memorial Hospital. Rita Kelly will be telling us how to stay healthy and pain free. I hope to see everyone there.

HERE'S OUR MEETING SCCHEDULE FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR

Saturday, March 5, 2005	2:00-4:00 P.M.
Saturday, April 2, 2005	2:00-4:00 P.M.
Saturday, May 7, 2005	2:00-4:00 P.M.
Saturday, June 11, 2005	2:00-4:00 P.M.*
July no meeting	
August no meeting	
Saturday, September 10, 2005	2:00-4:00 P.M.**
Saturday, October 8, 2005	2:00-4:00 P.M.
Saturday November 5, 2005	2:00-4:00 P.M.
Saturday, December 3, 2005	2:00-4:00 P.M.

Saturday, January 7, 2006 2:00-4:00 P.M.

*The June meeting is on the second Saturday, Memorial Hospital didn't have a room for us on the 1st. Saturday

**The 1st Saturday is Labor Day weekend, so we moved to the 2nd Saturday

TRIGEMINAL NEURALGIA ASSOCIATION-INFORMATION, SUPPORT, ENCOURAGEMENT
2801 S.W. Archer Road, Suite C, Gainesville, FL 32608
Phone 352-376-9955
- Patient Information -Alana Greca 352 376-3608 Fax (904) 779-7681
e-mail: tnational@tna-support.org

THE NORTHEAST FLORIDA TNA SUPPORT GROUP
MEETS THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH FROM 2 P.M. TO 4 P.M.
AT THE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

Leader Patty Hill --904/285-5307, 106 Overlook Dr., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
Contacts for information about group: Local Calls: Patty Hill – 904/285-5307
For calls to St. Augustine, Florida area: Charlie Doolittle – 904/797-2382



Northeast Florida TNA Support Group
Patty Hill, Editor
106 Overlook Dr.
Ponte Vedra Bch., FL 32082

