
**TRIGEMINAL NEURALGIA ASSOCIATION
NORTHEAST FLORIDA SUPPORT GROUP**

TIC TALK



MAY 2005

Our May meeting was held on May 7 and was very well attended. It always makes me feel like our efforts are worthwhile when we have good attendance. But the responsibility still falls on me to have a good program so that we want to attend.

As a follow-up, I was able to speak with Margy Lang, the daughter of Rita Kelly, and we will be working together this summer to get more PR out on our organization both to the public and doctors, dentists and other health care providers. Margy has volunteered to assist in membership drives, raise awareness of our groups efforts, line up speakers, fund raisers, reminder notices and the newsletter, *all at no cost to us*. Her company does association management and conference facilitation; her expertise will be very valuable to us, especially me. We will be working to have a full schedule of speakers when we resume our meetings in September. Many thanks to her for volunteering.

Charley Doolittle continues to try to add cultural in our group and brought us flyers on EMMA Concert Association & Flager College in St. Augustine. He and his wife Eva are very active in the cultural events in St. Augustine. The schedule is very diverse and I may even be able to drag my husband to one or two events, especially the ballet. Thanks Charlie.

Bibi Figueroa was able to attend along with her brother George and mother Benita Rodriguez. Benita is here from Puerto Rico to help Bibi as she goes through her chemo treatments. Unfortunately Bibi's TN is still giving her much pain, but she continues to be as cheerful as ever. She is scheduled to see a neurologist at Shands soon.

We welcomed a new member Tory Wilcox. Tory has been diagnosed with TN that appears to be caused by nerve damage, probably from dental work. Tory is currently seeing Dr. Margaret L. Dennis for her facial pain. Dr. Dennis is a dentist with advanced studies in facial pain management. She is associated with The Orofacial Pain Center, 4237 Salisbury Road, Building 1, Suite 1102, Jacksonville, FL 32216, (904) 296-1990. Tory brought us some brochures about Dr. Dennis and her practice. This looks like it will be a good resource for our members. Tory has offered to help get Dr. Dennis as a speaker at a future meeting. Thank you for your interest and support. I look forward to working with you in making our meetings more informative.

Myron Morgan, who joined our support group about March 2004, shared his story with us at this meeting. Myron started experiencing his pain over two years ago. At first it was just a shock, then continued to get worse. Initially his TN was diagnosed as a tooth problem and he ended up having five

teeth pulled. His TN kicked-in again in the dental chair, reminding him that it was still there. Myron was then referred to a neurologist at Shands where he was diagnosed with TN and prescribed neurontin. Still experiencing pain he saw two doctors at Mayo and prescribed tegretol and he was down to 100mg. Myron's pain then increased again and his daughter stepped in and got in touch with National Headquarters in Gainesville. I spoke with Myron's daughter and told her about our support group and since then, Myron has become a regular attendee.

In January and February Myron's pain began to increase and he was increased to 200mg of tegretol. Keeping in close touch with his daughter he told her of his increasing pain. His daughter is very strong in her church and said that she would pray for him and for his pain to go away. His pain started to improve. One week he had a flash of pain and in talking to his daughter she again said that her prayer group at church would continue for his pain to go away. Myron continues to improve and have relief from his pain. Myron reminded us all to ask for help, "It's unbelievable what the prayers would do. It's hard to pray for yourself and we tend to be better at praying for others. And don't be afraid to ask for help."

Myron then asked me how my pain was. I told him that I was talking with others before the meeting that for the first time in over seven years I had experienced no pain during the last month. Myron then told me that he called his daughter and asked her to include me in her prayer group. I am so thankful for those prayers, I continue to be pain free and am weaning myself off Dilantin, and I'm now down to 100mg, every other day.

When Myron was speaking he said some very kind words about me, and the support that he had received. I know that I don't do this alone and that everyone one of us supports him and each other. It really takes our whole team to get us through the pain. I pray that we will all find relief.

Thank you Myron for a very inspirational presentation and a special thanks to your wonderful daughter. You are a lucky man.

I announced to everyone that Beth Heitman from our National headquarters had resigned and was going to pursue finishing her degree. I spoke with Beth to thank her for all her help and cheerful words. In addition to resigning to get her degree, she will be spending her summer with her elderly parents getting them settled as they transition their life to accommodate their illness. Again, we find another wonderful daughter. Best wishes to Beth and her family.

We viewed a video from the national conference with a panel of nurses answering patient's questions. This was very informative. I will review the questions it in our next newsletter. (I just wasn't ready to watch it one more time right now-I have a 12yr. old visiting for a month- and as usual I forgot to take notes as we watched the video.)

Our next meeting will be this Saturday, June 11 at 2:00 P.M. at memorial hospital. Remember this will be our last meeting until September. Please try to attend.

HAPPY FATHERS DAY TO ALL YOU WONDERFUL FATHERS!

**TRIGEMINAL NEURALGIA ASSOCIATION
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**THE NORTHEAST FLORIDA TNA SUPPORT GROUP
MEETS THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH FROM 2P.M.TO
4P.M. IN THE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA**

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