



Happy October!



Get Well Norm!

Get well wishes go out to Norman Stuiber Sr. He had heart valve replacement surgery on Friday, September 19th. He is surrounded by the love and support of his wife, Nancy and six children, Noreen, Norman Jr, Nanette, Nicholas, Noel and Nathan. "We are so proud of you Dad!" Thank you to all for your encouraging thoughts and prayers to him.

Wedding Congratulations

Congratulations to Lynn Ann Hogan and Henry John Eckert! They were wed as husband and wife on Friday, October 3, 2008 amongst family and friends in a lovely autumn ceremony in Bristol, Wisconsin.



Henry is a local Alpha-1 patient who had a double lung transplant in February 2005 at age 35 (UW Madison Hospital, WI). His surgeon was Dr Robert B. Love (now at Loyola Hospital, IL). His recovery has been on a positive path ever since...including "love". Henry has been involved with offering support to the transplant patient and attends our local meetings. Best wishes to both Henry and Lynn on their journey into wedded bliss! The October 3rd date was chosen because it is the birthday of his lung donor, Scott. Henry's groom cake also had three ribbon symbols,

Green (for Transplant), Yellow (for Cancer Survivor), and Purple (for Alpha-1).



Genetic Flu Test

There is now a government approved genetic test for the flu virus as of September 30, 2008 which will help clinical labs nationwide to discover flu strains within 4 hours instead of 4 days. According to the CDC's director, Dr Julie Gerberding, "We'll now be able to detect influenza in the community faster, which allows us to take steps more quickly to protect and save lives." Labs will be supplied with Applied Biosystems equipment to run the test, and the CDC will provide the necessary chemicals. About 20 to 30 state labs should be up and running by the end of the year, CDC officials said.

Source: Stobbe, Mike, "Faster genetic test for flu virus approved" AP Press 1 Oct 2008, <http://ap.google.com>

Newborn Screening for Alpha-1 Workshop Suggests Lifetime Benefits

A panel of national and international experts has recommended that multiple pilot studies be initiated to assess the benefits and practicality of newborn screening for Alpha-1. The panel said that adding Alpha-1 to newborn screening would be "a new paradigm," focusing on benefits resulting not only from immediate medical treatment but also on avoiding risk factors including parental and personal smoking and environmental exposures, both in the workplace and at home.

Given that the currently available information on the benefits of newborn testing for this condition is limited, the panel recommended that multiple pilot studies be initiated to assess the practicality and clinical impact of early diagnosis. The recommendation came out of a workshop sponsored by the Alpha-1 Foundation entitled "The Promise and Challenge of GINA: Is it Time for Newborn Screening for Alpha-1?" in Arlington, VA, Sept. 18-19.

Source: <http://www.alphaone.org>

Shop 'n Donate at Pick 'n Save!

Wisconsin's Alpha Pack is now listed as a charity through Pick 'n Save. If you carry and use an Advantage Plus Savers Club Card, you can designate our organization through their **WE CARE** program. Each time you present your card at checkout, a donation from that grocery purchase is added to our account. Ask at your Pick 'n Save's service desk to fill out an application and add Wisconsin's Alpha Pack. Our WE CARE account number is **023225**.

New Virtual Transplant Support Group

The Alpha-1 Association's Virtual Transplant Support Group is dedicated to providing information and resources for Alphas considering a lung or liver transplant and for those Alphas who have undergone a lung or liver transplant.

A variety of resources are available through this group:

- Peer Guide Connections
- Education and Resource Links
- Online Discussion Forums
- Quarterly Telecalls

To join the Virtual Transplant Support Group and receive notice of telecalls and notifications when additional resources are listed on this site, please email gpaul@alpha1.org or horsak@alpha1.org. For further details, go to: <http://www.alpha1.org/support/TransplantSupport.php>

Central Fields Region Mtg. Minutes

by Dawn Smith, Support Group Co-Leader

The next Central Fields Region meeting will be November 6, 2008. For details, contact CFR Co-Leader, Dawn Smith, at (715) 536-8145 or CFRcoleader@thealphapack.org.

Green Bay Region Mtg. Minutes

by Ron Bernard, Support Group Leader



Green Bay Region met on September 16 with 14 attendees. Jean Kirsch from Accredo hosted the meeting, and she announced the Medco Drug Card, where there are better benefits in Special Pharmacy. Medco owns Accredo.

We also welcomed Bob & Ann Gustafson who were new attendees. In addition, we met Leo Zalaznik and Lisa Bonner, who now represents Baxter. Bobbi Flynn, RN from Aurora BayCare did a presentation on the Power Port, which was informative and very interesting. During discussion, many members offered input on speaker suggestions which can be used as a guide for future presentations.

Noreen James attended and announced she is retiring as President but will be an advisor (Dir of Ops) in the future. Also, Jen Bauernfeind, mother of two young Alphas here in Wisconsin, is advocating for newborns to be screened for Alpha-1 at the Alpha-1 Foundation's critical issues workshop on newborn screening.

Distribution of tote bags and pins were done, and we had another group picture. The next Green Bay Region will be meeting on Tuesday, November 18, 2008. For details, contact Ron Bernard at (920) 490-7811 or GBRleader@thealphapack.org.

Northern Lights Region Mtg. Minutes

by Judy Parker, Support Group Leader

September's meeting was an open forum. Members and guests discussed Alpha-1 related topics in an informal environment. Food and refreshments from were hosted by Accredo.

The next Siren meeting will be "Lung Transplant from a Patient's Point of View" and Holiday Bash hosted by Talecris and is planned for November 14, 2008. For details, contact Judy Parker at (715) 653-2666 or NLRleader@thealphapack.org.

Southern Shores Region Mtg. Minutes

by Noreen James, President and Director of Operations

Milwaukee's September 11th meeting was an open forum. Members and guests discussed Alpha-1 related topics in an informal environment. The purpose for a meeting without a presentation is to devote time for the patient, family, and/or caregiver to share experiences, ask questions, offer support, announce news, and/or just mingle. We also take time to talk about upcoming events, both locally and nationally. At this meeting, we welcomed 15 people in attendance. CSL Behring, the manufacturers of Zemaira® www.zemaira.com, hosted food and refreshments from Edwardo's Pizza. Thank you to all who could attend, it was great to see you all!

The next Milwaukee meeting will be November 13, 2008. For details, contact Noreen James at (920) 803-2668 or SSRleader@thealphapack.org.