

YOUNG ADULT STROKE SURVIVORS – NOVEMBER MEETING

Saturday, November 20, 2010 1:00 – 2:45 PM

Gerrit Barrere called the meeting to order with a few announcements, the first of which was:

General Announcements:

Gerrit had a box of "goodies" from the American Heart Association – items included special fabric to help open jars, note pads, letter openers, etc. If you are interested in any of this, contact Gerrit. Lots to go around.

Membership Roster - A link to the latest roster was sent by email a few weeks ago, and printed copies were circulated at the meeting. To protect privacy the link won't be published here. Contact Gerrit if you would like it.

Upcoming Holiday Party - Sunday December 19 (not the regular meeting day): Noon– 3 pm, TCU Auditorium (where it was last year)

✓ **YASS History needed from "Veteran Members" for posting on the website.**

If you have info to make the website richer with your knowledge, please call Alice Hanson, 206-526-8672. Either leave a message for Alice to call you and transcribe your story as you speak, or you can tell her voice mail what you know. Or email her at alice344@yahoo. Tell us about the early years of the group, and how we got where we are today.

✓ **New Faces - WELCOME!** – Vicky Smith, Sharen Chase

PRESENTATION:

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Blaire Wagner, UW Speech and Hearing Program

Accompanying her talk with a handout, Blaire detailed her interest in ongoing studies of Traumatic Brain Injury, particularly as it occurs to military combat veterans. More are surviving wartime head injuries now, and TBI may also be caused by stroke, sports injury, etc. She covered the subject in great detail, explaining advances in protective wear as well as diagnosis through analyzing eye movement using special goggles, Military Acute Concussion Evaluation, blood test for biomarkers and new brain imaging technologies that better detect the extent of damage.

Some members in the room identified they had dependents who had TBI as a result of being a veteran. There was discussion about the progress of study and what treatment options are developing as a result.

DISCUSSION:

What is the best way for YASS speakers to communicate with members who have aphasia?

Noting the many members of YASS who have aphasia, Gerrit asked:

Is there a better way for our presenters to present their information? Write it down? Do PowerPoint? We need your suggestions. A discussion ensued between the many members in the room who experience aphasia.

It was agreed that there are times when a listener should help the aphasic by suggesting words and times when they should be allowed to find the words themselves. It is always appropriate to ask the aphasic which they would prefer. Many thought that having handouts and presentations written down was easier than having to understand a verbal presentation.

All agreed that patience is the most important thing when dealing with aphasia.

✓ ***If you have suggestions on what you think upcoming presenters should be asked to do to better communicate with members with aphasia, contact Gerrit.***

PRESENTATION:

Travel to Glacier National Park with members John & Laura

A summary of their trip to Glacier National Park this summer was presented by John Brace and Laura Cubell.

Amtrac was their primary mode of travel and it was VERY friendly and easy to use for people with disabilities. The parks are also very easy to navigate and enjoy, and FREE for the disabled.

The trip was so much fun and so successful that Jim and Laura want to recruit others to help plan a group YASS trip to Mount Rainier next summer. Contact Dianne Cubell at (206) 726-1799 or Gerrit at (206) 241-7693.