

Boston Cured Cancer Club for Laryngectomees

243 Charles Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02114

Newsletter for September and October 2018

Hello Folks! We hope this newsletter finds you enjoying some beautiful summer weather...The past several weeks have certainly had more than their share of heat, humidity and haze! As we sit on our back-porch in the now cooler evening darkness enjoying the late summer sounds of the crickets, cicadas and frogs we are reminded that August is quickly waning. So, it is a good time to start thinking about our upcoming season of the BCCCL!

Our first meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 9, 2018 in the 7th floor cafeteria at MEEI in Boston. "Meet and Greet" begins at 1:00PM with our formal meeting starting at 1:30PM. If you can't make it in September then do consider joining us at our October 7th meeting....You may even win a "door prize"! Being with others who truly understand the experience of having a laryngectomy is both affirming and inspirational. Whether new to being a laryngectomee or a true veteran of the lifestyle, those who attend find inspiration and support. Topics range from the very mundane to the merry! So often, a member will bring up a particular issue he/she is dealing with and someone else has some insight which helps to alleviate the concern. Please join us for light refreshments and good conversation. Free validated parking in the MEEI lots is available to attendees.

Our schedule for the upcoming series of meetings is as follows: We will meet in September on the Sunday after Labor Day and then on the first Sunday in October, November and December. Due to weather concerns, we will not meet in January or February. We resume meeting on the first Sunday in March, April and May and then recess for the summer. These newsletters are published four times a year.

At our last meeting in May, we welcomed Samantha Jones, MA, CCC-SLP who is the clinical speech pathologist at ATOS Medical Inc. She offered a very informative presentation entitled: *The Modern Day Laryngectomee*. Included in her presentation were techniques to optimize breathing with HMEs and attachments as well as exploration of ways to improve voice quality and hands-free speech. Members had time to view product samples and to ask questions. We very much appreciate having had this opportunity to learn of most recent developments in laryngectomee support.

ATOS Medical, Inc. which is one of the major suppliers of laryngectomy devices and supplies also offers presentations in various locations. Their upcoming Laryngectomy Community Support Event (Event code: cev18et-0248) will be held on August 22nd from 1:00pm – 3:00pm at the Hilton Garden Inn, 220 India St. in Providence, RI. This presentation is entitled *Optimizing Your Voice*. Tips to optimize your voice and techniques to improve voice quality will be discussed. Communication options including electrolarynx, voice prosthesis and hands-free speech will be explored.

TO REGISTER: Contact Elise Timmerman at elise.timmerman@atosmedical.com or 800.217.0025 x6404 OR Online at Online at: <https://bit.ly/cev18et-0248>

ATOS Territory Sales Manager Dave Barry can be reached at dave.barry@atosmedical.com. For more information as it becomes available regarding additional events in other locations around the state and country visit www.atosmedical.us .

We would like to add a personal note regarding our appreciation for the support we have received in attending the BCCCL meetings these past ten and a half years. Meeting others who have experienced a laryngectomy is truly inspirational and has tremendously helped our adjustment to all the changes necessitated by such a surgery. Andre found his "new normal" and while it isn't easy to live as a laryngectomee it is certainly doable. At the time of his diagnosis, he said he just wanted to do whatever he had to in order to be here for "the long haul". We are so grateful to be 10 years into "the long haul"! But, we would not be doing as well as we are without our association with this small, but mighty group who have had to make adjustments in their daily lives in ways no one would freely choose.

Please join us on September 9th and again on October 7th. We draw strength from one another's presence. We are not only living, but thriving, as cancer survivors and their loved ones.

Enjoy these waning days of summer.
'Hope to see you in September!

Andre and Ginny Charpentier
508-285-7325
acharpen@umich.edu+

One moment at a time, one day at a time...always hoping for the best...

HOPE = Holding Onto Positive Expectations

Another favorite...

Courage does not always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, 'I will try again tomorrow.' -Mary Anne Radmacher