

Scleroderma News

April 2008

Memorial Service for Pat Rissler

After a funeral Mass at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Pat was buried in her beloved Charles City, Iowa. Flowers were sent on behalf of everyone in the Nevada Chapter. Her family did not plan any local service; therefore, on the April 12 support group meeting we will have a very informal memorial service for Pat. We will begin at 10:30 am as scheduled at the West Charleston Library. Please encourage those you know that loved Pat to attend.

Name Your Newsletter

Win a Lighted Vegas sign and two movie tickets! Email your entry to roserath_1072@yahoo.com along with your name and phone number. Winner will be announced in May newsletter.

Member Spotlight



Hi,

My name is Rose Rath and I'm the newest board member. I am also helping with membership

and maintaining our database.

I have lived in Las Vegas since 1972. I work at the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority. I also have two children.

I was first diagnosed with Scleroderma in October of 1992. I wanted to be a part of the Scleroderma support group because I thought it was important to be around people who go through the same things I do with Scleroderma. I think it's important for us to help people understand Scleroderma and to help raise money for research to find a cure.



President's Message

It is certainly with a heavy heart that I write to you all that we lost a precious friend, board member, and support group leader with the passing of Pat Rissler. Pat's contributions to our local organization are immeasurable. Her love and support has at one time or another sustained us all. Personally, although I have only known Pat for three years, her impact on my life cannot be told with mere words.

Upon the untimely death of a friend, I called about attending the support group and it was Pat that called me back and made me feel welcome. At my first meeting it was Pat that put her arm around me and comforted me. I came to the organization to "give" something from a group of friends of our beloved friend, who had died of scleroderma, but I left with and still enjoy a room full of wonderful new friends and the determination to fight this horrible disease side by side with them.

When I became president, I was always looking to Pat to make sure I was doing the right thing. I cared what she thought and I knew she would be straight with me. I can safely say that Pat was the lifeblood of the support group. We will miss her. I believe that we must honor her life by raising the chapter to new heights.

Continued on the next page...

Tenth Anniversary Campaign for Research

Frannie Waldron, CEO of the national Scleroderma Foundation organization recently announced the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Scleroderma Foundation. A special logo was created and the theme is "Celebrating 10 Years of Service".

A special fundraising campaign to increase the research funding by \$1million for the 2009 grant cycle has been launched. The "Invest in Hope" campaign hopes to raise the additional money to enable the Foundation to fund 2 million dollars for the research fund in 2009.

At the March SFNV Chapter board meeting it was decided to conduct a local campaign to benefit the Invest in Hope endeavor. It will be held from August to November 2008. More information on how you, your friends or others can contribute will be forthcoming. The goal is a minimum of \$1000. If you would like to volunteer to be on this committee please contact Barbara or Sheila or any of the other board members.

Meeting Information:

April 12	Support Group
May 10	Support Group
June	Scleroderma Awareness Month
Sept. 13	Support Group
Oct. 11	Support Group
Nov. 8	Support Group
December	ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Meetings are held every 2nd Saturday of the month at 10:30 a.m. excluding June July & August

Place: West Charleston Library – Conference Room

Upcoming Events

The second annual Pat McRight Bowl a Thon will be held Saturday, June 7 at Sunset Station bowling facilities from noon to 3pm. Donation will be \$20 per bowler for three games and shoes, if you need them. Once again we will have two categories, media and general public. The media will compete for the revolving trophy and the general bowlers for a great prize.

Even if you don't intend to bowl please come and have a good time. Perhaps you can sponsor a team, encourage people to bowl or help us with silent auction items. Committee's are being formed. For further information please contact any board member.

The national conference is coming in July 25 and is in Manhattan Beach (just outside LA). The board voted to try to help subsidize at least 10 members. We cannot pay all expenses but will pay the \$185 entrance fee (no late registration or non-member will be paid) and give \$200 per person if a Foundation member for expenses. As usual it is first come, first served so get your name in quickly. Contact Sheila or Barbara.

Registration Fees for the national conference:

- Registration postmarked **on or before July 3** is \$185 for Foundation members and \$235 for non-members
- Registration postmarked **after July 3** is \$235 for members and \$285 for non-members
- **Meal Functions Only (no workshops)** – Not attending conference: \$115

Conference Registration Fee includes:

All Conference activities **and** scheduled meal functions, as follows:

- **Friday:** reception (light hors d'oeuvres)
- **Saturday:** breakfast, lunch, and Awards Dinner
- **Sunday:** breakfast

Meal Functions Only Fee Includes:

- **Friday:** reception (light hors d'oeuvres)
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President's Message
cont'd...

Let's unite together and create what Pat could so clearly see...a support group that cherished its members and gave hope to all that attended. Let's go a step further and invite our families, neighbors, and friends to the support meetings so that we can educate them on this disease. Let's find those that will help us fund research so that we can put ourselves out of business! Let's live our lives full of hope and support for each other.