



SUPPORT GROUP UPDATE



BRIDGEWATER AUTUMN FEST



Mary Lynn Newcomb was among the many people who stopped at the SFNE display to get information about scleroderma at Bridgewater's Autumn Fest.

For the third consecutive year, Susanne Lovell has increased awareness about scleroderma by setting-up and hosting a booth at Autumn Fest, a community event sponsored by the Bridgewater (MA) Business Association. The September 29 event was a showcase of local business, crafters, health-related organizations and non-profit groups that contribute to increasing the quality of life in the community.



RHODE ISLAND GROUP HAS "MISGIVINGS"

An appearance by the Rhode Island Group on Providence's NBC TV Channel 10's Health Check as part of Scleroderma Awareness Month resulted in a bit of luck when it was seen by local radio personality Dave Kane, who offered to help the group with a fundraiser.

"Dave Kane as 'Father Misgivings' put on a fabulously unforgettable show," said Rhode Island Support Group Leader Carole Cowell. "Many in the audience

took part in the interactive presentation.

Member Laura Geisel's brother led the audience in a game of Trivia with prizes before Father Misgiving took center stage. Said Carole, "It was a challenge to bring the evening together on such short notice." In addition to the families and friends of the support group members, its major supporters for the evening came from Cranston and Warwick Seniors, as well as many Red Hatters.



Donna Bernier displays the Certificate of Appreciation she received at the 13th Annual Christmas Party held December 12 by the RI Support Group. Donna, who is with her mother, received the award for being "the most helpful new member." Both have helped from their first meeting, worked to make the Father Misgiving fundraiser a success and driven new members from their area to meetings.

This successful Group effort resulted in a sell-out crowd taking part in a wonderful show and evening. It also raised \$1,000, which the Group presented to SFNE.



GRANITE STATE GROUP EVOLVING

The Group, which meets at the Hampstead (NH) Public Library, marked its first anniversary in 2007. Pat Gelinas, who founded, organized and led the members for most of the first year, moved out her leadership roll because of other

responsibilities and remains a member.

Because Pat had done such a good job in organizing the group, two of its members - Carla King and Jean Chapman - stepped forward at the November meeting volunteering to become Co-Leaders.

The Chapter extends its appreciation to Pat for her excellent work, and looks forward to supporting the efforts of Carla and Jean for continuing success in 2008.



NEW TIME, SAME DAY IN MAINE

At the January meeting of the First Mainers Support Group, members decided to change the time of their meetings to 11 a.m.-12 noon, but to keep the same meeting day - the first Friday of each month. Also, the group will continue to meet at the Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston, ME.



NORTH SHORE GROUP MEETS AT TOPSFIELD OFFICE



The chapter office has become the meeting home for the North Shore group with the addition to having the choice to turn up the thermostat when the weather is cold.

NEW SUPPORT GROUPS IN 2008

The cornerstone of SFNE's mission to help individuals with scleroderma, their families and friends is the support group activities which offer the opportunity to learn more about the disease and share experiences, as well as the give and take of encouragement and support at meetings.

During 2008, SFNE would like to start additional groups throughout the region where no groups are currently available. The goal is that no one would need to travel more than 50-miles to attend a meeting.

SFNE is fortunate to have seven wonderful and active support groups. During 2008, the Chapter would like to work actively with individuals interested in having a group in their area. If you are interested in having a group nearby, please call the Chapter office toll free at 1-888-525-0658.