



Marrene Arvidson



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MARRENE ARVIDSON ELECTED AS NEWEST MEMBER OF OREGON CHAPTER'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

“I want to be more involved,” says retired retail management professional about two-year volunteer term

(Portland, OR., April 12 , 2010) – Marrene Arvidson was unanimously elected as the newest member of the Oregon Chapter of the Scleroderma Foundation’s Board of Directors during its April meeting. Board directors serve for two-year terms in their volunteer posts, subject to reelection by the other eight board members.

“I have met many dedicated and supportive people in the Oregon Chapter of the Scleroderma Foundation, as well as learning much about my condition,” said the Vancouver, WA resident. “The information that is given out through this valuable organization can be found nowhere else. I have decided after two years of participation in the educational seminars that I wanted to be more involved.”

“Scleroderma, also known as systemic sclerosis, is a chronic, often progressive autoimmune disease in which the body’s autoimmune system attacks its own tissues. Four of five people living with scleroderma are women—and they’re usually stricken in the prime of life,” Oregon Scleroderma Chapter President Liz Orem-Bedel said. “We’re very fortunate and proud to have someone like Marrene Arvidson on our Board.”

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Local people living with this disease have turned to the Oregon Chapter of the Scleroderma Foundation, and its predecessor organization, for nearly 30 years in its continuing efforts for Oregon and SW Washington residents by providing support groups, sponsoring educational seminars, and helping to fund research.

Arvidson was diagnosed with scleroderma in 2008. “I also have Raynaud’s phenomenon and calcinosis. I am very fortunate to have medical coverage through Kaiser Permanente and have a wonderful rheumatologist in Portland. She is thoroughly familiar with my condition and does not hesitate to order all of the appropriate baseline testing and subsequent testing to gauge progression.”

Before moving to Vancouver in 2005, Arvidson and her husband Lloyd lived in Las Vegas, Nevada for 13 years where she worked in retail management, which included purchasing and merchandise planning. “I worked in retail sales in Vancouver for another four years and have been retired since 2009.”

She currently volunteers at the American Cancer Society: Vancouver Discovery Shop. “I am also a part-time caretaker for a family member.”

Although medicines can sometimes help treat symptoms, there is no cure yet for scleroderma, which literally means “hard skin,” and can cause thickening and tightening of the skin, as well as serious damage to internal organs. The effects of scleroderma range from mild to fatal. To date, there is no known cause or cure.

For more information, contact the Oregon Chapter at 503-245-4588, e-mail at sdforegon@comcast.net, or visit the Web site at www.scleroderma.org/chapter/oregon

For more information, visit www.scleroderma.org/chapter/oregon/ or contact the Scleroderma Foundation Chapter at 503-245-4588, SDForegon@comcast.net, PO Box 19296, Portland, OR 97280. The Scleroderma Foundation is a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit organization serving the interests of persons living with scleroderma. The Foundation’s 24 chapters and 147 support groups nationwide help to carry out its three-fold mission of support, education, and research. The Scleroderma Foundation is the leading nonprofit supporter of scleroderma research—funding over \$1M of new grants each year to find the cause and cure of scleroderma.