

Family VOICES

SECOND QUARTER 2013

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Accomplishment from Adversity

JILL AND ALAN LANGER, WA

We remember the moment, while attending the National NSA Conference in Ft. Worth, that we realized that our son Garrett Langer would likely not be attending the following year's conference in Florida. As a family, we had made it a priority to attend these conferences and give him a chance to be with other teens who stutter. Garrett received an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy, more commonly known as West Point, to earn his college degree and to train to become an Army Officer. As



expected, his basic cadet training or “boot camp” conflicted with the 2012 Conference, and his future training schedule will most likely impede him from attending the next several conferences. While disappointed about missing this year's conference, he is nevertheless excited about attending Airborne “Jump School” this summer and learning to parachute from C-130s instead.

Garrett will be the first to tell you that it has not been an easy year as a ‘plebe’ (freshman) at West Point. Inside this Service Academy pressure cooker, every plebe has to figure out how to navigate the daily routine of reciting plebe knowledge when confronted by upperclassman, yelling out the “time” every minute before roll call in the morning, and making presentations in his classes using a military format. In addition, Garrett also faces the difficulty of managing his stutter in the midst of this busy lifestyle.

Who would have thought that in his first six months at West Point he would become an expert marksman, obtain his scuba diving certificate, volunteer with the American Red Cross clean up after Hurricane Sandy, present the Flag before the opening of the American League Championship series at Yankee Stadium,

and be involved in some fun pranks – called “spirit missions” on campus? Additionally, he has attended every home Army football game this fall, traveled to Philadelphia for the Army – Navy football game, was selected to travel with a special group to Washington, D.C. on a history excursion, and maintained excellent grades in accelerated classes at one of the highest-ranked colleges in the country.

We share his story and successes to show that he has not let his stuttering hold him back. We can remember when Garrett was 6 years old and we were attending our first NSA event at a regional conference in Tacoma, Washington. We were told that there was no cure for stuttering and that he would be living with this for the rest of his life. Shell-shocked we projected our fears to the future, thinking our 6-year old would never be able to hold a job. Of course, this was ridiculous, but we had only begun this path of learning about stuttering! Today at the age of 19, we cannot think of a tougher college experience than to attend a Military Service Academy as a stutterer. Garrett is an inspiration to each of us not to give up on our dreams and never to let anything or anyone hold us back from defining our own future. ::

*...for kids and
teens who stutter,
their parents,
SLPs and others
who support them!*

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Be sure to check out 'WeStutter' on Facebook and Twitter today!

Ask the EXPERT

CRAIG COLEMAN, M.A., CCC-SLP BRS-FD

Q :: There has been discussion recently about tele-therapy becoming another option in speech therapy services for people who stutter. What are some of the benefits of tele-therapy and how does it work?



A :: For more than twelve years I had the privilege of working with children and adults who stutter at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. In my role as clinical coordinator of the stuttering program, I had the opportunity to work with people who stutter, train student clinicians, and work with clinical staff within our department.

This fall brought a transition for me personally, as I accepted a position as a professor in the Department of Communication Disorders at Marshall University in Huntington, WV. In addition to providing me with more opportunities to work with graduate students and help them to learn about stuttering, the transition also allowed me to continue working directly with people who stutter via tele-therapy. It would be hard for me to overstate the importance of this piece of my work, because working with people who stutter is not merely something I enjoy, it is part of my core identity and continually drives the passion from which all of my other work (including teaching) stems.

As I transitioned to my new role, I created the Virtual Stuttering Center as a way to provide specialized assessment and treatment services for people who stutter. After three months of tele-therapy, the only regret I have is that I waited this long to do it!

In many ways, I now prefer tele-therapy to clinic visits. First, tele-therapy allows me, as a clinician, to interact more consistently with my clients and their families. Factors that lead to cancelled clinic visits (e.g., weather, field trips, doctor's visits, sibling or parent illnesses, etc.) are no longer much of a concern. In addition, tele-therapy allows me to interact with parents much more effectively. Many times during the day, one or both parents are unable to attend clinic visits because of work. Evening and weekend tele-therapy times allow more interaction with both parents. This regular interaction with both the clients and their families is important for education and ensuring that everyone is on the same page in the therapy process.

Second, my time to work with people is no longer dictated by a standard office schedule. As such, I can see my clients at a time that has the most meaning to them. I work with one adolescent who wants to be a sports announcer. I see him on Monday evenings during the first quarter of Monday Night Football so that he can practice announcing the game with me during part of the sessions. I have had several children who have had to give classroom presentations, and tele-therapy allows me the flexibility to change their weekly schedules so that we can have timely sessions aimed to help them prepare. Being able to schedule sessions to

coincide with meaningful events for my clients, is one of the most invaluable aspects of tele-therapy.

Third, tele-therapy allows me to capture the child in their home environment much more effectively than I can in the clinic. There are simple things, such as when the dog runs by or grandma is visiting, that allow me to engage the child in topics of conversation that are much more meaningful to them. There are also more planned events, such as sessions with the child's siblings also interacting with us. I have one child whose siblings get jealous that he gets to talk with me on the computer and will sneak into the session in their parents' bedroom at various points. I see this is a benefit because it is real, not a staged office visit.

Fourth, tele-therapy allows the child to feel like they are participating in higher level technology. I have one child who brags to his friends about how much he knows about the computer because he sees his speech therapist every week on the screen. With iPads and iPhones, children today are growing up in an atmosphere where technology is not just exciting, it is expected. Children feel a sense of independence when they are able to log on to their session, which leads to overall motivation in the therapy process.

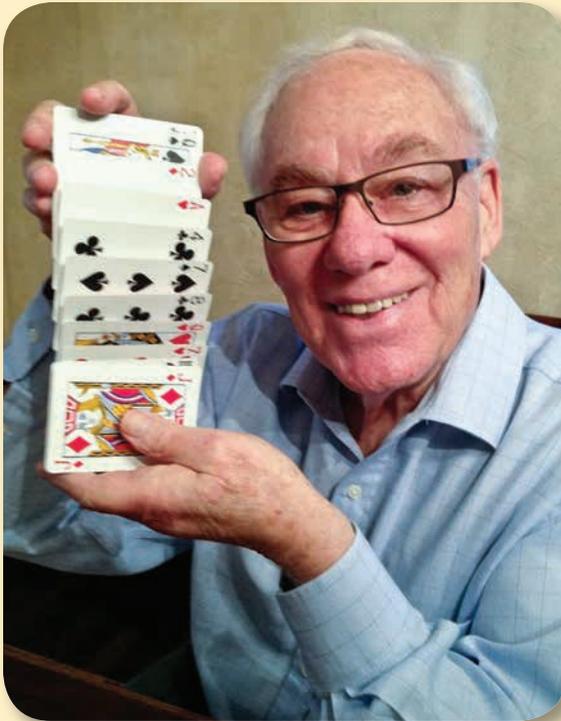
Finally, tele-therapy allows access and convenience. It allows people who stutter, regardless of where they live, to have access to specialists, which is critical in stuttering. It also saves travel time and money in commuting to therapy. People who stutter now have a choice in the modality of how their care is provided.

The more I work with people who stutter, the more I get excited about the possibilities of tele-therapy. I am fortunate to work with a great group of clients and I believe in some ways they feel like "pioneers" in this process. They come up with new ideas as well, such as when a teenager I work with asked if she could do a session in the spring while my graduate class observed during their class time. When I asked her why she wanted to do that, her response was, "Because I want them to know what's important to people who stutter and to see what good therapy is like. It's not sitting at a table practicing words." What better measure of progress in therapy could there be? This is certainly better than any dysfluency count.

I am excited to be working with the National Stuttering Association to set up virtual support groups for people who stutter and their parents. Please email me directly at CEColeman.SLP@gmail.com if you are interested in learning more about the virtual support groups or about tele-therapy. This is an exciting time with many promising possibilities! ::

Lucille and the Ma-Ma-Magic Egg

BY LARRY SINGER



What have I gotten myself into? In a moment I will walk out in front of hundreds of people and speak for two to three minutes, something I never could do in school. I will shame myself. Will they laugh? Am I the first magician in the world who has had to face this awful thing? For as long as I can remember I have been a stutterer, cursed with the inability to speak without embarrassing myself. Even saying my own name takes too many staccato syllables, each machine-gun utterance adding to my shame. I am fourteen.

This year, 1944, is the year a magical change will take place in my discomposed speech, although it will take me many years to understand how this change happened. The journey begins with a subway trip. Just about every Saturday I head for Broad Street in the heart of Philadelphia, spending hours hanging out at the ‘magician’s Mecca’, *Holden’s Magic Shop*. The manager, Lucille Saxon, is in constant motion, demonstrating tricks and acting as cashier, stock clerk, and, above all, keeper of secrets. Without secrets, magic cannot exist.

One day, Lucille asks me if I’d like to join a young magicians club she’s organizing. Would I? What a question! And so it comes to pass that thirteen boys aged 13 to 15, gather at her apartment where “The

Sorcerer’s Apprentices” is born. We learn new tricks, new skills, and stagecraft. Every week we each perform magical illusions and are critiqued.

At the club’s first-year anniversary meeting, Lucille has an exciting announcement: the time has come to perform for an audience. She pulls me aside. “Larry, I’d like you to perform a trick from my own show with this comedy patter written in dialect especially for my act. It’s my egg-bag routine.” She hands me a single type-written sheet. The first lines read: “*One-a night-a last week, with-a no place to go, I find-a myself at a ma-geesh-an show—*”

Every day I stand in front of my mother’s dressing tables’ three-way-mirror, practicing until I can do the routine perfectly, timing the words to the actions. Alone, I never stutter.

It’s the night of the show. Lucille is introducing me. She smiles and waves in my direction. I walk to center stage gripping a small red cloth bag. As much as I would like to, I can’t turn back now. The egg disappears and reappears in unexpected ways. Once, the audience seems to see through the trick but the joke is on them; the egg is not in my pocket; it has magically flown into the bag. The audience guffaws. Some hands clap. I recite the punch line, “*And I’m-a betcha my life, heez-a fool-a you too!*”

Three minutes have passed. I have not stuttered.

It would take me many years to understand what took place that night.

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Editor’s Note:

This article is an abbreviated portion of Larry’s inspirational account of his journey to become a fluent speaker. If you’d like to read the full unedited story please visit: <http://www.westutter.org/who-we-help/families/elementary-school-age-kids/lucille-and-the-ma-ma-magic-egg/>

NSA Virtual Support Groups

The National Stuttering Association is pleased to announce new virtual support groups for school-age children (8-12 yrs), teens, and coming soon, parents. This is a great way to meet other peers who stutter in a non-therapy setting.

Participants will have an opportunity to:

- Discuss their experiences with stuttering
- Discuss the facts about stuttering
- Discuss videos/media related to stuttering
- Discuss how to handle teasing and bullying
- And much more...

Groups are free to join. Access to an internet connection and webcam is needed. Groups are offered bi-monthly. Please visit WeStutter.org for information on upcoming meetings.

For more information please contact:

Craig Coleman, M.A., CCC-SLP, BRS-FD at ccoleman.slp@gmail.com

The TAC Gives Back to the NSA

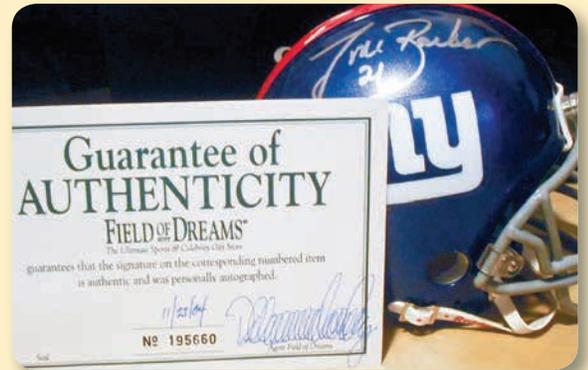
MIRANDA SMITH, TAC CHAIRPERSON

To end the year and start off a great new year, the TAC decided to give back to the NSA. Our end-of-the-year assignment provided an opportunity for each TAC member to donate an auction item to the silent auction at the 2013 Annual Conference in Scottsdale. Each member chose their own way of finding an item to donate to the auction. Some reached out to family members and friends, contacted famous sports players, gave an item they already had, and even made items themselves. Our auction item assignment was an experience that helped TAC members grow and understand the hard work of acquiring donated items for the silent auction which helps to support the NSA in their mission of providing support to those who stutter. Here's what our TAC members have to say about their experiences and the items they donated:

"I learned from this assignment that less is more. I thought I would have to find or buy something extravagant that would be worthy of being sold at the auction, but I realized that by utilizing something I already had, I would be able to create something different, and extraordinary!" – *Alex D. (Donated two canvas photographs taken by her and her father)*

"I knew it was something I could do and I thought people would fall in love with them instantly just like I did. For me, this was the perfect auction project to do and I'm glad I could contribute to the organization." – *Katie D. (Donated zombie felties, a decorative craft of her own)*

"The opportunity for me to donate something to the NSA definitely helps me appreciate what the NSA has done for me, and I realized from this opportunity that the NSA has grown because of people believing in its mission and vision. I am glad to be part of the NSA and to be one of those people who believe in the NSA's vision. It is my hope that my donation will help the NSA continue its growth and impact on



people who stutter." – *Bryan C. (Donated a New York Giants mini-helmet signed by former running back, Tiki Barber)*

"My speech therapist at school is Joe Flacco's cousin, so I had been talking to her about having him give a donation to the NSA for a while, but after this project was assigned for the TAC, I wrote an official letter and had it sent to him hoping that this would seal the deal. He has not responded yet, but I know he is very busy since his team has made it to the 2013 Super bowl." – *Dan H.*

"I chose this to be my auction item because a person could never have enough NSA attire to sport year round! Also, NSA attire is always a good way to advertise the awesomeness of NSA!" – *Courtney R. (Donated a basket of items with various NSA logos on them)*

"We have a family friend who makes blankets, jewelry, purses, and other similar things. I asked her to make an orange and purple NSA blanket. She was more than happy to help this organization and agreed to make the blanket." – *Danny W. (Donated a handmade NSA blanket)*

"I decided to donate a baseball signed by a well-known baseball player given to me by my grandfather. I view my donation as an extension of the love he has shown me to the love I have for the NSA. Just as he continues to change my life for the better, I want to continue to improve the NSA; I feel like the least I could do is to donate and I'm happy to have been able to do this." – *Ben N. (Donated an MLB baseball signed by Bob Feller)*

"I learned from this assignment that things that you might want yourself can go to a better cause and to always be willing to give." – *Eddie B. (Donated a framed photograph taken by him)*

"I enjoyed being able to have the opportunity to give back to an organization that has done so much to me by simply putting in a little bit of money and a little bit





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of time. I would definitely do this kind of auction item again or even venture farther and try something harder to make!” – *Miranda S.* (Donated eight glass tile necklaces handmade by her)

Keep an eye out at the conference for these wonderful donations by our own teens of the NSA and don't forget to bid on them! They're young, busy with school, work, and sports, and everything else teens do, but still found time to give back to an organization that means so much to them! ::

Making a Difference

SAADIQ W.

My name is Saadiq, and I am the CEO/Founder of L-l-let Me Finish, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting young people who stutter. I also want to give support to the families of kids who stutter.

I created L-l-let Me Finish in May 2012 because I was bullied at my friend's birthday party. A guest at the party made fun of me because of my speech. I was really hurt by the comments and the boy mocking me, especially since I had never been bullied before this. I got very angry and wanted to fight but instead I told my mom and she told me that educating the boy about stuttering was better. So that's what we did. I told the boy's mother and we all sat down and talked about stuttering and bullying. The boy and his mother apologized. I was still angry though, and wanted to do something more, especially since I was not the only person I know that had gotten bullied about their speech. My friend, Michael had told me about a time that he was bullied, not by a person, but by the media because they told everyone in a report that he stuttered. He, too, was hurt, he said. That's when I asked my mom and Ms. Janice if they would help me create a Facebook page so I could talk about stuttering and raise awareness.

The purpose of L-l-let Me Finish is to raise awareness about stuttering and bullying. If my non-profit continues the way it has, I will bring more awareness to stuttering, and I will also help some kids not be bullied. In 5 years I plan to open my very own camp called Camp L-l-let Me Finish for kids who stutter! ::



Tikkun Olam

EVAN T., 7TH GRADE (FL)

In lots of synagogues they do mitzvah project. We do Tikkun Olam projects.

A mitzvah is not a “good deed”, a mitzvah is a commandment. It is something that, as Jews, we required to do. A mitzvah can be a ritual act like lighting Shabbat candles or going to temple every Friday. In seventh grade we must complete a Tikkun Olam project. Tikkun Olam means, “repairing the world.” It has to come as acts of social justice, and the person must not get any reward for this project.

My mitzvah or Tikkun Olam project is helping the National Stuttering Association by donating money and helping kids to get through bullying they might encounter because of their stuttering. I picked this project because I'm a stutter and have lots of history with the NSA. I've been to 5 conferences and attended 3 of 5 youth days in Tampa. Each conference is held in a different city in the USA and youth days in this area are held at the University of Southern Florida. At the last conference in St. Petersburg I was a presenter at a middle school-age workshop and the kids in attendance were able to ask me any questions they wanted. The NSA taught me that stuttering is just something I do, and I do not need to be ashamed of it. I also used to think that I was the only person in the world that stuttered, but I have learned that millions of people stutter, such as Tiger Woods and Joe Biden. They show that stutterers can also be successful. ::



Playing with Fire

REUBEN SCHUFF & RITA THURMAN, CO-LEADERS OF THE RALEIGH FAMILY CHAPTER

What inspired Reuben and Rita to start a local teen chapter?

RITA :: A little over a year ago, a fellow NSA member approached me after an adult group meeting and said “What this area really needs is a teen self-help group. We should start a TWST chapter”. I couldn’t help but sigh, having worked with teens for over 37 years, I know that even working with them individually is a precarious balancing act: a fine line between providing direction/support and helping them develop self-reliance and independence. It’s hard enough to handle them one-on-one; in a group of teens, I often feel like a gazelle on the Serengeti.

REUBEN :: My journey with the NSA began roughly six years ago when I timidly walked in to the Rockville, MD chapter. I had just moved to Baltimore to begin my first job after completing graduate school in engineering. I hadn’t met another person who stuttered until I was 20 and started speech therapy at the clinic at Purdue University. I knew I was going to need some help as I turned the page to the next chapter of my life, and the NSA seemed like a good place to start. From that first meeting, the NSA drove home the message that I was not alone. Knowing that helped transform me from being timid and shy to self-confident. Five years later, when I moved to Raleigh I wanted to give back, or perhaps better said, pay it forward. All that was needed now was a collaborator, a plan, a group, and a location to hold the meetings.

RITA :: We began the process of registering the chapter with NSA and advertising. I sent e-mail notifications to all high schools and middle school Speech Language Pathologists in my county. I also sent notices to private clinics and to my local professional group and made an announcement in the North Carolina Speech, Hearing & Language Association’s newsletter. I asked all the teens that I see in therapy to become involved. But, there was another hurdle for me. As their therapist, they saw me as someone who works on fluency management skills, desensitization, changing reactions to stuttered words, and not as a self-help facilitator. I wanted to change that.

REUBEN :: I’m not an SLP, I’m just a guy who stutters. I was 20 years old before I met another person on planet earth who sounded anything like me. Having

the revelation that I wasn’t alone was a game changer in my world. I wanted to create an environment where other people who stuttered would get to see that too. Rita provided the professional link to the community, and a lifetime of expertise. My job was easy, I just needed to be myself. In order to do that, I acknowledged that I didn’t have all the answers, or any of the answers for that matter, because each person’s journey is just that, their journey. I wanted to help create a place where teens and preteens who stuttered and their families could connect. I didn’t know what I was doing, but was moved to try my best. I didn’t even know what I didn’t know, but moving forward demanded giving it the best shot possible.

RITA :: When we started out, Reuben and I met to plan our first meeting and determine goals for our group. First and foremost was providing a “safe” environment for teens who stutter and their families. I wanted a place for kids and parents to feel comfortable to ask questions, seek help, and to explore ways to be successful. Next, I wanted a place for teens to meet other people who stutter and for parents meet other parents whose children stuttered. I wanted them all to lean on and learn from each other. I have worked with many families over the years and I feel that I have some sense of what kids who stutter and their parents go through. But, since I don’t stutter and none of my children stutter, I didn’t have a real sense of what these families feel. They needed each other. Finally, I wanted to increase their knowledge about stuttering. I truly believe that power comes through knowledge.

REUBEN :: I was nervous and apprehensive about our first meeting. Rita and I had tried to plan, but planning for the unknown is a hard task. I was definitely out of my comfort zone, and that’s a good thing. We opened with one of my favorite icebreakers “Never have I ever...” and then got into our theme for the first meeting, “What’s your story?” We just talked that night, the kids, their parents, Rita and I.

RITA :: Each meeting has a theme. I felt like we needed direction and a learning objective, but I also wanted to stay flexible to address any concern that a teen posed and be willing to change direction completely if the

Join Us for NSA Family Radio

Your Virtual Family Chapter for Parents, Kids, and Teens!

NSA Family Radio is hosted by the Family Chapters Committee of the NSA. The mission of the show is to bring together kids and teens who stutter and their parents, siblings, and other family members in a way that is convenient from all over the world! We will be sharing ideas and information, as well as providing support. Best yet, you can join us for a live conversation as the show allows you to call in and participate. In addition, all shows are recorded and archived if you can't catch us live. For dates, times, and upcoming show schedules, please visit www.westutter.org. JOIN US LIVE! Call (310) 807- 5072 or toll free number: 877-560-5873



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dynamics of the group changed during the meeting. Our meetings have covered topics such as leadership and confidence, empowerment through knowledge, growth in the new year, stuttering and the media, setting goals for confidence building, putting the fun back in the fundamentals of communication, our timeline of change and growth, and a comprehensive approach to stuttering. In May 2012, our group was featured on *StutterTalk* podcast with Peter Reitzes (StutterTalk.com/children-and-teens-who-stutter-334).

The meetings are lively, exhausting, emotional, and invigorating. We've done a barbecue in the summer, a bowling party in the winter, an improv competition, and best of all, a demonstration where Reuben juggled fire. The theme that night was Facing Your Fears!

REUBEN :: The core age group of our family chapter is about 11–15 years old, but parents and siblings are welcomed and encouraged to come. We usually start out the meeting with a short introduction with all the families together and then break out into separate kids and parents groups. Rita and I trade off who leads which group, and both groups come together at the conclusion to share what we've done during the meeting. Rita and I complement each other well and the diversity between us strengthens the group. We now have approximately 10 families involved with the chapter and it's normal to see 15–20 people enjoying pizza at the table each month. Being part of this kind of enthusiasm each month drives me forward. We really have fun, that's the bottom line and that's why I think the group keeps expanding.

RITA :: In October, we celebrated our one-year anniversary! Our first meeting had eight participants. Last month we had 15, which I consider a step in the right direction. We live in the largest public school system in the state, 18th in the country. Last year 143,289 kids were enrolled in Wake County public schools. If one percent of the population stutters and we have ten teens from Wake County attend any given group, we are just scratching the surface of meeting the needs of our teens, preteens, and their families.

As we continue into 2013, I continue to be inspired by my co-leader. He provides insight and genuine concern, which these families can sense, and keeps me motivated to accomplish more. It has been a fun ride. ::

A Message FROM:

SARAH ONOFRI, FAMILY PROGRAMS CO-CHAIR

NSA's Newest Board Member

Greetings! I'm excited to introduce myself to you as the new NSA Family Programs Co-Chair, alongside Pattie Wood, on the Board of Directors. I have been involved in Family Programs since 2010 and am thrilled to serve in an official capacity.

I am from Boston, Massachusetts, where I teach in an elementary school, working primarily with kindergartners and first graders. I lead a Daisy Girl Scout troop and work part time at Boomerangs, a thrift store run by the AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts.

I began attending NSA conferences in 2006, and haven't missed one since! The NSA has made such a difference for me as a person who stutters and I love sharing my attitude about stuttering with others. I have planned and facilitated much of the kids programming at past conferences and will continue to work with the community of NSA families at our upcoming conference this year.

I feel very lucky to have gotten to know so many of our amazing families last year, and if I haven't met you yet, I look forward to meeting you this July in Arizona! ::



A Message FROM:

STEPHANIE COPPEN, FAMILY PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATOR

It's hard to believe, but the **30th NSA Annual Conference in Scottsdale, AZ** is almost here! Family Programs has been working on 2013 conference programming since shortly after our 2012 Conference ended, and we are confident that once again you won't want to miss a thing! We will be offering workshops presented by professionals in the stuttering community as well the 'experts' in stuttering; parents, teens who stutter, and the Teen Advisory Council. Workshops will be offered for every member of the family; kids, teens, parents, and siblings. As always, the NSA will be offering many activities and outings such as hot air balloon rides, an Arizona Diamondbacks baseball game vs. the Colorado Rockies, Mystery Mansion Dinner Theater, and so much more. If you're not already registered for the conference or outings, or you simply would like more information, please visit us at WeStutter.org. We can't wait to see you in sunny Scottsdale, AZ at the gorgeous Westin Kierland Resort. You do not want to miss this conference!

Family Programs is also very proud to continue to offer informative **NSA Family Radio** shows on BlogTalkRadio, designed to address the concerns, questions, and interests of the teens and parents of the NSA. With each radio show the scope of our listenership grows and we are so pleased to be able to provide support, empowerment, and education for those who stutter and their families through this venue. If you would like additional information about NSA Family Radio or have an idea for a radio show topic, please contact me at SCoppen@WeStutter.org.

And finally we'd like to update you on our newest project – **Virtual Chapters**. NSA Virtual Chapters/Support Groups is collaboration between NSA Family Programs and Craig Coleman, SLP BRS-FD, wherein we offer a virtual support group/chapter for kids and teens who stutter that do not have a local chapter to attend. These meetings are offered bi-monthly with one meeting for kids, ages 8–12 and another for teens, ages 13–18. We are so happy to report that the meetings have been well attended and the feedback we have received has been great! If you would like more information about these groups, please contact Craig at CEColeman.SLP@gmail.com or visit our website at WeStutter.org.

Wishing you all the best! ::

Join the TAC for NSA TwST Live!

NSA TwST Live! has proven to be a successful way for teens of the NSA to keep in touch throughout the year! *NSA TwST Live!* uses Google+ Hangouts to allow up to ten teens who stutter to video chat with each other and virtually "hang out". We hang out on the first Thursday and third Tuesday of every month at 9 PM (EST). Stay connected with your stuttering friends and get on your computer and hang out!

Keep an eye out on the NSA TwST Facebook group for details or contact Miranda Smith at StutterLikeaRockStar@gmail.com or Steve Ernst at ErnstSJ10@gmail.com for more information.



Tacoma Family Fun Day & CEU Weekend

The weekend of March 2-3 celebrated the 17th anniversary of the Tacoma, Washington Continuing Education Event & NSA Family Fun Day. A dedicated team of speech pathologists brings this program to life year after year including **Doug Wing**, **Mary Turcotte** and **Connie Haines**. Also joining the team each year is **Kim Krieger**, **Greg Dempsey** and **Annie Bradberry**. With the support of other local SLP's including **Elaine Robin** and parents including **Julie Whittaker**, this event has grown to reach over 100 speech therapists every year and more than 50 families.

What makes this event extra special are the returning families and kids who have grown up with the event, such as **Chloe Whittaker**. Many who first started attending in grade school who are now young adults, attend to share their experiences and to relate to others just how the NSA has added to their lives by.

Another wonderful weekend was had by all! ::