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Brain Injury Association of Georgia

NEWS YOU CAN USE!

JANUARY 2009

TBI Research STUDY!

Have you had a traumatic brain injury and have difficulty with your balance?

The Atlanta VAMC is studying the usefulness of a device to find out if stimulation of the tongue can improve balance. The research study requires a 1-hr initial screening to see if you qualify. We will test your balance and memory. You will be paid for your time. For information call Starla Abernathy at 404-321-6111, ext 5396.



Thomasville Support Group "HOPE" Launches a new website

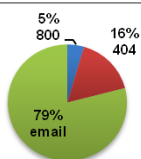
CHECK IT OUT!

<http://hopefortbi.web.officelive.com/>

Atlanta Journal-Constitution reporters want your views for the 2009 legislative session. NOTE: All fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required. Which issues are most important to you this year? Please rank the following items from 1 (most important) to 10 (least important).

<http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/legissurvey.html>

I&R Facilitator Contacts – January 2009 - 395



Your memberships and donations helped our I&R Facilitator provide information and resources to these contacts! **Thank you!**

Support Groups:
 Easy fundraiser and a great way to promote BIAG and brain injury awareness!
 Contact BIAG and order a batch of buttons & magnets and a display box!



DISABILITY DAY REMINDER



The big day is coming up - **FEB 25, 2009.**

Waring Jackson has spent the past month visiting and calling support groups promoting Disability Day SO expect to see or hear from him soon!

A few of the groups visited for Disability Day Promotions!
Thomasville Support Group



Macon Support Group



Columbus Support Group



For news, updates, resources or a listing of Support Groups go to www.braininjurygeorgia.org - Check out our NEW website! Give us your feedback - Email info@braininjurygeorgia.org

Raise money for BIAG by searching the internet or shopping online with GoodSearch!

BUCKHEAD – ATLANTA “MINOR BRAIN INJURY SUPPORT GROUP”

Jim and Jean Kropa with Jacques and Monique Hauss are the leaders in the Minor Brain Injury Support Group in Buckhead. They focus on fine-tuning some of the “rough edges”, so that the members can become functional persons in society. Some graduate, others stay to “support” those survivors with more recent injuries.



Stephanie Lotti of the Brain Injury and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission visited the Minor Brain Injury Support Group in Buckhead 1/8/09. She spoke about some accomplishments from the Georgia General Assembly Legislative session of 2008. One of the big items was the appointment of a Senate Study Committee on Neurobehavioral Issues. It is probable that based on this study, some bills supporting neurobehavioral treatment will emerge for consideration during the 2009 Session.

Another Grady Hospital research project, an injection of progesterone shortly after a serious brain injury, has been consistent in significantly reducing the harmful effects of the trauma. This is becoming less “experimental”.

Even though the state of Georgia has a 2 Billion short fall in the budget, and all state funded agencies are required to cut expenses, we expect that the **BSITFC** will not be cut. Their funding is from the 10% surcharge on DUI fines. Many DUIs are reduced to “Reckless Driving”. Their push this session is to add a surcharge to Reckless Driving and other moving violations, with the money specified for the **BSITFC**.

One item which will definitely come up is to require those driving or riding in pick-up trucks to wear seatbelts. This is Senate bill #5 and House bill #22. Other issues like the lack of coordinated Trauma Care will come up as the Legislators make some resolution of the “red ink” in our budget.

When Stephanie sends out a “Legislative Alert” we can respond by making phone calls, or sending emails/ faxes to specific legislators - written in our own words. We can contact our Representatives and Senators, and may ask to meet them face-to-face (about 10 minutes) to share our concerns.

To get “up-to-the-hour” updates of advocating actions on specific issues, and other legislative actions, you can email Stephanie at splotti@chr.state.ga.us or you can contact the main website, bsitf.state.ga.us

A FUN way to Advocate for Brain Injury is to participate in **Disability Day** in February. There will be more publicity About this event from **Waring Jackson** – go to www.braininjurygeorgia.org or contact him at wj1@bellsouth.net



Waring Jackson promoting Disability Day

If you would like to visit the **Buckhead “Minor Brain Injury Support Group”** or receive updates about upcoming meetings and topics, please contact Jim and Jean Kropa – kropa@bellsouth.net or Jacques and Monique Haus – jhausscappelle@aol.com

MARCH IS BRAIN AWARENESS MONTH!

**What can YOU do?
Put a “FACE to TBI”.**

Take the challenge and find a way to bring awareness to your community! Go to www.braininjurygeorgia.org – news.

Send BIAG what YOU did to be featured in an upcoming newsletter!

NEW! Go to www.braininjurygeorgia.org for Link

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Bookstore Affiliate Program
We participate in the Bookstore Affiliate Program with *Lash and Associates Publishing/Training, Inc.* When you use this link and place an order on their website, Lash and Associates will contribute a percentage of the sale to us to support our programs and services for persons with brain injury. Please use this link and encourage others to order using this link.