MGA ANNOUNCES LEadership CIRCLE

Founded in 1955, MGA is one of the oldest and largest organizations of its kind in the US, and yet it is also one-of-a-kind, thanks to our very unique joint venture with Allegheny Health Network/Allegheny General Hospital. This partnership provides the ultimate in coordinated care and treatment for people with myasthenia gravis. Unfortunately, due to recent cuts in funding, support from this partnership is not sufficient to continue operations at the level of quality care our patients have come to depend upon.

In order to ensure that MGA will have the funds necessary to maintain the highest quality of care and achieve future sustainability, the MGA board has formed a LEADERSHIP CIRCLE of supporters. The MGA Board invites supporters of MGA to become LEADERSHIP CIRCLE members and make a special gift of $1,000 or more to help raise these needed funds. Leadership Circle members will enjoy a variety of rewards in return for their generosity. Several lead gifts to this fund have already been received or pledged, including from MGA volunteers Kathryn & Fred Guenther and MGA board member Mark Daday and his wife Rose Peluso.

The Leadership Circle goal for 2020 is 25 members. Won’t you consider becoming part of this very special circle of friends of the organization that is dedicated to you or your loved one’s health and well-being? For more information, please call Donna at 412-566-1545.

Please note: Leadership Circle membership is separate from, and in addition to, our Annual Holiday Appeal which so many of our patients and friends contribute to so generously each holiday season. This year’s Holiday Appeal will go out in mid-December.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
MGA 63RD ANNUAL MEETING

Please join us for this year’s annual meeting and educational seminar on Saturday, November 2nd, from 11am to 1:30pm in the Ambrose/Berg rooms on the 2nd floor of the Magovern Conference Center, Allegheny General Hospital. This is a great chance to bring your family and meet other patients, hear guest speakers and ask questions of the MGA medical team. Free admission, lunch and parking, but RSVP is required. Call 412-566-1545 to RSVP.
**Reminder:**

**TO OUR MG TREATMENT CENTER PATIENTS**

MGA has a small (but awesome!) medical team, and a large (and wonderful!) patient roster. Please allow at least 3 days for processing of prescription refill requests. Do not wait until you are out of medication and put your health at risk by unnecessary delays. Also, if you are asked to get blood work before your next appointment, be sure and mark your calendar as a reminder. It’s important to get your blood work done well in advance of your next appointment at the MG Treatment Center, so your doctor can view the results and adjust your medication if needed.

**MG SUPPORT GROUP**

You are invited to attend a [SUPPORT GROUP](#) every third Saturday of the month from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. Join us with your questions and concerns, or just to share your experiences to support others. We meet in the MG Treatment Center location in the Allegheny Professional Building, 490 E North Ave Suite 410, Pittsburgh PA. Contact MGA at donnak@mgawpa.org to be added to our email list or call 412-566-1545. RSVP’s are requested. We encourage everyone, including newly diagnosed and seasoned patients, their family members and friends to attend.

***We regret to inform you that the Beaver County Support Group that met at the Heritage Valley Health System has been DISCONTINUED due to lack of participation. Please contact MGA if you would like to start a support group in your area.***

---

**HIGHMARK WALK**

Thanks to all who participated in this year’s Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community! MGA raised a total of $3,370.00 including sponsorships from AmGen, NuFactor, Seniors Blue Book and Vitas Hospice. We can do even better next year, with your help!
What YOU SHOULD KNOW about ADVANCE DIRECTIVES

As a person with a chronic illness, you have a say in the health care you receive. When you are ill, your doctor should explain what treatments there are for your illness so that you can decide which one is best for you. But if you were too ill to understand your treatment choices or to tell your doctor what treatment you want:

- Who would you want to make decisions for you?
- What type of health care would you want?
- What health care wouldn’t you want?

Questions like these may be hard to think about, but they’re important. That’s why MGA wants you to know about a legal form you can complete. It’s called an Advance Directive.

What is an Advance Directive? An advance directive is a legal form that helps your doctors and family members understand your wishes about health care. It can help them decide about treatments if you are too ill to decide for yourself. For example, if you are unconscious or too weak to talk. There are two types of advance directives: durable power of attorney for health care and a living will.

Your advance directive is used only when you aren’t able to make decisions yourself.

A durable power of attorney for healthcare lets you name the person you trust to make health care decisions for you if you can’t make them yourself – your “health care agent.” He/she will have the legal right to make health care decisions for you. You can choose any adult to be your agent. It’s best to choose someone you trust, who knows you well and who knows your values. You should make sure the person is willing to serve as your agent. If you don’t choose an agent, your doctor will choose someone to make decisions for you in the following order: legal guardian (if you have one), spouse, adult child, parent, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, or a close friend. Your health care team, or a court, will make decisions for you if none of the above is available.

A living will is a legal form that states what kinds of treatments you would or wouldn’t want if you become ill and can’t decide for yourself. It can help your health care agent and your doctor make decisions the way you want them to. Writing down what kind of treatment you would or wouldn’t want can help make it easier for those who are asked to make decisions for you. Talk with your family, your health care agent, and your doctor about your wishes so they won’t have to wonder what you want and if they’re doing the right thing. If you don’t have a living will, decisions will be made for you based on what is known about you in general and about your values. That’s why it’s important to discuss your wishes with your loved ones, your doctors, and your health care team.

You may change or cancel your advance directive at any time. In fact, you should review your advance directive periodically, especially if there is a change in your health, to make sure it’s up to date. If you change it, be sure to tell your health care team and have them put it in your health record. Share your new directive with your family members and other loved ones.

For more information – check out medicare.gov or call the MGA office.
Thank you to all of our generous donors

The following donations were received between January 1 through June 30, 2019

Jonathan & Moreen Acker
Allegheny Health Network
Allegheny General Hospital
Amazon Smile
Stacy Anderson
Anonymous
Charles Allvili
Gerald Barnes
Jo Beth Barr
Katherine Barwise
Chuck Beard
Charles & Sally Ann Beeth
Laurie Benkovich
Lester Blayney
John & Norene Block
Patricia Bohcali
Coleon Bowers
Tony Suba
Robert Burkhart
John Butera
Robert J Carle
Dee Carmichael
Nicholas Cerro
Vasu Chivukula
Mel & Kim Cook
Carol Cooper
Gerald Crispino
Victoria Cunningham
Mark Dady
Sylvia & Bob Danehy
Loretta Dawkin
Gerald Dudas
Bill & Carol Ebeling
Angela Ferris
Theresa Findle
Lois Foley
Joel & Melissa Foiman
Tracy Furey
Dan & Maree Gallagher
William Gandjos
Emily Glass
Michael Glass
Jay Glover
Tom Golden
Janet Graham
Tony & Gayle Hancock
Jackie Hanna
Keith & Theresa Hartman
David Helfrich
Lori Hoffman
Kathleen Hrabovsky
Donald Ickert
Danielle Incorvati
Erica Jones
Donna Kalsik
Mark & Janet Keller
Mary Kincaid
Elizabeth Klimchock
David & Barbara Klingsmith
Marlene Knapp
Nicholas Kotou
Fred & Susan Krawchick
Bill & Tracey Kuhn
William & Delores Laska
Gene & Elizabeth Lavin
Julie & Julie Lerro
Jasmin Longer
Liberty Mutual
Chris Lunardi
Susan Maloney
Richard Mandera
Nina Manning
Janet Marancik
Janice McCormack
Hugh & Cecilia McGough
Mel McRoberts
Debbie Metzger
Richard Miller
Elizabeth Mirarchi
Regis Mizikar
Denise Beverina Moore
Guido Moretti
Lisa Moretti
J William Murtha
Bill & Marilyn Nizinski
Elizabeth Noel
Victor Novick
James Nusser
Robert & Patricia O'Neill
John O'Toole
Christopher & Charlene Pasquale
Nancy Patton
Alan & Nancy Pearson
Rose Petuso
Mary Anne Peresutti
Marion Preston
Joseph & Mary Pupo
Thomas Quinn
Charles & Louise Randolph
Bonnie Repasky
Robert Reuse
James & Cheryl Riley
Herman & Arlene Rocchi
Beth Roedler
Elizabeth Roskovich
Kevin & Sarah Roskovich
Donna Ruscito
Noel Sallie
Karl & Bonnie Schapira
Louis & Judy Schrecker
Rosemary Schwartzbard
John & Laurie Seaborn
Randy Shellhammer
Kayla Silberberg
Robert Sippos
Edward & Amy Skiba
Keith Smetak
Lisa Smith
Tim & Melinda Smith
JoAnn Somma
Wallace Specter
Faith Stibanovich
William & Maureen Strathmann
Kent & Linda Tekuwe
Jeff Theys
Kathryn Thomas
Patricia Treskovich
United Way of Beaver County
United Way of Lawrence County
Mary Lou Virgili
Janet Weber
Gary Welchimer
Robert Weinstein
Shawn Westerlund
John Weyant
Anita Williams
David & Donna Willome
Marin & Sharon Yanofsky
John Ziemak
Christine Zofcin
Vivian Zuzcher
Cathy Zuroski
Patricia Zuroski

Memorials & Honorary Awards

Please note: Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list of donors. If you see an error or omission, please let us know.

PERPETUAL DONATION
In Memory of Ronald Clair Grafton
By Doris Grafton & Family

HONORARIUMS
JoBeth Barr
By George & Anna Goff-Ridge
Lynn & Paul Iliig
Sally Ann Beeth
By Charles Beeh
Pat Buck's Birthday
By Donna Kalsi
Elizabeth Klimchock
Lena Colasuro
By Debra Santulli-Barone
Barbara Valpe
Carol Cordner
By James & Kathleen Cordner
Felicia Filippini Morgan
By Beth Filippini
Lisa Gentle & Mark Hebedank's wedding
By Michelle Clayton
Amanda Zahn
Beverly Zahn
Donna Kalisk
By Debra Ann Davis
Stan Kazmorski
Annamarie Lazzara
Fran Lazzara
John McMurray's birthday
By Jill Methven
MGA Staff of the 70's, 80's & 90's
By Donna Ruscito

Sophie Melito
By The Loons Group
Jane Rohrbaugh
By Bernice Ehrensail
George Small, MD
By Mary Evans
Ariene Weintraub
By Charles & Melanie Popovich
John & Mary Simons
John Weyand
By Patrick & Bernice Gallagher

MEMORIALS
Helen Lewis Acee
By Patricia Addis
George Bick
By Margaret Forbes
Helen Christy
By James Christy
Mike & Rose Dancion
By Judith & Richard Holman
Bill Dinger
By Brian & Elaine Richardon
Lois Dykman
By Charles Levison
Dennis Feilece on our 34th wedding anniversary
By Gerri Feilece
Rick Getz
By Charlene Getz
Mable C. Gifford
By Phyllis Linton
Ruth Rose Gordon
By Lucille Gordon

Rosemary Greenberg
By Nancy MacLachlan
Betsy Gross
By Catherine Wright
Linda Herbold
By Stephen Herbold
Arline Deutschman Jacobson
By Robin Jacobson
Carmen Justiniante
By Carmen Garcia
Bessie Kalicki
By Sheryl Kalick
Larry Klos
By Elaine Millholan
Joseph J. Pass
George & Judy Rouich
Karen Urbanowicz
Denise & John Zyskowski
Carol Sayenga Lynn
By Patricia Addis
Maureen & Michelle Sayenga
Ronald Neal
By Donald & Barbara Neal
Ken Rowe
By Donald & Gerry Rowe
Joyce Sarver
By Maret Beal
Donald Sayenga
By Rod Anderson & Claude Lasseure
Ed & Julianne Bleil
Robert Corle
Dennis & Judy Dias
Sara Donches

Bill & Carol Eberling
Mary Ellen Fisher
Leslie Gall
Gayle & Tony Hancock
Donald Kellarik
Louise Sayenga Randolph
Judith & Robert Roll
Sarrell Supply Company
Mary Catherine & Harry Tachovsky
Kathleen Velho
Linda Weaver
Anita Williams
Gene & Joan Witiak

George Sayenga
By Bob Colwell
Ginnie Farmsworth
Maree Gallagher
Donna Kalisk
Fiona McGrath
Diame Paige
Cindy Plazek
Mathieu & Michelle Sayenga
Sheryl Riley Ulepich

David Sousa
By Diana D'Arco
Karen E. Swenson
By The Swenson Family
Westview Water Authority
Mary L. Verry
By Patrick & Barbara Walters
Last year at this time, MGA sponsored our 10th Annual Pooch Parade at South Park. Despite the rainy, cold day, we still had many of our loyal Pooch Parade participants attend, although considerably fewer than in years past. Faced with declining attendance, we have come to realize how difficult it is to sustain and grow this event with weather challenges and our small staff, so we have decided to discontinue the Pooch Parade. We want to express our deepest gratitude to former board members David and Arlene Weintraub, who created this event, and worked so hard to make it a success, and to all of our generous and loyal participants over the past ten years.

For all of you dog lovers, we encourage you to bring your pooches to the Highmark Walk in May of 2020 (date to be announced). We plan to incorporate some elements from the Pooch Parade into next year’s Highmark Walk. It’s a great event, and fun for the whole family.

Looking ahead to next year, we will be planning a new Fall Fundraiser, in consultation with our Fund Development committee. If you have suggestions, please email Donnak@mgawpa.org.

WELCOME NEW MGA BOARD MEMBERS

Former MGA employee Patty Zurawski brings experience from her long and varied medical career, including serving as the MGA nurse, along with the personal experience of her aunt and uncle both having been diagnosed with MG.

Al Parris currently works in management for Collins Aerospace on Long Island. He is eager to assist the organization that has educated him and so many others about life with MG. Having recently moved from the Pittsburgh area, he currently resides in South Carolina with his wife, and will join most meetings via telephone.

Attorney Joe Kulik supports MGA because his father had MG. Joe is the managing partner of Kulik Law Offices and is married to State Representative Anita Astorino Kulik. Joe also serves his community as a volunteer firefighter and through his involvement with various nonprofit organizations.
5th Annual MGA Comedy for a Cause

On fire!!! 😁

hahaha!!! 😂

LOL 😂😂😂

Thanks to our SPONSORS & DONORS

GOLD SPONSORS:
- Highmark
- Allegheny Health Network

SILVER SPONSORS:
- Enriching Journeys
- Nufactor

PATRON SPONSORS:
- BRS Network
- Keith Smetak
- Giant Eagle

DONORS:
- Andy Warhol Museum
- Arsenal Lanes
- JoBeth Barr
- Big Burrito Restaurant Group
- Steve Blass
- Carnegie Museums
- Carnegie Science Center
- Cheesecake Factory
- Commonwealth Press
- Cool Springs Golf
- Cop Out Pierogies
- Dave & Buster's
- Drusky Entertainment, LLC
- Dziana & Company Salon
- Four Twelve Winery
- Fun Fore All
- Kathleen Gallagher
- Maree Gallagher
- Mike Gallagher
- Kathryn Guenther
- Heinz History Center
- Holistica Massage
- Irish Design Center
- Donna Kalisek
- PA Rep. Anita Astorino Kulik
- Joseph Kulik, Esq.
- Terry McNelis
- Michael Stephen Kavic Winery
- Meadowcroft
- Rockshelter/Museum
- Mia Crystal Touchstone Jewelry
- Diane Mohr
- J. William Murtha
- Bill & Marilyn Nizinski
- Ooh La La Boutique
- Patty Bell Make-Up, LLC
- PA Trolley Museum
- Philly Pretzel Factory
- Phoenix Theaters
- Pitaland
- Pittsburgh CLO
- Pittsburgh Irish Festival
- Pittsburgh Pirates
- Pittsburgh Trolley Museum
- Pittsburgh Winery
- Larry Richert
- Pittsburgh Steelers
- Refucilo Winery
- Rick Sebak
- Sokol Club
- Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall
- Style Management Experience
- The Jack Weyandt Family
- Vuono & Gray Law Firm, LLC
- Sally Wiggin
- Wood Street Frames

Please note: Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list of donors. We apologize if there are any errors or omissions.
Dear MG Donors & Friends:

It’s been four years since I closed the NY MG Alliance office and asked MGA of WPA to take over. They have done a wonderful job through the years. I commend the staff, volunteers and Maree Gallagher, the Executive Director. She made the transition quite easy for me. As I read the MGA Spring newsletter, I was overjoyed to see how committed my former donors are to the cause. You are still donating! Wow!! It touches my heart to see all the familiar names. I thank you all for believing in me, and my decision, and believing in the MG Association of WPA. My decision was based on their integrity, commitment and love for the myasthenic patient.

As I have mentioned, I closed the NY office (it was a one person office – me!) when I was diagnosed with breast cancer. Now, four years later, so far, so good. In 2015, I was diagnosed with CML (Chronic Myeloid Leukemia). I’m happy to say it is now in remission, and I’m feeling better.

I am co-host of a community television show, Cancer Tamer Talk Show (www.cancertamer.org), educating the community and interviewing doctors, lawyers, and fitness professionals, while discussing my diagnosis with the founder of the show, Dr. Charley Ferrer. We also do workshops in the community. In between helping my mom, who is 90, I also run a support group for kids who have been bullied. In my “spare” time, I’m learning to play the ukulele, and enjoying time with my family.

Whatever time you have on this earth, I encourage you all to start one new thing that you never did before and enjoy it!

With love, and grateful appreciation,
Debra Santulli-Barone

---

THANK YOU for CHOOSING MYASTHENIA GRAVIS ASSOCIATION of WPA WHEN SHOPPING ON AMAZONSMILE.COM

Through your purchases with https://Smile.Amazon.com you continue your support of MGA and nothing extra is charged to your purchase, Amazon makes the donation!!! AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Please continue to go to https://Smile.Amazon.com and in the drop down box make sure you choose “Myasthenia Gravis Association of Western PA.” Then each time you make a purchase Amazon will donate to MGA of WPA.

It’s easy — and it will help support MGA all year long. AND remember to invite your family, friends and co-workers to do the same.
MG Support Group
**OCTOBER 19, 2019**
1pm to 2:30pm
MGA Treatment Center
Call Donna to rsvp: 412-566-1545

63rd Annual Meeting and Educational Seminar
**NOVEMBER 2, 2019**
11am to 1:30pm
See info on page 1

MGA Holiday Appeal Goes out.
Please give generously!

www.mgawpa.org
and on our facebook page:
www.facebook.com/mgawpa

**FOLLOW US!**