



The Times

NAMI Pinellas County, Florida

National Alliance on Mental Illness

Clearwater • Dunedin • Largo • Oldsmar • Palm Harbor • Pinellas Park • St. Petersburg • Tarpon Springs

Mark Your Calendar

Sept. 6th, 7 pm—Education Meeting featuring Joe Abisambra—Alzheimer's Disease

Sept. 7th, 5 pm to 10:30 pm—NAMI Fundraiser "Get Downtown," Central Avenue between 2nd and 3rd Streets, St. Petersburg

Sept. 10th, 6 pm to 9 pm—Family to Family 12-week Education Course

Oct. 4th, 7:00 pm – Education Meeting—Legal Night

Oct. 6th, 6 pm to 10 pm—"End the Mystery" Banquet, Awards & Auction, Pinellas Park

Oct. 13th, 8 am to 9:30 pm—Macy's Charity Fundraiser

Oct. 13th, 6 pm to 8 pm, "End the Mystery" Sunset Candlelight Stroll, N. Straub Park, St. Petersburg

Nov. 3rd, 3 pm to 6 pm—NAMI "Bow!" 2007, Sunrise Lanes, St. Petersburg

NAMI Education Meetings and Support Group Meetings will be held at The Hospice of the Florida Suncoast, Building 100, 5771 Roosevelt Blvd., Clearwater, FL 33760.

Mental Illness Awareness Week

"**E**nd the Mystery" is a significant phrase that means different things to different people. Not only is it the theme for the events we sponsor during Mental Illness Awareness Week but it also is a primary focus for us every day as an advocacy group.

Our community activities such as the awards banquet October 6th and the Sunset Stroll on October 13th give us an opportunity to focus attention on mental health issues. We strive to explain the concept of recovery, to erase the stigma so often associated with mental illness and to enhance public awareness of the issues faced by consumers and their families.

The mystery remains because so many people still do not understand the broad-reaching scope of mental illness and how it affects each and every one of us in Florida.

There's someone you work with who has mood swings and can barely make it to work every day, but she is afraid to go see a doctor. Your neighbor has just been told his brother has schizo-affective disorder, but he doesn't know what that means,

and he is too embarrassed to ask. The family who sits near you in church has become frustrated that their son is in jail—again—and they don't know why the cycle keeps repeating.

Until there is no longer a "mystery" in each of these cases, NAMI will continue to sponsor our annual events, creating a forum for community education and action.

As members of NAMI, you are empowered to "end the mystery" surrounding mental illness, and we encourage you to ask your friends, neighbors and colleagues to join you at our events. Whether you dine with us at the awards banquet to honor those who work on your behalf, or stroll with us along the shore in North Straub Park in St. Petersburg in a candlelight vigil to speak for those who can't speak for themselves, your active participation will help "End the Mystery." Please read this issue of *The Times* from cover-to-cover to get all the details of coming events and to learn how you can be part of it all!

—Gay Hawk, Board of Directors

Monthly Education Speakers

September

Jose Francisco Abisambra has a Master's of Science degree in Medical Sciences from USF.

His laboratory work is related to the Alzheimer's disease field. He is now in the Doctoral Program at USF's College of Medicine where he continues to work on understanding the role cholesterol plays in Alzheimer's disease progression and pathogenesis.

Joe is currently a member of our Advisory Board. He will answer your questions regarding Alzheimer's disease.



October

On Thursday, October 4th, NAMI Pinellas will present "Legal Night" as part of our celebration of Mental Illness Awareness Week.

NAMI has invited a panel from law enforcement, corrections, providers, public defender/state's attorney offices and the state hospital, who will take us step-by-step from a situation resulting in either an arrest or Baker Act then through the jail and courts to treatment in the community or state hospital.



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President's Message

Fun! Fun! Fun! That's what we are going to have the next three months. We begin in September with the Friday "Get Downtown" street party in St. Petersburg. October is our premier month celebrating "End the Mystery"—Mental Illness Awareness Week. NAMI will extend "End the Mystery" activities this year by having two events for twice the fun. This year's theme is a "Pirate Fest." And, then in November, we can bowl our hearts (or is it arms and legs) off with the "NAMI Bowl 2007" sponsored by Windmoor Healthcare. Detailed information is contained within this newsletter and we invite everyone to participate.

The staff at Windmoor Healthcare (led by Brian Talley and Gay Hawk) has worked for months coming up with fundraising ideas for NAMI. Their reputation for making all things fun is well known throughout the community so be sure to sign up for the "NAMI 2007 Bowl" and enter to win some fantastic prizes!

They say that an organization is only as good as its volunteers – so that must be why NAMI Pinellas County is the greatest! I want to thank all the volunteers who are busily involved in planning all of these events. Did you know that over 20 volunteers have been meeting on weekends and nights just to organize End the Mystery activities? John and Anne Jones, Co-Chairs of End the Mystery, are running a tight ship (filled with a crew of dedicated "pirates and wenches") seeking sponsors, planning the banquet, awards ceremony, auction, and candlelight stroll, and a myriad of details, details, details to



make End the Mystery a very successful event!

While one of our goals is to have fun at these events, our major goal is to raise money so that we can continue to provide quality education programs, support services and advocacy to all of you as well as our annual Picnic in the Park and the Holiday Party. NAMI Pinellas County depends on these fundraisers for its existence, so won't you please help sponsor these events. Enclosed are forms for End the Mystery events. Please ask your friends, family, co-workers, and businesses to help sponsor our events. We need YOUR help!

Please join us in wishing Amanda Smith the best as she has decided to pursue her educational goals. We thank her for many contributions and we will miss her.

—Judy Turnbaugh, President

Get Downtown with NAMI Pinellas

Everyone is invited to an evening of dancing and merriment in downtown St. Petersburg on Friday, September 7, 2007, 5:00 pm to 10:30 pm. The St. Petersburg Breakfast Optimists hold a "Get Downtown" fundraiser on the first Friday of every month to benefit local nonprofit organizations and NAMI Pinellas County was chosen for the month of September.

Please drop by and say hello to us on Central Avenue between 2nd and 3rd Streets and let's party in the streets! If you would like to volunteer, please contact Judy Turnbaugh at (727) 942-8140.

What is NAMI Family-to-Family Program?

The NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program is a free, 12-week course for family caregivers of individuals with severe mental illnesses.

- The course is taught by trained family members and all instruction and course materials are free to class participants.
- Over 115,000 family members have graduated from this national program

This course provides:

- Current information about schizophrenia, major depression, bipolar disorder (manic depression), panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, borderline personality disorder, and co-occurring brain disorders and addictive disorders
- Up-to-date information about medications, side effects, and strategies for medication adherence
- Current research related to the biology of brain disorders and the evidence-based, most effective treatments to promote recovery
- Gaining empathy by understanding the subject and learning by lived experiences of persons with mental illness
- Learning in special workshops for problem solving, listening, and communication techniques
- Acquiring strategies for handling crises and relapse
- Focusing on care for the caregiver: coping with worry, stress,

and emotional overload

- Guidance on locating appropriate supports and services within the community
- Information on advocacy initiatives designed to improve and expand services

Family members who take the NAMI Family-to-Family course are better equipped to work with mental health clinicians in a collaborative manner. My bottom-line recommendation? Take this course. It will help you learn to cope successfully with a major challenge in your life, and that, in turn, will help your loved one as he or she works toward recovery.

—Peter Weiden, MD, author of *Breakthroughs in Antipsychotic Medications*

The next Family-to-Family class will be held every Monday evenings commencing September 10, 2007, thru November 26, 2007, from 6 pm to 9 pm at the Hospice of the Florida Suncoast, 5771 Roosevelt Blvd., Clearwater, FL 33760. Registration is required. Please contact Lynn Hill after 6 pm at 727-808-0207.

—Donald Turnbaugh, Past President

Consumer Corner

In Memory of Chip Correll

There have been several trainings going on in Florida for Pinellas County NAMI consumers.

First, there was the NAMI Connections training in Orlando. Terry Taggart, Lori Thomas, Lisa Poutre, Chuck Kizinski, and Clyde Kobayashi attended training on how to be NAMI Connections Support Group facilitators. Terry is applying what she has learned to her consumer support group on Monday evenings. Lori and Lisa started their group at the New Beginnings Recovery Center through Directions on Starkey Road.

Second, was Peer-to-Peer Mentor training in Tallahassee. Vicki Holder and Jeff Baskis have attended. Both are trained on how to facilitate NAMI's Peer-to-Peer Education Group.

Third, is the Peer Initiative Training at the Bay Pines VA here in Pinellas County. Kris Bateman has attended this two week event and has learned much about consumer involvement and mental health in general.

If this isn't enough, NAMI Pinellas County is forming a Consumer Council. We are still in the first stages of getting this up and running and are looking for dedicated consumers to help us reach our goals. One of our goals is selling NAMI Cookbooks. The books are \$12.00 each and a portion of the money will go directly to our council.

If you have any questions or need more information, you may contact me at (727) 443-4715 or via E-mail at: sthompson134@tampabay.rr.com.



Vicky Holder and Jeff Baskis

—Steven Thompson,
Co-Chair of Consumer Council

4 Join NAMI Pinellas Today

Who can join?

You can! Membership is open to anyone who wants to help NAMI improve the lives of persons with mental illness. NAMI Members a.k.a. “donors” are: moms, dads, sisters, brothers, uncles, aunts, cousins, etc. But, you don’t have to be related to become a member. Members also are: mental health professionals, practitioners, case managers, law enforcement officers, politicians, friends, Romans, and countrymen.

What do I get from NAMI?

- Support Groups: For Families and Consumers
- Education: For Families and Consumers
- NAMI Helpline
- NAMI Pinellas County’s Family Guide
- Advocacy: NAMI members represent your interests before Legislators and other law making and governing bodies at County, State, and National meetings and conferences.
- Friendship: Persons with mutual questions/problems arrive at mutual answers/solutions.
- Parties / Events: We love to eat! You can join us at our Picnics, Parties, and Banquets where we enjoy cookouts, buffets, finger-food, and other goodies.
- Three levels of membership: Local, State, and National. All for one price! This includes newsletters and websites at all three levels:

Local: NAMI Pinellas County—*The Times*
www.nami-pinellas.org

State: NAMI Florida—*The Sun*
www.namifl.org

National: NAMI—*The Advocate*
www.nami.org

Where does my money go?

Your Membership Dues are really a “donation” used to fund our many outstanding and continuing NAMI programs:

- Family-To-Family Education Program
- Breaking The Silence School Education Program
- Peer-To-Peer Education Program for Consumers
- Consumer Council Activities, Programs, and Scholarships
- CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) Law Enforcement Training
- Picnic-In-The-Park in May
- Holiday Party in December
- Bunny Rosenthal Library

Why join now?

- For less than a dollar a week, you can improve the lives of persons with mental illness.
- For less than fourteen cents a day, you can help stop the stigma against mental illness.
- For less than two cartons of cigarettes, you can improve the health of someone.
- To help NAMI Pinellas continue and expand its many continuing programs.
- To be an integral part of something bigger than you.
- Lastly, because we need your help now.

Not ready to join?

Then make a donation to NAMI Pinellas County and you will remain on our local mailing list.

Who gets my money?

NAMI Pinellas retains a portion of the Membership Fee, however, \$15 goes to NAMI Florida and \$10 is NAMI National’s share.

How do I sign up?

Complete the Membership form attached to this newsletter—or download the form from our website—www.nami-pinellas.org.

—Donald G. Turnbaugh,
Past President

Community Calendar

Sept. 27th—6:00 pm to 9:00 pm – PEMHS Pace Awards Dinner, Treasure Island Tennis & Yacht Club, Treasure Island, FL (Call 727-545-6477 ext. 316 for details.)

Oct. 5th—7:45 am to 5:00 pm - Guardian Association Expo, St. Petersburg Yacht Club. Exciting speakers and provider displays. (See www.guardian-association.com for more details.)

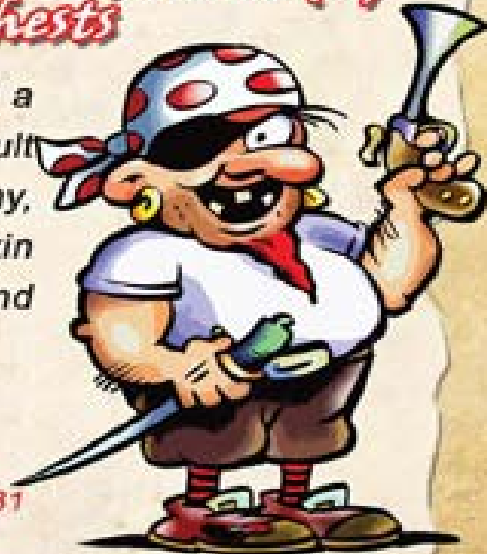
END THE MYSTERY – MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK

Pirate's Fest – Event I

Banquet Bountiful Feast, Awards & Treasure Chests

The NAMI Pirate Fest brin' forth a bountiful feast, grog (adult beverages), awards ceremony, and Treasure Chests for the takin (cash or checks only), dancing and frivolity for all ye mateys!

Saturday, October 6, 2007
6 pm to 10 pm Banquet Masters
8100 Park Blvd. Pinellas Park, FL 33781



Pirate's Fest – Event II

Candlelight Sunset Stroll "Walk da Plank"

Pirates n' Wenches clad in "End the Mystery" T-Shirts will descend upon N. Straub Park to "Walk da Plank" in a symbolic sunset candlelight stroll in recognition of Mental Illness Awareness Week. Lite snacks for ye mateys!

Saturday, October 13, 2007
6 pm to 8 pm North Straub Park
5th Avenue and Bayshore Drive, Northeast
St. Petersburg, FL 33701



PIRATE RANSOMS

- INDIVIDUAL TICKETS:**
 - Pirate or Wench Ticket**
 - [Includes 1 Banquet Ticket, 1 Sunset Candlelight Stroll Registration and 1 Free T-Shirt] \$ **60 per person**
 - Pirate or Wench [Sunset Candlelight Stroll]**
 - [Includes 1 Sunset Candlelight Stroll Registration and 1 Free T-Shirt] \$ **15 per person**
- SPONSORSHIP LEVELS - (Please Choose):**
 - Captain's Sponsorship Level:** \$ **1,000 package**
 [Includes 10 Banquet Tickets; 10 Candlelight Sunset Stroll Registrations; 10 T-shirts; Sponsor's name recognized in program and website; and, Sponsor's name and jumbo sized logo printed on T-shirts.]
 - First Mate's Sponsorship Level:** \$ **500 package**
 [Includes 6 Banquet Tickets; 6 Candlelight Sunset Stroll Registrations; 6 T-Shirts; Sponsor's name recognized in program and website; and, sponsor's name and medium sized logo printed on T-Shirts.]
 - Buccaneer Sponsorship Level:** \$ **250 package**
 [Includes 2 Banquet Tickets; 2 Candlelight Sunset Stroll Registrations; 2 T-shirts; Sponsor's name recognized in program and website.]
- UNABLE TO ATTEND, BUT WISH TO PROVIDE SUPPORT:**
 - Purchase Banquet Ticket for Consumer(s) [\$60 pp x No. Consumers ____] \$ _____
 - Monetary Donation \$ _____



R. S. V. P. FORM

1. Check level of participation below and enter amount.

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Banquet -- \$60 per person x No. Persons _____	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual (Stroll only) -- \$15 per person x No. Persons _____	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsorship Levels [Check level below.]	
<input type="checkbox"/> Captain's Level (\$1,000); <input type="checkbox"/> First Mate \$500; <input type="checkbox"/> Buccaneer Level \$250	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Purchase Banquet Ticket(s) for Consumer(s) \$60 per person x No. Consumers _____	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Monetary Donation	\$ _____
TOTAL AMOUNT	\$ _____
2. List name of attendees [Please attach list of names to this form.]
3. Name of organization (List how name should appear in published program and website, etc.)

4. Address: _____
5. Name of Contact Person at Organization: _____
 Phone: _____ E-mail address: _____
6. Please attach camera-ready black and white artwork with organization's name and logo to be used for printed recognition and for T-shirts (if applicable).
7. Make checks payable to: **NAMI Pinellas County, Florida**
8. Mail RSVP form along with check to: **P.O. Box 17474, Clearwater, FL 33762**

For questions: Call: John Jones [727] 544-4543 - or - Judy Turnbaugh [727] 942-8140

Pirate Fest Message from Capt. Jones



Ahoy! All Ye Landlubbers! NAMI Pinellas County announces two major events in celebration of Mental Illness Awareness Week:

Event I—Banquet Feast, Award Ceremony and Auction (Saturday, October 6th):

Loads of fun, food, dancing, music, awards and prizes are the Captain's wishes for the night of celebration. The theme will be a Pirate Fest and prizes will be awarded for the best Buccaneer and Wench costumes. There will be treasures to bid on at the auction table --so bring your check book and/or cash to enjoy great bargains.

We need your help to make this event a great success. Please plan to attend this event with family and friends. Banquet tickets include free Sunset Candlelight Stroll registration. Feel free to duplicate the enclosed sponsorship forms and solicit sponsors from people you know or people you do business with.

Event II—Candlelight Sunset Stroll (Saturday, October 13th):

The merriment will continue the following Saturday in N. Straub Park, 5th Avenue and Bayshore Drive, NE., St. Petersburg. It is going to be a great time with light snacks,

drinks, music, pirates, talking birds and a whole lot more.

If you are attending the banquet, you are automatically registered for the walk. If not, you can register for the walk separately (see form below). More importantly you can form a walk team with friends and family. This is a way to make the walk a real success.

It is very important for all of us to form a team; it could be 2 people or 20 people, the more the merrier. Please complete the enclosed walk registration form and mail it in with your check. You can duplicate these forms and invite friends or family members to also form teams. Be sure to ask people to sponsor individuals or your entire team; and, you can also have multiple sponsors for an individual or for your team.

Please join us in this effort to raise public awareness during Mental Illness Awareness Week. We hope to have media coverage and we really need a good turnout.

This is our opportunity to raise public awareness, raise funds to improve programs and improve the lives of our loved ones.

Join us and help us, help others, it's really a lot of fun. (See enclosed fliers for details.)

—*Captain John Jones,*
Chair of ETM Committee

MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK "END THE MYSTERY" SUNSET CANDELIGHT STROLL

REGISTRATION FORM

***Come join the "End the Mystery" Sunset Candlelight Stroll and form a Walk Team.
The registration fee is \$15 per person and includes a free T-Shirt and refreshments.
Form a Walk Team and get sponsors to help NAMI Pinellas County raise more money!***

Name: _____
Address: _____ City _____ State: ____ Zip _____
Phone: [] _____ E-Mail: _____

Team Name: _____ Team Captain: _____

Team Members (Please list names of team members.)

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 10. _____ |

Please mail this completed form and check made payable to NAMI Pinellas County, Florida, to NAMI Pinellas County, Florida, P.O. Box 17474, Clearwater, FL 33762.

Sorry, I cannot participate this year, but have enclosed a donation in the amount of \$ _____.

Are You Ready for NAMI Bowl?

The busiest season of the year is just around the corner, and all kinds of sporting events will be scheduled this fall.

Clear your calendar now for the “NAMI Bowl 2007” on November 3rd from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Sunrise Lanes—6000 MLK St. North (9th Street) in St. Petersburg. It may not be the infamous Outback Bowl, but it will be an event you won't want to miss!

A registration fee of only \$20 includes three free games of bowling, free shoe rental, a NAMI Bowl t-shirt, great door prizes, and a chance to win one free night at the Renaissance Vinoy Resort. Bowlers can form their own teams of four and pre-register as a team.

Bowlers also are encouraged to seek additional support by asking their friends and family members to sponsor them.

In fact, any bowler who participates in the tournament and has at least \$100 in paid sponsorships will be eligible to win one of three grand prizes:

- Weekend get-away at the Renaissance Vinoy Resort
- Special Tampa Bay Buccaneer Prize Pack
- Mystery “Surprise” Prize

Sponsored by Windmoor Healthcare to benefit NAMI—Pinellas, the bowling tournament also has opportunities for local businesses to sponsor lanes for only \$50.

To register as a bowler or reserve lane sponsorship, please call Brian at 727-541-2646, ext. 1502. Forms are also available at nami-pinellas.org.

Gallery O Fundraising Success

NAMI Pinellas had the pleasure of teaming up with Tom Pankrantz and Rena Charles with Gallery O and Dustin Turicik with PrintQuickness for a successful fundraising event with artists Yiota Theofanus, Wendy Boucher, Judith Curtis, and Lauren Smith.

Thank you to Dustin for introducing us to Gallery O and providing the beautiful invitations to the event.

Over 100 persons attended the opening of the show as well as the closing reception on July 30th and we are pleased to report that \$1000 was raised for NAMI Pinellas programs, support groups, and advocacy efforts. We look forward to working with Gallery O again soon and are thankful for their generous support.



Yiota Theofanus displays her beautiful art.



Artists Lauren Smith and Wendy Boucher with Amanda Smith



Carolyn Hammond, Stephanie and Stacy Freskos, and Yiota Theofanus



Jana and William McKeever with Elliot Steele



Tom Pankratz, owner of Gallery O and Rena Charles

Richard Durstein and Judy Turnbaugh were Guest Speakers at the July Guardian Association Meeting. Photo (L to R): Corey Pastore, President, Guardian Association greets Judy Turnbaugh, and Dick Durstein



Breaking the Silence— Teachers Needed

Breaking the Silence (BTS) is a program aimed at teaching middle school and high school students about the signs and symptoms of mental illness. This program was developed by NAMI National and is sanctioned by the Pinellas County School Board. It is an outstanding program and very rewarding to teach.

We are in the process of scheduling presentations to over 24 schools. The schedules are made up at the beginning of the school year. To meet their requests, we need more Breaking the Silence instructors. The training session takes approximately 2 hours. Our goal is to have a cadre of trained instructors we can send to schools throughout Pinellas County.

If you wish to participate, please contact Nancy Durstein (727) 791-3434.

Telephone Tree Volunteers Wanted

NAMI needs you!

Do you enjoy talking to people on the phone? Do you like keeping in touch with members like yourself? Do you like being involved?

If you answered yes to these questions, please call Lynn Rosenthal (727) 443-5931 to become a vital member of our telephone tree.

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training Update

NAMI Pinellas County and the Pinellas County Mental Health Coalition are proud to announce the graduation of 31 Pinellas County Law Enforcement Officers from our 40-hour CIT Training Course. This is the fifteenth class to complete this training. Over 650 officers from 15 different agencies and 4 counties have completed this course.

This training prepares officers to deescalate crisis situation involving persons with mental illness. Our CIT training has gone through some positive changes recently with increased involvement by Pinellas County Sheriff's Office (PCSO). Sgt. Tom Acker, Psychological Services Coordinator for PCSO, is the Chairman of the CIT Committee. With his leadership, the committee has improved the training curriculum with the goal of more closely following the Memphis model.

PCSO is working on

internal policies that promote CIT officers being able to respond to all calls involving mental illness emergencies.

In addition, Sgt. Acker along with the CIT Committee are planning a 8-hour refresher course for all PCSO CIT officers. This will in time be available to CIT officers from other agencies.

Our next scheduled CIT training class in Pinellas County will be November 5th thru 9th. It will be held at Sunstar/EMS Building, 12490 Ulmerton Road, Largo.

The next National CIT Conference will be held in Memphis Tennessee August 28 thru the 30th. Check our web site, nami-pinellas.org, for details.

—John Jones, CIT Coordinator
Pinellas County

Board member Patricia Hall enjoys the CIT graduation with a few new friends.



10 The Voice of Mental Illness

All too often, the persons who hear voices have no voice in their own treatment. At the very times that they may be at their worst, in terms of being ill and in their behavior, they are often arrested or placed in protective custody for an involuntary evaluation. In either case, their voice is neither listened to nor heard. But, with the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Program, they have a powerful voice. And, no voice was ever so powerful as in March 1999, at

Florida's first-ever 40-hour CIT class, when, after Johnny Limbaugh told his story, the 35-police officers and sheriffs deputies broke-out in spontaneous applause!

Since that memorable day, Johnny has continued as a Presenter of the Consumer Perspective to over a dozen CIT classes for more than 650 officers from 15 jurisdictions in five counties! He speaks of his life-long battle with mental illness, specifically, the terror experienced during his numerous involuntary examinations, when officers didn't talk to him or tell where they were taking him.

CIT is Johnny's passion, however,

his advocacy work is multi-faceted. An avid and successful fundraiser, he appears, for fun and funds, as Santa Claus, Miss NAMI Pinellas, and Dolly Parton! As an accomplished baker, he donates dozens of cookies for the annual NAMI Pinellas Holiday Party.



So, it should not have come as any surprise to the over 800 persons attending the 2nd National CIT Conference in Orlando, in September 2006 at the Awards Luncheon, that Johnny Limbaugh was named: National CIT Consumer of the Year!

Few things in life change the face of mental illness as does CIT. Whether a care-giving family, pill-prescribing doctor, law-enforcing officer, sentence-dispensing judge, treatment-offering provider, safety-desiring public, or voices-hearing consumer, all of these segments of society are effected by how law enforcement responds to behavior as it influences how society views that behavior. CIT improves the response to and the view of mental illness by society.

—Donald Turnbaugh
Past President

Memorial Gift

Carolyn Hammond wished to honor her friend, Dorothy McDonald, who recently passed away, by sending NAMI a memorial donation in her name. Dorothy and her husband Robert were wonderful advocates for persons with mental illness. Both will be missed by their friends and family.

Thank you, Carolyn, for your generous donation. Making a gift to NAMI in memory of a friend or family member is a beautiful way to remember someone who touched your life.

Executive Director Report

It is bittersweet that this will be the last time I write to you as the Executive Director.

I have decided to return back to school for the fall semester and will be focusing on my education for the next several months.

Without a doubt, my time spent with NAMI Pinellas has been amazing. I have learned so much and met some of the most loving and selfless people. I have been moved to tears many times by the dedication I have seen from our board and volunteers. So often, I have been personally inspired by consistently witnessing ordinary people go “above and beyond” to help persons affected by severe mental illness.

I'd like to thank the board of directors—and especially Judy Turnbaugh—for not only being supportive of my goals outside of NAMI but to also include me in with future opportunities to serve our many members. I'll continue to be involved as a volunteer and am hoping that you'll support our efforts during Mental Illness Awareness Week with our annual End the Mystery celebration.

NAMI Pinellas is a unique and special organization. Its strength comes from you—our members. Thank you to all of you for enriching my life with your stories of struggle and recovery, your examples of service, and—most of all—through your friendship.

—Amanda Smith

Best Wishes and Farewell Lois

Our members will miss that warm welcoming smile from Lois Lindsey, one of our Welcoming Committee Greeters. For many years, Lois was the first person people met when they attended our Education and Support Group Meetings! Lois is moving from the area to be closer to her family. We will all miss her dearly and wish her much happiness!

NAMI National Convention Round-Up

11

A record-setting more than 2,007 attended the 2007 Annual NAMI Convention recently held in beautiful, lovely, but chilly, San Diego where NAMI Florida stole the show! Well, almost. Winners of national recognition were: Dianne and Elliott Steele for devoting their lives to making Vincent House the ICCD Clubhouse of unparalleled accomplishment it has become; and, Johnny Limbaugh, Consumer-Activist, for his many accomplishments in advocacy despite a life-long struggle with schizophrenia.

There were 75 session choices ranging from workshops to plenaries to meetings to Ask the Doctor sessions. Something was certainly available for everyone's taste. And, speaking of taste, the breakfast and/or lunchtime buffets, ice cream mid-day social, cappuccino breaks (formerly known as coffee-breaks), and conference-ending pool party and buffet were just some of the opportunities to ensure that no one will not fit into their summer clothes and bathing suits!

One of the many highlights of the convention was a sneak-peek of a full-length motion picture to be released shortly entitled, *Canvas*. The movie tells the story of a Florida family coping with the mental illness of the mother basically through the eyes of a little boy and his dad.

Although the NAMI Pinellas Workshop on recruiting family and consumer presenters for CIT was one of the last workshops scheduled at the end of the last day, fifty or more die-hards

attended the session including the founder of CIT, Major Sam Cochran, and NAMI Policy and Legal Director, Ron Honberg. They even stayed afterwards to congratulate presenters: Johnny Limbaugh, Terry Taggart, Judy Turnbaugh and, moderator, Donald Turnbaugh.

Other exciting happenings were: Evelyn Miller, the Queen of NAMI Broward County, was recognized as the NAMI Member of the Year! Rose Delaney, a NAMI Florida Board Member, was elected to the National Consumer Council! Jim Flagler, another NAMI member from Collier County, presented a session on Issues for GLBT in Mental Health.

John Jones and his wife Anne, and daughter Eileen, also, attended the conference representing NAMI Pinellas County. It is expensive, but tie it into a vacation. The information you receive at the National Conferences is outstanding. It is also a great time to meet members from all over the country.

The really, really good news is that the 2008 national convention is scheduled for Orlando, Florida, June 13-17, 2008. Hopefully, NAMI Pinellas County members will attend in droves. You won't be sorry. See you there.

For additional information and photos on the 2007 Convention, go to the NAMI National website: www.nami.org. PowerPoint slide presentations presented at the Conference are available on-line.

—Donald G. Turnbaugh

Become a Member of NAMI Pinellas Today

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Open Door \$3 Student \$15 Individual \$40 Family \$50

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Are you renewing your membership? _____

Make checks payable to NAMI Pinellas County, Inc. and mail to NAMI Pinellas, Post Office Box 17474 Clearwater, FL 33762.

NAMI Pinellas County, Inc. is a corporation organized under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service codes (EIN 59-2819044). State Solitation No. CH17506. Contributions to NAMI Pinellas County, Inc. are tax deductible to the fullest extent the law allows. (Sept/Oct 07)

Judge Farnell Receives Iris Award

NAMI Pinellas County was deeply honored to have his Honor, Judge Crockett Farnell, attend the August 2nd meeting where he was awarded the NAMI Pinellas County Iris Award.

Judge Farnell's order from the bench was to ensure that persons with a mental illness who were incarcerated be sent for treatment within 15 days. He stated, "A society is judged on how it treats its weakest and most unfortunate citizens. In this regard, we have failed!"

Judge Farnell certainly did not fail to help our most vulnerable citizens by insisting that they be released from jail and sent to treatment as soon as possible. Thank you Judge Farnell.

*NAMI Pinellas
Board honors Judge
Farnell with an
Iris Award.*



Macy's Semi-Annual Charity Event

Macy's Charity Event will take place on Saturday, October 13, 2007, 8:00 am to 9:30 pm, tickets are \$5 and enables purchasers to shop earlier than regular store hours to avoid crowds.

Discounts of 20% are offered on most items and apply the entire day at any Macy's location. NAMI will retain the entire \$5 per ticket sold thanks to Macy's.

Volunteers are also needed to sell tickets and represent NAMI at either the Countryside or Tyrone Square locations the day of the sale. This enables NAMI to earn additional money for their participation that day.

Please contact Lynn Rosenthal (727) 443-5931 for more information or to volunteer.

NAMI Meeting Schedule

Education Meeting

First Thursday of each month at
7:00 pm

Board Meeting

Third Thursday at 6:00 pm

Family/Consumer Support Group

Third Thursday at 7:30 pm

NAMI Connections Consumer Support Group

Every Monday at 6:30 pm

All meetings are held at Hospice of Florida Suncoast, 5771 Roosevelt Blvd. Building 100—The Gathering Place—Clearwater, Florida 33760.

NAMI Pinellas County, Florida
Post Office Box 17474
Clearwater, FL 33762

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