



A Letter from Our Chair

By Ann Lee Hussey

2007 has been a wonderful year for me, as your Chair. The position has opened many doors for me and for PSA. We have many prospects ahead of us and I will be doing all I can to help us move to the next plateau. We promise to keep our membership better informed in future.

Our Board of Directors has expressed a desire to assist polio survivors in developing countries. Polio survivors, or victims, as they are referred to in these countries, are outcasts in their villages. Their parents, out of shame and pity, often keep their polio children at home and out of sight, denying them the opportunity for an education. Those who do attend school are often ridiculed, teased and looked down upon. There exists the misconception that polio victims are weak of mind. They are reduced to beggars and often forced into such by their families. With these existing stigmas and discriminations, the opportunities for polio victims to receive an education and be a part of the economic sector are greatly diminished. In addition, handicapped accessibility in developing countries is virtually non-existent. Ramps to public buildings do not exist, roadways do not have sidewalks for ease of access with wheelchairs, and it is practically impossible to gain access to public transportation in the larger cities where it may exist. Rehabilitation centers are basically non-existent and where some exist, it is not an affordable option for most polio victims.

We support returning their self esteem and giving them the same opportunities for an education, raising a family, and employment that all people everywhere desire and deserve.

The Board of PSA supports rehabilitation clinics linked with vocational schools where polio victims can receive the physical therapy, occupational therapy, assistive devices and possible corrective surgeries necessary to maintain daily activities within and without of their homes. We support returning their self esteem and giving them the same opportunities for an education, raising a family, and employment that all people everywhere desire and deserve.

Currently we are exploring possibilities of projects in Benin, West Africa and Nigeria that are highlighted in this newsletter. You can also read about the amazing project of Ramesh Ferris, a polio survivor dedicated to stopping the disease.

I hope to be back to you all in a few months with definitive plans for our projects. Your support and interest is genuinely appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Lee Hussey, Chair

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Chairman – Ann Lee Hussey
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Cotonou, Republique du Benin, West Africa

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(5160) Moraga, CA

Senior Advisor - Joan Headley,
Director Post-Polio Health Intl. St Louis, MO

List Administrator – Jack Campbell
(5340) Escondido CA

Webmaster – Sally Pachulski, Chapala, Mexico

“Our ability to help one another is what will make our victory over polio endure. Because of what...we will continue to do until this disease is defeated, is to come together like a family. Do what we do best, lift each other up.”

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Nigerian Projects

At the end of February, 2008, Director Dave Groner and Chair Ann Lee Hussey will take an NID team to immunize children against polio in Nigeria. Ann Lee has been invited by Saliu Ahmed, the current Governor of Rotary District 9120, in northern Nigeria to bring our team to his District. He wishes to have his District be a part of projects with the PSA. He has brought our attention to two areas where the PSA can become involved.

The first is with the Kano Polio Victims Trust Association. This organization began in 2000 with 270 polio victims as members and today the organization's membership has risen to 875. The Association was formed out of the genuine concerns of the founding members, on the plight of polio victims. They have established a working relationship with COMPASS Nigeria. So far COMPASS has assisted them with some vocational trades and with advocacy and sensitization training. COMPASS will assist with building a center for rehab and vocational education but will not equip it. We hope to have the opportunity to meet with this group in February.

The second area of interest is a polio survivor, now a Rotarian, who is presently involved with the local production of wheelchairs which are donated to other survivors to aid their mobility. This is done only when they commit to use the wheelchair to either go to school, or to be involved in an economic activity other than begging on the streets.

Two possibilities exist here for PSA: to assist with the wheelchair production and also to help with a Matching Grant for a literacy program. In Plateau State, Nigeria we wish to identify all handicapped persons without an education. Those of school enrollment age would be enrolled at the local school. Those who are a bit older would benefit from a special adult literacy program. They also plan to aggressively pursue the enrollment of girls into both the public and private schools. In addition, there is a large population of unschooled street children, many whose parents are polio survivors, who could also benefit from a literacy program. We also hope to meet with the Rotarian mentioned above and discuss funding options with his club.

Benin, West Africa

In November of 2006 Ann Lee traveled to Cotonou, Benin West Africa after participation in an NID in neighboring Niger. She was exploring the possibility of our PSA starting a community based rehabilitation center (CBR) for the polio survivors of Benin. Though Benin thankfully has not reported a polio case in the last three years a need exists to assist those survivors from previous years. The research for this project is ongoing and our hope is to be in Benin in March. Making the trip will be Vice-Chair Joe Serra, Treasurer Dave Gallagher, Director Dave Groner and Chair Ann Lee Hussey. They hope to follow up on the possibility of putting this project together as a 3H Grant with the Rotary Foundation.



Cycle to Walk

We at PSA are excited about the Ramesh Ferris Cycle to Walk Society. From April 12th to

Ramesh Ferris, a 27 year old polio survivor, will be hand cycling across Canada, raising awareness and funds for polio issues.

October 2008 Ramesh Ferris, a 27 year old polio survivor, will be hand cycling across Canada, raising awareness and funds for polio issues. The Cycle to Walk trek will take approximately six months and we plan to track Ramesh's journey on the PSA website. The money raised by this venture will be distributed in the following manner: 75% to PolioPlus, 20% to the Polio Survivors & Associates Rotary Action Group and 5% for education. Get the word out - we need your help! For more information, please check the Projects page of our website <http://www.rotarypoliosurvivors.com/projects.html>

Israeli Advocates Win Compensation

By Jacob Surany, Ramat Gan, Israel

To learn more about the successful advocacy efforts of the Polio Association in Israel, chaired by Mr. Yehuda Doron, contact Jacob Surany, PO Box 8186, Ramat Gan 52181, Israel +972 35755660.

The entire law in Hebrew is available at <http://www.post-polio.org/edu/pphnews/date1.html#ohseven>

Update on Compensation Law: <http://www.post-polio.org/edu/pphnews/pph23-2upd.html>



After two years of negotiations with the Knesset Health Committee, a new law of polio was passed in March 2007 by a majority (83 members).

The major polio epidemics in Israel were in the early 1950s. At that time, three to seven years after Israel was established, many immigrants came to our country.

Sanitary conditions were poor, especially in the main cities of Haifa, Jerusalem and Tel Aviv; and the number of the polio cases was relatively high (69 per 100,000 in 1951).

Knowledge of polio and the respective treatments were not well known to the physicians, and care was not adequate. For example, survivors had surgeries on their knees, which consequently were counterproductive. In the late '50s, some children received the wrong vaccination.

Today, with many polio survivors reporting problems with post-polio effects, the Polio Association in Israel asked the government for compensation and for future treatments not covered by the National Health Scheme.

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First of all, the law explains the procedures the Health Committee uses to decide permanent disability (PD).

The almost 2,500 polio survivors in Israel will receive a one-time payment based on their percentage of PD.

Up to 75% of PD:	75%-94% of PD:	More than 94% of PD:
NIS* 50,000	NIS 100,000	NIS 120,000
(USD** 12,000)	(USD 24,000)	(USD 28,800)

Some survivors will also be eligible for lifetime monthly payments.

The polio survivors with more than 20% of PD will receive lifetime monthly payments of 50% of the Average Monthly Salary (Today: NIS 7,700). For example, a person with 100% of PD will receive NIS 3,850 (USD 915) per month; individuals with 50% of PD will receive NIS 1925 (USD 458) per month.

Individuals with 20% of PD will receive, instead of lifetime monthly payments, a one-time payment equal to 70 times the monthly payment of those with 100% of PD (NIS 3,850) multiplied by the PD percentage. For example, someone with 15% of PD will receive a one-time payment of NIS 40,425 (USD 9,608). This will be in addition to the one-time payment mentioned above.

The Government will continue to cover the medical treatments and devices needed for the polio survivors, which are not covered under the National Health Scheme.

*NIS - New Israeli Shekel

**USD - United States Dollars