### **November 18, 2017**

Thanks to Pat we had a private area for our luncheon at Sonny's Barbeque in Pensacola for our quarterly meeting November 18<sup>th</sup>. Our plan was to share experiences from the Conference in San Diego but hurricane *Irma* changed that. We were not the only Floridians who cancelled our trips because we were unsure of where Irma was heading and what the results would be. NWF fared so much better than our Florida peninsula members and we pray they have fully recovered from any damage and losses they incurred. We all look forward to the 2018 Conference in Louisville and hope the weather cooperates this time.

We welcomed Doris
Parker, a PM patient
and her husband
Charles, who live in
Pensacola.

#### Welcome Doris & Charles!!

This was the first meeting that Doris and Charles were able to attend and it was wonderful to finally put a face to the voice on the phone. It was so nice to finally meet them face to face. We enjoyed getting to know each of them and learn a little of Doris's story with PM. Another PM patient who resides in Pensacola and is a prospective member had to cancel due to the arrival of a Thanksgiving houseguest at the same time as our meeting. We will keep in touch with her and hope she will be able to make our next meeting in February 2018.

## Meeting agenda:

There were four patients and three spouses present to enjoy some good barbecue and fellowship; three from Pensacola and myself from Niceville. Due to most of our meeting attendees residing in the western side of our KIT area, we agreed meetings would probably be best attended if we kept them in this area. We also agreed that

Mark your calendar for our next meeting February 22, 2018, 11:30 am in Niceville. More info to follow after the New Year. quarterly meetings were a good fit for us so our next meeting will be in February. In an effort to get our information published, and so our members will have a constant routine to plan their schedules around, we decided to schedule our meetings for the third week of the months of Feb, May, Aug and Nov. Three day weekends may cause a shift on occasion like Presidents' Day on February 19, 2018.

Happy Holidays to all, however you celebrate and very best wishes for a happy & healthy 2018.

David was to be our speaker but was unable to make our meeting to share what he learned at the conference because he was "under the weather". (He is feeling good now and is back to his 30 mile bike rides again.) He was our only member to get to the entire conference and said the San Diego hotel and surrounding area was gorgeous. He promised to share his conference experiences at our February meeting. In the interim, the TMA site will provide us access to some of what we missed. The list of sessions that took place at the Conference is there with links to either read or watch, depending on whether they are transcripts or videos. It was good to learn that all members present were comfortable navigating the TMA site. All members are encouraged to explore these presentations and I urge you to watch the Medical Advisory Board's presentation given on Saturday, September 9 at 9:00 AM. The tireless dedication these wonderful people illustrate is awesome as they describe their areas of study and research, seeking answers FOR ALL MYOSITIS PATIENTS! And they VOLUNTEER their time to TMA to share their findings with each other and us. Thank you to our HEROS!

### **Coming Attraction: Facebook?**

Expanding our group has been our wish from day-one. Hopefully a Facebook page for our KIT is in our future and will assist in this effort. Facebook seems to have become the communication method of choice, and though I am a dinosaur when it comes to social media, LaDonna, the Member Services Manager at TMA has agreed to help me set up a page for the KIT. As soon as this happens, I will let you all know.

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