

Happy Holiday Season to Everyone!

Welcome to all new members! Sorry for the delay in this summary, but traveling has a way of getting in the way of everyday life!

The meeting on October 22 was a success. We had 27 in attendance, including some new members. I want to thank Mike Peck, a member and videographer extraordinaire, for his highlights video from the TMA Annual Conference held in New Orleans. Once again we were challenged by the failure of the formerly predictable electronic equipment at Eden Conference Center, but most were able to view it on his computer and the sound system worked fine. The idea of his creative video was to show the variety of sessions held at these conferences, and to remind everyone that many of the sessions can be viewed online at TMA.org.

I hope more of our support group will be able to attend the annual conference next year, which will be held in **San Diego** near the airport. Please visit TMA.org for registration and hotel information.

For the business part of our meeting, we discussed fundraising options that would benefit TMA both nationally and locally. The Florida KIT group was able to raise \$43,395 total with \$28,930 available for their own local group. They were sponsored by a local 'giving challenge' and partnered with TMA for this effort. The money raised by their group will go for local awareness events and materials, fees for conferences, financial aide for conferences, etc. Money donated to TMA is generally earmarked for research, and our rare diseases certainly will benefit from research!

There were several possible giving challenges discussed that are available in our area. Several members volunteered to research what giving challenges are happening near them, such as the 'Big Give' in the Sacramento area. **If you have learned anything about what's available and how we can participate, let me know ASAP! We'd like to get something going well before Myositis Awareness Month which is in May.** I can report (with disappointment) that 'Silicon Valley Gives', which is the fundraising challenge that I inquired about, is not having another drive next year. Members are also encouraged to organize their own more low-key event locally, including pizza nights, sports activities, etc.

Feel free to call me on my cell if you have any further thoughts, ideas or suggestions. The number is: (209) 386-3913.

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2017, a Saturday as usual, from 10a-3p. I will be trying to find a speaker, but if any of you have a candidate in mind, let me know.

All the best of the Season and a Happy New Year to all!

Kitty