

# KEYSTONE of Hope

M  
G  
A



**Myasthenia Gravis**  
Association of Western Pennsylvania  
at Allegheny General Hospital  
A Treatment & Advocacy Center

## 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MGA POOCH PARADE AT SOUTH PARK — OCTOBER 29<sup>TH</sup>



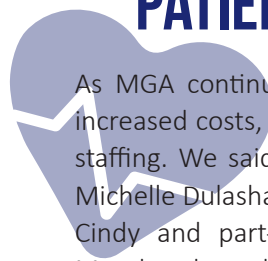
Every year, the creativity of the dog and owner costumes at the MGA Pooch Parade gets more impressive. What will be the trendy Howl-O-Ween costumes this year? Join us and find out who will win the top costume prizes on **Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>**. As always, the fun begins at 9am at the Harbor & Ethelbert shelters at South Park, near the unleashed dog park. MG patients are encouraged to form a team and walk in honor or in memory of a loved one with MG. Walkers without dogs are welcome too! There will be a fabulous basket raffle, silent auction, vendors and more. Please bring a donation of pet food for the South Hills Interfaith Movement's food pantry.

This year, you can register online at our website ([www.mgawpa.org](http://www.mgawpa.org)) or call us and we'll mail you a form if you prefer. Proceeds benefit MGA's free patient support services. Please register by October 15<sup>th</sup> to guarantee your T-shirt size.

**givebig**  
PITTSBURGH

#GiveBigPittsburgh, hosted by Pittsburgh Magazine, will launch on **Tuesday, Nov. 28**, designated nationally as Giving Tuesday, and continue through Sunday, Dec. 31. The public will be able to support participating nonprofits such as MGA through the [www.givebigpittsburgh.com](http://www.givebigpittsburgh.com) website. The Pittsburgh Foundation will provide a \$50,000 prize pool for Allegheny County nonprofits. There is also the possibility of additional corporate matching dollars to be announced. Mark your calendar and watch our website and facebook page for more info on this new fundraising opportunity. **Thank you, as always, for your support.**

### PATIENTS WITH PATIENCE



As MGA continues to adapt to funding challenges and increased costs, we found it necessary to restructure our staffing. We said goodbye to full-time Medical Assistant Michelle Dulashaw, and added part-time RN Cindy Spring. Cindy and part-time RN Jennifer Rothenberg provide Monday through Friday coverage for your medical and social support needs. During this transition, we are extremely grateful for your patience and understanding, as our response to your needs may take longer than it has in the past. While we expect this situation to improve in the near future, as our new nurse gets acclimated, we remind you that it's always a good idea to keep track of your prescriptions and allow us several days to complete your refill requests. **Read about Cindy on page 2.**



# Welcome new Patient Support Coordinator – Cindy Spring, RN, CCM



Hello, I am the new Patient Support Coordinator at MGA. In my nursing experience which has spanned 4+ decades, I have learned just how resilient and courageous the human spirit is when faced with all varieties of physical challenges. I have cared for patients from the tiniest and most fresh from God's hands to those on their final journey back home. Everyone has taught me something, everyone has made clear to me the miracle that is life. I am looking forward to this new adventure at the Myasthenia Gravis Association Clinic of Western Pennsylvania and facing, along with all of you, your challenges, hopes, joys, fears, struggles, but mostly your accomplishments, as we all work together to help you find the best way to live your life in spite of this illness.

My most recent job was working as a case manager for older adults with multiple chronic conditions and helping those with terminal conditions transition into hospice. I was on a national award-winning team of 6 nurses with whom I was so proud to work. I can honestly say that I learned more from my patients than I was ever able to teach them. They humbled me.

I live in O'Hara Township with my husband. Between us we have 5 children and 2 grandchildren who are all the heart of my life. We also have a Havanese puppy named Schroeder. I enjoy gardening and art. I am also starting a Case Management Consulting business in my spare time. I have ongoing experience taking care of my 86 year old mother and I cared for my father in our home until his death in 2014.

I look forward to meeting you all in the MG Clinic and Support Group! Be well!

*“I can honestly say that I learned more from my patients than I was ever able to teach them. They humbled me.”*



**SAVE  
THE  
DATE  
1/20/18**

## The Purple Party



Make it part of your New Year's resolution to join us on **Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018** at the gorgeous **Cefalo's Banquet Center** in Carnegie for live music, dancing, delicious food and libations, all to **benefit MGA**. Last year's event was so much fun! There will be prizes galore and everyone who wears something purple will be entered in a very special raffle.

**Call us (412-566-1545) to have your personal invitation mailed to you.**

# the MAGIC of COMEDY



▲ Feature comic Sean Collier as auctioneer during the Live Auction.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Comedy for a Cause on April Fool's Day at the Sokol Banquet Hall on the South Side was a truly MAGICAL night, with headliner comic/magician **Doc Dixon** making our troubles disappear, ably assisted by feature comic **Sean Collier** and EmCee **Collin Chamberlin**. MGA is grateful to the great crowd that attended, and the following sponsors and donors who made it possible. Mark your calendar for next year's show on **Saturday, April 28, 2018** also at **Sokol Banquet Hall**.

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PA Trolley Museum  
Patty Bell Makeup, LLC  
Penn Brewery  
Pittsburgh Improv  
Pittsburgh Irish Festival  
Pittsburgh Magazine  
Pittsburgh Pirates  
Pittsburgh Playhouse  
Pittsburgh Steelers  
Pittsburgh Winery  
Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium  
Priory Hospitality Group  
Slovak Catholic Sokol  
Subway Sandwich Shop  
Larry Victor, CPA  
Wet Pets  
X-Shadyside 24 Hr Fitness Center  
Yokoso Japanese Restaurant



◀ Board President Bob Cribbs gets into the act with Headliner Doc Dixon.



◀ Great crowd for the Comedy Show!







Brush for Bob artists!

## BRUSH FOR BOB

Thanks again to Melissa Folman, sister of our Board President, Bob Cribbs, for her hard work and generosity in planning the delightful Brush for Bob paint and sip events each year. Watch for next year's event to be held in April 2018 at a new location - the Thistlewaite Vineyards ([www.thistlegrape.com](http://www.thistlegrape.com)) in Jefferson, PA. How convenient – a Paint n' Sip at an actual winery!



Some of the fabulous baskets at Brush For Bob.

## HIGHMARK WALK



▲ Team Jack walking in memory of Jack Hyatt.



▲ Dr. George Small and his lovely daughter Sarah.

Big thanks to all who donated and walked in this year's Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community. What a fun way to show your support for MGA, and this year, the weather was perfect! Special thanks to business sponsors Connect America, Hill-Rom and Nu-Factor.

# MGA by the NUMBERS

During the last fiscal year – July 2016 to June 2017:

**12,623**

Provided 12,623 units of advocacy and outreach for MG patients and their families.



**16**



Hosted 16 neurology residents during our treatment clinics.

# WHO'S YOUR DADDY?

## BENEFIT CONCERT AT MULLANEY'S HARP & FIDDLE

It was another great crowd, and a wonderful assortment of talented fathers, sons and daughters on Father's Day weekend, all to raise awareness and funds for MGA, as part of June's designation as National MG Awareness month. We are grateful to all of the generous musicians who performed: Jim Donovan and daughter Tupelo, John Vento and daughter Alaina, Maddie Arnold and dad Mitch, Billy Strathmann and dad Bill and The Gallagher Brothers & family. Thanks also to Mullaney's Harp & Fiddle for hosting the event and FireK Studios for helping with sound.

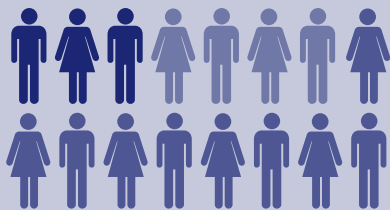


▲ *Jim & Tupelo Donovan.*



▲ *The Gallagher Brothers.*

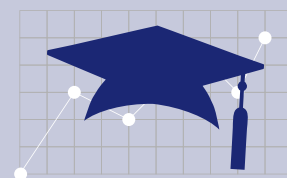
**3**



**16 / 9**

Welcomed **3** new board members to the **16** member board of directors, **9** of whom are MG patients.

**311**



Provided 311 people with education and information about MG.

**657**



Served a total of 657 patients in our treatment center, and other clinical services provided by the Allegheny Health Network.

**985**

**882**

Expanded our reach on Facebook to 985 likes and 882 followers on Twitter.

# Thank you to all of our generous donors

The following donations were received between January 1, and June 30, 2017

3 Rivers CFC  
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## KEYSTONE of Hope

Keystone of Hope is published twice a year by the Myasthenia Gravis Association of Western PA and direct mailed to patients, donors and friends. It is also available at [www.mgawpa.org](http://www.mgawpa.org)

**Editor:** Maree Gallagher, MGA Executive Director

**Editorial Assistant:** Donna Kalisek, MGA Administrative Coordinator

**Contributors:** Cindy Spring, RN, CCM – MGA Patient Support Coordinator

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MGA, 490 East North Avenue, Suite 410, Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
(412) 566-1545 • [www.mgawpa.org](http://www.mgawpa.org)

# Memorials & Honorariums

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

## MEMORIALS

### Rosemary Caceci

By Casper Caceci

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By Beth Filippini

(restricted for research)

### My Sister's Birthday

By Charles D. Cooper

### Mitch Robbins

By Florence Rehders

Margery & Andrew Rubin



## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER MARK DADAY

Mark Daday is Chief Financial Officer for Ni Pacolet Utilities, LLC, a company that owns and operates water and wastewater public utilities. For 13 years, he was with DQE, a publicly traded NYSE holding company for Duquesne Light, where he was involved with all aspects of acquisitions, financing/banking and financial. Mr. Daday was Chief Financial Officer and then president of the DQE Systems subsidiary, a propane energy distribution and telecommunications company. He was also Chief Investment Officer for three private equity real estate funds.

Mark graduated from Westminster College (PA), with a BA degree and received his MBA in finance from the University of Miami. He serves on the board's Development Committee and looks forward to helping raise funds for MGA in fundraising as well as increasing awareness of MG.



## MGA 62<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

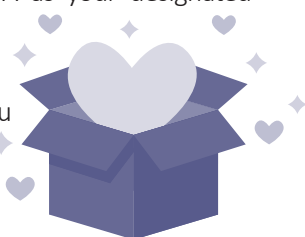
Please join us on **Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>** from **11am to 2pm**, for this year's annual meeting and educational seminar. It will be held in the Kent-Frazier Rooms of the Magovern Conference Center, second floor of Allegheny General Hospital. Free admission, free light lunch, free parking, and the latest information on MG research, treatments and more!

**Call us at (412) 566-1545 to RSVP.**

*We hope to see you!*

## SPREAD THE HOLIDAY CHEER WITH amazon smile

When you are shopping online this holiday shopping season, you can support MGA at the same time and it won't cost a penny extra. Simply begin your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), and Amazon will donate a portion of the price of all eligible purchases to MGA. On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you'll need to select Myasthenia Gravis Association of Western PA as your designated nonprofit. AmazonSmile will remember your selection, and a portion of every purchase you make will be donated to MGA.





Myasthenia Gravis Association of Western Pennsylvania  
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SAVE THE DATE



SEPTEMBER

**MGA SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS**

September 16, 2017  
Third Saturday of the month  
1pm – 2:30pm  
AGH – Singer Library  
HVHS – Beaver Campus,  
ADM -B 2 Conference room

**KINGSTON, NEW YORK**

Second Saturday of the month  
11am – 12:30pm  
Email Mitch Robbins for info  
cwby1335@aol.com

**VIRTUAL SUPPORT GROUP**

[www.facebook.com/mgawpa](http://www.facebook.com/mgawpa)



OCTOBER

**9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**

**POOCH PARADE**

October 29, 2017  
South Park (See page 1 for more info)



Courtesy of: PhotographsbyDanelle.com



NOVEMBER

**MGA 62<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL MEETING & EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR**

November 4, 2017  
11am – 2:00pm  
Kent/Frazier Rooms  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Magovern Conference Center  
Allegheny General Hospital

And in 2018... Don't miss

**THE PURPLE PARTY!**

January 20, 2018  
Cefalo's in Carnegie – Music – Dancing  
– and Plenty of Purple People!

Watch for details on Facebook & at  
[mgawpa.org](http://mgawpa.org)