

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA'S

**KEYSTONE**

of

*Hope*M  
G  
A**Myasthenia Gravis**  
Association of Western Pennsylvania  
A Support, Education, & Advocacy Center**MESSAGE FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR***Dear Friend of MGA:***ONE MISSION, THREE PILLARS**

The mission of The Myasthenia Gravis Association of Western Pennsylvania (MGA) is to address the medical, social, and emotional needs of all persons affected by Myasthenia Gravis and to disseminate educational information to persons with Myasthenia Gravis, their families, the medical community, and the general public.

MGA achieves this mission by focusing on three specific areas – education, advocacy, and support. Whether it is through our in-person and virtual education programs, our outreach to elected officials to raise awareness about Myasthenia Gravis, or our in-person and virtual support group programs, MGA is dedicated to improving the lives of people with Myasthenia Gravis.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the Keystone of Hope newsletter. I look forward to the opportunities that the coming months will bring for us to connect and collaborate.

Jim Joyce, Executive Director  
MGA of WPA

*In loving memory*

Pat Buck's tireless advocacy, compassionate spirit, and unwavering support shaped MGA and uplifted countless lives. We invite you to read her remarkable story on [page 3](#) and celebrate the legacy of a woman who gave everything to the community she loved.

**REP. KULIK  
SUPPORTS MGA**

MGA sends a special thank you out to **State Representative Anita Astorino Kulik** (45<sup>th</sup> Legislative District) for taking her time to recognize MGA as well as people with Myasthenia Gravis during the month of June in honor of Myasthenia Gravis Awareness Month.

Representative Kulik and her husband Joe (who serves on the MGA Board of Directors) have supported MGA for many years in numerous ways including being active participants in many of MGA's education, advocacy, and fundraising programs.

Thank you Representative Kulik! Your ongoing support and kindness are greatly appreciated by our organization and the people we serve!

# MYASTHENIA GRAVIS IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS



MGA invites you to participate in one of our 2025 in-person and virtual support meetings

The in-person support group meetings are held once a month at the Panera Bread in the Waterworks Mall. Dates for the remaining 2025 in-person support group meetings are:

**SEPTEMBER 20 (12:00 PM – 2:30 PM)**

**OCTOBER 18 (12:00 PM – 2:30 PM)**

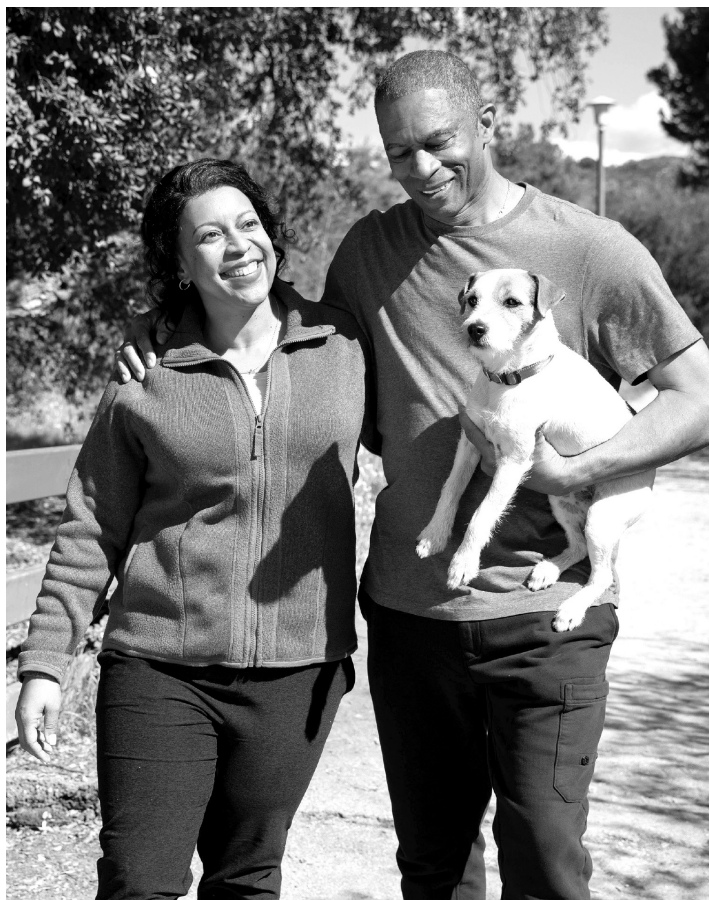
**NOVEMBER 15 (12:00 PM – 2:30 PM)**



The virtual support group meetings are held via **Zoom twice a month** at 7:00 PM on the **FIRST AND THIRD WEDNESDAY** of the month.

Both the in-person and virtual support group meetings are meant to give patients and their family members a chance to interact with other individuals with Myasthenia Gravis in a safe and relaxed environment.

There is no charge to attend any of the support group meetings, but we ask that you RSVP by phone at **412-566-1545** or by email at [mgaoffice@mgawpa.org](mailto:mgaoffice@mgawpa.org).



## EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES

Ask your doctor about VYVGART Hytrulo (efgartigamod alfa and hyaluronidase-qvfc) and VYVGART (efgartigamod alfa-fcab)

**VYVGART®  
Hytrulo**

(efgartigimod alfa and hyaluronidase-qvfc)

Subcutaneous Injection  
180 mg/mL and 2000 U/mL vial

**VYVGART®**  
(efgartigimod alfa-fcab)

Injection for Intravenous Use  
400 mg/20 mL vial



Scan the QR code or visit  
**VYVGART.com** to learn more

Questions? Call 1-833-VYVGART (1-833-898-4278)

VYVGART is a registered trademark of argenx.  
VYVGART Hytrulo is a trademark of argenx.  
For U.S. audiences only.

©2024 argenx US-VYV-24-00096 V1 03/2024

**argenx**



# PAT BUCK: A LIFE OF SERVICE, A LEGACY OF *Love*

On June 28, 2025, MGA lost one of our biggest supporters when Pat Buck passed away.

Pat was a true Friend of Pittsburgh. From the residents in her beloved Fineview neighborhood to past mayors and politicians and to professional athletes, actors, and activists; she was an advocate and a friend to everyone who wanted to make changes for the better.

Pat was a civic-minded professional woman. Pat started her career as a teacher after graduating from Duquesne University. Realizing a new passion, Pat interned as a social worker at the Veteran's

Administration, then accepted a position as a social worker at Craig House Technoma. She also worked at the Allegheny County Area Agency on Aging and the Milestone Student Assistance Program.

---

Pat didn't just  
serve her  
community—she  
transformed it.

---

Pat extended her education in 1976 with a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh. Shortly thereafter, Patricia was named the Executive Director of the Myasthenia Gravis Association of Western PA at Mercy Hospital where she served for fourteen years. She served as a social worker and counselor at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for many years where she worked with numerous school districts providing both youth and family counseling. In retirement, Pat remained a committed advocate and public servant for those in need who sought assistance for mental health issues,

housing services, work training, or counseling for drug addiction and suicide prevention.

Pat was a founding member and policy board member of the Northside Leadership Conference, Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group. She was also the President of the Fineview Citizens Council, where she led the efforts to change city zoning laws to remove long-existing barriers involving mortgage finance issues within certain areas of the city. As a result, Fineview became a model for new housing development and for rehabilitation of existing houses in Pittsburgh's older neighborhoods.

Mayor Luke Ravenstahl proclaimed August 23, 2012 Patricia Ann Buck Day in recognition of her 35 years as a dedicated social worker and active community leader. The Northside Leadership Conference conveyed a Lifetime Achievement Award to Patricia in 2013 for her dedicated service to the Northside neighborhoods.

Rest well and be at peace, Pat.  
You certainly will be missed!

## MEDICAL EXPENSES SHOULDN'T CONTROL YOUR LIFE

If you're living with Myasthenia Gravis, our  
**Patient Assistance Programs** are here to support your needs.

### Program Overview:

Financial assistance is available for medication copays, insurance premiums, medical expenses, and travel.\* *Medical expenses coverage includes injection or infusion costs and many other expenses related to the management of your diagnosis.*

### Eligibility:

- Uninsured, publicly insured, or privately insured individuals
- Household income up to 500% FPL

### In order to qualify, applicants must provide:

- Medical provider statement verifying patient's diagnosis
- Income verification
- Insurance verification

\*assistance offerings subject to available funding

Accessia  Health

800.366.7741 | [AccessiaHealth.org](https://AccessiaHealth.org)

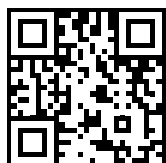
Scan to view all  
programs and apply  
for assistance.





When considering a treatment,  
it helps to know what to look for.

# What could IMAAVY™ do for me?



Data rates may apply.

Learn more about **IMAAVY™**  
by visiting **imaavy.com** or  
asking your doctor to  
learn more.



© Johnson & Johnson and its affiliates 2025 08/25 cp-534362v1



## MGA BOARD MEMBER *Highlight*

MGA is pleased to be able to highlight the members of our Board of Directors. MGA's Board of Directors play a critical role in how MGA operates and provides services to the community. In this issue of the Keystone of Hope newsletter, we would like to recognize **Jo Beth Barr**.

Jo Beth has been in board service with many organizations including MGA for many years. As a patient with MG, she is thrilled to support an organization that has so actively supported her in the past. Jo Beth assists with many of the MGA fundraisers including the Purple Party which she hosts with her daughter Jamie Stivers every spring. She is also the proprietor of OOH LA LA Boutique & Spa in Carnegie, PA, and she is pleased to offer a 10% discount year round for anyone coming into the shop and mentioning MGA!

### Interested in learning more about being a member of the MGA Board of Directors?

Contact Jim Joyce at **412-566-1545** or  
**jjoyce@mgawpa.org** to discuss potential opportunities.

## CONNECT, SHARE, SUPPORT



Join MGA's 2025 in-person support group meetings at Panera Bread (Waterworks Mall) or virtually twice a month.

These free gatherings offer a welcoming space for individuals with Myasthenia Gravis and their families to connect and share in a relaxed setting.



See 2025 dates on page 2



RSVP: 412-566-1545



**mgaooffice@mgawpa.org**

# 2025 MGA COMEDY FOR A CAUSE

LOL!

HA-HA

**MGA is hosting the 2025 Comedy for a Cause Fundraiser to benefit our free patient care services!**

Don't miss this fun evening with great food and great entertainment! The talent line up at this year's show is sure to tickle your funny bone. **This year's event will take place at the Kennedy Township Volunteer Fire Department Banquet Hall in McKees Rocks, PA on Saturday, November 1, 2025.**

We've got a delicious dinner buffet, a wonderful dessert table and of course our fabulous basket raffle, silent auction and more. The event is BYOB but water and pop will be provided to attendees. Plus the banquet hall features plenty of free parking in their huge lot!

Reserved seat tickets for dinner and show are \$40. VIP tickets are also available for \$50 and include a pre-show wine and cheese reception. Buy tickets online at [www.slapstickproductions.com](http://www.slapstickproductions.com) or call the MGA Office at 412-566-1545.

**"We don't laugh because we're happy, we are happy because we laugh."**

— William James



**Myasthenia Gravis**  
Association of Western Pennsylvania  
A Support, Education, & Advocacy Center

## Comedy For A Cause!

Proceeds Benefit Myasthenia Gravis Association of Western PA



**Hilarious Headliner**  
**BRENT TERHUNE**



**Funny Feature**  
**TERESA LOGAN**

• 50/50 Drawing • Basket Raffle • Silent Auction •

### Saturday • November 1

**Kennedy Twp VFD Banquet Hall**  
1796 Pine Hollow Road • McKees Rocks, PA 15136

**\$50<sup>00</sup> VIP Ticket Includes Wine & Cheese Reception**  
~ Sponsored by State Representative Anita Astorino Kulik ~

**\$40<sup>00</sup> Admission Includes Dinner Buffet, Pop & Water & Dessert Table**  
BYOB • Guests 21 & Over

5:30 VIP Reception • 6:30 General Admission • 7:00 Dinner • 7:30 Show

Tickets Call MGA Office: 412-566-1545  
Email: [mgaoffice@mgawpa.org](mailto:mgaoffice@mgawpa.org)  
Tix Online: [slapstickproductions.com](http://slapstickproductions.com)



**MGA is hosting its 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL VIRTUAL HOLIDAY PAINT & SIP Celebration to benefit MGA's FREE patient support services.**

This year's event will be held on **Thursday, December 11, 2025** at 7:00 PM. For their \$50 donation to MGA, participants will receive a link to participate in the virtual holiday paint and sip event, the supplies needed to create their own snowflake inspired art, and two bottles of wine from **Kavic Winery** of Carnegie, Pennsylvania. The creation of the snowflake inspired art will be led by **Kristy Walter**, Art Therapist and the wine tasting will be led by **Michael and Patricia Kavic** from Kavic Winery.

For more information or to register for this year's paint and sip celebration, please contact the MGA office at 412-566-1545 or [mgaoffice@mgawpa.org](mailto:mgaoffice@mgawpa.org).

# MGA VIRTUAL HOLIDAY PAINT & SIP

— DECEMBER 11 —

# Thank you to all of our generous donors!

*The following donations were received between January 1, 2025 and June 30, 2025.*

AbbVie, Inc.	Cheryl Hendricks	Playground Dropout	Carla Taylor
Jay Adams	Hensler & Associates, Inc.	David & Erica Posipanka	Tashia Taylor
Alexion Pharmaceuticals	Mike & Mary Jo Hensler	Dolores Quinn	The French Spy
Amgen	Daniel Hershberger	Refreshed Aesthetics Med Spa	The Hershey Company
Anonymous	Higher Voice	Donovan & Keturah Roberts	Noele & Steve Thompson
argenx	Paul Hope	Beth Roedler	UCB, Inc.
Ken & Gail Askew	Ronald & Virginia Hudak	Sanguine Biosciences, Inc.	Sue Ulmer-Breeger
Kevin Askew	Tami Jaillet	Marc & Beverly Santicola	United Way of Beaver
Jo Beth Barr	Irene Joyce	Bonnie Schapira	County
Charles & Sally Ann Beehn	Jim & Robin Joyce	Judy Schiffbauer	United Way of
Laurie Benkovich	Betty Karleski	Charles & Mary Ellen Schneider	Southwestern PA
Lorraine Berner	Jackie Kaye	Arthur J. Schrage	Victory Float Lounge
Bigham, Sam	Janice Kerner	Wayne Schweitzer	Louise Vuono
Brick n' Mortar Restaurant and Bar	Kay Kim	Seniors Blue Book	Richard Vuono
Michael Brownfield	King's Rising	Connie Shaw	Thomas & Cheryl Walsh
Tony Buba	Pauline Kitchen	Randall Shellhammer	John & Cynthia Welsh
Carnegie V.F.W.	Elizabeth Klimchock	Lori Shemanski	John Weyandt
Carnegie's Carnegie Library	David Klingensmith	John & Corinne Shields	Bernadette Weyandt-Bohm
Laurina Carter	Joe & Anita Kulik	Robert Simon	Naomi White
Catalyst Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	Maureen & Pat Kurz	Dr. George Small	Joe Whited
Nicholas Cervo	Natalie & Dave Loya	Thomas Smith	Gregory Wissinger
Lillian Cohen	Bob Mason	Joann Somma	Lorraine Wix
Bob & Juanita Collet	Ronald & Linda Mathews	Cindy Spring	Wonder & Warmth
Dick Collet	Holly McCoy	Jamie Stivers	Candle Co.
Edward Conrad	Terry McNelis	Sugar Butter Bakery	Youghiogheny Holistic Living
Bob Cribbs	Luann McNickle	Marilyn Sullivan	Boutique & Spa
Mark Daday	Melvorn & Marlene McRoberts	Natalie Tack	Lauren & Chris Zappa
Dagney's Eatery	Metanoia		
Jan DeBlasio	Microsoft Rewards/Give with Bing		
Richard D'Loss	Richard Miller		
Double Dog Studios	More than Words		
Amy Duffitt	Lisa Moretti		
Eccentricities	Phyllis Mrosco		
Joe Fello	Bill & Alice Murtha		
Barbara & Francis Filipczyk	Rachel Muzika		
Karen Frohman	Tom Natto		
Bill Gandjos	Neofes Insurance Group, LLC		
Apryl Garrett	Bill Neofes		
Global Charitable Fund	Oh Snap PGH		
Tom & Barbara Golden	Ohh La La Boutique & Spa		
Aisha Gooden	Order of AHEPA - Beaver Valley Chapter 400		
Janet Grahm	PayPal Giving Fund		
Bernard Gross	Alan & Nancy Pearson		
Sister Betty Hart	Rosemary Peluso		
Heather Narayan Therapy Services			

## 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:** *Jim Joyce, MGA, Executive Director*

**Designer:** *PilarDesigns*

**MGA, 505 Jackson Drive, Apollo, PA 15613 | (412) 566-1545**

**MGA would like to thank our newsletter sponsors:**

Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Amgen, argenx, Catalyst Pharmaceuticals  
and Johnson & Johnson

ALEXION

AMGEN

argenx

Catalyst  
pharmaceuticals

Johnson & Johnson

# Memorials & Honorariums

from January 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025



*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 GIFT

In memory of  
Ronald Clair Grafton

## DONOR

Doris Grafton & Family

## IN MEMORY OF

Gerald Dodds  
Lyla L. Elen  
Paul Fleischauer  
Edna R. Hudachek  
Joseph F. Hudachek  
Joseph M. Hudachek  
Carol A. Hudachek, Pharm D  
James Joyce, Sr.  
Bill Junker  
Bessie Kalick  
Donna Kalisek  
Harry J. Khalil, Sr.  
Carole K. Murtha  
Joyce Sarver

## DONOR

Phyllis Mrosco  
Constance Elen  
Jane Fleischauer  
Susan Hudachek  
Susan Hudachek  
Susan Hudachek  
Susan Hudachek  
The Joyce Family  
Sr. Elizabeth Hart  
Sheryl Kalick  
Linda Bosh  
Sue Ann Magoc  
Bill & Alice Murtha  
Maret & Lorne Beal

Carol Lynn Sayenga  
George Sayenga  
Luke Senise  
Everette Sopher  
Sharon L. Vance  
Gloria A. Vergara

Louise Randolph  
Louise Randolph  
Robert Simon  
Gertrude Sopher  
MW Vance  
David Dods

## IN HONOR OF

Dr. A. Aggarwal  
All People with MG  
Bob & Juanita Collet  
Mark Daday  
Jack & Carol Hufnagel  
Irene Joyce  
Art Schrage  
Randall Shellhammer  
Dr. George Small  
Jessica Stewart

## DONOR NAME

David Klingensmith  
John & Corinne Shields  
The Joyce Family  
Phyllis Mrosco  
Joe & Anita Kulik  
The Joyce Family  
HIKE2  
Gerald & Janet Barnes  
Tammy & Anthony Kohan

## SUPPORT FOR MYASTHENIA GRAVIS (MG)

*Find what makes you*

# MORE THAN MG



**Join the community of patients,  
caregivers, and other advocates**

Whether you're looking to hear more about MG, find a friend with the same diagnosis, or receive some motivation, there's a place for you in the More Than MG community.



**MORETHANMG.COM** ↗

*Follow*  
**@MoreThanMG**



ALEXION and the Alexion logo are registered trademarks of Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  
© 2025, Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc. All rights reserved. 121 Seaport Blvd, Boston, MA 02210  
US/UNB-g/0477 V2 08/2025

**ALEXION**  
AstraZeneca Rare Disease

Myasthenia Gravis Association  
of Western Pennsylvania  
505 Jackson Drive  
Apollo, PA 15613

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Permit No. 442

SAVE THE DATE



LEARN MORE

Want to get involved or learn more about Myasthenia Gravis?

Visit us at

[www.mgawpa.org](http://www.mgawpa.org) for resources, events, and ways to support our mission.

You can also connect with our community on facebook

 /mgawpa



NOVEMBER

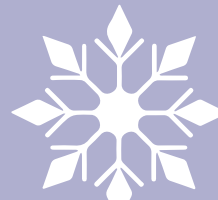
**2025 MGA COMEDY FOR A CAUSE**

**NOVEMBER 1, 2025**

Kennedy Township Volunteer  
Fire Department Banquet Hall  
MCKEES ROCKS, PA  
Details on Page 5

**MGA ANNUAL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 8, 2025**

More details to follow



DECEMBER

**MGA VIRTUAL HOLIDAY  
PAINT & SIP**

**DECEMBER 11, 2025**

Details on Page 5

**MGA ANNUAL APPEAL  
SENT OUT**

**DECEMBER 2025**

Please give generously