

Doris opened the meeting in a moment of silence and called the meeting to order. There were 12 members present.

Upcoming Events

Fund Raiser: Our group's founder, Doris Morgan, will celebrate her **75th birthday this year in December**. Please help her celebrate by donating to the International Myeloma Foundation (IMF). IMF is a 501c3 organization established to help spread information and education about Multiple Myeloma. You can make your tax deductible donation through her web site <http://myeloma.donordrive.com/event/DorisMorganBirthday/> or send a donation by mail to: 2836 Darrah Drive, Atlanta, GA 30331. Her goal is to raise \$5,000. We are grateful to Doris for her vision and want to express appreciation to her for a forum that allows us to meet and share experiences as we journey through MM. We would like to have all donations in by **November 27, 2015**.

Brianna White, with Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) shared details of the **Light the Night 2015** fund raiser / walk. There are an average of 10,000 walkers and participants who gather at Centennial Park for this annual celebration of teams and consumers who donate to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Light the Night campaign. It is an opportunity for family, friends and co-workers to make a difference for people whose lives are touched by blood cancers. Those efforts culminate in inspirational, memorable evening walk at Centennial Park on October 10th. Every walker who raises \$100 will receive a commemorative T-shirt, an illuminated lantern, and a wristband which entitles the wearer to a variety of food and refreshments. Go to our site to donate <http://pages.lightthenight.org/ga/Atlanta15/dmorgan> For more information, please contact, Brianna White, Campaign Specialist Brianna.White@lls.org 404-720-7806

Safe Travels: Pat and Selena are Myeloma Ambassadors with Takeda (formally Millennium). They will be traveling to Boston next month for the annual Ambassador Conference. As ambassadors they travel throughout the country telling their Myeloma stories to groups; they are compensated for time and travel. You can view their pictures and stories at <http://mymultiplemyeloma.com>; under Share, click on Stories, and you will find Selina and Pat as well as many other myeloma patients and their stories.

This month's meeting focused on discussing operations of the support group. Doris reviewed the results of a meeting with a subcommittee conducted on September 5th which outlined projects and organization going forward. Present at the subcommittee meeting were Alma, Doris, Gail, Paulette and Vermell. The following issues were discussed (A.) a special luncheon/gathering to honor and to provide training for the hardworking and committed caregivers; (B.) the development of new member package; (C.) development of greeting cards specific for SS MM Support Group to reach members that have not been in attendance, members who are ill and for family members that have lost (D.) ways to improve our monthly meetings and stay informed of members status. We decided to: (1) develop a set of SSMM Support Group greeting cards to be sent to group members: Sympathy Cards, Get Well Cards and "We Have Missed You" cards.-Paulette will work on drafting these; (2) Develop package to be given to new members-Paulette and Doris will inventory brochures and books Doris has on hand, Paulette will develop a "Resource List" to be placed in the new member package and added to the <http://www.ssatlanta.myeloma.org> web site. Resources will include frequently asked Questions, financial resources, prescription assistance, etc.: (3.) Alma and Gail will work on a location for Care giver/Patient event/workshop; and, (4.) Vermell volunteered to contact new members to ask if they had questions about their diagnosis and/or treatment regimen.

At this meeting the following was decided:

- Vermell, one of our nurse consultants, confirmed that she will contact new members to answer questions about their diagnosis and/or treatment.
- Kimberly agreed to contact new members regularly to let them know we are here and to make them aware of our support group.
- Montine, Selina and Kimberly agreed to contact 8-9 members monthly to see how they are doing—**we need additional 2-4 members to help with this effort.**

- Paulette and Gail agreed to develop a form that can be used to formalize and standardize contacts with members.
- Vermell and Paulette agreed to review archived videos and webinars from IMF and LLS and make encourage/recommendations for members to view and those to be shown during the monthly meeting.

Announcements/Resources/Upcoming Meetings

- **IMF.** - Listen to Myeloma Stories - www.myelomavoices.myeloma.org
- **IMF.** - Interested in Advocacy Group - Taylor Patton - tpatton@myeloma.org. Last Agenda - federal and state updates; CMS meetings; Clinical Pathways Presentations
- **IMF.** - Nurse Leadership Board Members Address Key Patient and Caregiver Questions. Thursday, October 8, 2015 Replay at Myeloma.org, under IMF TV, select Living Well with Myeloma and look under the 2015 calls.
- **LLS.** www.LLS.org/educationvideos. View videos on Diagnosis; Treatment, including Clinical Trials; Side Effects Management; and Communication with the Healthcare Team
- **LLS.** - Light the Night - Atlanta - Saturday, October 10th at Centennial Olympic Park
- Daratumumab - Janssen - J&J- More advances in European medications market.
- Elotuzumab - Expanded Access Program. (EAP). Used with Revlimid and Dex in relapsed or refractory patients
- **IMF.** - Smart Patients is an online peer-to-peer program – a community where patients and caregivers affected by a complex illness learn from each other about treatments, challenges, and how it all fits into the context of their experience. Collectively, our experiences are a vast resource. <http://www.smartpatients.com/imf> .
- Kyprolis (Carfilzomib)- Canadian Survey - Once again, Myeloma Canada is reaching out to US myeloma patients and caregivers to take a few minutes to complete a brief online survey by clicking this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MyelomaCanPatientCaregiverSurveySep15Oct72015>

Thanks Debra: Debra brought some excitement into the meeting by providing raffle and appreciation during the meeting. Debra also provided motivational reading to close the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Paulette and Gai