

Gleanings

THE OFFICIAL NUMBER ONE NEBRASKA POST-POLIO NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER

1987

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NOTICE

The annual meeting of the Nebraska Polio Survivors Association Board of Directors will be held at 8 p.m., Sunday, September 27, 1987, at the Imperial Palace conference room, 627 N. 109th Plaza, Omaha, Nebraska.

Dated this 15th day of August, 1987.

/s/ Nancy B. Carter
President

Attest:

/s/ Marcia A. Bredar
Secretary

NPSA members are welcome at this meeting. It will help us in reserving sufficient meeting space if you can notify us by September 20 of your intention to attend.

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HOLDREGE GROUP CONTINUES ALUMINUM CAN TRADITION

Dolores Bray, Holdrege Area Representative, has forwarded another fine donation from the Holdrege Area Support Group's aluminum can fundraiser. Good show, folks!

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SALES PUSH IS ON; YOUR HELP, EXPERTISE NEEDED HAPPENINGS COUPON BOOKS TO COST \$20

We're down to the wire on our HAPPENINGS coupon book fundraiser. Many of you in the Omaha area have been contacted to purchase books and to help us sell them to others. The big push begins Thursday, September 3.

This is the day the actual books will be available to NPSA. We're asking as many of you as possible to pick up your supply of books at Judy Kellerman's, 5132 Pinkney, or Nancy Carter's, 7304 So. 140th Ave. (Josephine & 140). If

it is impossible for you to do this, and you can't find anyone to make the trip for you, call Nancy at 895-2475 or Judy at 451-8801 and we'll see what we can arrange.

If we have somehow missed you in our plea for help, please come anyway and pick up some books to sell for us! Who knows--you may be the winner of our \$50 cash prize!

It's important to get there first to sell
See page 3, column 3

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SS DISABILITY RECOGNIZES PPS, NOW LISTS SYMPTOMS

The Social Security Administration has updated its Program Operations Manual System to include the Late Effects of Polio. This is good news for those polio survivors who are finding it necessary to apply for Social Security Disability.

As of July, POMS describes PPS, lists and defines symptoms, and outlines how these shall be evaluated.

Asked whether claims representatives now know about these changes, James Faulkenberry, Disability Examiner, says, "It would be my feeling that the claims representatives should be aware of new data; they can call the Disability Determination Section to find out, if they need more direction."

As individuals, we need to take the responsibility
See page 2, column 3

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NPSA HELPS MEMBER GET INSURANCE CASH FOR CHAIR

Bette Bond had a problem. She needed a motorized chair because the muscles in her shoulders have deteriorated after years of carrying the weight of her body on canes.

Her doctor wrote the required letter of prescription, and this was sent in to Bette's insurance company along with the bill for a Fortress 2000 three-wheeled motorized chair.

Payment was denied. Twice Bette appealed. Twice the insurance company turned her down.

An NPSA member from Carter Lake, Bette finally called our office. She sent copies of all her correspondence, and it became obvious that while the Fortress 2000 fit the insurance company's definition of a motorized chair, the doctor had called it a "cart," and the company was using that technicality as a reason not to pay.

NPSA contacted the Department of Insurance, and after a bit of paperwork, the claim was allowed.

"Just think," says Bette, "if I hadn't had someone to advise me, the insurance company would have been one motorized chair richer and I would have been out my due."

Now Bette can get to places she hasn't been

able to go for years--the lake, the shopping mall, around in her yard. "It opens up new avenues to me that I had lost. It's wonderful."

DID YOU KNOW...

That you can designate that you want the money you give to UNITED WAY to go to Nebraska Polio Survivors Association even though we are not funded by United Way? Simply ask your employer for a DESIGNATION CARD, name us as the recipient of your donation, and turn this in to your employer along with your pledge. Please help NPSA in this way!

GROUPS TO SEE AND HEAR POLIO DOCTORS VIA TAPE

Excellent video tapes from the recent International Polio Conference are now available for viewing at NPSA support group meetings.

The tapes show actual sessions at the conference as they happened, and give our members the opportunity to see and hear some of the finest polio doctors in the world and learn what's new regarding PPS.

So far, these groups have scheduled tapes for their meetings:
August 23--Grand Island--On Pain
August 29--Lincoln--On Psychology of Disability
September 5--Holdrege--On Fatigue

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SSA--From pg 1, col 3

ity of checking to be sure that the representative working with us has read the Manual, Part 04, Chapter 245, Subchapter 80, and is therefore informed of the new guidelines.

Those who have tried, know that the Social Security Disability program is tough to get into. A simple letter from your doctor stating that you have a problem won't do. Thorough documentation of specific difficulties is needed, and can be provided through medical records.

SSA will be looking for such things as swallowing and breathing problems of at least three months' standing, motor function difficulties in two limbs, and problems performing an activity repetitively, for example.

Frequently a polio survivor will be sent by SSA to a neurologist for evaluation. "We're relying more on neurologically based information rather than on orthopedically based information as we did in the past," Faulkenberry tells us.

This change is good news for all of us, and it came about only because GINI in St. Louis and polio survivors groups in this country cared enough to make it happen.

PLEASE BUY
HAPPENINGS COUPON BOOKS

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HIDE-N-SEEK, ANYONE?
by LeEdda Hinsley
Omaha NPSA member

HAPPENINGS--From pglcol3

Remember playing Hide-n-Seek when you were a kid? "It" would hide its face and count while all players would make wild, running dashes for the best hiding places. "It" would finish counting and with the cry of "ready or not, here I come," base would be left, and while "It" was searching, there would be another wild, laughing, running scramble to get to base and holler "Free!"

We played Hide-n-Seek in Sister Kenny Institute in early September in 1952. Not one of the players moved a muscle. They couldn't. They had their imaginations and their will. We were jammed in a room that would have held four or five comfortably. There were nine or ten of us.

All we had to take our minds off what was happening to our bodies was the hot wetpacks, which sometimes were too hot (one girl's huge soup-bowl-size blister would prove that) and our meals, which no one really felt like eating.

So, the game of Hide-n-Seek was developed. "It" hid itself wherever "Its" imagination could go. Only rule was, it had to be in the room, as inside the hole of a soda cracker "It" was nibbling on, due to being two and a half months pregnant. Seek-

ers were guided by "warm," "cold" or "hot!" The seeker who found "It" became "It" in return. Anyone for Hide-n-Seek? It's a nice quiet game.

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DID YOU KNOW...

That GLEANINGS now goes to persons in 42 states and two foreign countries? Who do you know who should be receiving our newsletter? Tell us!

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HANDICAPPED PARKING LAW CHANGES IN NEBRASKA

LB598, introduced by Senators Lynch and Harnett, amends certain issues having to do with handicapped parking.

Here's what is new:

1. The definition of handicapped has been changed to apply to "those who cannot travel unassisted more than two hundred feet without the use of a wheelchair, crutch, walker, or...other assistant device and any individual whose personal mobility is limited as a result of respiratory problems."
2. New ninety-day parking permits can be issued to those temporarily disabled, and can be re-issued for up to a year.
3. A central registry of all permit holders has been created, and will be kept by the

these books. We need to move fast and move soon in order to have a successful campaign.

This year's HAPPENINGS is beyond belief--more than 600 coupons (200 over last year's number), and all of them two-fers or up to 50% off. An entire section has been added this year--retail sales. Fine dining from Abercrombie's to Scribbles, casual dining, fast foods, theater and arts, sports and recreation, all this and much more for only \$20.00.

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Department of Motor Vehicles.

4. Persons parking in handicapped stalls without a permit--whether the stall is on public or private property--are guilty of a traffic infraction and are subject to certain penalties.

These things remain the same:

1. You still apply to your city clerk for the permit CARD (which is issued to the person and can be moved from vehicle to vehicle) and to the Department of Motor Vehicles for the PLATE (which is issued to the vehicle and remains on that vehicle).
2. You must provide proof of disability with your application.

The changes go into effect November 1, 1987.

