

A Newsletter from the Brain Injury Association of Arkansas

THE MESSENGER

Prevention • Research • Education • Advocacy

Fall 2010

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President's Message

It has been a great year so far at the Brain Injury Association of Arkansas (BIA-AR), and I am excited about the progress we have made over the last few years. We have worked hard to ensure the BIA-AR has been able to truly be "The voice of help, hope, and healing" within the state. Here are just a few ways that we have been working hard for you and your loved ones: We have established strong working relationships with many other organizations in order to ensure that you and/or your loved ones are provided every resource/service available; reinforced our bond with the national BIA in order to assure that we are on the forefront of National policy and resources; We have strengthened our voice within our own state government through advocacy and expert testimony; strengthened our relationship with local media sources in order to get the word out and educate the general public, and much more. If you have not had a chance please take the time to look at our new and improved website (www.brainassociation.org) to read about more of the opportunities and resources available to you and/or your loved ones.

With that said, I would like to thank the volunteers that have served on and/or are currently serving on the BIA-AR Board of Directors. Without you we would not be where we are today so....THANK YOU! This is also a perfect opportunity for me to ask for your help, please remember that in order to continue to make progress it takes a strong membership base. Many of you have allowed your annual memberships to expire leaving us with a general membership that is less than impressive. We are working hard to ensure that you, your loved ones, and professionals receive all you are due. However, no matter how hard we fight if you are not behind us we are just a small group of people and it looks as if you do not care. A prime example of this is last legislative session the BIA-AR was instrumental in pushing forward a helmet law that would increase the age requirement for wearing a helmet while riding on a motorcycle within the state. We put out a call to our members for anyone that could come and testify on behalf of themselves or a loved one that had sustained a brain injury from a motorcycle while not wearing a helmet and we received no responses. While testifying on behalf of the BIA-AR I was asked if I had a survivor or a family member present to speak on their behalf and I regretfully had to say "No". The opposition had many people that showed up to support not passing the law and the bill was rejected before it even left the committee. We cannot let this continue to happen. We need to rally together and stop complaining about what is not available to us. It is your responsibility to step up, if not for yourself, for the next person in your shoes. Help us help you by joining, volunteering, and spreading the word.

Thank you and I hope to hear from each of you in the near future,
Yousef Fahoum, MA, P-LPE, CBIST

3rd Annual Partners in Brain Injury Conference

November 18th and 19th, 2010 at the Hilton Little Rock Metro Center

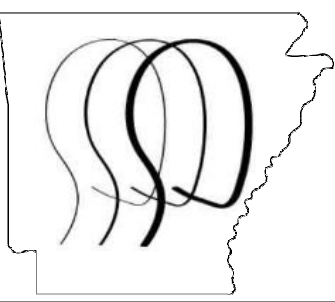
Thursday November 18th 9:30 am-5:15 pm

Guest Speaker: Michael Paul Mason- author, producer, journalist and brain injury case worker from Tulsa, OK. His works have appeared in several publications, including *Discover*, *The New York Times*, and *The Believer*. His first book, *Head Cases: Stories of Brain Injury and Its Aftermath*, is an exploration into the harsh realities endured by brain injury survivors.

Reception/Silent Auction- 6:30 pm-8:00 pm

Friday November 19th 7:00 am- 12:30 pm

For information, contact **Elizabeth Eskew** (501) 296-1775 OR **Tribble Moseley** (501) 551-7104 or register online at www.arkdisabilityrights.org.



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Upcoming Meetings

January 15th 2011- General Member
10:00-12:00

Board meetings are held at 5:00
10515 West Markham Street
Little Rock, AR 72205

2010 Sponsors

St. Vincent Rehabilitation Institute
Baptist Health
Timber Ridge
Partners Insurance
Arvest Bank
Gary Green
Dillards Corporate Office



RECYCLE NOW!

Do you have a friend,
loved one or colleague
who could benefit from
this newsletter? If so,
pass it on or call the BIA one mailed to

Legislative Corner

www.Grashopr.com

We invite you to use this online tool
for communicating with your local
and national government bodies to
encourage positive changes for the
betterment of all persons affected by
traumatic brain injury.

I.M. Brainy

The grant program, Implementing I.M. Brainy Curriculum: Community Experiences for Occupational Therapy Students, began in the Spring of 2010. An I.M. Brainy team has been developed by the graduate occupational therapy students with seven students participating to date. The team has implemented portions of the national I.M. curriculum and used related activities to meet the needs of each preschool center. The program being implemented involves different stations in which the preschool children can participate, so that they can gain more knowledge about the human brain and how to protect it. Each facility visited has been warm and receptive to the knowledge that the team has shared. One facility has asked for the activity again next year!

In addition, the I.M. Brainy team developed an evaluation tool to be used specifically with the preschool population. It consists of a pre-test and post-test verbal questionnaire that was developed for the purpose of this program. The results will be examined at the conclusion of the grant.

The hope of the IM Brainy team members at the University of Central Arkansas is that preschool age children in Central Arkansas will become more aware and knowledgeable about brain injury, the human brain and its role in daily life, how to prevent any injuries from occurring, who to contact in an emergency, and how to properly wear a helmet. The team will continue to work toward this goal through the continuation of this program.

Education Corner

Upcoming Webinars:

October 28, 2010 2:00-3:00 pm CT

Family Interventions Redux

Jeff Kreutzer, Ph.D., ABPP, FACRM

November 9, 2010, 2:00-3:00 pm CT

Behavioral Issues and Brain Injury

Flora Hammond, M.D.

November 18, 2010, 2:00-3:00 pm CT

Online Recruiting and Staffing-Business of Brain Injury

Kimberly Penharlow

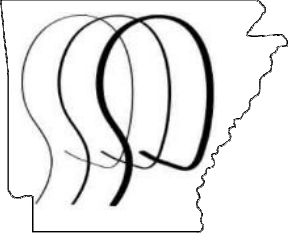
December 15, 2010, 2:00-3:00 pm CT

Spasticity and Brain Injury

Cindy Ivanhoe, M.S.

To learn more about these and other upcoming Webinars, or to register, please visit the BIAA Bookstore today at www.biausa.org.

*Continuing education credits are available



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Veterans Corner

A wealth of information can be found at the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center website, www.dvbic.org. The site provides information regarding the number of traumatic brain injury (TBI) diagnosis based on medical chart review per year. There is a Families & Friends section of the site that provides valuable information about TBI and the role of the family and caregiver. A Family Caregiver Curriculum, *Traumatic Brain Injury: A Guide for Caregivers of Service Members and Veterans*, can be downloaded. The guide includes an introduction, 4 modules and a caregiver companion that include information about TBI diagnosis, understanding the effects of TBI, becoming a caregiver of a service member or veteran with TBI, navigating services and benefits available and templates for tracking important information.

To access the site from the home page, click on Families & Friends along the top and then click on Family Caregiver Curriculum along the left side of the page. This page will give you an overview of the information contained within the course. Then click on *Traumatic Brain Injury: A Guide for Caregivers of Service Members and Veterans* link. Here you will find the PDF files of each module that you can download. The information and format focuses on service members and veterans, however, most of the information is valuable for any individual caring for someone with a traumatic brain injury of any severity.



Brain Injury Association
P.O. Box 26236
Little Rock, AR 72221

Join us today to
CHANGE tomorrow!

At least 1.4 million Americans sustain a traumatic brain injury each year. That means every 21 seconds one person in the U.S. will sustain a brain injury. Help bring an end to what is considered a silent epidemic.

The Brain Injury Association of Arkansas is committed to helping people navigate life after brain injury. Please join us to raise awareness and provide help, hope and a voice to the thousands of Arkansans affected by brain injury.

Any commitment you can make - from volunteering to sharing your story through the media - can help enhance the quality of life and bring the promise of a better tomorrow for all people affected by brain injury.

Simply fill out the section below and mail it to the Brain Injury Association of Arkansas at PO Box 26236 Little Rock, AR 72221 to get started today!

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

- Membership
- Educational opportunities
- Volunteering opportunities
- Peer/Mentor Support
- Donating, Planned Giving or Contributing