

The Brain Injury Association of Arkansas'

# Messenger

## New Board Members...

At our December annual general membership meeting we elected seven new Board members as well as re-elected two existing Board members to a second term. The new board members, elected for a three-year term (2009-2011) are:

Garrett Andrews, Psy D (North Little Rock)  
Carolyn Hoppe, MA, CRC, CVRT, COMS (Fayetteville)  
Drake Mann, Esq (Little Rock)  
Veronica Rowe (Conway)  
Leslie Sims (Maumelle)  
Mike Stevenson, CPA (Maumelle)  
Holly Tindall (Little Rock)

Tribble Moseley (Maumelle) and Larry Thompson (Osceola) were elected to a second three-year term.

Other Board members are: Teresa Belew (Little Rock), Shaun Best (Smackover), Yousef A Fahoum, MAP, CBIST (Maumelle), Ann Fullerton (Little Rock), Deborah Gangluff, Sc D (Conway), Dana Gonzales, Ph D (Little Rock), Jim Hamilton, LCSW (Little Rock), Bill Hartley (Hot Springs), Gary Low (Little Rock), Charles Stewart (Little Rock), and Garry Teeter, MS, LPC, NCC, BCPCC, CBIST (Bryant), Following the general membership meeting, the Board met and elected officers for 2009. Elected to serve for 2009 were:

President: Yousef A Fahoum, MAP, CBIST (Maumelle)  
Vice President: Dana Gonzales, Ph D (Little Rock)  
Secretary: Deborah Gangluff, Sc D (Conway)  
Treasurer: Mike Stevenson, CPA (Maumelle)

It was decided to continue the pattern set in 2008 by holding Executive Committee meetings in the odd months (January, March, May, July, September and November). Full Board meetings will be held in the even months (February, April, June, August, October and December). Except for the December meeting, meetings will be held the first Tuesday of each month at 4:30 pm in the conference room of the SoHo Centre. The December Board meeting is held following the general membership meeting, which is held the first Saturday in December. All meetings are open to any member who wants to attend.

While a lot of progress was made in 2008, in 2009 the Association is poised to make great gains in building awareness of brain injuries and what it's like to live with a brain injury. In 2009 members will begin receiving *The Challenge*, a quarterly publication from the Brain Injury Association of America.

**Web Site:** During December we completely redesigned our web site to match the look and feel of the Brain Injury Association of America's web standards. If you haven't visited our web site lately, please do so and give us some feedback on what you like and what we need to improve. We are also trying to provide better content. We will be adding more content as time goes on. Our web site is located at [www.BrainAssociation.org](http://www.BrainAssociation.org). Our email address remains [info@BrainAssociation.org](mailto:info@BrainAssociation.org).

**New Office:** Beginning in January we will again have an office. Our office will be located in the SoHo Centre at 10515 West Markham in Little Rock. This location, just east of Interstate 430 and south of West Markham will be very accessible and easy to get to. We are in the process of hiring a part time person to serve as our Business Manager. We hope to eventually make the position full-time. We will continue to use our Post Office Box as our mailing address. Our phone numbers will remain the same. Those phone numbers are 501-374-3585 (Little Rock). Our toll-free number is 1-800-235-2443. We are also adding another toll-free number, 1-800-444-6443. This toll-free phone number is used by all

state affiliates. Calls from our three area codes will be redirected to our main number.

**SAVE THE DATE – March 28, 2009**, will be our fourth annual Walk for Thought. The Walk is part of March Brain Injury Awareness Month activities. It will again be held in Little Rock. More information on the Walk will be available in early February. We are currently looking for Event Sponsors. Sponsorships are available for as little as \$300. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested, call us for more information. Deadline for Event Sponsorships is February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**39<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade** has returned to Arkansas. They will have reintegration meetings beginning in January. We want to support their reintegration by having representatives at their 30-day and 60-day meetings to pass out information about concussions and brain injuries. Many of the veterans returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF) may have suffered concussions. Their 30-day meetings will be on January 10<sup>th</sup> and January 24<sup>th</sup> in four different cities. We hope to have those meetings covered by the time this newsletter goes out. Their 60-day meetings will be conducted on most weekends in February and March at three or four different locations each weekend. We will post more information on our web site where the meetings will be held. If you can help by attending one of these meetings, please give us a call.

**Resource Manual:** If you were able to attend the conference on November 7<sup>th</sup>, you received a draft copy of the 219-page TBI Services Resource Manual. For those who didn't, we have posted a copy of the manual on our home page. Please take time to review that manual and provide feedback. The deadline for providing feedback is February 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Awards:** The Brain Injury Association of Arkansas requests community nominations for the following awards to be presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual BIA-AR Awards Luncheon. The luncheon is part of Brain Injury Awareness Month in Arkansas. The luncheon will be in early March.

- |                     |                                |                            |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Advocacy Excellence | Public Awareness               | Workplace Excellence       |
| Community Event     | Public Policy                  | Other (Suggest a Category) |
| Education Practices | Sports Injury Prevention       |                            |
| Injury Prevention   | Training, Education & Research |                            |

If you would like to submit an organization for an award, send the name of the organization and the basis for their nomination along with your contact information to our Post Office Box or by email. The information can also be submitted using our online form from our web site.

**Task Force Recommendations Update:** The recommendations from the Legislative Task Force were presented to the Arkansas Legislative Council on November 21<sup>st</sup>. A copy of their recommendations is available on our web site. Since that time we have learned that the Governor's Office decided not to fund the recommendations in his 2009 Budget. We will have to work hard to get the recommendations funded during the upcoming session.

*We Wish You a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

Brain Injury Association of Arkansas  
PO Box 26236  
Little Rock AR 72221-6236

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org. US POSTAGE PAID LITTLE ROCK, AR PERMIT NO. 113
----------------------------------------------------------------------------