



Alexander Graham Bell Minnesota Chapter

P.O. Box 10624 White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Message from the President "A Building Year!"

Welcome to the first 2006 newsletter of the Minnesota Chapter of AG Bell!

A little over five years ago, a group of dedicated individuals formed the first Minnesota Chapter of the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. MN AG Bell is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving families, professionals and individuals with hearing loss. The national AG Bell mission is: Advocating Independence Through Listening and Talking. The MN Chapter of AG Bell embraces this mission. We hope to provide a strong network of support and educational opportunities as well as and increased awareness of the oral option for persons with hearing loss.

Presently, MN AG Bell has 120 members. Virtually all current MN AG Bell members have been touched by a person with hearing loss. My name is Missy Perry and I currently serve as the President of the Minnesota Chapter. Most important, I am one of those members that have been touched by many persons with hearing loss, most closely by our 7-year-old son Eddie. I have also been supported and inspired by AG Bell and its mission.

Over the last year or so there has been major re-organizing and re-establishing going on with both National AG Bell and the MN AG Bell Chapter. National AG Bell has done an impressive overhaul. From new space in their Washington DC headquarters to a new strategic plan to new staff and a newly organized website, National AG Bell has become even more proactive in areas of advocacy, newborn screening, hearing aid reimbursement, IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Act), and the list goes on. Additionally, the membership structure is another significant change. There is no longer separate state and national memberships. There is now just one membership through National AG Bell and all the membership work and dues are tracked through the national office. This is a bonus for volunteer-run state chapters. All chapters receive a portion of the dues from their respective state members.

On the state level, the MN AG Bell Chapter has been actively in the process of re-establishing itself for the past year. This has been no small task. Thanks to a group of fabulous board members, we are well on our way.

MN AG Bell co-sponsored the Fall Oral Education Conference. Last spring we hosted a very successful Friends and Family Event at Eagles Nest. Additionally, please check out our newly updated website at www.agbell.org/mn for a host of local and national information and for links to pertinent websites all over the country. Special thanks goes to our very own Webmaster and current board member Kendra Stevens.

I am excited by all the new beginnings at AG Bell. I encourage you to take full advantage of what both National AG Bell and the Minnesota AG Bell have to offer. It is my hope, and the hope of the entire board, that National AG Bell and Minnesota AG Bell will be an invaluable resource to individuals, families and professionals affected by hearing loss.

Stay Warm,
Missy Perry
Minnesota Chapter President

Annual Meeting!
Please join us on November 15th
for a light lunch at 11:30 until 12:00—12:30.
See page 6 for details!

Volume 1, Issue 1

November 1st, 2006

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- ☺ Going to the movies
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2006 Board of Directors

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About National Alexander Graham Bell

The Alexander Graham Bell Association (AG Bell) is a lifelong resource, support network, and advocate for listening, learning, talking, and living independently with hearing loss. Through publications, outreach, training, scholarships, and financial aid, AG Bell promotes the use of spoken language and hearing technology. With over a century of service, AG Bell supports its mission: Advocating Independence through Listening and Talking!

National AG Bell is an independent, non-profit membership association governed by a Board of Directors that includes parents of children with hearing loss, adults who are deaf and hard of hearing, and professionals in the field of hearing health.

The mission of this corporation is to support individuals with hearing loss and their families, to advocate the use of technology to maximize residual hearing, to educate and provide resources to parents, and to support and educate

professionals on the needs of children and adults with hearing loss. AG Bell serves as the nation's largest information and support center for pediatric hearing loss and oral/deaf education.

What we do:

Advocate for listening, learning, talking and living independently with hearing loss.

Assist parents and professionals.

Educate our membership and the general public.

Provide a network for our members.

Who do we serve:

Parents of children with hearing loss.

Adults who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Professionals in the field of hearing health.

How do we do it:

National AG Bell has bimonthly publications, outreach training, scholarships & financial aid.

Advocating independence through listening & talking.

Giving voice to children and hope to parents.

Bringing together families, adults, & professionals in common cause.

Ever moving forward with care, strength, & determination.

Look to the future, cherish the present, honor the past.

Long will Dr. Bell's dream and this association thrive and prosper.

Written by: Patrick Stone, St. Louis Convention, July 2, 2002

Minnesota AG Bell Board Members!

Missy Perry: President of MN AG Bell and parent of a child with a cochlear implant and hearing aid, Eddie 7 years old.

Mignon Miller, M. A. CCC-SLP/A: President-Elect of MN AG Bell and teacher at Northern Voices Oral School.

Sally Kraske, Treasurer of MN AG Bell and parent of 2 hearing aid teenagers, Tim 14 and Brian 16.

Tina Johnston, Secretary of MN AG Bell and parent of a child with bilateral cochlear implants, Ben, 8 years old.

Mary Bauer, Librarian of MN AG Bell and hard of hearing individual who has worn hearing aids since she was 4 years old.

Kristi Blaiser, M.A., CCC-SLP: Member at Large MN AG Bell, Aural Rehabilitation Specialist at the U of MN Medical Center and Doctoral Student at U of MN.

Mike Cousineau: Member at Large MN AG Bell and parent of 2 daughters with hearing aids.

Mike Moroz: Member at Large MN AG Bell with many years of non-profit experience centered on children's health and wellness.

Kendra Stevens: Member at Large MN AG Bell and parent of a child with bilateral cochlear implants, Quin, 8 years old.

Laurie White: Member at Large MN AG Bell, Teacher for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing, and Coordinator for the NE Metro 916 Auditory Oral Program.



A YEAR IN REVIEW

Conference Week in Minnesota!!

A Parents View....

The week of April 3-7 was a busy, fun, educational, opportunistic, inspiring and yes, exhausting week. On top of regular family life with 2 young kids, one with a cochlear implant, it was a week of 3 fabulous events.

Monday and Tuesday was the MN EDHI (Early Detection and Hearing Intervention) Summit at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Our MN AG Bell chapter had a booth in the exhibitor area for all of the approximately 300 attendees to visit. Most attendees were dhh teachers that specialize in early childhood, and there were people from all 11 regions around the state. Since they are the first point of contact for so many families it was extremely important that they know the options available to them. The sessions were very educational and included a parent panel that discussed their experiences of having their child diagnosed with newborn screening.

Wednesday was the Advanced Bionics "Enhancing Performance with Cochlear Implants" seminar at the Minneapolis Marriott. This was a one day seminar that was packed with different speakers from across the country. They talked about maximizing FM usage, learning to hear music, new technologies, bilateral implants and much more.

Wednesday was also the start of the American Academy of Audiology Annual Convention at the Minneapolis Convention Center. This was a HUGE convention with about 6,000 attendees and hundreds of exhibitors from around the globe. I met people from Ireland, India, England, Argentina, Japan, and Korea! We had a much bigger booth here since we really were helping out at the National AG Bell booth. Board members took shifts along with Greg Zick and Judy Harrison from National AG Bell over the 4 day convention. I thank Greg and Judy for their hard work along side us all week, we learned a lot from them and in return helped them understand where MN is at on the oral education continuum.

Thursday night we had a chance for some fun at Tiburon downtown and entertained some fellow exhibitors from AG Bell NJ, Northern Voices, and National AG Bell. Thank you to our supportive member David Lamm who donated gift certificates for this fun chance to strategize. Thank you also to Gary Kirsch from NJ who gave us some excellent tips on FM use and what we can do to continue building our chapter.

Throughout the week there were chances to reconnect with people, meet new faces, relive the sadness and joys of raising a deaf child, learn new things, and be in a community of people that either have similar issues or work to solve these issues. I thank all the people who reached out to me with their knowledge and support. I am excited to have had the chance to talk about our AG Bell mission with all the professionals I met, and I hope I was able to help at least one other parent with my knowledge or support. All of these opportunities help me remember why I joined AG Bell and have been a dedicated board member for 5 years.

Family Fun Event at the Eagles Nest!



**We had a
Free Family Event!**

On Sunday, April 30th, over 20 families attended our free family event.

We had exclusive use of

The Eagle's Nest,

a large indoor playground!

It was a great opportunity for parents to connect and our kids to burn energy!

Building Bridges—Connecting Voices National Conference

BUILDING BRIDGES – CONNECTING VOICES: The Alexander Graham Bell Association convention was held June 23-27, 2004 in Pittsburgh, PA. Many people from Minnesota attended including board members; Mignon Miller, Laurie White, Mike Cousineau and Becky Schmidt.

The events began with the keynote speaker Dr. Neil Izenberg, M.D., founder and chief executive of the Nemours Center for Children's Health Media. He spoke about ways to provide children and parents with friendly health information and his award winning website Kid-sHealth.org. Please check out his website for any questions concerning children from "Why do I have cancer?" to "Why do I sneeze?".

The convention continued with the unveiling of AG Bell's new campaign, *Hear from the start, Talk for a Lifetime*. This initiative is being put out by AG Bell to raise awareness across the county and around the world concerning the benefits of early diagnosis and intervention for children who are deaf and hard of hearing and ensure that spoken language becomes a known option for those children and parents.

There are 12,000 infants born with hearing loss annually within the United States. That is 33 infants per day!! Nearly 70 percent of the mothers who were surveyed stated that they were given insufficient information about spoken language. As AG Bell members WE have to CHANGE that!

AG Bell also continues to ensure that those families have educated professionals in the field of auditory training and spoken language. In 2005, Auditory Verbal International (AVI) was disbanded and AG Bell took control of their assets. AG Bell has established the AG Bell Academy for Listening and Spoken Language, which will hold the credentialing for those individuals wishing to be certified to work with children who are deaf and hard of hearing. Stay tuned for more information to come about the certification process.

Interesting but somewhat difficult to understand was the current research on the ear, deafness and hearing loss presented at the research symposium: *Improved Rehabilitation of Hearing Loss and Deafness*. The focus was on new hearing research discoveries including new drugs, treatments and prevention

for deafness, stem cell research and the growth of cochlear hair cells.

At the conclusion of the lunch, Inez Janger, the outgoing president, relinquished the thrown to the new president Karen Youdelman previous president of the Ohio Chapter.

Another highlight of the convention was the signing of autographs by Tom Westman, "Survivor: Palau" winner. He also spoke about his daughter's hearing loss and the work he has done to help families "get the facts" about hearing loss and spoken language. A fun and worthwhile learning experience.

The next convention will be
in **Milwaukee, WI,**
June 27-30, 2008.

Please mark your calendars
and we'll see you all there!

Joining AG Bell

If you are not currently a member of AG Bell, please join us!

It is easy to join online at <http://www.agbell.org> or by phone at 866-337-5220.

Several membership types are available. There are so many benefits to being a member including:

- Conferences and Conventions
- Belonging to a National/International Organization
 - Advocacy Services
 - Parent Support List
- Financial Aid and Scholarship Programs
- State Chapter and Special Interest Sections of AG Bell:
 - Deaf and Hard of Hearing Section (DHHS), Parents' Section, and the International and Professional Section (INPROSEC)
 - Volta Voices (AG Bell's awesome bi-monthly magazine)
- The Volta Review (AG Bell's peer reviewed scholarly journal devoted to education, rehabilitation, and communication development of deaf and hard of hearing individuals.
 - AG Bell bookstore

AG Bell also offers a one time FREE 6-month trial membership for parents.

This offer is open to parents of children who are deaf and hard of hearing who have never been members before.

Going to the movies!

There are many places in the twin cities and Duluth that we know of to go see movies with captioning. It's not always easy to figure out or understand so we are here to try and help.

If you look at our website:

www.agbell.org/mn you will see the Theater Info at the top of the left menu bar. There are generally two types of captioning available in the theaters.

First, there is CLOSED CAPTION/REAR WINDOW CAPTIONING by MOPIX and the following website is linked at <http://ncam.wgbh.org/mopix/nowshowing.html#MN>. There are 5 theaters listed with this kind of technology in MN. With this you get a small screen attached to a tube that sits in the cup holder, and the screen displays the text for you to see at your seat. Usually these buildings have only one theater

with this capability and it is usually the biggest theater which houses movies the first week that they are out, and then they rotate them out of that particular theater thus limiting availability to captioning. Also, not all movies will be shown in that theater again limiting what movies can be seen. Get there early so you can find the person that actually knows where the equipment is, or call ahead and see if they can have it ready for you!

Then there is OPEN CAPTIONING which means the words are at the bottom of the screen for everyone to see. This is a MN website we link to that has both open and closed caption listings by movie <http://www.mnocfilms.org/index.html>. This

captioning requires the theater to buy a special captioned version of the movie to show and it is typically shown one time a day over a 3 day period and that's it.

In the newspaper there is often a (c) before a showing that is captioned. The most accurate we have found is online services like Fandango or an individual website. In general it takes planning and follow up because the schedules can and do change. My son was upset when the theater changed the weekend it was showing Ant Bully this summer and we missed it. It is very heart warming to see my son enjoy movies so much and we have learned that the captioning helps us when the soundtrack is quiet or music is playing – now we know the words to the theme songs of all the movies we see too.



NE Metro 916 Auditory/Oral Program Continues at Parkview Center School

It is with great excitement that the 916 Auditory/Oral Program announces our new location and collaboration with Parkview Center School, a Roseville School District elementary school. Parkview, or PCS, is located at 701 West County Road B, Roseville, MN. The program is renting space for our classroom component and accessing Parkview's mainstream kindergarten classes and Roseville's ECFE classes as part of the Tier III center-base program. Everything is in one location and nicely centrally located among our 12 member-districts. We will continue to hold parent support groups monthly, and are developing our birth-to-three programming options for our member districts. Tier I workshops and training will continue to be held in various district locations

depending on the nature and size of the presentation.

Look for on-going updates regarding these functions.

To review, the Auditory/Oral Program is comprised of three tiers of service. **Tier I** provides workshops, training, and consultation to educational service providers and interested families within local school districts. Check out our upcoming workshops announced in this brochure. **Tier II** provides transition and support to students and local school districts once a student (post-kindergarten) is exiting the Tier III program and returning to his/her home school district.

Tier II services may include individual therapies, academic instructional support, curriculum adaptations, and/or consultation with school staff and parents. **Tier III** is an intensive, center-based program for preschool through kindergarten-aged children.

Students are a part of a mainstream classroom setting, while also receiving individual services, including an oral curriculum classroom time with the program staff. Tier III prepares students to transition successfully to their neighborhood school.

Contact Information: 651-415-5548 or laurie.white@nemetrolk12.mn.us

NE Metro 916 Auditory/Oral Program presents

"Auditory Training for School-Agers"

By: Mignon Miller, SLP/Aud.

Wednesday, November 15th, 2006

8:30 a.m.—12:00

Capitol View Building, Room 303

70 West County Road B2

Little Canada, MN 55117



8:30-9:00 – Registration/Coffee

9:00-11:30 – Workshop

11:30-12:00 – **Minnesota Chapter AG Bell Annual Meeting** - Stay after for a light lunch and join the MN AG Bell Chapter as they hold their annual meeting

Topics to be covered: How to manage an auditory training program. Why should we do auditory training? Making appropriate targets (with activities and how to do them). Conversational repair strategies and clarification activities and how to do them.

Mignon has a wide array of experiences. She has a B.S. in Botany from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and she served as an officer in the United States Navy for 4 years stationed in Guam before she held an internship with Clarke School for the Deaf in Northampton, MA. In 1999 she received a fellowship with Maternal and Child Health organization affiliated with Dartmouth and the University of New Hampshire working with a multidisciplinary team working with children with disabilities. She then graduated with a M.A. in Audiology and Speech Pathology from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA. Most recently Mignon worked as an Audiologist and Speech pathologist at Lifetrack Resources and a speech pathologist at Northern Voices for the Parent-Infant Program. She also serves as an audiologist at Northern Voices cooperating with the University of Minnesota.

****COME for the workshop OR the annual meeting, or come at 8:30 and stay for BOTHI ****

Register: laurie.white@nemetro.k12.mn.us or 651-415-5548.

Cost: FREE to all professionals and families from NE Metro 916 Member Districts, \$20 for professionals and families from other districts. **AG Bell Annual Board Meeting is FREE!**

AG Bell Minnesota Chapter Annual Meeting

Let us treat you for a light lunch

& meet us to find out what we are all about!

Wednesday, November 15th

Time: 11:30 a.m.- 12:00/12:30

Location: Capital View Building, Room 303

70 West County Road B2

Little Canada, MN 55117

Questions call Tina at 763-576-8005