

## June is Aphasia Awareness Month

### *What is Aphasia?*

Aphasia is an impairment of language, affecting the production or comprehension of speech and the ability to read or write. Aphasia is from an injury to the brain usually a stroke but may also come from head trauma, brain tumors or infections.

2 million people in the United States have aphasia, but 84.5% of Americans state that they've never heard the term aphasia. This fact needs to change immediately to pave the way for better communication experiences for people living with aphasia. Get ready because it's time for Aphasia Awareness Month. **For more information about aphasia** visit [www.aphasia.org](http://www.aphasia.org).

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**Aphasia**

and have lost all or some of ability to use words

#aphasiaawareness



**Raising Awareness and Fundraising Event**

Randy Crabtree, stroke survivor and [SSEEO](#) volunteer educated customers on the warning signs of stroke during May, stroke awareness month. Randy is the co-owner of The Beer Temple in the Avondale neighborhood.

The Beer Temple has teamed with Sierra Nevada Brewing to donate a portion of all Sierra Nevada pours to [SSEEO](#) during the month of May. In addition, they donated proceeds from raffle ticket sales.

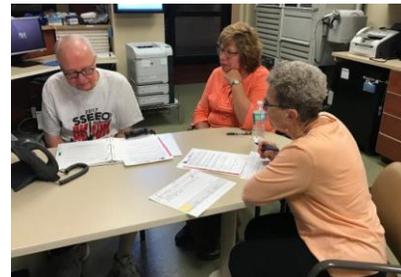


## Stroke of Luck for Larry

Written by Teri Bobko, Caregiver

Life is what happens when we make plans. We all have heard expression before, but for us, we had no idea of what it would mean in our lives.

After selling our home in Illinois, we set our sights to retire in Arizona. On June 13th 2006, Larry collapsed in front of the house we just purchased in Arizona. It was obvious Larry needed medical attention. It was determined that Larry had a stroke with a blood clot in his left side of the brain. His entire right side was paralyzed and he couldn't talk. He was given tPA and airlifted to a local stroke center.



I was shaken by the news and was frightened, for sure. I was alone in an unfamiliar area trying to come to terms with all that had occurred. Luckily, our daughter lived nearby and could help us through the journey.

Larry was "lucky" indeed. He was lucky to not be alone, be transported to an appropriate stroke facility and receive tPA which released the clot and aided in his recovery. His recovery wasn't luck but a lot of discipline and determination to improve. In the 10 years we lived in Arizona, Larry was able to participate in music therapy, dancing lessons for stroke survivors and hippo-therapy or horse riding lessons. He was always willing to participate in anything that would help him maintain his independence and confidence.

In April 2016, we moved back to Illinois to be near family. It was not easy to say goodbye to our southwest friends but he started getting involved right when we go back. Larry participates in the Edward Hospital's chime choir and co-lead to participants the Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest stroke support group and also makes telephone

support calls to stroke survivors through the [SSEEO Stroke Survivor2Survivor \(SS2S\)](#) program.

Larry remains lucky to be able to enjoy retirement by volunteering his time and talents and making memories with his granddaughter. He prays daily and makes new friends and always with a good attitude.

While our life is not the independent, easy going life we had planned, life is good. Larry reminds me daily, "how lucky can one man be" indeed!

## **SSEEO Toll-free Lunch and Learn Series** ***Stroke Survivor Health and Well Being*** ***Survey Results***

***Presented by Charu Nagar, MD Neurologist at Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest Hospital***

Topics to cover:

- \* Primary needs to maintaining wellness after stroke
- \* Physicians/care provider helped improve your wellness
- \* Do you know the warning signs of stroke
- \* Has the care provider discussed stroke warning signs



**When:** Tuesday, June 12th, Noon - 1:00 pm cst

**Where:** Right in your home, office, use as a community outreach activity or stroke support meeting.

**Call Toll Free Number:** 1-800-920-7487 Passcode: 66523867#

[Health and Wellness Teleconference Flyer](#)

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make a difference.

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