



# CAPITAL AREA PARKINSON'S SOCIETY

(512) 371-3373

[www.capitalareaparkinsons.org](http://www.capitalareaparkinsons.org)

APRIL 2010

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## APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup> MONTHLY MEETING

This month, we welcome Jo Bidwell, B.S., M.Ed, Coordinator for the American Parkinson's Disease Association Information and Referral Center, Covenant Health System, Lubbock.

The Topic: "What Your Doctor May Not Tell You About Your Parkinson's Disease" and "Hope: The Future of Parkinson's Disease"

We look forward to seeing everyone on April 17<sup>th</sup> from 2-5 p.m.

A BIG thank you to all the donations to the Silent Auction, Information/Resource exhibits provided by supporters and service providers and to Parsons House Independent & Assisted Living for providing the food.

CAPS is located at Seton Main Hospital at 1201 W. 38<sup>th</sup> St., 78705, in the McFadden Auditorium. Access to the auditorium is on the ground floor, east of the Emergency Room entrance.

Parking is FREE and parking tickets can be validated inside the auditorium.

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*THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU...*

THANK YOU to all of you for all your hard work and the donations of sale items.

The garage sale was a great success. The total efforts raised approx \$2000.00.

A Special Thanks to Susie Scherr for not only allowing C.A.P.S. to have the sale at her home, but also garnering and storing the items, not to mention serving lunch! WOW, what a gal !!!

Thank you to The County Line on the Hill for the use of the tables, our U.T. students, friends from the Georgetown P.D. group, the pick up trucks and of course, the friends and family member's that are always willing to help.

C.A.P.S. has the greatest groups that you could ever ask for. They always step up to help.

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### ANNUAL DUES!

Your annual dues were due at the beginning of the year. If you have not paid them, please be sure to make payment of \$15 at the table in front of McFadden Auditorium or you may mail payment to CAPS.

Please make checks out to:

*Capital Area  
Parkinson's Society  
PO Box 27565,  
Austin, TX 78755-2565*

# WOLVES IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

by Mark Lamkin, CAPS Website Coordinator

The Internet brings the entire world to us in a way that most of us never imagined possible. Unfortunately, that includes the *bad* with the good. If you have an email account, odds are you've been notified that you can earn "millions of dollars" simply by helping some unfortunate barrister or prince in a foreign country. Fortunately, our spam filters capture most of those emails now and we're smart enough to simply delete the others.

There is a disturbing new trend that we're seeing, which we want to make sure CAPS members, care partners and families know about. A growing number of *law firms* are creating websites that are intentionally designed to look like legitimate medical information sites. These law firms use the websites to identify individuals with symptoms that may be related to certain medications or conditions. They then attempt to "recruit" those individuals as participants in legal action against the relevant drug companies. This is a big money business; and the design of the websites and techniques used to disguise information and confuse viewers reflects that. They can be very sophisticated and highly professional in their appearance. Such websites could easily be confused with those from the National Parkinson's Foundation, American Cancer Society, and other legitimate, non-profit advocacy organizations.

CAPS receives frequent requests from these firms asking us to include their websites on our Resources web page and to notify our members about them. They ask us to do so as a "valuable resource" to our members. We research these requests carefully to make sure we are providing members with un-biased and accurate information.

This is not to say that an individual shouldn't have the opportunity to seek a legal opinion if they feel it is appropriate. We just think that everyone should be able to choose for themselves if and when such a course of action is warranted.

To be safe, rely on websites of known, reputable organizations that you can trust. One rule of thumb is to look for websites ending with ".org", which designates a not-for-profit organization. This certainly doesn't mean that any website ending with ".com" or ".net" isn't reliable, or that every ".org" website is legitimate. It can, however, be an indicator that something isn't what it appears to be.

Most important, ask someone you trust for help if you have any doubt.

So the message is...enjoy all the benefits being online has to offer, but be careful. Remember, just because something is on the Internet, it doesn't make it real or legitimate.

(If you'd like to see examples of these types of "phony" sites, take a look at [www.tardivedyskinesia.com](http://www.tardivedyskinesia.com) or [www.drugwatch.com](http://www.drugwatch.com).)

## SUPPORT GROUP CORNER

Solo with Parkinson's will meet next for lunch and conversation on Wednesday, April 28th, 12:30-2, at the home of Tina Daniel, 6101-B Bullard Drive, Austin 78757.

Solo is a group for individuals with Parkinson's disease who are without care partners. Call Lydia Blanchard at 445-2478 or Tina at 458-1787 for more information.

