



BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON

# MIND MATTERS

PREVENTION ■ SUPPORT ■ EDUCATION ■ ADVOCACY

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

July 9, 2012

## Executive Director's Message



As we bring to a close the first year of our Washington State TBI Resource Center grant, it is so rewarding to see the increase in services being provided. Not only an increase geographically (up from 4 counties to 92% of the state where brain injuries occur) but also an increase in numbers served (average 160% increase over prior year).

We've accomplished all of this with basically the same budget as before. It's so critical that we use every dollar we receive effectively whether from DSHS TBI Resource Center or from the hundreds of private donors and foundations who support us through our Gala and other fund-raising activities.

I also want to acknowledge the amazing work of the BIAWA Board and the BIAWA Staff-amazing individuals at all levels. It is because of the exceptional teamwork of these folks that this organization has been able to accomplish so much in the last few years. Not just one person, not just one event, but a dedication from all to continually provide the highest level of quality services to everyone. Thank you.

## BIAWA Annual Meeting (on a Beautiful Summer's Eve)



Mark T. Long, BIAWA Board President, and Deborah Crawley, BIAWA E.D.

Our Annual Meeting is always a highlight of the year. It's our open invitation for all in the community to join us as we begin our new fiscal year (for us that starts July 1, 2012), elect new officers (see additional article) and review the past year.

This year we had a glorious evening, with the largest group of attendees ever. It was a wonderful mix of survivors, family members, and professionals.

The BIAWA staff works diligently every day to expand our outreach and provision of services, support and education throughout the state, so it is very nice to share an evening such as this with the larger community. We have a chance to hear what is going well and the many areas in which the needs are still so great. Thanks to all who attended and please do remember that while we value our opportunity to meet face-to-face, you can feel free to contact us at the office at any time.

### INSIDE

- Executive Director's Message
- BIAWA Annual Meeting
- Strolling Through the Tulips
- Washington TBI Conference
- Walk, Run & Roll
- 2012 Gala - "It's Our Time"
- Welcome Allison Mollner
- Handling the TBI Case
- Presidents Outgoing Message

### 2012 GALA SPONSORS



## Strolling Through the Tulips



In April, the BIAWA hosted an amazing trip to Mt. Vernon to enjoy the beautiful tulip festival and gather for a delicious lunch. It was great to welcome “old” friends and to meet new guests from as far as Puyallup. To accommodate transportation needs, we chartered a bus and picked up folks at the BrainWorks TBI Clubhouse in north Seattle and then made stops in Everett and just outside Mt. Vernon.

Our group of 50 then made a day of it. We were delighted to feast our eyes upon the spectacular tulips as we drove through the fields, and had a wonderful time stopping at the Roozen Gaarde tulip fields. It was then on to historic LaConner for lunch before heading back. We knew how lucky we were, when not a raindrop fell until we were back on the bus returning home.

Kathi S. from Everett had this to say about the day, “A great day, indeed! The fields were beautiful and the opportunity to get to know some people was beautiful too! Thanks to all who had a hand in preparing this trip for us.”

BIAWA cannot wait for our next group outing and would love to get ideas from you! It’s so important to provide these opportunities for social outings as another way to support and connect our larger community.

## Washington TBI Conference



BIAWA Executive Director, Deborah Crawley, Patti Dahlman, Carlo Jo Whitson, Jessica Giordano.

The 2012 TBI Conference was another huge success! Hundreds of survivors, family members, and service providers gathered at the SeaTac Marriott to learn, meet new faces and enjoy spending time with old friends. BIAWA is pleased to have supported overnight lodging for attendees.

Our staff also gave two presentations at the conference: Julie Dawning, Pediatric Resource Manager, presented on Pediatric Resource Management and Jessica Giordano, Resource Center Operations Manager, spoke about the Washington TBI Resource Center. The rest of our staff were at the conference taking turns volunteering as room monitors and greeting those who came by our exhibitor table. We always look forward to the opportunity to come together with other members of our Washington community and cannot wait to meet many more of you at next year’s conference!

SAVE THE DATE

**BIG**  
Brain Injury Gala

*It's Our Time*  
CELEBRATING 30 YEARS  
SATURDAY, OCT. 27

The Seattle Sheraton  
1400 6th Avenue, Seattle, WA

## Run, Walk & Roll



BIAWA is excited to be hosting our 2nd Annual Run, Walk & Roll for Thought in collaboration with HeadStrong and Seattle BrainWorks' TBI Club House. We will again be at Magnuson Park and hope to have an even bigger turnout this year. The walk is paved, just under a mile in length and wheel chair accessible. Drinks and a light breakfast will be provided.

For more information and to register yourself and your team check out our website at: [www.braininjurywa.org/walkrunroll](http://www.braininjurywa.org/walkrunroll). Remember to register by July 12th to make sure you will get a Walk T-shirt.

This year you can create a Personal or Team Page in order to share photos, personal stories, fundraising goals and progress on the web. Send links to your friends and family members who may not be able to participate in person but who would be interested in pledging on you!

Our event is being sponsored by RockiNoggins who will be showing and selling their delightful hats to cover and accessorize your safety helmets, and Clif Bar who will be refueling our participants. Donations from Starbucks and Noah's Bagels will make for a yummy breakfast.

### LOCATION:

Magnuson Park, Shelter #2  
7400 Sandpoint Way NE  
Seattle, WA 98115

### DATE & TIME:

Sunday, July 29, 2012  
Registration 8:00-9:00 AM (Same day registration is available. All are welcome.)  
Opening Ceremony 9:00-9:30 AM  
Walk 9:30-11:00 AM

## 6th Annual B.I.G. Event (Brain Injury Gala)

BIAWA board members, staff, and volunteers are working diligently to plan for our biggest event of the year, our Annual Gala. Our Gala brings together over 500 attendees including survivors and their families and supporters from the legal, medical, and philanthropic communities. They all come together to show their support for our organization and our continued efforts to ensure the highest quality of life for those who have sustained a brain injury and their families.

Exciting auction items are already coming in for the live and silent auctions, and we know our guests will be excited to get the bidding going! We are always in need of additional items for both the silent and live auction. Donating an item is an easy way to support the BIAWA. From a dinner gift certificate, to a weekend getaway, or even those unused airline miles - your support is needed.

This year's event will be held on October 27th at the Seattle Sheraton. For more information to register or to volunteer, visit our website at [www.braininjurywa.org/gala](http://www.braininjurywa.org/gala)

## Welcome Allison Mollner



BIAWA is pleased to welcome Allison Mollner as the newest member of our board of directors. Allison Mollner has been actively engaged in sales, marketing and business development in the Puget Sound area for over 20 years. She has worked for both established and startup companies, and for several area nonprofit organizations as well. Since 2003 Allison has worked at Vinton Street Partners (VSP), a boutique Seattle-based investment banking firm. As a partner and vice president of marketing, Allison created all branding and positioning strategies for VSP and all the marketing materials for over \$200 million of private financing for several midstage and established Puget Sound-area companies.

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## Handling the Traumatic Brain Injury Case

On May 11th, more than 60 attorneys attended the Brain Injury Association of Washington's 7th legal seminar "Handling the Traumatic Brain Injury Case" at the Washington State Convention Center. This has been a biennial law conference since 1996 and a great opportunity for BIAWA to work collaboratively with key professionals to provide a one-day comprehensive seminar on the fundamental medical-legal issues of traumatic brain injury every attorney needs. BIAWA considers this seminar a crucial part of our efforts to carry out our mission of increasing public awareness, support and hope for those affected by brain injury through education, assistance and advocacy.

We would like to extend a special "Thank You" to our speakers, who volunteered their time and expertise in support of this organization.



Pictured: John R. Christensen, Attorney, Messina Bulzomi Christensen; Richard Adler, J.D., Law Offices of Adler Giersch, PS; Simon Forgette, P.S. Simon H. Forgette, P.S.; Mike Nelson, Nelson Langer Engle, PLLC

Richard H. Adler, J.D. - Co-chair  
Simon H. Forgette, J.D. - Co-chair  
Richard G. Ellenbogen, M.D.  
Samuel R. Browd, M.D., Ph.D.  
Stanley A. Herring, M.D.  
Martha Glisky, Ph.D.,  
ABPP-Cn Michael Nelson, Attorney  
Fred Langer, Attorney, RN  
John R. Christensen, Attorney  
Melissa D. Carter, Attorney  
Arthur D. Leritz, Attorney  
William L.E. Dussault, J.D.

And most importantly, we want to thank and offer our sincere appreciation to the two individuals who reached out to their colleagues and spent many hours chairing this amazing seminar,

**Mr. Richard H. Adler, J.D. and Mr. Simon H. Forgette, J.D.**

## President's Outgoing Message



### Counting Heads and Helmets

My wife and I were in D.C. recently and took another of our long walks, this time along the historic Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. Cyclists shared the path but most took the parallel paved path along the Potomac. We travel frequently and I've reported to the BIAWA Board about helmetless cyclists in several European, U.S. and South American cities.

This sweaty afternoon I wagered Nancy we'd see more bare heads than helmets. After 200 tallies, my beloved traumatic brain injury researcher had bested my count 2 helmets to each bare head. I was still troubled to see kids with helmets riding with parents without helmets, so powerful are these unspoken messages and I can only imagine what kids think when they see bikers without helmets in those states without motorcycle helmet laws.

The costs to head injury victims, their families, and society are sudden, steep and long lasting. Surely we can click a helmet strap as easily as we click a seat belt?

*- Peter Hendrickson, PhD, Outgoing President*

## New Board Positions

We would like to extend a special "Congratulations" to our New Board of Directors cabinet, who give so generously of their time and expertise in support of this organization.



**Mark T. Long**  
President



**Peter Hendrickson, PhD**  
Immediate Past President



**Shawn Meneely**  
Treasurer



**Patrice Roney**  
Pres-Elect



**Kristen Cruse**  
Secretary

## WA TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY RESOURCE LINE - 1-877-824-1766

Resource Line Specialists are available Monday through Friday - 9AM to 5PM, to assist callers as they navigate the challenges that arise as a result of brain injury.

**Denise Hansen, MS, ACSM**  
Resource Line Specialist

**Jessica Giordano**  
TBI Resource Center Operations Manager

**Julie Dawning, MSP**  
Pediatric Resource Manager

**Mary Hughes, RN, BSN, CCM**  
Northwest Resource Manager/Support Group Manager

**Janet Jones, BSN, MA RN**  
Central Resource Manager

**Carla-Jo Whitson, MSW, CBIS**  
Southwest Resource Manager

**Jennifer Peloquin, MA, LMHC**  
Resource Line Specialist/Support Group Facilitator

**Janet Mott, PhD, CCM**  
Clinical Case Manager/Support Group Liaison

**Brittney Neidhardt-Gruhl, MSW**  
King Region Resource Manager

**Wendy Lomax, MSW**  
Eastern Resource Manager/Support Group Coordinator

**Nancy Huseman, MHA GER**  
Western Resource Manager

**Trisa Harris**  
Resource Line Specialist

## ABOUT THE BIAWA

### **BIAWA Vision Statement**

Our vision is a world where brain injury is prevented, and every person already affected by its impact benefits from resources that maximize his/her quality of life.

### **BIAWA Mission Statement**

Our mission is to increase public awareness, support, and hope for those affected by brain injury through education, assistance, and advocacy.

### **Non-profit Tax Status**

The Brain Injury Association of Washington is a 501(c)(3) non-profit (Tax ID 91-1206800).