

May 29, 2009

- **Prostate cancer is a *silent* disease.** Dr. William Catalona of Northwestern U. says, “Prostate cancer is an insidious disease that arises *silently*, passes through a curable phase *silently* and becomes incurable *silently*. If you wait for symptoms to signal its presence, it is too late to cure it.”
- **Third annual all-day Strategic Plan meeting** held on May 9. Two guests and 13 of 15 directors made the plans for the next 12 months. Led by a professional facilitator, the plan puts on paper WHAT will be done, WHO will do it, and WHEN that person will do it. We monitor our plan every month to check our progress in achieving our goals.
- **BRFSS (Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System) survey answers two key questions about prostate cancer in N.H**  
Question #1 “Did you ever discuss prostate cancer with your Health Care Provider? (HCP)” Yes, 68.9%. No, 31.1%.  
Question #2. “When was the last time you discussed prostate screening with your HCP?” Answer: In the last year 67.0 %  
In the last 2 years 15.1 %  
In the last 3 years 8.7 %  
3 or more years ago 9.2 %  
BRFSS is the world’s largest telephone survey.
- **Making our web page more interactive.** Harry Purkhiser and Fundraising Comm. are developing a plan to do just that.
- **Director Jim McCormick** spoke to the Rotary clubs in Pittsfield and Concord this month. Jim is one of five Coalition speakers whose goal is to speak to all 59 Rotary clubs in the state about the dangers of prostate cancer. And to urge men to talk to their doctor about getting screened.
- John Heaney, MD, read the minutes of the NH Urological Society meeting pertaining to **development of an interactive DVD and development of a folder** to be distributed to newly diagnosed men and their family.
- **Hollis Brookline Rotary Club contributes \$500** to the Coalition’s speaking program at the request of off going Coalition director Chuck Wood. And Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield in a request from Paul Mertzic will send us a check for \$500.

- **Coalition “progress” stories in the Manchester Union Leader** on May 24 and the Hollis Brookline Journal on May 22.
- You can now **contribute to the Coalition online**. Go to [NHProstateCancer.org](http://NHProstateCancer.org). Just push the button on the bottom of the Home page. Steve Ladew and Sal Magnano are working out the final details.
- **Attorney Ned Whittington**, who authored our by laws, has resigned from the board after three years. At the suggestion of Bob Dedrick, the board will recognize off-going directors **with a framed certificate**.
- **FAQ. We are developing 80+ questions and answers to** “Should I get screened for prostate cancer?” Will be on our web site in the near future.
- **Use our website**. [NHProstateCancer.org](http://NHProstateCancer.org). It lists the meeting times and places of the state’s five support groups in Manchester, Nashua, Concord, Keene and Dover. Plus links to 13 national prostate cancer organizations. Plus links to PC stories in New York Times and Wall Street Journal.
- **Prostate Cancer walk** in Boston on Fathers Day. At the Boston Common bandstand at 11.
- **Our Coalition’s logo** appeared on the American Cancer Society full page ad in the Concord Monitor.
- John Heaney, MD, invites all to the Norris Cotton Cancer Center’s **Survivors Day** on May 31 from 1-3:30 in Lebanon at the AVA Gallery.
- Bob Dedrick represented the Coalition at the **Mass. PC Coalition’s Symposium** in Boston. He reported on new drugs: MDV 3100 and Abiraterone (Abi) and the vaccine, Provenge. All are awaiting FDA approval.
- June 7 is **Concord Hospital Cancer Survivor Day**. Bill Mullen and Bob Dedrick will bring the Coalition’s Display Board to the event.
- **Director Harvey Keye spoke to 200** senior citizens this month about the dangers of prostate cancer. He placed a blue bracelet on the wrist of many women and urged each to remind the men in their lives to see their doctor about prostate cancer screening.
- Watch for our **Father’s Day “Letter to the Editor”** in your local newspaper.