FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
Dear Friends on the AMENSupport Board and Medical Advisory Board,

During this time of the Covid-19 pandemic, I want to thank every one of you for your hard and compassionate work. We here at AMENSupport are continuing to provide education and support to our MEN population. We are keeping our audience informed about Covid-19 precautions and encouraged self-containment from the very beginning. We keep the Facebook group informed about the Covid-19 updates, and promote the posting of Drs. Mark and Stasha Lewis. Dr. Stasha Lewis even has a video on how to make masks.

Sherri Gardner Howell, Elizabeth Richter Tarver and I made the decision to cease all face-to-face meetings more than two weeks ago. We are working on projects from our 2020 goals and find we have plenty to do. A Zoom meeting recently at least allowed us all to see each other’s smiling faces!

If you have extra time, work on your “PhD in MEN” by reading the many articles and watching the videos on our website.

Elizabeth is working on an Endocrinologist and NET physician database. We will utilize this database to send our MEN patient support booklets to doctors who may have never heard of us but are on the front line of diagnosing. The database will no doubt be helpful in other ways down the road.

We are hoping you will soon be in the mood for some “retail therapy” as we roll out our Peacock Paraphernalia Shop, where we will be selling shirts, tote bags and coffee mugs, etc. Watch for the announcement on Facebook.

For all of you on the front lines, please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you daily. Everyone BE SAFE. There is nothing out there that can’t wait, nothing as important as your life.

The Best of Health,

Linda Hageman, RN
AMENSupport Executive Director

Linda.hageman@amensupport.org
FACEBOOK UPDATE: AMENSupport

Check out our Facebook Group page later this month! We are going to have some fun as we “introduce” some of our Facebook regulars to their community. We will be asking them fun questions and letting folks get to know each other a little better.

Sometime this summer, we hope to launch a Facebook Live Q&A with one of our doctors. It may be delayed as we wait for things to return to whatever the new normal will be, but we are working toward May. Questions will be submitted in advance, and the doctor will answer them on Facebook Life.

If you are not a member of our group, please join. Even if you are a “reader” who doesn’t want to engage in the dialogue, you will gain factual information about MEN Type 1 and Type 2A and 2B.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/177981375642525/?ref=bookmarks

NOT ON THE ROAD

We had our plans set and were so looking forward to representing the AMENSupport community in 2020. Our plans now are to redirect our resources with more email and postal connections as we mail out our booklets and keep up with our community on Facebook and other social media avenues.

The American Association of Endocrine Surgeons annual meeting has been canceled and will be in Birmingham in 2021. We still hope to attend NANETS in October.

With the time it takes to set up seminars and the uncertainty surrounding safe travel, plans are to put seminars on hold for 2020 unless we receive an urgent request from a hospital or doctor to co-host.

Don’t worry... We still have MUCH Good work to do!
Saying goodbye to a friend: Amy Katz

Our AMENSupport staff lost a dear friend in February. Amy Katz, who worked for AMENSupport for a couple of years, died of a heart attack after many years with heart problems. Linda and Amy had been friends and colleagues for more than 40 years. Many days, Linda began her day with a phone call to-or-from Amy before they began their work. Linda shared stories of Amy, an excellent pediatric RN, coming by her house after a long shift to help Linda with her two new twin boys.

Amy did not have MEN, but she was no stranger to living with a chronic disease that could intrude and turn life upside down at any minute.

She was smart, sassy and a good friend to Linda and to this organization. We will miss her. We thank her for all she did through the years – both as a staff person and as a supporter – for the AMENSupport community.

Amy left two grown sons who will miss her every day. Keep them, and Linda, in your prayers.

The photo is one of Amy, Linda and myself at a visit to the Space Needle in Seattle when we attended a conference there for AMENSupport. – Sherri Gardner Howell
THANK YOU, HEALTH CARE WORKERS, FOR ALL THE SACRIFICES YOU ARE MAKING TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR PATIENTS. WE KNOW THIS IS NOT “NEW” FOR YOU, BUT THESE DAYS ARE SURELY PUSHING YOU TO NEW DEPTHS OF WEARINESS AND CONCERN. OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU.

WATCH our Facebook page and Website this spring and summer for these EXCITING NEW things from AMENSupport:

- Peacock Paraphernalia Store: Shop online for logo items and help support AMENSupport at the same time! Store should be ready in late April or Early May.

- Meet Your Neighbors: We are a community, a neighborhood, if you will, on our Facebook Group page. Watch for a fun “Getting to know YOU” coming in May on our Facebook page.

- Database: By the summer, we will be updating you on our partnerships and efforts to build a database to help researchers who are studying MEN. Watch Facebook and our website for the information.

- Facebook Live: We are not putting a date to this, given the current landscape. But, beginning as soon as we feel we can ask our doctors for help, we will be taking your questions and setting up a Facebook Live Q & A on MEN.