DALLAS TWST MEETING SUMMARY JUNE 24, 2020

The Dallas TWST group had it’s annual College Student and Adults who stutter panel this month. The meeting was via Zoom and was attended by 22 people including 8 teens, 7 parents, 4 panelists (2 college students and 2 older adults who stutter) and 3 chapter leaders.

We began the meeting with the reading of the Welcoming Words. Introductions followed and included giving your name and what you miss most since the Corona Virus pandemic has become a part of our lives. Responses varied from hanging out with friends, being able to visit with and hug family and friends, eating at restaurants, shopping, going to concerts, and seeing friends in person at school.

At that point, I asked each of the 4 panelists to share with the group what they do or are studying and what has been the most significant “turning point” thus far in their journey with stuttering. After that, I opened it up to questions from the teens and parents. There were many good questions asked and some of the topics that were covered included things like:

\*\*utilizing special disability services at college;

\*\*disclosure to professors and friends;

\*\*how the college years as a PWS are different than middle or high school years as a PWS;

\*\*what their parents did “right” in how they handled the stuttering and what they wish their parents had done differently;

\*\*what have been their most positive and most negative experiences related to stuttering;

\*\*what is something you know now as an adult that you wish you’d known/realized when you were a child/teen;

\*\*what are the biggest changes that have occurred over the years in how you deal with /handle your stuttering and how you think about your stuttering.

The panelists spoke very honestly and openly about their personal experiences with stuttering and the feelings they have had past and present. They had an incredible variety of stories to share and made such important points for our families to hear and think about. The panel lasted almost the full 90 minutes. We forgot to read the Closing Words but finished with an announcement about next month’s topic (Mindfulness) and a special thank you to our panelists.

Submitted by Tricia Krauss-Lehrman