Dallas TWST Meeting Summary 1-30-19

Our first meeting of 2019 was well attended by 7 teens who stutter, one teen-aged sibling, 7 parents, and 2 other chapter leaders. One teen had to leave the meeting early due to a family emergency. We opened the meeting with Introductions that included not only your name but also something you are looking forward to during this new year. After that, we read the Welcoming Words in unison. We then watched a You Tube video of Drew Lynch, a comedian who stutters who is competing again on Americas Got Talent. It was really quite inspiring to see how he is working to accept his stuttering (which began a few years ago after being hit in the throat with a baseball) and not let it interfere with his dream to become a comedian.

This was followed by a rather crazy Icebreaker. The teens were told to stand in a tight group all facing the same direction and the parents were told to do the same thing. Each group was wrapped around the middle with saran wrap many times around and around until they were very tightly wrapped. The 2 teams stood side by side and had to “race” to the finish line down the end of the hall. The groups were neck and neck almost the whole way but at the last second, the teens leaned forward and hit the finish line first for a GREAT VICTORY!!! One of the parents took on the roll of captain calling out “right, left, right, left” but even with their attempts to coordinate their movements, it wasn’t enough to beat their **very** competitive teens.

The theme for the rest of the evening was a GAME NIGHT. We first played BuzzWord Junior with the parents again competing against the teens. The teens were victorious once again, though it was a close game. Then we divided into a parent group and a teen group for a brisk game of Apples to Apples Junior. Sharon Poole, who had never played before was the big winner in the parent group and Emersyn Gatje was the winner among the teens. At the end of the evening, we did a choral reading of The Closing Words and I spoke a bit about the topic for our February meeting and encouraged everyone to mark their calendar and plan to attend.

Throughout the meeting, we had a computer set up so that any parents or teens who had not yet responded to our TWST survey could do so.

Submitted by Tricia Krauss-Lehrman 1-30-19