St. Louis 2014

Thirty-two years! Can you believe it? PHI (then Rehabilitation Gazette) collaborated with the Education and Training Center of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago to organize its first international meeting in 1981 entitled “What Ever Happened to the Polio Patient?”

In subsequent years, titles of the next nine conferences included phrases such as “living independently with severe disability,” “polio and independent living,” “strategies for living well” and “living with polio,” which mirror the evolution of disability rights and post-polio knowledge in North America. In 2014, we are “Promoting Healthy Ideas,” a theme that combines having had polio and living independently. People with disabilities can be healthy or, at the very least, strive to be healthy.

When: PHI’s 11th International Conference is scheduled for Saturday, May 31 – Tuesday, June 3, 2014. Individuals attending a PHI conference for the first time will be invited to a special session Saturday afternoon. The conference will officially open with a dinner on Saturday evening. Sunday, Monday and Tuesday will feature many sessions aimed at Promoting Healthy Ideas. The program committee is developing tracks based on our Members’ suggestions that include Wellness Practices, Recreating Ourselves, Minding Our Relationships, Life Decisions of Aging, Conditions of Aging and more. The closing session will end at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, June 3.

PHI’s reservation form will include some questions about accessibility, diet, etc., needs. Early registration information will be available September 3.

Where: A block of rooms has been reserved at conference headquarters, the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch, 315 Chestnut Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63102. Additionally, we have contacted hotels close by and have accessible rooms available in an overflow hotel should the need arise. Individuals registered for the conference may register for a room online or by phone. As you all know, there are many people in our group who have mobility problems. PHI will make every effort to meet accessibility needs. Please understand these rooms will be assigned based on essential need, not solely on first-come, first-served. Hotel reservations will be available September 3.

Getting more information: Program and registration details will be posted on www.post-polio.org as they become available. Updates will also be featured in the PHI Membership Memo distributed in September, October, December, January, March and April. Individuals who do not have access to the internet may request a print registration packet by calling 314-534-0475 or by mail to PHI, 4207 Lindell Blvd., #110, St. Louis, MO 63108.

Learn and share ideas. Meet us in St. Louis in 2014!