

President's Address

by Bob Brooks

We are well into Fall and the Holidays are approaching HAPPY HOLIDAYS! By the time you receive this, you will have had your THANKSGIVING DINNER and are now looking forward to the rest of the HOLIDAYS! Hope everyone joins us at the Holiday Party on December 10th. Information about where and when is in this issue.

Those of you who did not make it to the General Educational Meeting on the 19th missed a really great meeting. Carla Jacobs was our speaker, and she was accompanied by her husband Brian. I have known them both since 1996. Brian was on the NAMI California Board of Directors the year I joined the Board. Brian had done a lot of background work and was convinced that the NAMI National FAMILY TO FAMILY program would be good for the families in California who had relatives suffering with mental illnesses. He is the one who made the motion to the Board that we bring Family to Family into California. We all owe Brian a big THANK YOU for that action.

I along with enough of the other Board members voted yes, and you know the rest.

Carla has been on both the NAMI California Board and the NAMI National Board along with many other organizations involved with helping those suffering with a mental illness and/or their loved ones. She is an Attorney and the person responsible for the language in Laura's Law. She was instrumental in making sure it was approved by the California Legislature. Unfortunately, the Legislature concluded that it was up to each individual county to approve Laura's Law in its own county. The San Diego County Board of Supervisors has chosen not to give approval.

My own personal opinion is that if Laura's Law had been in effect in San Diego County, the Van Pelts son would still be alive. We (NAMI) need to make sure that whatever corrections are necessary to the language of the law will be made in order to implement it in San Diego County.