

State Recognition of World Voice Day

On April 16, promote your specialty by attaining public recognition of World Voice Day. In recent years, legislatures in Alabama and Michigan celebrated voice services provided by otolaryngologist—head and neck surgeons by adopting resolutions naming April 16 as World Voice Day in their states. Resolutions are non-binding measures that express the view or will of a legislative body, and can be relatively simple to attain. The following, House Resolution 249, was adopted by the Michigan House of Representatives in 2010.

A resolution to declare April 16, 2010, as World Voice Day in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, It is estimated that nearly seven million Americans suffer from some form of voice disorder; and

Whereas, Voice disorders can impact the everyday lives of those affected by inhibiting their ability to effectively express themselves; and

Whereas, There are many ways in which people can conserve their voice and prevent

the development of voice disorders, including keeping hydrated, minimizing activities causing vocal strain such as yelling, warming up before heavy vocal use, using appropriate breath support, using amplification, and paying attention to voice cues; and


Whereas, It is important to draw state, national, and international awareness to the existence of voice disorders and the availability of services provided by otolaryngologists—head and neck surgeons — the only medical doctor specifically trained to treat the ear, nose, throat, head and neck — as well as other specialized providers for the amelioration of these disorders; and

Whereas, Every year on April 16, otolaryngologists, who are head and neck surgeons, and other voice health professionals worldwide join together to recognize World Voice Day, an international celebration of the human voice established to help raise public and professional awareness about voice disorders; and

Whereas, World Voice Day, sponsored in the U.S. by the American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery, encourages men and women, young and old, to assess their vocal health and take action to improve or maintain good voice habits; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare April 16, 2010, as World Voice Day in the state of Michigan; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage all citizens to practice techniques that may help prevent the onset of a voice disorder or to visit an otolaryngologist if they are suffering from a voice disorder.

The AAO-HNS encourages its members to spread the word about World Voice Day 2011 by contacting their legislators today to ask them to sponsor a resolution. A sample resolution, letter, and press release are available for your use through the “World Voice Day Resources” page (member login required) on the State Advocacy portion of the AAO-HNS website (www.entnet.org/advocacy). With questions, contact legstate@entnet.org or 703-535-3794. 

World Voice Day: We Share a Voice

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It can be kind or cruel, forceful or weak. It has the power to start wars and lead to destruction, but can also encourage, uplift, and effect the most positive of social changes. In the communications-centric society we live in, the human voice is indispensable. Each April 16, we celebrate World Voice Day (WVD) to promote awareness of disorders affecting the voice and celebrate the important role voice has in human society.

In the United States, the theme for this year’s celebration is “We Share a Voice.” World Voice Day is an outgrowth of Brazilian Voice Day, which was founded in 1999. In keeping with this year’s slogan, we seek to unify the world efforts to

share a central theme while allowing each country or region the freedom to infuse its own local flavor into the celebration.

These celebrations include informative lectures to explain how the human voice works and disorders that affect the voice; musical concerts featuring singing acts; and radio, TV, Internet, and print advertisements to encourage participation in local World Voice Day activities.

As the International Steering Committee liaison for the global World Voice Day efforts,

In the communications-centric society we live in, the human voice is indispensable. 

I work closely with the Academy’s Voice Committee chair, **Clark A. Rosen, MD**, to coordinate the WVD events. We have identified a core group of prominent members from various regions of the world who are committed to unifying the WVD celebrations. We are actively seeking new members to collaborate with as we expand our international efforts.

Our group of collaborators includes **Mario Andrea, MD, PhD**, of Portugal (working closely with the European Laryngological Society), **Norman D. Hogikyan, MD**, of the U.S., **Carla Carcamo, MD**, of Honduras, **Hector E. Ruiz, MD**, of Argentina, and **Ferhan Oz, MD**, of Turkey. The efforts this year will concentrate mainly on the United States, Central and South America, Turkey, and Europe.

We hope to include Australia, the Middle East, Russia, China, India, and the Southeast Asian countries in the next year. The lessons learned this year will be applied to next year’s efforts, while inviting more countries to work with us until we truly “share a voice” each April 16. 