

## A Very Memorable Christmas Gathering

Emotions were mixed as attendance exceeded last year's record-breaking number.

By Joy Blackburn MSA Staff Writer Multiple Sclerosis Alliance

n Friday, December 12th, the MSA staff was both nervous and somber as they prepared to host the first MSA Christmas Luncheon in the organization's history without Nikki Pfeiffer present to lead their efforts. Out of the hospital and

resting comfortably at home, yet still too weak to attend, Nikki called her staff with a reassuringly simple mission: Just make

sure that everyone enjoys themselves.

That mission was soon accomplished! On Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, holiday-clad revelers piled through the doors of the Fraternal Order of Eagles' Hall in numbers edging out even last year's record-breaking attendance! While everyone searched for Nikki, hoping to see her, the uplifting decor and scrumptious aroma wafting from the Aerie kitchen quickly created a festive mood. Boisterous conversations broke out all across the Eagles' hall, as tables were claimed and friendships renewed.

Above: Rod

llama sweaters.

and Cathy wowed the

crowd with their matching holiday

Live music by CJ Callahan and Sarah Findley played and everyone toasted to Nikki's improving health. Amid it all, the Women's Auxiliary of the Fraternal Order of Eagles served up an amazing meal!

Susan Philpott brought gift bags for everyone, lovingly prepared along with her granddaughter, Ashley Philpott, in Texas. One of the MSA newest members, Jenny Kratz, added treats of her own this year: a gorgeous array of handmade cookies. There was also a generous spread of raffle prizes, with a winner seated at nearly This glorious afternoon of friendship and great food made the perfect start to the holiday season. We extend heartfelt thanks to the Women's Auxiliary of the Fraternal Order of Eagles #143 for hosting this beautiful event! \*

