

Hello to April for its summer-spring temps and being the Sexual Assault Awareness Month! More on the latter at <http://www.nsvrc.org/saam>. This newsletter highlights information on several April lectures and events that are being sponsored by various agencies to bring the awareness of sexual violence to our communities.

Yesterday Amy Lagenfeld, the President-Elect, Karine Zakroczymski, the governmental liaison to our chapter and I attended the SART meeting for St. Francis Hospital in Shakopee, MN. We learned of a wonderful initiative by the Sexual Violence Center in Mpls and Shakopee on a "green dot club" to be held at designated bars to get the public talking about what is and isn't acceptable behavior. For more information or how to start your own green dot club contact Sherren at sreda@sexualviolencecenter.org.

A few weeks ago I was happy to attend the SART meeting in Winona. Their advocates have made plans to educate the public on the prevalence of sexual assault at their college campuses and center this month. Learning what works in other locations gives us all tools to make adjustments to our own programs. Please share with us what your cities, SANE programs, and advocates are doing!

On Thursday, April 12th MNCASA (MN Coalition Against Sexual Abuse) will be holding their AWARE event from 5:30-7pm in St. Paul. Tickets are \$15 now or \$20 at the door. More info can be found at www.mncasa.org.

The University of Minnesota will host a panel discussion on "Gender Violence in Communities of Color", on Friday, April 20th from 2-3:30pm in Murphy Hall, Room 130 on the Minneapolis campus, sponsored by the Aurora Center. The goal is to provide information about the manifestations of gender violence in communities of color, and how we can work to change those systems of violence.

That evening, (Friday, April 29th) from 5:30-6:30pm, The Academy Against Violence and Abuse (AVA) will be holding a "meet & greet" at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Bloomington, MN near the Mall of America. Please email me if you are interested in attending this function as they are requesting a head count to RSVP.

On Tuesday, April 24th, the MN Chapter will be holding its next educational event. Caroline Palmer, an attorney for MNCASA and Leah Lutz will speak to SANEs and advocates on a variety of consent issues regarding victims of sexual assault. It will be held from 6:30 - 8:30pm in Room 101 of the Education Building of Abbott Hospitals in south Mpls. CEU's are available for nurses. You may RSVP at our website, www.mnforensicnurses.org.

Two weeks ago I testified in Hennepin County; I was appreciative of having attended the February Testimony Institute and finally putting together a Curriculum Vitae for court. For those of you who have never testified before or are uncomfortable doing so, please look at the MNCASA website to register for this legal courtroom training and mock trial sessions.

The recent Journal of Forensic Nursing featured a study that was done in California on genital injuries of consenting versus non-consenting adults. It is: "A pilot study to test the differential validity of a genital injury severity scale, in development for use in forensic sexual assault examinations" by Hillary Larkin, Cecily Cosby, Dana Kelly and Lauri Paolinetti in Vol. 8, No. 1, pages 30-38.

My next road trips will be to Mankato to brainstorm about our fall conference which will be held in that college town and a trip to Fargo to meet with their SANES. I'd love to have an opportunity to meet with all of the SANE programs this year. Please let me know when you meet; I'd also like to get the statistics from each program of how many cases that you see per year, how many are reported to law enforcement, and the number of male/female/child victims.

Sincerely,

Paula Johns

President, MN Chapter of IAFN, 2012