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Sent: Sun 1/1/2012 10:50 PM

To: undisclosed-recipients

Subject: January letter - 2012 MN IAFN

Happy New Year! A time of new beginnings, new dreams, new mottos. On January 17th I will become the President of the MN IAFN Chapter. I would like to welcome you - current members and those of you who have not yet joined! This organization is starting it's 3rd year and wants to grow with you in mind, we want to hear your ideas. Please share this memo with anyone to whom you think might be interested in being part of our organization. Our education group and board members have already discussed numerous lectures and educational events for this year to enhance your knowledge base and give you an opportunity to be an active member. Invite others to hear Dr. Atkinson's lecture on strangulation, after our Annual Board Meeting.

Why be a member? I can think of three reasons. As a member, you will be part of an integral group of dedicated individuals who are passionate about forensics, especially when it comes to abusive issues. As a MN Chapter member, you will help demonstrate professionalism in your field for national and local concerns with this addition to your resume. Furthermore, this is a golden opportunity for you to use your voice, to speak up on subjects that you care about in forensics, to suggest topics, concerns, etc. that need to be addressed and have a core group of caring individuals to network on these areas.

My goal as President for this year is to encourage each and every one of you to stand up and make your voice heard. I welcome suggestions on ways to improve this organization. Input from every person is needed. Education is valuable and important. With your help, this chapter will foster transparency, with emphasis on working together as a team. As Margaret Mead once said "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." I want to work with you and with all in our stand against violence.

Please consider being involved as a board member. We will have elections on January 17th at our annual meeting. We will have two openings this year: for Treasurer (2 yr commitment) and President Elect (1 yr as Pres. Elect, following yr as President). The roles and responsibilities are listed in our Bylaws at: [www.mnforensicnurses.org](http://www.mnforensicnurses.org) <<http://www.mnforensicnurses.org/>> . Please review those before the election. I encourage you to nominate yourself or others who are willing to dedicate time and creativity to these valued positions. Names for nominations can be submitted to the website prior to January 17th or at that meeting. This year there is a minimum number of sessions that one must attend as board member to be allowed to continue on in their duty (6 out of 9 yearly meetings). Only paid members of both IAFN and the MN Chapter will be allowed to be on the board. Those dues may be paid after the January 17th meeting but by February 1, 2012.

In February, Cornerstone (Twin Cities based domestic violence prevention agency) is having their annual conference on Feb. 23 and 24th. More information at <http://www.cornerstonemn.org/events.php>

The Unity and Regions SANE managers will be offering a 40 hr SANE course, please check our website if you are interested in becoming trained.

Let's make this a great year - see you at the Annual Meeting, RSVP now!

Sincerely,

Paula Johns, RN, MA, SANE-A

President-MN IAFN Chapter (2012)