

Happy March! Only 21 more days until spring, one of my favorite seasons!

Thanks to all who were able to make it to our February CEU session on STD's and Plan B. We were delighted that 23 attended, including 2 SANE nurses from Mankato! Our next educational event will be in April, please check our website [www.mnforensicnurses.org](http://www.mnforensicnurses.org) for the date, topic, and location, as it hasn't been finalized as of this afternoon. On the website you will also find a link to our updated Facebook page, which we hope you will "like"!

This year MNCASA (MN Coalition Against Sexual Assault) is holding in conjunction with SVJI (Sexual Violence Justice Institute) a Testifying Institute, held at different locations throughout MN during 2012. I was pleased to be a participant at their February presentation. For those of you who aren't used to testifying, I recommend attending this, to gain new insights and have the possibility to be selected as one of the members for the mock trial sessions. Their next one will be held in Redwood Falls this May, they will meet in Grand Rapids at a later date. For more info please contact Melia Garza at MNCASA. Their numbers are 651-209-9993 or 1-800-964-8847, their website is [www.mncasa.org](http://www.mncasa.org).

MNCASA is also part of Demand the Change for Children, a group that wants to put an end to child abuse. You may obtain more at [www.demandthechangeforchildren.org](http://www.demandthechangeforchildren.org). Another organization that provides valuable information and contacts is the Office of Victims of Crimes. You can access them at [www.NewsFromOVC@ncjrs.gov](mailto:www.NewsFromOVC@ncjrs.gov).

This spring I plan to travel to Winona and Fargo for staff meetings, to meet with SANE nurses there to dialogue and discuss issues that are impacting them regarding the work that they do. I haven't heard back from a couple of other hospital bases but I would like to provide a face-to-face opportunities for us to network. Please email me with your staff meeting dates/times so that I might be able to join you, if possible.

In the past few weeks I've meet with several researchers who are doing very interesting studies regarding forensic topics. I invite you to challenge yourself, as a nurse, as an advocate, and to those who are concerned about violence and abuse, to continue to educate yourself. In learning new perspectives or ideas, through a variety of mediums, we have the chance to share these incredible gifts of knowledge with others; our colleagues, the community, and most of all, our patients.

Thank you again for your work, your passion, your message of being there for others in their time of need.

Sincerely,

Paula Johns