

Happy New Years to 2013! Time to reflect on the past and renew goals for the future - that's what we will be doing during our annual Business Meeting on Thursday, Jan 24th at the Lyric Building at Unity Hospital in Fridley, MN. Please join this free event to meet new and familiar colleagues and acquaintances. We will have a social time with food, elections for President Elect, requests for volunteers to be involved in our committees and after the meeting, our education session: "Ethical Dilemmas of the Unconscious and Incapacitated Sexual Assault Patients" with 1 CEU. Appetizers, wine and dessert start at 6pm, stay for the evening! Amy Langenfeld, a certified nurse midwife, educator, and SANE with Hennepin County will take over the role as president of the chapter. Please welcome her into her new role. Amy will also become the proprietor of the president's gmail account. For those who want to reach me directly, please use my personal email address: johns914@umn.edu or my cell: 612-202-9015.

It is with dismay that I report that the VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) was NOT reauthorized. More at: <http://4vawa.org/>, <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/civil-rights/275619-new-congress-should-focus-on-passing-vawa>, and <http://www.nnedv.org/news/national/2710-failure-congress-pass-vawa.html> It is important to let our community and government know why this matters. Please educate those in your cities and towns - violence should not remain a secret.

In December I listed numerous upcoming conferences to strengthen your forensic knowledge and network. Besides those conferences, there are reports and webinars that you might be interested in. Attorney General Eric Holder's task force just sent out their final report on children and violence. You may access it at: <http://www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood/cev-rpt-full.pdf>

The National Health Collaborative on Violence and Abuse will have a webinar on "Trauma Informed Care: The Role of the Health Care Provider" on Friday, January 25th 12:30 - 2:00 pm CST. Register at: https://events-na10.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/1043228040/en/events/event/shared/default_template/event_registration.html?sco-id=1065049933& charset =utf-8

If you haven't yet attended the Testimony Institute from MNCASA, here is another chance. It will be held on January 24th from 7:30am - 4:30pm, held at Unity Hospital in the Lyric Building, as it is part of the Unity/Regions 40 hour SANE training. Cost is \$75 for the day-long Institute, contact Karine Zakroczymski to register (tel: 763-236-4172). Our chapter events will round out that evening.

For our chapter to grow in membership and expertise, we need people like you to join and get involved. Consider taking an active role by volunteering, as a board or non-board position. Share your voice, your experience, and your talents!

I hope to see many of you at our annual business meeting! Thanks for such a great year!

Sincerely,

Paula Johns, MA, MAN, SANE-A

President, MN-IAFN (2012)