

Dear Minnesota IAFN Chapter Members,

Thank you to all who attended the recent one day conference on September 14th. It was so great to meet some of you. The speakers were excellent and we all gained knowledge we can use to improve our practice.

Ellen Johnson and I talked briefly during lunch at the conference about the changes to IAFN chapter oversight that IAFN has made. These changes add to the complexity of our chapter reporting to IAFN and a decrease in autonomy with a significant cost. Some of the changes made by IAFN include:

- Chapters must use the IAFN home office in Maryland as their official mailing address. IAFN will open chapter mail and scan it/email it to the chapter president and treasurer within a week of receipt.
- The chapter bank account must have an online banking system.
- IAFN will provide an email account to the chapter and supply a user name and password to the secretary. All emails to and from the chapter must use this designated email account.
- The treasurer must submit monthly financial review to the chapter officers on a monthly basis (the chapter officers currently meet every 2 months, which is more than the minimum of 4 times per year)
- IAFN will now collect an administrative fee of 25% of the chapter dues collected during the calendar year.

After careful consideration the Board of MN IAFN would like the members to seriously consider surrendering (folding) the MN IAFN chapter. Many current members support starting another Minnesota forensic nursing organization if the membership votes to surrender the chapter. Your board continues to be committed to continuing the mission and vision we developed a few years ago ***to develop and promote excellence in forensic nursing through education and collaborative partnerships and to improve care and long-term health outcomes for victims of violence in Minnesota.***

We want to continue to provide high quality training using evidence based practice. The board believes we can do this by creating our own forensic nursing organization here in Minnesota. Essentially, very little will change other than the fact we will not be an IAFN chapter. Members are still encouraged to be members of IAFN as the board members plan on doing. We will continue the website we currently have (www.mnforensicnurses.org), continue to receive our own mail, hold board meetings every other month, provide trainings for our nurses, offer scholarships, and hold conferences.

The fee to be a member of the new forensic nursing organization will stay the same- \$30 per year. Since we would not be an IAFN chapter, membership in IAFN would not be a prerequisite to joining the new forensic nursing organization. Many members have paid MN IAFN dues into the coming year(s). The new forensic nursing organization would honor the member's dues payments and prorate cost of membership for the new organization so the member would not be out any expense if they wish to join the new Minnesota forensic nursing organization.

As a board, we do not wish to give 25 percent of our Chapter members' dues to the IAFN each year. We would like to retain those dollars for trainings and scholarships for our nurses each year. If any of our members had a question of where we are spending our money, we would gladly share that with them.

Board meetings are always open to members and attendance is encouraged as we would like to foster engagement in our organization.

Last week, your Board had a great conversation with Jen Pierce-Weeks, CEO of IAFN. She understands why the Board is strongly considering surrendering the chapter and agrees we have a well-functioning organization and are committed to providing education for our members. She gave us a few tips on how to make sure we do this in a manner that avoids any conflict of interest or legal problems. We all very much appreciated the collaborative phone conversation. Jen was happy to learn we all will continue to be IAFN members and welcomes our ongoing participation in the organization.

If the members vote to move forward with surrendering the chapter we will need to spend the money in the bank account prior to the official date of chapter surrender. If we do not spend the money then it must be sent to IAFN. Jen Pierce Weeks encouraged us to use our money in a way that supports our state's needs. The Board would like to give scholarships to upcoming education events to liquidate our assets, in keeping with our mission and vision to support education. Our bank account currently \$2167.69 as of October 1, 2018.

We feel it is very important to get input from our members. We welcome all of your feedback! Please let us know your thoughts and/or concerns.

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We look forward to hearing from you. We would like to move forward with our changes very soon if this meets with the approval of members. Members will be given the opportunity to vote on whether they agree to surrender the chapter. If any members wish to continue the chapter they are welcome to step forward and learn more about what that would entail. Please click on the link to complete the survey by October 20. A survey of members only will be sent November 1 to ask for a vote on whether to surrender the chapter. The chapter has reserved a room in Reno for those who are going to the IAFN conference so there can be further discussion, whether you are a member or not.

Sincerely,

Amy Schmitz, President