

February 14, 2006

Dear Members,

The Board of Directors for 2006 and I would like to welcome all of you to a new year with LaITNS. I know this has been very difficult and trying time for everyone, but we are looking forward to a new year of continued growth and development.

In continuing with our commitment to promote clinical excellence in transplant nursing, I would like to announce that, as in the past, we will hold quarterly chapter business/dinner meetings this year. This is a wonderful opportunity to obtain continuing education credit needed for certifications and licensure and to network with fellow transplant nurses. Thanks to our sponsors, all dinner meetings will be free of charge for established and new members. The dates for the 2006 meetings are as follows: March 29th, June 28th, September 27th, and December 1st. Times, topics and locations will be announced as the dates approach. We encourage you to give us your ideas for topics. We want this to be interesting and informative for everyone, so your input is welcome. Because our planning time was cut short this year, the next Transplant Festival will not be until mid 2007.

Due to the hardships that everyone has recently endured, the board has elected to waive local membership dues this year. You will still be required to maintain national membership at a cost of \$75 annually. This is an excellent opportunity to recruit new members. As an ITNS member you enjoy many benefits including, participating in transplant-specific educational programs, networking with transplant professionals, free continuing education credits, information via newsletters and web sites, and access to patient education materials.

The 15th Annual ITNS Symposium and General Assembly will be held in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, on October 5-7. An incentive contest has been developed to encourage the recruitment of ITNS members and make it possible to defray some costs of attending the symposium. Each individual ITNS member or chapter, based on the name listed on the 'Recruited by' line, who recruits 25 NEW members, will receive a FREE registration to the symposium. If 50 NEW members are recruited, ITNS will throw in two night's accommodation. This endeavor will assist in boosting membership as well as helping members be able to make the trip to Rotterdam in October. The membership applications must be received by June 15, 2006 to qualify. More information may be obtained at www.itns.org.

I would like to thank all of our current Board members for their assistance in continuing the efforts of our organization in the face of such personal and professional tribulation. The current Board of Directors is as follows: Julie Hahn-

President Emeritus, Denise Fuchs-President Emeritus, Gisele Lombard-Secretary, Jan Juneau-Director, Stephanie LaPlace-Treasurer, and Cathie Bailey-Director. This year's elections for the LaITNS Board of Directors will be held in the summer, which will enable us to coincide with national ITNS elections. Serving on the board is an excellent opportunity to become involved in the chapter, share ideas for improvement, and meet new people.

In closing, please remember to check our web site, www.laitns.org, frequently. It is the most up to date source for information regarding upcoming events, meetings, and member accomplishments. I look forward to seeing you on March 29th, for our first event of 2006.

Best Wishes,

Rebecca Guillera, RN, CCTC, CPTC
President – LaITNS 2006