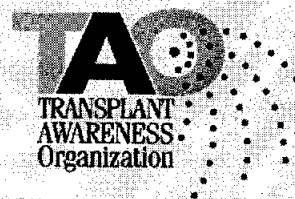


Transplant Times

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRANSPLANT AWARENESS ORGANIZATION OF GREATER ROCHESTER



September/October 2008

www.tao-rochester.org

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**Meetings are on the 3rd Wednesday of the month –Al Sigl Center,
1000 Elmwood Ave – This is a new location for us!!!**

7:00-9:00pm

SEPT. 17TH MEETING IS THE ONLY MEETING IN CAFETERIA
ALL OTHER MEETINGS IN AMSA BOARD MEETING ROOM.

Cafeteria:

Enter off South Ave. ,go past main entrance down hill to circle. Park near circle. Enter building at door # 5, take left and see Cafeteria on the right. OR Enter second entrance off Elwood Ave. when traveling toward South Ave., see circle. Park near circle and door #5. Once in building, take left and see Cafeteria on the right.

Board Room

Enter first entrance off South Avenue. Park near main entrance of building at door #2, take left through single door, right down hallway, through automatic door, take left to the end, take left. You will see AMSA boardroom on the right.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS – Upcoming Meeting Topics

September 17: Come meet the triumphant Transplant Game Athletes

October 15: Dr. Leeway Chen will discuss Heart Transplantation

November 19: Carol Augsbury LMSW, Grief Counselor will discuss dealing with loss as related to transplant

December : Holiday Party date TBA

TAO Board of Directors

We are happy to announce our new appointments to the board. Jerry Runion is our new **President**. It is clear from his greeting that he is motivated to lead our organization. Sandy McNitt is **Vice-President**. She has served four years as a board member, is a volunteer for The Rochester Eye and Tissue Bank, and is waiting for a double lung transplant.

Shelley Whitney has graciously run for a second term as **Secretary** and was easily re-elected since she has done a great job for us in the past. She is a volunteer for The Eye and Tissue Bank and has celebrated 5 anniversaries of her lung transplant.

Dennis Stenshorn is our new **Membership Chairperson**, taking over for Laurie Packard, who has been a long term holder of this position. We thank you Laurie for all you have done to help maintain our membership for so many years. Dennis was our previous President as you know, is also a volunteer for The Eye and Tissue Bank, and is waiting for a heart-lung transplant. Thanks Dennis for volunteering for this position.

We are excited to have 3 new **Board Members** joining us this year; Linda Barnard is a long term TAO member, Karen McKissock helped facilitate our Strategic Action Plan last year, and Katherine "Kate" Norway, is a Transplant Nurse at Strong Memorial Hospital. In our next issue of Transplant Times, we will tell you more about them and why they wanted to be a board member.

Greetings From The New President

Hello everyone! My name is Jerry Runion, and I am honored to be the new President of TAO. For those who don't know me, I am 53 years old, married for 25 years to my wonderful wife Melanie, and proud father of Chad and Mason. My son Chad has given me 3 beautiful grandchildren, Julie, Aidan and Gabrielle. My youngest son, Mason, is the absolute love of my life. Many of you have met him, and understand why. He is my angel.

I have had diabetes all of my life, as did my brother Terry. Both of us suffered end stage renal disease in our thirties, and both of us had kidney transplants (I also got a pancreas, as well). Both of our transplants lasted about 14 years. Unfortunately, Terry passed away 4 years ago from multiple health complications. My transplant failed 11 months ago, so I am back on dialysis and back on the waiting list with more than 98,000 other anxious folks.

As you might imagine, I am VERY passionate about transplantation. Not only has it significantly touched me and my family, but some of the most amazing, incredible people I have ever met, as well.

Since joining TAO, I have immersed myself in whatever volunteer efforts I could find that had anything at all to do with transplantation. I served on the Board of Directors of the National Kidney Foundation for a few years, and most recently, served on the Board of TAO.

I want to personally thank Dennis Stenshorn for the fantastic job he has done over the past couple of years as President of TAO. I can only hope to do half as well as he did. Our organization can be proud of the place we have taken in our community. Our members are significant contributors in the visitation program in the Transplant units at Strong Memorial Hospital. Additionally, a good number of our members participate in the "Meet and Greet" program whereby potential Transplant candidates are helped during their evaluations. Just recently, a very successful program was launched by some of our members whereby blankets are made and delivered to transplant patients in the hospital. In addition, our members help build and man the C-Dot float in the Lilac parade every year. Quite a few of our members also help to staff and run displays at numerous health fairs around the area, spreading the word about transplantation issues and, most importantly, getting people to sign donor cards. And last, but not least, many of us speak at countless high schools and colleges in the area to help raise awareness and understanding of Transplant issues. Some of these programs are run by the Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network and The Rochester Eye and Tissue Bank, while others are facilitated through the Friends of Strong organization. Regardless, I feel that our people are valued, dependable contributors to the Transplantation cause, and I believe these organizations agree whole heartedly. We should be very proud of ourselves, and I invite all of you to "jump into the pool" and join us. There is nothing as satisfying as helping others.

Our first meeting of the year is coming up in September, at a brand new meeting site. We are very excited about being able to meet at the Al Sigl Center on Elmwood Avenue. Check this newsletter, or our website, for exact directions and which doors to come in through. Our guest speakers in September are none other than the athletes who just recently returned from the U.S. Transplant Games in Pittsburgh. Come and join us in congratulating them and sharing in their stories. They were the most successful team ever from Upstate New York.

In closing, let me reiterate what an honor it is to serve as your President. Please feel free to participate in any way you would like. Regardless of your desire or ability to attend meetings, let me know what TAO can do to help you. I promise to try my best to do what I can. Let's keep up the momentum, and try to make an even bigger impact in our community.. For those of you wanting to contact me directly, my e-mail address is jgrunion@rochester.rr.com and my phone number is 585-733-3422. Till next time, stay healthy and be happy!

Jerry Runion

New Members on the Board –Linda Barnard and Karen McKissock



TAO Receives Grant from Charitable Fund

Thanks to the efforts of Beverly Shank (liver) TAO has received a \$1000.00 grant from the E. Florence Richards Fund. The grant was made to TAO in recognition of the efforts Bev has made over the years in helping administer the fun.

E. Florence Richards was an elderly woman who passed away and set up a charitable fund in her name, which was administered by her attorney. Bev was named secretary of the fun and over the years the fund has contributed to numerous charities and non-profit

TRANSPLANT ANNIVERSARIES – SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

Debbie Vernam – 9-1-04 – Kidney
Ernst Baier -- 09-05-00 - Kidney
Ivan Tzontchev -- 09-05-00 - Kidney
Joanne Schum – 9-12-97 – Lungs
Marianne Bennet – 9-22-06 - Liver
Janet Bossert -- 10-01-99- Kidney
Suzanne McNamara -- 10-01-93- Heart
Bernard Blocchi – 10-3-96 - Liver
Carrie Rodriguez -- 10-02-05 - Kidney/Pancreas
Carol Weinlander – 10-9- 01 - Kidney
Michelle Halloran – 10-9-97 – Kidney
Mary Stein – 10-13-05 - Liver
Claudia Ciresi -- 10-18-94 - Liver
Susan Bennett -- 10-19-98 - Kidney
Ronald Goehle – 10-21-01 – Liver
Tom Arcara – 9-27-05 - Heart
Keith Oliver -- 10-28-02- Liver
Dennis Kovel -- 10-30-01 - Kidney
Daniel Newhouse – 10-30- 90 11-17-95 – Kidney
Jim Hey – 10-31-01 - Kidney
David Johnson – 10-31-00 – Liver

Congratulations! Did we miss yours? Get your date wrong? If so, please let the editor know!
(Note: This list is members only)

GIFT IDEAS

A contribution to TAO in honor of or in memory of a loved one, a special person or a relative is always a thoughtful gift idea. It is a gift of caring that you can give on any occasion - a birthday, an anniversary or a special holiday. Send your check, made out to TAO, Transplant Awareness Organization of Greater Rochester, PO Box 23552, Rochester, NY 14692-3552

DONATIONS

TAO received a donation from Chuck Lundeen (a new member).

TAO received a donation from Shirley Newman, a new member.

TOPS NEVER STOPS.....Helping TAO Raise Money - The Tops Gift Card Program allows our non-profit organization to earn a 5% return by selling Tops Cards. The more we sell, the more we earn. The cards are available in denominations of \$25, \$50 and \$100. Cards are available at membership meetings or you can contact Karen Gledhill (kgledhill@rochester.rr.com).

New Members:

New member – Matthew Felo, lung transplant on 7-12-2007.

TAO received a donation from Chuck Lundeen (a new member).

TAO received a donation from Shirley Newman, a new member.

TRANSPLANT GAMES

Thirteen triumphant transplant athletes returned home from Pittsburgh with eighteen medals. This was the winningest team to date. The games opening ceremony, hosted by Larry Hagman (liver recipient), was filled with teams from across the United States. The athletes marched in along side Living Donors and Donor Families. Saturday through Tuesday were packed with events that over 1300 athletes participated in. Friendships were made, team pins traded, stories swapped and we were surrounded by miracles daily. Ken Howard (kidney recipient) emceed the closing ceremony and introduced his Living Donor. Madison, Wisconsin was announced as the site for the 2010 Games. We look forward to sending a larger team to the next games. There will be ongoing fundraisers to support the athlete's effort. Here are your 2008 athletes and their accomplishments:

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Rita Callaghan | Bronze Medal | 1500 m RaceWalk |
| Bernice Eblovi | Gold Medal | Table Tennis |
| Karen Gledhill | Silver Medal | 50m Breaststroke |
| Bonnie Haefner | | |
| Teri Morganti | Gold Medal | Bowling/ Singles |
| | Silver Medal | Long Jump |
| Dan Newhouse | Silver Medal | 3 on 3 Basketball |
| Tim Parks | Gold Medal | Bowling/Singles |
| | Silver Medal | 3 on 3 Basketball |
| Pat Ridge | | |
| Ben Smeenk | Silver Medal | 3 on 3 Basketball |
| Michael Swete | Gold Medal | Golf |
| Ryan Yaple | Gold Medal | High Jump |
| | Silver Medal | 3 on 3 Basketball |
| Michael Yendzieski | Gold Medal | Golf |
| Kevin McCorry II | Gold Medal | 5K Bicycling |
| | Gold Medal | 20 K Bicycling |
| | Silver Medal | Golf |
| | Silver Medal | Table Tennis |
| | Silver Medal | 3 on 3 Basketball |

TRANSPLANT TEAM 2008!!!!



Membership dues notices will be coming in September. Dues can be paid at monthly meeting or to PO Box 23552, Rochester, NY 14692-3552 Make checks payable to TAO of Rochester in the amount of \$10. Please include your email address with your dues.
