

News From The Northland

Volume 24, Number 4

October—December 2017



www.holsq.org

Tuesday October 10, 2017 7:00 PM: Open Discussion

Open discussion for issues, topics, questions, or concerns that need to be addressed. Our meetings are set up to have a program every other month, and the next month to be an open meeting. This gives us an opportunity to share, ask questions, or discuss situations, news, or upcoming events

Tuesday, November 14, 2017: 7:00 PM : Open Discussion

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Saturday, December 2, 2017: Annual Christmas Luncheon

Blackwoods Restaurant in Proctor is the location for our Annual Christmas Luncheon. It is a great time of year to enjoy family and friends. We plan on gathering at 11:30AM for the soup and sandwich buffet. The buffet will consist of prime rib soup, 3 deli meats, 2 salads, breads, and beverage. Cost is \$ 15.50 for adults and \$ 10.00 for children under 10. The cost includes gratuity and tax. Our entertainment will be the Superior Singers. As usual, we will have the Susie and Laila Ticket Auction, so bring an item to donate for the auction, and make our auction a great fundraiser for our organization. **We need to reserve and guarantee seating so please send a check prepaying for the lunch and your RSVP** to Glenn Peterson, 1365 White Pine Drive, Cloquet MN, 55720 by November 27th.

Meeting at Miller-Dwan Medical Center

502 E 2nd Street Duluth, MN

7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Classroom 2 & 3 - Lobby Level

Providing a loving, caring , educational network of support for those waiting or having received an organ/tissue transplant and their families. Web Site: www.headofthelakesorgantransplantsupportgroup.org

“News & Notes”

Happy Birthday and Best Wishes:

Mary Hellman	Liver	10/18/2010
Jessy Wahlsten	Heart	10/25/2015
Jackie Jensen	Pancreas	10/27/2009
James Kimmes	Liver	10/28/1995
Don Nygaard	Liver	10/30/2000
Mary Jacobson	Kidney	11/04/2011
Gary Minter	Heart	11/07/2015
Scott Severson	Heart/Kidney	11/11/2000
Richard Washburn	Kidney	11/12/1992
Gary Wise	Liver	11/15/1999
Pam Carlson	Kidney	11/20/1997
Barbara Brandon	Kidney	11/26/1988
Dan Spielman	Kidney	11/30/2010
Jean Specht	Liver	12/2/1997
Russ Grover	Kidney	12/04/2012
Gary Palkke	Kidney	12/10/1992
Kurt Johnson	Kidney	12/14/1997
Ben Korteum	Liver	12/15/1985
Kathi Hein	Pancreas	12/26/2004
Kathleen Neal	Kidney	12/27/2001

News and Presentations:

Thank You for the monetary donation.

Family Of Laila Magnuson:

Matt Jahn and Family, Mike Jahn,

Bill and Cheryl Fronckiewicz

Presentations:

September– Tom Saburn, Denfeld Drivers Ed

September 30—Kathi Hein, Heart Walk

Cares and Prayers

For:

Calls, Cards and Prayers
Welcome!!

Jim and Jess Hagerl

Julianne Vasichek-

Hospitalized

For the Family of Kathryn Foss who passed away
on July 16, 2017



Web News: You no longer need to type the long version of our name to get the web. Just enter www.HOLSG.org to arrive! Visit the web for new developments. If you need an ID, contact Ton Griffin at tgriffin00@chartermi.net

Who Deserves A Liver? Officials Try To Make Organ Transplants Fairer.

A very sick 45 year old patient waits in his New York City apartment for word that a lifesaving liver is available to him for transplant. Although he has been sick for 10 years his chances are near zero. A thousand miles to the south in Morven, Georgia another patient, equally sick, awaits the same miracle. However, her chances are considerably better, because the ratio of available livers to people who need them is more favorable in the southeast. Under a proposed plan this could change. UNOS is preparing a plan to consider a way to address the decades old disparity in liver allocation. The plan would alter how organs are distributed and could shift hundreds of livers across state lines and regional borders. There are far too few livers available for the people who need them. Last year 7841 livers from deceased people were transplanted, while another 14,000 people remained on the list waiting transplant. More than a thousand people die each year waiting for a liver transplant. The new proposal is complex, but the main point of conflict is that it would allow some transplant centers to reach across current boundaries to gain access to livers they cannot access under current rules. That will, however create more competition for the organs and alter the rules for distribution. Under the current rules access to livers varies dramatically from region to region. In region 9, for example, which includes New York City, just 327 livers were donated in 2016.

Continuing a pattern of meager procurement that goes back decades. In region 3, which includes the deep south and Puerto Rico, 1336 livers were obtained from deceased donors. UNOS, the non-profit organization that coordinates organ transplants, divides the country into 11 regions for organ distribution. To accurately try to assess the priority for distributing available livers, UNOS developed the Model For End stage Liver Disease, MELD, score. Since 2002 people have been placed on list in the nations 143 liver transplant centers based on this score. The score is based on blood tests which indicate the progression of liver disease. The higher the score the sicker the patient. When compared across regions the disparity is obvious. In 2016 the meld score of patients being transplanted in Indiana was 20. In Los Angeles the meld score of people being transplanted was 40. In other words it is much more difficult to find a liver in Southern California than it is in Indiana. The process is, using the meld score an organ is first offered within the region where it was donated. If there is no match in the donated region the organ can be distributed to other regions. The disparity comes from the availability of organs in various parts of the country. Some parts of the country have higher rates of liver disease because of the demographics, and some parts of the country have higher supplies of organs because of strokes, obesity and traffic accidents.

Who deserves a Liver cont.

There are other disparities in the system. Areas in the country have non-profit groups charged with recruiting organ donors do a poor job compared with counterparts in other areas of the country. These procurement groups want to gain access to organs elsewhere rather than doing the hard work of convincing people to sign up as organ donors or persuading families to allow donations after death. To compensate for the organ shortage some hospitals artificially boost some patients meld scores which hurts the chances of people that are sicker and should get the available organ. Regional boards are supposed to control that but some are more lenient than others. Last January a national board took over that duty, standardizing the process. Those on Medicaid face another obstacle: State reimbursements and insurance carriers differ from state to state which prohibits patients from going out of state for their transplants. People who have money and aren't so concerned about insurances register in regions that have higher organ availability. The current proposal would allow livers to be shared within 150 nautical miles of donor hospitals. It would keep more organs within the local area before being shared with other regions. The problem is complex and will remain complex.

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- Cares and Prayers
- Who Deserves A Liver?