



TRIO NEWSLETTER

Long Island Chapter of Transplant Recipients International Organization

P.O. Box 81 Garden City, NY 11530 516-942-4940

Website: www.litrio.org E-Mail: mike@sosproductions.com

May/ June 2010

Our General Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month from September to June. Our holiday party in December substitutes for the December meeting. Our May meeting is on May 26, 2010 at 7:30 PM. The meetings begin at 7:30 PM and are held at 145 Community Dr., Manhasset, NY.

LI TRIO Legislative Initiatives

The Long Island chapter of TRIO is very lucky to have dedicated volunteers making many of the following initiatives possible. We are pleased to team with our coalition partners inclusive of The New York Alliance for Donation, our TRIO volunteers, Senators, Members of the Assembly, our OPO, and Transplant Centers as we once again traveled to Albany to help save lives and truly make a difference.

Some of our recent success with respect to bills being passed include but are not limited to New York State funding of the New York State Donate Life Registry, the New York State Gift of Life Medal, the design and implementation of the New York State Donate Life license plate, and a new Registry of Consent as opposed to the previous registry that was a much less effective Registry Of Intent. Our chapter is now pleased to announce the unanimous passage of the Electronic Signature Act by the New York State Assembly and The New York State Senate, and this act will allow New Yorkers to register online to become organ donors as opposed to having to print out forms, and search for an envelope and postage stamps. This keeps the idea of an online enrollment option valid in New York State. LI TRIO was the squeaky wheel that helped get the proper attention to this important issue and we appreciate

the fact that the New York Alliance for Donation came on board with our legislative initiative we introduced years ago. LI TRIO thanks all of the volunteers for their efforts in this regard. We now need to write to our governor so that the bill is signed into law.

S4999A

Sponsored by Senator Thomas K. Duane This bill will ease the process for organ donation and thereby increase the numbers of New Yorkers who will make anatomical gifts. Specifically, it would allow individuals to use an electronic signature to register their consent to make an anatomical gift on the State's Donate Life Registry website:

<http://www.donatelifenys.net> Under the current operation of online registration, an individual goes onto that website and fills out a form to join the registry.

However, because electronic signatures are not authorized, individuals must:

1. Print out the completed form
2. Sign the completed form
3. Mail it back to DOH to complete the registration.

According to Donate for Life America's April 2010 National Donor Designation Report Card, if S4999A becomes law, New York would join 36 states that currently have some form of effective online registry. This bill is now waiting for the governor's signature.

LI TRIO is once again pleased to announce that this bill has passed the New

York State Senate. The Companion bill passed in the Assembly while Ed, Joy and Mike were on the Assembly Floor in Albany representing our chapter and the Transplant Community of Recipients, Donors, Donor Families and Surgeons in New York State.

Ed Burki reports on our special day as we met with our Senators and Members of the Assembly in Albany. Please check out our chapter's website for the full story. www.litrio.org

Excerpt:

"After our meeting with Senator Hannon, we rushed over to the Assembly in session where Assemblyman Jim Conte had arranged to acknowledge LI TRIO's accomplishments on the Assembly floor. We received a round of applause and another photo shoot which has been distributed to the media via a press release through Assemblyman Conte's dedicated Chief of Staff, Jennifer Pratico."

Upcoming Events

May 26, 2010

General Membership Meeting with a special panel of guest speakers from Rogosin.

June 9, 2010

General Membership Meeting with Transplant Surgeon, Dr. Diflo.

July 30, 2010-August 4, 2010

U.S. Transplant Games-Madison Wisconsin

LI TRIO Member Michael Palazzo Received The Gift Of Life On January 15, 2010

Our chapter welcomes new members Jen and Michael Palazzo. Michael Palazzo received the Gift Of Life on January 15, 2010. He received this generous gift from Marcus Brito and here is the story that led up to this wonderful life-saving gift.



Marcus Brito (L) and Michael Palazzo (R) pose for a photo post transplant.

Gift of Life

I am writing to you to share my story of "life". My name is Michael Palazzo; I am 37 years old and a Nassau County Police Officer. On Nov.12, 2009 my life stopped, literally and figuratively. That was the morning, after working an overnight shift, I received the call. My doctor had taken blood from me on Nov.10, 2009 and the results were in. What I heard, I was not prepared for. The doctor simply said to my wife;

Jennifer "Get Michael to an emergency room NOW, he is in stage 5 Renal Failure." When she told me that, I couldn't believe it, I just finished work, I felt fine. She insisted and to the emergency room I went. When I walked in my Blood Pressure was 212/141, doctors swarmed around me, needles sticking me, EKG's, sonograms, anything you could think of. I was admitted to the CCU unit that evening. The next morning I received another call, this time from my nephrologists, who told me I needed to be placed on dialysis immediately and would need a kidney transplant.

While all of this was occurring, one of my wife's former students sent a text to her to see how she was and to send her a picture of him in his Marine Uniform. Marcus Brito was a former student in one of my wife's classes. My wife's response was that "Michael is in CCU." Marcus quickly responded and asked "why?" Jen told him that I was in kidney failure and would need a transplant. Never having met me personally Marcus responded; "I have a kidney for him." Over the next few days I remained in the hospital and had a dialysis catheter put in my chest and Marcus came and visited me. When I was released the Friday before Thanksgiving, I was told I had to go for a kidney biopsy before we could begin the transplant process. I went for the biopsy and began the transplant process on Dec 14, 2009. On that day I was screened for the transplant and Marcus filled out the donor questionnaire and gave blood.

Finally, after a week of waiting on Dec. 22, 2009 we received the phone call that Marcus was a match for me. The odds were 1 in 30,000. Now on Jan. 15, 2010 we will be admitted into Columbia Presbyterian and undergo our transplant.

I honestly can say Jan.15, 2010 will be the day Marcus and I celebrate

our brother bond. I don't know what I would do without Marcus and I will be eternally grateful.

One of the reasons we want to publicize our story is to educate people with regard to organ donation, kidney disease, and the power we have to save lives.

Five Good Samaritans Start Chains Of Life

Our friends at the National Kidney Registry on Long Island are helping to save lives by creating transplant chains.

Source: www.chicagotribune.com Judith Graham, Tribune reporter

Five Chicago-area adults who have stepped forward to give kidneys to strangers may help save the lives of as many as two dozen people, thanks to transplant chains that will multiply the impact of the donations.

Two of the donors are young women in their early 20s, in perfect health and eager to help others. One is a dad honoring a 17-year-old daughter killed in a car accident. Another is a dental hygienist inspired by her father's death. The fifth is a woman eager to repay a cousin's act of kindness.

The transplant chains — a new development in the field of kidney transplantation — begin when someone like these five people offers to give a kidney to a stranger. Often, the designated recipient has a friend or relative who is willing to donate but prevented from doing so by medical circumstances.

If that friend or relative decides to give an organ to a stranger who is a better match and that second recipient has loved ones willing to repeat the favor, the chain adds more links. The goal is to allow the first generous act to help as many people as possible.

(Continued from Page 2)

Loyola University Medical Center entered the five "good Samaritan" organ donors with the National Kidney Registry, an organization that helps arrange matches between potential kidney donors and recipients.

"That's really unusual," said Gareth Hill, founder of the registry, which is working with about 50 hospitals across the country.

From Loyola's perspective, chains have a much bigger impact, justifying a different approach. "We see every good Samaritan donor as a national treasure, not an institutional commodity," said Dr. John Milner, director of Loyola's living donor kidney transplant program.

The National Kidney Registry has launched 17 chains resulting in six transplants apiece, on average.

So far, the National Kidney Registry has arranged 112 transplants. Another 30 donors and recipients have been tentatively matched and are awaiting final medical approval, Hill said.

More Chapter News

New Members

Vito Riservato

Chris Valens

Tom Christy

Jorge Ortiz MD

Godeliva Pagan

Irene Vigotty

Michael and Jennifer Palazzo

Lawrence Reich

Chris Bright

Assemblyman Richard Brodsky

Maria Cipolla

Paul Guerrero

Nicola and Vito Iacobellis

Happy Re-Birthday to you!

May and June Re-Birthdays

Lloyd Bucknell	May 22, 2003	Kidney
Ann Grasso	May 5, 1995	Liver
Ralph Greener	May 8, 2008	Kidney
Melvin Kershner	May 21, 2009	Kidney
Leslie Kreisman	May 5, 2000	Kidney
David Krugman	May 13, 2006	Kidney & Liver
Hopeton Lue	May 30, 2000	Kidney
Margaret Margulies	May 13, 1989	Kidney
Richard Prete	May 8, 2008	Liver
Vinny Santalucia	May 27, 2000	Kidney

James P Schneidmuller	May 23, 1987	Liver
Wilma Spatafore	May 12, 2002	Liver
Ida Tesoriero	May 12, 2005	Kidney
John Tolan	May 1996*	Kidney

Jessica C Chipkin	June 24, 2005	Liver
Charles J Frauenberg	June 5, 1999	Kidney
Bob Geisler	June 28, 2009	Kidney
Tom Hackett	June 13, 2006	Heart
Jean A Kelly	June 16, 2005	Liver
Charles Lawlor	June 12, 2003	Lung
Mel Lerner	June 10, 2008	Kidney
Tarius McGuinness	June 30, 2006	Kidney
Mary Lou Murphy	June 1, 2009	Kidney
Ruth Pohl	June 1, 2003	Liver
Sharon Ross	June 10, 1995	Kidney/Pancreas
Anthony Scro	June 24, 1999	Liver
Greg Smith	June 13, 2002	Liver
Annette Trezza	June 28, 2004	Lungs
Steven Wolf	June 10, 1998	Kidney

The Newsletter of The Long Island Chapter of Transplant Recipients International Organization is mailed free to all members. Please send any letters and any other correspondence to:
 LI TRIO
 P.O. Box 81, Garden City, NY 11530

Please send all articles, member profiles, stories, anecdotes and other newsletter submissions to:

Mike Sosna, President
 LI TRIO
 5440 Little Neck Parkway, Suite 4H
 Little Neck NY 11362
 Tel: 516.902.8111 / Fax: 516.482.2599

LI TRIO MISSION STATEMENT

Long Island TRIO is a non-profit all volunteer organization committed to improving the quality of lives touched by the miracle of transplantation through support, advocacy, education, and awareness.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Mike Sosna—Editor

The content of this publication including text, graphics, images, and other material contained herein is for informational purposes only. The content is not intended to be a substitute for professional legal advice, tax advice, professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always seek the advice of your physician or other qualified health provider with any medical questions you may have.

CHAPTER OFFICERS:

President: Mike Sosna 516-902-8111
 Co-Vice Presidents:
 George Tietjen 516-746-0693
 Tom Bush Hotline
 Secretary: Ruth Pohl 631-884-0482
 Treasurer: Walter Ruzek 516-385-1067
 Immediate Past President: Artie Michaels

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON CONTACT

LI TRIO Main Number/Hotline	Jerry Sosna	516-942-4940
Welcome Committee	Tom Bush	Hotline
E-Mail Tree -Outgoing email	Joe LaBarbera	litrio@gmail.com
Corresponding Secretary	Ruth Pohl	631-884-0482
Website Design/ Legislative Initiatives and		
Guest.Speakers	Mike.Sosna	516-902-8111
Special Projects	Ed Burki	516-620-3700
Rose Garden Logistics.	Dave Rodgers	516-449-1421
Rose Garden Program	Jo Michaels	516-798-8411
Database Manager	Howie Pohl	631-884-0482
Donor Families and Social Secretary	Barbara Musto	516-671-5793
Singers and School Speakers.	Sue Tietjen and George Tietjen	516-746-0693
The Ways and Means Committee and		
Holiday Party Chairpersons	Florence and Jerry Sosna	516-482-2908

Transplant Recipients International Organization



Transplant Recipients International Organization
 Long Island Chapter
 PO Box 81
 Garden City, NY 11530

LI TRIO Tribute Cards

Florence Sosna has LI TRIO Donation Tribute Cards "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of" a loved one.

You can contact her at 516-482-2908. At your request, Florence will customize, address and mail the card to your party in honor of a loved one and/or special occasion or in memory of a loved one.

Transplant List Stats:

- 107,596 Americans are on the organ transplant waiting list as of May 24, 2010.
- There were 4,282 transplants between January 2010 and February 2010.
- There were 2,221 donors between January 2010 and February 2010.
- Visit www.litrio.org to read about LI TRIO's conferences with Senator Kemp Hannon, Senator John Flanagan, Senator Carl Marcellino and Assemblyman Jim Conte.