



This is an official publication of
The Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, Inc.
A Non-Profit Corporation

Dear friends,

The new year has started already and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and hopeful 2006 with enough splendor and content to make it a truly good year for yourself and for the people you care about.

Although HBIGDA does not organize a Symposium in 2006, this new year promises to be more than busy enough. Dr. Randi Ettner has been very active and very professional in preparing the 2007 Symposium which will take place in Chicago, at the Embassy Suites Hotel from September 7 till 9, 2007.

A lot is changing within the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association these last few years. First of all, we were able to increase our membership to 395 members in 2005 (which is an all-time high), the secretarial work has been professionalized, a new website has (with a new membership area) been developed, the membership drive has been shown to be effective, a HBIGDA-update is sent to you every 2 months (for which we received a lot of encouraging comments), the International Journal of Transgenderism has become a print, as well as online, journal published by Haworth Press, Inc. --- to name a few of the more important achievements..

Probably even more important is the fact that by the end of January the board members and the executive committee of HBIGDA will spend a weekend in New York City (on their own costs) for a Strategic Planning Meeting. The purpose of this meeting will be to further define the mission of our organization and to develop strategic and operational goals to better fulfill this mission. In the next HBIGDA-update, probably by the end of February, we will be able to report on this very important meeting.

Finally 2 practical things:

- 1. We would like to ask our members to renew their membership which, since last year, can be done easily and conveniently on the internet (<http://app1.associationsonline.com/amos/hbigda/index.cfm>).***
- 2. The American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors, and Therapists (AASECT) conference will take place in June 2006 in Saint-Louis, Missouri in the U.S. HBIGDA will have a booth at this meeting to promote our organization and recruit new members. We will invite prominent HBIGDA members who plan to attend the AASECT meeting to volunteer to spend a few hours helping promote HBIGDA membership at our booth.***

Again my very best wishes for a great 2006 and for those members who have specific suggestions for the agenda of the Strategic Planning Meeting, please feel free to mail us back.

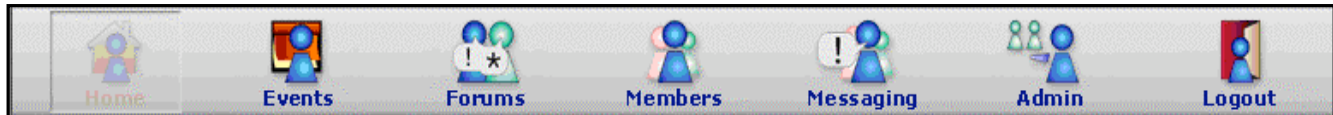
Best regards,

~ Prof. Dr. Stan MONSTREY
President

****Special Notice from the Executive Director****

Dear HBIGDA members,

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to utilize the new HBIGDA membership area online. I would like to bring to your attention two communication tools available online. Below you will see a screenshot of the membership area navigation. Please note the ability to communicate with other members via the **FORUM** and **MESSAGING** tools.



FORUMS	MESSAGING
<p>The Forum area is an open discussion message board for all members. Feel free to post any news or questions you would like to communicate with the HBIGDA membership. You may also post upcoming meetings and events related to gender identity, or tell the membership about a recent publication of interest.</p>	<p>If you are interested in a more efficient response, you can try emailing members directly from the website using the Messaging area. You can search by membership type, committee, or all members. Several members have already taken this opportunity to email other members.</p> <p><u>Please Note:</u> <i>Any member who abuses their right to use this tool, such as sending mass e-mails unrelated to HBIGDA, will be warned, then automatically terminated from the AMO membership area if the warning is not obeyed.</i></p>

The HBIGDA staff will be happy to answer any questions, but please feel free to explore.

~ Bean Robinson, Ph.D.
Executive Director



HBIGDA Mission Statement

As an international interdisciplinary, professional organization, the mission of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association (HBIGDA) is to further the understanding and treatment of gender identity disorders by professionals in medicine, psychology, law, social work, counseling, psychotherapy, family studies, sociology, anthropology, and sexology. It provides opportunities for professionals from various subspecialties to communicate with each other in the context of research and treatment of gender dysphoria including sponsoring biennial scientific symposiums. HBIGDA publishes the Standards of Care and Ethical Guidelines, which articulate a professional consensus about the psychiatric, psychological, medical, and surgical management of gender identity disorders, and help professionals understand the parameters within which they may offer assistance to those with these conditions.

THE HARRY BENJAMIN
INTERNATIONAL GENDER
DYSPHORIA ASSOCIATION, INC.
A Non-Profit Corporation

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Welcome all new members, and thank you to all the members who have renewed for 2006. If you have not yet renewed, please note the deadline is JANUARY 31, 2006. Please contact Tara Tieso, our new Executive Administrative Assistant, with any questions.

From the HBIGDA staff ~

Happy New Year

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The HBIGDA Update is the official publication of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association. It is published every two months. Items submitted to the editors for publication will be edited for clarity, readability, syntax, duplication, grammar, and spelling as well as gender-biased language. All materials should be sent to HBIGDA at the e-mail address above.

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