

----- Original Message -----

From: [Rick Bousquet](#)

To:

Sent: Friday, July 23, 2010 11:25 AM

Subject: Merger Status - Important info. for your leadership committee's

Chapter Leaders,

Almost every time we've spoke we have STRESSED the partnership with HSLF was simply in talks and negotiations. We informed you in order to get feedback and address any concerns, but as you know we have never gone public because again, we were still in the negotiation phase of this possible partnership.

Following lengthy and thoughtful deliberations - we've determined the best action for THLN at this time is to postpone any possible agreements until July 1, 2011. The reasons for this are:

- 1) We need to turn our **full attention** to the upcoming legislative session and September Annual Conference
- 2) We need to do some serious fundraising in order to support our lobbying needs
- 3) With the loss of Rick, we need to consider hiring another part time ED and get her/him trained

....Which leaves us little time to focus on the merger and major PR plan needed to promote the partnership adequately.

There is much more room for discussion on the above which we'll discuss in detail at our August 14th board meeting, but I wanted to let ya'll know that we've talked to Mike Markarian and Sara Amundson with HSLF to let them know and they are in agreement that this is the best decision for all at this time.

Please share this ONLY with those in your Chapter Leadership Committees who were informed of this possible partnership so they will know it's business as usual for THLN until after the 2011 legislative session, then we'll go from there. We never went public with this possibility so please don't go public with this announcement as well.

Cile and I will be sending out an agenda for the meeting soon, but in the meantime **I'd like to ask each of you to please give Fundraising some serious thought as we're going to need the help of each of you to raise the funds we need.**

See you on the 14th and thank you all!

Rick