



Regional Presidents' Memo

A newsletter for SGNA Regional Society Presidents, President-Elects, Delegates and Alternates

A Message from the SGNA Board

*Conrad Worrell, RN CGRN
Director of Regional Societies*

Fall is always a busy time for SGNA Regional Societies. Many of you have already or will, in coming months, host regional educational programs. The 15th Annual SGNA Leadership Conference is scheduled for November 4-5 and will be held in Rosemont, IL at the Hyatt Rosemont Hotel.

The Leadership Conference is always a great opportunity for learning as well as for networking with colleagues. Topics this year include a description of regional rechartering basics and helpful resources, an informative legislative update, an explanation of House of Delegates and parliamentary procedure, an update regarding the Annual Course abstract submission process, a description of the regional budgeting process and a discussion on the new 2012-2014 Strategic Plan. There will be an address given by both the President and President-Elect and ample time for questions.

Each Regional Society is assigned a Divisional Coordinator to enhance and maintain the flow of communication between all SGNA Regional Societies and SGNA Headquarters. Your Divisional Coordinator is there to support

ongoing growth and activities of the Regional Societies, to monitor and support new Regional Society information and to ensure regional compliance in regard to rechartering requirements.

Remember, your Divisional Coordinator is always there to offer updates on SGNA activities as well as to give you the opportunity to discuss any challenges you have encountered. Please do your part in responding to requests for communication from your leaders. The Divisional Coordinators, Mollie Corbett, our staff liaison, and I are there for you if you need any assistance or support. Please do not hesitate to call us for any regional issues.

On behalf of the Regional Societies Committee, Shelley Riddle, Regional Societies Committee Chair, and SGNA, I thank you for everything you do as leaders of your Regional Societies. Through the collective efforts at the level of the regions, SGNA is even stronger. In your role as officers, you have an awesome opportunity to make a difference. Our members look to you, and your efforts do not go unnoticed! Keep up the fantastic work!



Arizona, Region 3
Cathy Yows, RN CGRN

“How is it possible to maintain the services we provide currently to our members, offer new services/programs that are requested by our community, and increase participation from the members?” This is the greatest challenge our region must address yearly. Like many other service organizations, change management is an ongoing agenda item for every board meeting. Creating a positive culture to accept change is difficult but necessary in our current economic times.

So what works?

- Be willing to try something new even if you risk failing.
- Get buy-in from the members who are willing to make the effort to successfully change the culture.
- Ask people to participate for small tasks and don't overwhelm them with huge projects.
- Stay involved in projects that are meaningful to your members and community.
- Recognize the members who get involved.

What doesn't work?

- Holding on to an old process just because you have always done it that way
- Trying to please everyone all the time
- Being a 'nay-sayer' when people make suggestions for new activities
- Unwilling to take the time to change the bylaws to allow for a new process

This year our focus was on outreach. Our officers went to visit clinics and hospitals to help recruit new members. We have successfully increased our membership by twenty percent. We offered webinars for our spring and summer educational events. This increased our attendance for each session for members who could not travel. We have worked diligently to change our bylaws to include electronic voting and other electronic media sources to decrease the cost of paper and postage to the region. Lastly,

we have begun to focus our attention on emerging concerns in gastroenterology such as esophageal and pancreatic cancer awareness.



Northern California, Region 6
Mary Veridiano, BSN RN BS CGRN

Greetings from Northern California! Although my term as President is coming to an end, I feel like there's so much more to do, with so little time.

I'm excited about our upcoming September 24 conference in Lake Tahoe. Not only do we have excellent speakers and interesting topics, but we also have the downtime to recover from our busy lives by relaxing, and enjoying the view of the lake and landscape. We are proud to say that these courses are offered twice a year in a wide variety of locations to accommodate the different members throughout Northern California. We strive to meet the educational needs of members by offering 7 GI specific contact hours for each course. Next year's upcoming conferences are at Sta. Clara Convention Center on March 24, 2012 and at the Radisson in Sacramento on September 22, 2012. Most attendees still prefer and continue to use Pay pal as a way to register for these conferences.

At every course, we make sure that members and newly certified members are recognized with special name tags. At the beginning of the conference we will acknowledge the names of these new members along with the newly certified GI nurses.

We are fortunate enough to award scholarships for Poster Presentations and to attend the Annual Course. Ten regional conference coupons are raffled at each spring and fall conference. Also, course evaluation comments and suggestions are reviewed and discussed at our board meetings to figure out how we can improve future conferences.

Newsletters are still published on our Web site three times a year to keep everyone updated. We are constantly encouraging our members to work toward certification by highlighting the benefits of certification at these conferences. Motivation starts

from someone setting a good example and I believe that we can all start this movement to increase the number of certified members by inspiring others at our own workplace to take the certification exam.

We do offer members an opportunity to get involved with the diverse NCSGNA activities. Aside from those events, there are already some members that are involved with different GI support groups like CCFA and ALF.

Also in this year's agenda, we will be reviewing and revising our roles and responsibilities as board members to better serve our GI community.

Overall, my time as President was challenging but rewarding. I would like to take this time to show my appreciation towards those who have helped me in this journey.



Southern California, Region 7
Midolie Loyola, BSN RN CGRN

This past year has been full of exciting activities for Southern California SGNA! Some of our accomplishments include creation of our Web site with online payment through PayPal for our conferences, making the decision to go green and offering two educational conferences this year with nationally known speakers. More than half of our board members are involved in national committees with SGNA or ABCGN; two of them hold committee chair positions! We take pride in certification, acknowledging our newly certified at each course. Our region plays a PowerPoint loop during breaks which include names of the newly certified. Each one is sent a congratulatory card signed by all members of the board sent to their home. If we know these certified nurses will be attending our educational course, we present them with flowers. This year, National Certified Nurses Day was the same day as our spring conference; each certified nurse was given a sweet treat with an acknowledgement of their certification.

One of our successes as a group is taking advantage of SGNA's conference call feature available to all regional societies. Since we come from all parts of

Southern California, this has been a valuable service to us at \$0.04/minute. We were able to conduct two meetings successfully, saving money and travel time.

Looking to the future, we are excited about things to come. We are supporting the Flowers 4 the Float project, raising funds to honor all nurses with a Nurses Float for the 2013 Rose Parade, since this will be the first time the President of the Parade will be a nurse. If you are interested in donating, please visit www.flowers4thefloat.org. Any funds not used for the nurses' float will be turned into nursing scholarships. Southern California SGNA will be having a fundraiser at our fall conference and has committed \$500 to this cause.

Our region is looking to provide online voting for next year's regional board elections. This will help with costs and may improve response rates. We are looking to use Survey Monkey as a method to collect votes. We are in the process of sending out ballots to our members, and if approved will amend our bylaws next year.

Our fall course in October will be at Pechanga Resort and Casino in Temecula, California featuring our guest and keynote speaker, Dr. Patricia Raymond. She is a beloved speaker at SGNA National conferences and we are excited to have her spend time with us!



Rocky Mountain, Region 8
Jeanine Penberthy, MSN RN CGRN

It's hard to believe this year is already winding down! This year has been a busy one in our region. Throughout the region GI Nurses and Associates Day was celebrated in individual labs with everything from lunches provided by our physician colleagues, dinner symposiums and importantly doing what GI Nurses and Associates do best – teach about the benefits of colon cancer screening.

We had two very informative and well received conferences, one in the spring and one this past week. Our regional Program committee never ceases to

amaze our region with the great selection of speakers that cover topics from legal, infection control, disease process, pediatrics and technology all related to GI. Our spring 2012 conference is in full gear! We are pleased to announce that Dr. Patricia Raymond will be our key speaker on April 20-21, 2012.

This spring and summer our region helped provide resources at our local television stations health screening, 9Health Fair, to teach the public about colon cancer screening. We also participated as volunteers in the second annual Undy 5000. For the first time this summer, RMSGNA had an informational booth at the CCFA walk in the Denver City Zoo. We took this time to partner with the CCFA to provide teaching to all that took a break from walking to learn more about Crohn's disease and Ulcerative Colitis.

The highlight of the spring for me was to be honored to represent our region during the House of Delegates during the 38th Annual Course in Indianapolis. I was able to bring comments from our members so all voices were heard from our region.

Even though our year is closing, we are busy with planning for events for 2012! Our elections have been held and next year we are welcoming in a new President-Elect and a new person to our Board as the Education Chair.

If you are interested in following our exploits please feel free to use our Web site at www.rmsgna.org



Connecticut, Region 9

Kathy Vinci, RN CGRN

The Beyond the Scope committee has been hard at work preparing for the conference in a new location at the Mystic Hilton. The Hands on ERCP course will be Friday November 4, 2011 and the Beyond the Scope conference will be Saturday November 5, 2011.

I am proud to announce that Gail Steele, LPN CGN, won the Certified GI Professional of the Year at the ABCGN Awards Banquet. Kathryn Miller, RN

CGRN, became President of ABCGN at the banquet. UConn Medical Center received the Excellence in Professionalism Award. It was the first time a hospital or endoscopy center from Connecticut has won this award.

On May 14, 2011 some CTSGNA members walked for the Crohn's and Colitis walk called Take Steps. We raised \$250 for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation and donated \$600 for a child to attend the Crohn's and Colitis Camp Oasis.

This year is an election year for CTSGNA. The elections will be held in November. We will also be electing three more board members, which is in our bylaws.



Delaware, Region 10

Cheryl Schmidt, BSN RN CGRN

Hello from the Delaware SGNA. We are preparing for our 7th Annual Fall Symposium on October 22, 2011. Hope you will all be able to attend! We are offering 6 contact hours, interesting speakers, appetizing lunch and support from our wonderful vendors. We have always had a great turnout and expect the same this year.

Delaware is reaching out to all our members in the hopes that they become active in our region. We are preparing to go green by sending out our notices electronically, and hopefully our future conference registration, brochure and syllabus will be available on line for the 2012 conference.

Our Web site has recently been updated to make it more user friendly to our members. I would like to thank Wendi McDonough, RN CGRN, and Connie Collins, BSN RN, for their hard work. Please visit us at www.dsgna.org.

I would like to thank Kathy Stranahan, BSN RN CGRN, DSGNA Past President, for her guidance. She made my transition to this position an easy one. It's hard to believe that my first year as President has gone by so fast. I hope to communicate with all our members to find out what is important to them in 2012 and what the DSGNA can do to help them

accomplish their goals toward professional development.



Florida's First Coast, Region 13

Debbie Kierstead, RN CGRN

Region 13 has had its ups and downs with changes in leadership and member attendance at quarterly meetings this past year. But, it looks like we have a strong core group holding it together and working toward a good comeback for the coming year with a little restructuring and recycling.

The current secretary, Brigid Rhoades, RN CGRN, and I have agreed to second terms. We are looking into changing our bylaws to reflect a 2 year commitment for leadership positions. Cindy Holden, RN CGRN, has joined our region and has been a real gift from South Florida. She has agreed to take on the president-elect position effective immediately. Cindy also will manage our regional information on our Florida SGNA Web site.

We continue to have quarterly educational meetings with a CE award. We always try to present something new to share with willing speakers and fantastic vendor support providing great food.

Til the next time!



South Florida, Region 16

Teresita Foliacci, BSN RN CGRN

I am pleased and honored to be serving as regional president for South Florida SGNA, Region 16. We currently have 119 members in our region. The South Florida SGNA Board works hard to assure that our members are getting great learning opportunities. We

will host a total of four regional meetings this year in January, March, October and November. In addition to that, I served as Program Chair for FL SGNA/FGS 35th Annual Joint Meeting, "Illuminating the Future of Endoscopy", held at the The Peabody, Orlando, Florida Sept. 16-18. Our region, along with the other Florida regions, was instrumental in making this event a huge success. A total of 373 nurses attended this weekend course. We were able to offer not only lectures but also the opportunity for nurses to participate in hands-on optional sessions for therapeutic endoscopy.

South Florida SGNA is constantly looking for new members to join our board and bring new and fresh ideas. We make it a point of announcing it at our regional meetings. Also, this year we revamped our quarterly newsletter and renamed it "South Florida SGNA Digest." Region 16 was also instrumental in the development of our new state Web site www.sgnaflorida.org.

This year we were able to award three scholarships to attend the state meeting.

At each of our regional meetings, we give goody bags that include information about SGNA, our Regional Board as well as a membership application for any non-members attending for the first time. South Florida SGNA prides itself in being in a community of educational resources and collaboration between the different facilities to promote quality patient care to our community and our patients. We have also joined in the CCFA walk that took place this spring and had our own team. The success of our region comes from having an outstanding group of professionals that serve as our Board of Directors. It is because of them that South Florida SGNA continues to succeed.



Midwest, Region 22

Jo Sienknecht, RN CGRN

Greetings from the Midwest! The leaves are falling here, football season is in full swing and we have held our fall conference.

We are looking forward to our upcoming elections. Our Board of Directors has openings for divisional chairpersons, treasurer and president-elect. Our new president will take over on January 1 and she will be attending the SGNA Leadership Conference in November. We look forward to her leadership and know that she will do a great job. We are fortunate that we continue to be able to offer our members scholarships for society dues and the SGNA Annual Course.

We are proud to have several of our Midwest SGNA members serve on national committees.

Most of us hope for a mild winter. In the midst of a snowstorm, I am sure that many of us will be looking forward to Phoenix in May. We know the weather will be warm, but more importantly, we know that we will have the chance to connect with colleagues and friends, and to educate ourselves so that we can continue to provide exceptional care to our GI patients.



Maine, Region 26
Linda Gondeck, RN CGRN

Hello from Maine! We are presently working on our fall conference "GI Cornucopia" which will be held on October 22. Our topics include: Colon Cancer: Diagnosis and Management, Celiac Disease Diagnosis and Treatment, Nutritional Management of Celiac Disease and GI Disorders and Emergencies.

Last spring, we had a "Members Only" dinner sponsored by Cook Medical where members received some education, a nice meal and earned a contact hour. We are also working on another "Members Only" dinner for December.

We presently have 58 members. Last spring, we sent letters to people who hadn't renewed their SGNA memberships encouraging them to join. So far we haven't seen an increase in membership.

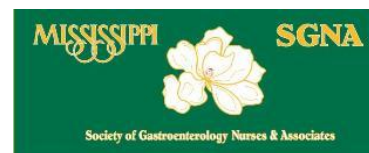


Minnesota, Region 30
Lynn Mueller, BSN RN

MnSGNA, Region 30, has a busy fall schedule. Our fall conference was held at the Northland Inn, in Brooklyn Park, MN. We were able to offer up to 13.5 contact hours with all of them being GI specific. The conference was a great success with over 200 attendees. There were 11 speakers covering topics from infection control to IBD, polyps & how to remove them, pancreatic stents, the prevention of post ERCP Pancreatitis and new developments in colon rectal surgery. All of the speakers were doctors in the GI field of practice. The conference included attendees from Minnesota, Wisconsin and South Dakota. Our fall conference in 2012 will be held in Alexandria, MN.

We also held our elections for 4 positions that will be vacant in 2012. At this point our ballot includes only one person running for each position. It is our goal to get more people involved on our Board & to have more people running for vacant positions.

Our Region 30 is also in the process of planning for our spring course that will be held March 24 in St. Paul, MN. This will be a one day course that will cover GI Emergencies & GI Fundamentals. This will be a very informative course for people that may be new to GI Practice & a review for those already in the profession.



Mississippi, Region 22
Sundra Powell-Bishop, RN CGRN

MSSGNA has been fairly quiet this year, we were hoping to use this time for restructuring but with three worn out board members little has happened. We have managed to keep up our credentialing and remain chartered.

Three board members have kept us going so far. We need a few fresh, dedicated members to take us where we need to go. I know the economy is bad, our jobs are more demanding and things have been rough everywhere, but we will keep MS on the map.

If you are interested in being a MSSGNA member or an active board member, or just need more information please contact me at powbis@bellsouth.net



Central New York, Region 37
Terry Markiewicz, MS RN CGRN

Once again, the weather in the Great Northeast is not being kind to us in Region 37, Central New York! Within 2 weeks, we have felt the effects of an earthquake, tornados and major flooding – twice. Our rivers & streams are way over their banks, and many of our members have been affected. Locks have broken, bridges and roads have been completely washed out and power lines have come down. Homes & businesses that stood for years are just gone. We hear news from some areas that are completely isolated and have had the National Guard airlifting supplies. If you are able to help, please consider doing so. There are many organizations that are taking donations. This area won't be the same for many, many years.

Looking toward a brighter side, we are planning our fall conference for the weekend of November 12. We have speakers lined up to share the newest information with us on Barretts Esophagus, Infection Control, Women & GI Health, and more. We are looking forward to a great program.

Earlier this year we decided to go green, so we won't be handing out any course materials at the program. Our speakers' session information will be online so attendees can print them out or download them ahead of time if they wish.

Several of our members went to Indianapolis for the SGNA Annual Course back in May. It was great! There is so much information to be had; it is difficult to choose which sessions to go to. Networking opportunities abound. And, as always, there are

plenty of food, drinks and good times. Our region is fortunate enough to be able to award scholarships to help members attend; this year, we awarded 3 scholarships.

We hope the fall and coming winter will be gentler with our area!



Western New York, Region 41
Grace Smith, BSN RN CGRN

This year the Board has concentrated on updating our Web site. Our Web site has a new look and so far we have posted information for our upcoming conference along with the names of the board members. We hope to expand and include other information as well. To view our site, go to www.wnysgna.org.

Our region is holding our annual fall conference on Saturday, October 22, 2011. The conference will be held at the Sheraton at the Falls, in Niagara Falls, New York. We are excited with the program agenda as well. Topics will include:

- Probiotics in GI diseases
- Advances in Robotic surgery
- Fecal Incontinence: Diagnosis, Treatment and New Technology
- Updates on Celiac disease
- Fecal transplant: The power of Poop
- Microbes in the Endoscopy Setting: What you need to know

Our application was submitted to SGNA and approved for 6.0 contact hours for this conference.



Eastern North Carolina, Region 42
Catherine Bauer, MBA BSN RN CGRN

It has been an exciting year for the members of the ENCSGNA. Our fall meeting is just around the corner on October 21-22. We are excited to come together one more time to celebrate our 25th anniversary as a region. Duke GI of Raleigh and Duke Raleigh Hospital Endoscopy will be hosting the meeting; we have more than 25 vendors signed up for the event which allows us to continue to be a successful region. What a great accomplishment for our region!

While we are preparing to attend this fall meeting we are also focusing attention on the spring meeting to be hosted by Rocky Mount Regional Hospital on March 17, so put this date into your planner as we will have a great line up of speakers to share information with.



Western North Carolina, Region 43
Diane Bowen, BSN RN CGRN

I hope that everyone is well and ready for the upcoming WNCSGNA Fall Meeting, which will be held on October 8 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, NC. We look forward to a full and interesting program to support our GI practice. After one of the hottest summers on record, it will be nice to have a little cool fall air.

Our Immediate Past President, Debbie Orndorff, RN CGRN, is completing the ballot for 2012 elections. This ballot will be available online and in hard copy format at the meeting.

We had a very successful spring meeting at Forsyth Medical Center on March 25-26, 2011. There were 94 in attendance on Friday night and 165 on Saturday. We enjoyed several lively presentations by Dr. Patricia Raymond, who speaks regularly at

National SGNA meetings. Additionally, there were many other equally interesting topics presented.

Providing up-to-date education for our members, as well as encouraging and maintaining certification, remains one of our primary goals. We have several newly certified staff at our facility, as well as additional registrants for the exam in October. As always, we continue to work hard to increase participation of members and to recruit new members. This may possibly be a greater challenge now than ever before relative to the current economic situation in our country. Nevertheless, it remains important for us as a regional society to provide quality continuing education so that the members and non-members can fulfill individual responsibilities for their continuing education hours.

We have successfully implemented online registration and payment by PayPal. This was first introduced for the March 2011 meeting and appears to be more heavily utilized for the upcoming meeting. We want to make registration for attendees and vendors as easy and painless as possible.

Our President-Elect, Sherrie Andrew, BSN RN CGRN, will be attending the Leadership Conference in Chicago in November. We look forward to a full and exciting 2012 with Sherrie, who has much expertise in the field of GI nursing.

Best wishes to all health and safety to finish out 2011.



Chartered 1985

North Coast Ohio, Region 44
Teresa Rowe, BSN RN CGRN

North Coast Ohio is hosting its 27th Annual Education Course. It will be held at the Executive Caterers at Landerhaven in Mayfield Heights, Ohio on Saturday, November 12. It is an all-day course beginning at 7 am and running until 4 pm. Lunch is provided. Participants will be able to receive 6 GI specific contact hours. There will be 20-25 vendor exhibits to visit. For more information, contact Teresa Rowe 330-287-4717 or rowet1@ccf.org.



Ohio, Region 45
Joan Metze, BS BSN

Hello from Region 45!

It is hard to believe that fall is here. The weather here has been either blistering hot or cool and rainy. Our region at the present time is focusing on our multistate educational offering in October and our regional meeting in March of 2012. We are very focused on providing educational programs to our members.

The other focus at this time is to increase our membership participation in the national elections. Our board is brainstorming ways to reach out to our members and encourage them to take an active role at election time. If any region has any suggestions please contact us through our Web site www.OSGNA.org.



Low Country, Region 49
Jill Benoit, BSN RN CGRN

Greetings from the South Carolina Low Country SGNA!

So far this year in January, we enjoyed a 1 contact hour "Dine and Learn" evening on foreign body removal, sponsored by US Endoscopy. The information about foreign body removal is never a dull subject!

To celebrate GI Nurses and Associates Day we had a fun social gathering in Mt. Pleasant, SC. In attendance were RNs, LPNs, GI Associates, local vendors and their family and friends. It was a fun night to relax and just enjoy meeting new people who work in GI and their families.

We then had our first spring mini conference in April, which provided 4.5 contact hours. Again, this was also provided with the help of our wonderful vendor sponsors, ERBE, Cook Medical, Boston Scientific and Olympus. The subjects were basic, like reviewing Scope reprocessing, electro-surgery/argon plasma safety, to the more advanced subjects of esophageal stricture management and malignant biliary disease.

Our big event of the year is almost here!

On November 4-6, we will have our 3 day South Carolina Low Country SGNA Fall Conference in Myrtle Beach, S.C. This will be held in the beautiful Marriott Grand Dunes Resort on the beach. We are providing 12.5 contact hours and we are hoping all 12.5 will be approved as GI specific. A few of our topics subjects are concerning: Abdominal Pressure, ERCP and Noninvasive Alternatives, GI Medications, Bariatric surgery (GI nurse information), Total Pancreatectomy with Auto Islet Transplant, GI Issues in the Military Setting (many great stories, photos and videos), Esophageal Motility, Esophageal Cancer and last but certainly not least our fabulous friend Conrad Worrell, RN CGRN, will teach us about Fecal Bacteriotherapy!! To see a full brochure and/or registration please go to our Web site: www.sclcsгна.org, (Fax# 843/881-0666). Saturday evening, November 5, we will have some fun out on the huge beach front balcony courtyard with our DJ, Rob Jones (Cook Medical). All are welcome attendees, family and friends. This is a great time to relax, see old friends and make new ones as well!!

I would like to thank our officers and planners for all their hard work this year. What a great group of people to work with: Gerri Drawdy, CST GTS - President Elect/Treasurer; Alida Dempsey, ADN RN CGRN - Secretary; R'celle Boyd, ADN RN - Educational Director; Brenda Capps, LPN GTS - Past President; Emil Bonavente, BSN GTS - Web Master and Tracie Curry - Conference Registration.

Best Wishes to you all for a wonderful safe holiday season and we hope to see you in Myrtle Beach, SC!!!



Mountain West, Region 57
Eileen Canzonetti, MSN NE-BC

Mountain West SGNA is pleased to announce its annual Fall Conference will be held this year in beautiful Park City, Utah on October 29, 2011. Park City is a quick 25 minute drive from downtown Salt Lake City. We have an exciting line up of speakers who are presenting on a wide variety of topics, including Endoscopic Ultrasound and Pancreatic Cancer, HALO procedure and Esophageal Cancer, FAP, Gerd and Asthma, Probiotics and Colon Cancer and the impact on the family and survivors. Our speakers are specialists in gastroenterology and are in demand for lectures nationally and internationally.

This coming March 24, 2012 Mountain West SGNA is sponsoring our 2nd Annual **Buns Up 5K** Road Race in Salt Lake City. Our course this year will be held at the centrally located Liberty Park in downtown Salt Lake City. Our first Buns Up 5K was held last March and was a huge success. Proceeds earned benefited colon cancer screening for the underserved. We are excited about this year's race and planning is now underway.



Pacific Northwest, Region 58
Sheryl Tack, ADN RN CGRN

Hi from the Pacific Northwest! PNWSGNA! Our Fall Conference is Saturday October 15. We will be at the Red Lion Hotel in Bellevue, WA.

All the information is on our Web site, www.pnwsгна.org.

It is a beautiful time of year to visit the Northwest. Come see us!



Heartland, Region 60
Jan Brooks, BSN CGRN

Greetings from Heartland Regional SGNA #60. We have had a busy time since we last shared with you. On September 17, we held our fall conference. We had great attendance, vendor support and wonderful speakers. It was truly an amazing opportunity to catch up with those out of town and to meet new friends as well.

We are in the planning process for our spring conference March 3, 2012. Dr. Patricia Raymond, gastroenterologist from Norfolk, VA, is joining us in Kansas City as our featured speaker. My first contact with Dr. Raymond was at one of our Annual Conferences. When I heard her again, my thought was, Wow, I would love to share Dr. Raymond with others. We are very excited to have her share our day this spring.

A big project that we are working on is to revise, rework and update our HRSNGA Web site. We are working with a local gentleman, Michael Binggeli. Within this work, we are also updating our logo. As we complete this plan, we encourage each of you check out our new symbol. We feel this will better reflect who we are, who we represent and what we want to be in the future.

This year we have continued the tradition of supporting a local women's shelter, Hope House. In addition to collecting personal care items we raffled off a quilt that was designed and made by Debra Fieth, RN CGRN, our Secretary. Way to go Debra!!

We celebrate all of our newly certified GI nurses. Additionally, October should add to our numbers. Many of these persons took advantage of our Review Class that was presented last spring.

We are looking forward to seeing each of you at the Leadership Conference.



Old Dominion, Region 62
Cindy Taylor, BSN MSA RN CGRN

Greetings from Old Dominion! I have enjoyed the past two years as president and think back on the many things the Board and I have accomplished. The Policy and Procedure Manual was updated and submitted to SGNA; the bylaws were reviewed/updated and submitted for approval, 3 major educational events (DelMarVa, Williamsburg Post Graduate Conference, Back to Basics/Beyond Basics) were provided to ODSGNA members every year; and we partnered with Bon Secours Hospital in Richmond Virginia to provide an additional venue for learning. We will continue to make every effort to provide the region with educational events. Our Education committee is growing and plans are to offer educational events in the western part of Virginia in 2012. Going green was on the agenda this past year and we are proud to announce we successfully held the first conference without a paper syllabus. In recognition of ODSGNA's purposes, we are hosting our third Back to Basics workshop this fall, November 5, 2011 in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Please visit www.odsgna.org for meeting registration and brochure.

ODSGNA joined the Colon Cancer Alliance in support of their Run/Walk, the 2nd Annual Washington DC Undy 5000 5K, to fight colon cancer. It's a family friendly "brief" run that promotes awareness about colon cancer and screening for the disease. Last year, 375 people came out to run in their underwear and raised more than \$50,000 to fight colon cancer. Some of the money raised helps fund the Colon Cancer Alliance's national patient support and education programs (www.ccalliance.org), as well as a portion of the funds are left to a local screening partner. ODSGNA supported the event by promoting the [2nd Annual Washington DC Undy 5000](#) to our local members, putting event information on our Web site and in newsletters.

Nominations for president-elect and secretary closed May 31, 2011. Results of the election were announced at the Williamsburg meeting. Congratulations to President-elect Eileen Babb, BSN RN CGRN, and Secretary Susan Mitchell, ADN RN

CGRN. Wishing you much success with your upcoming term of office in 2012.

ODSGNA scholarships were awarded to two members this year to attend the SGNA Annual Course. Congratulations to Eileen Babb and Kristi Seay, RN CGRN. A brief essay of their experiences at the Annual Course can be found on www.odsgna.com.

ODSGNA would like to recognize the following people for obtaining their certification in gastroenterology (CGRN): Lena Morrison, DIPL RN CGRN, Chantelle Lands, BSN MSN RN CGRN, Geri Ann Nash, RN CGRN, Lynn Pierce, BSN RN CGRN, Caroline Strecker, BSN RN CGRN, Diane Topscher, BSN RN CGRN, Pam Williamson, BSN RN CGRN, Tonora Garbutt, BSN RN CGRN, Tara Campbell, BSN RN CGRN and Sandra Collins, RN CGRN. This certification validates and demonstrates your professional aspiration and desire to improve the quality of patient care and delivery of services to patients. Congratulations!

As my term as President soon draws to a close I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their support and efforts in coordinating the many educational events for our region over the past two years. Your accomplishments are commended and appreciated by me and ODSGNA members. I will soon turn ODSGNA leadership over to the upcoming 2012 President, Lorrie Brickner, RN CGRN, wishing her continued success and support in providing benefits of regional and national membership to SGNA members.

***Encourage Members in Your
Region to Apply for the SGNA
Nurse Fellowship!***

SGNA is currently seeking individual applications to participate in the [SGNA Nurse Fellowship Program](#). This new program, originally announced during the 38th Annual Course in Indianapolis, will educate and train GI/endoscopy nurses on evidence-based research.

This exclusive opportunity, available only to SGNA members, includes a three-year commitment. Eight to ten nurse fellows will be selected for the inaugural 2012 class to receive in-person training using curriculum under development by SGNA and the

TCU Center for Evidence-based Practice and Research: A Collaborating Center of the Joanna Briggs Institute. SGNA will fund all training and related expenses for the nurse fellows. [Click here to access an application and complete by October 31, 2011.](#) [Click here](#) to go online to learn more today.

Regional Leadership Webinar Series

In 2011, SGNA started offering quarterly webinars designed for our regional leaders that are generously supported by Mediators. These webinars are intended to be another outreach to our regional leaders that provide resources and tools to help you manage a successful regional society!

The Quarter 4 webinar will be announced in the next few weeks so please check your e-mail inbox or the [Regional Officers page](#) for more details. To view the Quarter 3 webinar please visit the archived webinars [here](#). Please note, archived webinars do not provide contact hours. If you have questions or ideas for future webinars please e-mail SGNA at sgna@smithbucklin.com

Call for Volunteers 2012

This is your chance to expand your circle of contacts, develop professionally and give back to the industry. SGNA is calling all members interested in serving on committees for 2012.

If you are interested in volunteering with the Society, complete the [SGNA Future Involvement/Willingness to Serve Form](#) or update your volunteer preferences in the "[My SGNA Profile](#)" area of the [Member Center](#). Send your form to Headquarters by November 15, 2011.

Contact Headquarters at sgna@smithbucklin.com with any questions.

HOD Resolution Reminder

Don't forget to submit your 2012 House of Delegates Resolutions by January 1, 2012 to ensure your resolution is included at the 2012 HOD Meeting at the SGNA 39th Annual Course, May 18-23 in

Phoenix, AZ. Visit the House of Delegates Resource page for a Resolution Submission Form.

HOD Call for Vice-Speaker

Are you interested in pursuing a leadership role within SGNA? If so, 2012 will be an election year for the SGNA House of Delegates Vice-Speaker! The House of Delegates occurs each year at the SGNA Annual Course and is a forum for regional delegates and alternates to present their ideas (in the form of a resolution) to the membership. The Vice-Speaker election will occur at the First House of Delegates meeting on Friday, May 18 at 3:00 pm.

Vice-Speaker responsibilities:

1. Is familiar with parliamentary procedure according to the House of Delegates Standing Rules and the most current version of Robert's Rules of Order.
2. Assists House Speaker in the development of goals and objectives that are consistent with the mission of SGNA.
3. Serves as a resource person for Regionals in developing resolutions and understands the role of the delegate and alternate.
4. Will automatically assume the role of speaker after completing the Vice-Speaker term.

The Vice-Speaker of the House of Delegates must meet the following criteria:

1. Candidates must be a current SGNA member in good standing and have been a member for at least 4 years.
2. Candidates must have previous experience as a Delegate in the House within the last 2 years.
3. Candidates are not eligible if they have previously served on the SGNA Board of Directors.
4. Candidates can nominate themselves or be nominated by other members.
5. Candidates must complete a biographical sheet and this must be submitted to the Speaker prior to the annual meeting.

If you are interested in running for this position please review the criteria above and contact Mollie

Corbett at 800/245-7462 or
mcorbett@smithbucklin.com.

Share Top Speakers from your Regional Event

Have you seen or heard of an engaging or dynamic speaker? Would their topic be applicable for the SGNA Annual Course? SGNA Headquarters encourages you to share any top speakers you've seen to potentially have them present at an upcoming Annual Course. The SGNA Program Committee values your input and is open to a wide variety of presentation topics. Specifically the Program Committee looks for the following qualities in a speaker:

- Is a recognized leader in their topic area
- Currently practices in focused topic area that he/she is being requested to speak on
- Has prior speaking experience on a national or regional level
- Has published articles, books, book chapters, etc. on the topic being requested
- Has conducted or participated in a research study related to the topic

Please visit the [Speaker Suggestion Page](#) to submit any speaker suggestions throughout the year. If you have any questions please direct them to Christina Kowalski at ckowalski@smithbucklin.com.

Do you know your Divisional Coordinator (DC)?

The Regional Societies Committee is made up of members who have served as Regional Officers and have dealt with situations that occur at the regional level. Their role as a DC is to:

1. Enhance and maintain the flow of communication between all SGNA Regional Societies and SGNA National.
2. Support ongoing growth and activities of Regional Societies.
3. Monitor and support new Regional Society information.
4. Monitor regional compliance with requirements for charter maintenance.

The main way your DC communicates with you is through their Quarterly Check-in. Each quarter the DC has a list of questions and reminders for the

regional president and president-elect to help ensure they are aware of upcoming events and deadlines. This is also meant to serve as a time where the region can ask any questions they have regarding national issues or anything pertaining to how their region is functioning. This is a very informal communication but is vital to regional growth. Please do not ignore the efforts of your DC as this is the main communication between the regional and national level.

Shelley Riddle, BA MBA LPN CGN, Chair

E-mail: riddsj@aol.com

Regions: 4, 8, 19, 22, 32, 46, 60, 61

Tanya Flake, BSN CGRN, Co-Chair

E-mail: Tanya.flake@providencehospitals.com

Regions: 11, 12, 27, 42, 43, 48, 49, 50

Vanessa Brunson, ADN RN CGRN

E-mail: vlbrunson@hotmail.com

Regions: 26, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 54, 63

Felecia Binns, RN CGRN

E-mail: felecia.binns@dekalbmedical.org

Regions: 17, 21, 29, 30, 31, 44, 45, 68

Debbie Luteran, RN CGRN

E-mail: jluter@aol.com

Regions: 2, 6, 9, 10, 28, 35, 36, 67

Robin Novak, ADN RN

E-mail: tqmnurse@charter.net

Regions: 13, 14, 16, 18, 23, 25, 57, 69

Cheryl Phillips, ADN RN CGRN

E-mail: lastof4@cox.net

Regions: 3, 7, 33, 51, 52, 53, 58, 66

Megan White, BSN RN

E-mail: meganw3202@aol.com

Regions: 5, 20, 47, 55, 56, 59, 62, 64

SGNA Headquarter Resources

Are you planning an upcoming regional meeting and want to showcase all SGNA has to offer? If you are in need of membership brochures, publications catalogs and other promotional materials please contact SGNA Headquarters. We are happy to provide you information on SGNA!

SGNA Regional Society Member of the Year Award

Do you know someone in your region that has done an outstanding job in their SGNA regional role? If so, consider nominating them for the SGNA Regional Society Member of the Year Award. This award recognizes the Regional Society member that has made a substantial positive impact in your region. Applicants must be a member of SGNA for at least five years and are currently employed in the field of GI/endoscopy. Recipients of this award receive free Annual Course registration, airfare, three night-hotel stay and an award presented at the Annual Course. The deadline to nominate is November 30, 2011. Visit [SGNA Awards and Scholarships page](#) for the nomination form.

Outstanding Regional Society Award

This award recognizes the Regional Society most active and dynamic in achieving the goals of SGNA at the regional level. The Outstanding Regional Society will be highlighted in *SGNA News*, recognized at the Annual Course at which the award is presented, and will receive a banner and a \$1,000 stipend. The deadline to apply is January 15, 2012.

Visit the [SGNA Awards and Scholarships](#) site for more information on these awards.

SGNA Dates and Deadlines



November 30, 2011– Regional Society Member of the Year Nomination Deadline

December 31, 2011 – Round One Rechartering Information Due to SGNA Headquarters (Data Sheet)

January 1, 2012 – 2011 House of Delegates Resolution Deadline

January 16, 2012 – Outstanding Regional Society Application Deadline

February 3, 2012 – Round Two Rechartering Information Due to SGNA Headquarters (Income & Expense Report)

March 1, 2012 – 2012 Regional Insurance Due to SGNA Headquarters

May 18 – 23, 2012 - 39th Annual Course, Phoenix, AZ