



Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, Inc.

Regional Presidents' Memo

A newsletter for SGNA Regional Society Presidents, Delegates and Alternates

A Message from the SGNA Board

Rebecca Chandler, BSN RN CGRN
Director of Regional Societies

“SGNA & YOU: The POWER to Make a Difference”....Wow! What an exciting, motivating Leadership Conference we had in Chicago. As we learned, the theme implies that responsibility lies within you; the power lies within you; it all begins with you. I hope that you will pull from your inner resources and feel empowered to make a difference. A few key highlights of the conference included the networking lunch where we were able to discuss some “hot topic” issues and the increased time for the breakout sessions which was a direct result from last year’s conference evaluations. Sandy inspired us all while Mary Beth enlightened us in governance and how to develop our boards to become progressive. The development of leadership skills deals with change, growth and a desire to see something improve. By mentoring leaders, we assure that our future continues to grow and our regions stay strong. The results of emphasizing leadership cause our organization to flourish from the regional to the national level.

The Divisional Coordinators and I had the pleasure of meeting of you and it was nice to put faces with names. This was a little different from the phone calls or emails you have been getting throughout the year. Last year, the coordinators set a new standard of making quarterly phone calls or emails to regional presidents and this year, as they continue to keep the lines of communication open between

you and the Board of Directors (BOD). The information you supply will ultimately come back to the BOD, so please engage in communication opportunities to voice your ideas, interests and concerns. This kind of communication will continue to take place quarterly.

In looking ahead to the 35th Annual Course in Salt Lake City, Utah, the Regional Society Committee is making preparations for Regional Night. Over the past few years, we have tried to make the focus of “Regional Night” more about education and this year, we want to take that to the next level. We really want to know what educational emphasis your region has and give you the opportunity to share your successes with other SGNA regions. If you have *fun ideas* of ways to encourage this atmosphere, please share this with your divisional coordinators.

On behalf of myself as Regional Societies Director, Barb Darby, Regional Societies Committee Chair, the Divisional Coordinators, the SGNA Leadership and Headquarters Staff, we *thank you* for everything you do for the members of your Regional Societies throughout the United States. **You make a tremendous difference! You are the POWER of SGNA!**

“Leaders think about, create, and inspire others to act upon dreams, missions, strategic intent, and purpose.”(nacmnet.org) I hope that you are challenged to think about things and **How You Will Make A Difference.**



Arizona Region, Region 3

Carol Kirkby, BSN RN

The Board of Directors for the Arizona Region of SGNA is dedicated to providing educational opportunities for our nurses and associates. We are also committed to providing education to our community regarding colon cancer awareness.

Our Fall conference at the Arizona Biltmore Resort provided 6 contact hours for our attendees. A representative from the Arizona Department of Health discussed the distribution of \$15 million dollars for cancer research which was generated from the Arizona cigarette tax. The ASGNA will receive proceeds from this tax incentive which will be used to support education for colon cancer screening.

This Spring, the ASGNA will participate in the Women's Health Expo at the University of Phoenix stadium. We have arranged for the SUPER COLON to be part of our presentation and will be sponsored in-part by this cigarette tax.

The board is dedicated to providing quarterly educational in-services and routinely provides raffles for SGNA membership fees and conference fees.

The ASGNA board strives to meet the educational needs of our members.



Arkansas, Region 4

June Milliken, RN CGRN

Our region just completed our 25th Annual Fall Conference. The conference was held at Embassy Suites in Rogers, Arkansas and was attended by 78 participants. Our educational conference went along with this year's Annual Course theme. Ours was "Charting a Course to Make a Difference" and we hope we have made a difference in SGNA and cancer screening awareness! The conference included speakers on Applying Abdominal Pressure, CJD, EUS, Patient Safety Goals, IBS and Colorectal Cancer!

My goal, as well as that of the board, this year was to increase our membership and provide educational opportunities. This has been accomplished across our state by local regional meetings throughout the year. We gave away three memberships through drawings at these meetings across the state at the beginning of the year. We have successfully increased our membership and have four additional volunteers to serve as board members next year!

The Arkansas SGNA sent our 2008 President, Rose Dixon and President-Elect, Sue Jackson, to the Fall Leadership Conference in Chicago. We hope to have several attend the Annual Course in Salt Lake City in 2008 as well.



Southern California, Region 7

Cathy Dye, RN CGRN

Southern California's SGNA region continues its mission of education and promotion of certification. Our Fall conference was on October 20th, in Agoura, CA. Subjects included double balloon enteroscopy, infection control, electrocautery and defibrillators/pacemakers, CO2 monitoring and celiac disease. Our vendors continue to give us outstanding support. We had about 30 attendees at the conference.

We also hosted the ABCGN certification exam at this conference. Southern California SGNA has committed to our members to host the exam every Fall at our conferences. This way our members can always count on a local venue annually. We also give out several scholarships yearly to both national certification and our local seminars.

Our Spring 2008 conference is in the planning stages right now. It will be located at Cedars Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles.



Rocky Mountain, Region 8

Dorie Werner, RN BS CGRN

The Mountains are “Rockin” with excitement as the RMSGNA has brought home another “Outstanding Regional Society of the Year”

banner from SGNA. Rocky Mountain SGNA is the only region in recent history that has won Outstanding Regional Society 3 times; the others were in 1995 and 2002. We “Charted our Course,” set our goals, set our sails, and won the race...“Outstanding Regional Society of the Year,” as well as the Champions of the First Annual Quiz Bowl for Research.

Rocky Mountain SGNA Region 08

(RMSGNA), chartered in 1978, covers a large geographic area, including all of Colorado, parts of Wyoming, and also has members from South Dakota, Arizona, and Nebraska. Currently, we have 144 members. RMSGNA is a very active chapter, not only at the regional level, but also at the national level: with four past presidents, as well as numerous national committee members, board of directors’ members, faculty at national meetings and poster presenters. We are also the home region of recipients of numerous SGNA awards, and have been the host of national sponsored courses and ABCGN (formerly CBGNA) exams. The RMSGNA membership had the highest percentage of votes of all the regions for the SGNA National directors and committees vote in 2006! At the local level, RMSGNA is active in supporting community programs including the statewide annual Health Fair and CCFA, as well as involvement with the Colorado Federation of Nursing Organizations, a legislative body. RMSGNA is a financially stable region and gives back to its membership in scholarships for education, certification, recertification and memberships (new and renewal) to a total of \$6,820 in 2006. We also sponsor a region to attend the annual Leadership Conference. We sponsor two educational conferences a year, Spring and Fall, have an outstanding web site (www.rmsgna.org), and our newsletter “Gut Reaction” is published biannually.

RMSGNA always has the mindset of doing and having the characteristics of an “Outstanding Regional Society.” However, when reviewing the application, the RMSGNA Board of

Directors decided to go through the motions and complete the application for the activities completed in 2006, knowing that we did not have enough of the requirements to achieve the award. We did realize what additional criteria/activities that we would need to get involved in during 2007 so we could earn this prestigious award next year. So, you can imagine how surprised we were when the veil covering the banner was dropped during Sunday's Opening Ceremony in Baltimore and our region's name was so magnificently displayed! So, the tip on how to attain the "Outstanding Regional Society" status is: constantly review the application, and be actively participating in all the categories listed!!

We had a successful Fall Conference on October 19 & 20 (the weekend prior to the Fall Leadership Conference). This year's theme was "Reaching the *PEAKS* of GI Knowledge...our Rocky Mountain High". We had a great turn out with approximately 150 attendees, 35 vendors and 7.5 CE's. All of the attendees proudly wore ribbons that said "Outstanding Regional Society" and "Research Quiz Bowl Champion." Denver was also a host site for the ABCGN certification exam on October 21.

The membership continues to be the spirit of RMSGNA, continually displaying their professionalism and passion for GI nursing. Region 08 will remain on our "Rocky Mountain High" (official state song for CO, written by the late John Denver) throughout the rest of the year.



Delaware, Region 10

Melinda A Huffman, MSN RN CGRN

Delaware has been experiencing growing pains the first half of 2007. We designed a new logo and launched a brand new website.

My main goal as President of Delaware, Region 10, was to bring the region's technological capabilities to the present. When we leaped from the past to the present we wanted to preserve the cultural feel of the eastern shore of Delaware-Maryland (Region 10). The new logo represents Delaware's state bird the Blue Hen Chicken and Maryland's state flower the Black Eyed Susan. The farm scenes at the top of the website depict the countryside and charm of the "Eastern Shore."

The website allows my second goal of better communication to be accomplished. Delaware's Online Bi-Monthly Newsletter was published in July 2007. There is a great education section, educational links and each member has a contact link. A photo gallery and a communication board are currently being developed.

My third goal was to connect the top with the bottom of the region for the board meetings. In September we held our first video conference meeting. There were two sites that members attended (Seaford and Christiana), one at the top of the region and one at the bottom. This made the meetings within a maximum of a one-hour drive for anyone in the state. The two hospital centers we used have the latest in video technology and this allowed us to see each other and converse as though we were all in one big room.

Education and certification remains high in Delaware's priorities for the region. Delaware's Fall Education Day was held at Dover Downs Convention Center, Dover, Delaware on November 3rd.

Delaware is also working hard on planning a Multi-Regional Educational weekend with the Chesapeake and Old Dominion regions for April 2008 in Chantilly, Virginia. Several members studied hard and took the certification exam in October.

I hope this gives you a brief insight into how busy Delaware currently is.

Florida Gulf Coast



**Society of Gastroenterology
Nurses and Associates**

Florida's Gulf Coast, Region 12

Jane Diezi, RNC

We are excited to have successfully offered our 2nd Educational Symposium which was held Saturday, November 3rd at Health Park Medical Center, Ft. Myers, Florida. We were limited on space and could only allot for 50 registrants. We were able to provide 6 CEU's for the day. Some of our speakers included Carol Stevens, BSN RN CGRN, SGNA Immediate Past President and Cathy Robinson Pickett, who spoke on HIV/AIDS and nurse endoscopy. What a tremendous group to speak to such an enthusiastic audience!

We will be planning our election of new officers for December and have been blessed with new candidates willing to take the plunge!

Our region also sponsored the ABCGN Certification Exam which was held on October

21st in Ft. Myers, Florida and we are very proud to have members who sat for the exam. I have enjoyed my time as President and look forward to mentoring the new President-Elect in January 2008.



Greater Orlando, Region 14

Chris Jacobs, CGRN

Region 14, Greater Orlando SGNA wants to say hi to everyone and again invite you all to come visit us in Mickey Mouse's "backyard" here in Florida. The days will be getting shorter and all of you up north, I am sure, will be getting colder.

We have just completed our 31st Annual State Multi-Regional meeting in Orlando this year with over 400 nurses in what is reportedly one of the best programs to date. We experimented with a CD syllabus and mini paper syllabus this year that turned out to be very successful according to all of the reviews. We are very proud of our meeting and the joint efforts of the other four regions to come up with the best program and accommodations we can have each and every time.

Our region has successfully recruited several new members this year by having random drawings at our regional meeting nights for an annual SGNA membership. This has been received very well by all the members and attendees. We also have door prizes at each meeting to keep interest up. All in all our meetings are well attended and the food is super!

So as the Greater Orlando region wraps up another year we are already looking forward to our regions' "Spring Into Endo," March 15th at Cape Canaveral Hospital.



South Florida, Region 16

Rey G. Hondrade, RN BS CGRN

A warm HELLO from the Sunshine State!

In one of our local educational meetings that we held last August, we followed the example set by our Immediate Past President, Carol Stevens, BSN RN CGRN when we did our leadership training in Chicago last October 2006. When the participants were registering for the event, the local president and the board members came very early that day and became the reception committee, welcoming each individual and conveying how much we appreciate their presence and support for our local chapter. Being “social butterflies” paid off.

During the business meeting, we did something different aside from the usual announcement of upcoming events, thanking the organizers and the sponsors of the event, etc. We gathered giveaways from our partnering vendors and hospitals. These materials were given away to participants as prizes. We gave coffee mugs to those who woke up that morning and said to themselves that there was no way, he/she will get up, drive to the event site and sit there for 4 hours after working over 50-60 hours that past week. It woke up a lot of sleepy nurses without even drinking coffee. We gave little calculators to people who came from the farthest distance, north and south of the event site. We gave patient educational materials to all new members for the past six months and made sure they received the warmest welcome. We gave little gifts to the nurses who recruited these new members and those who recently passed or are studying for the certification exam. This pumped up the overall ambiance of the educational meeting. We did not only learn

something new that day, we even enjoyed the time spent on a Saturday morning away from our families and downplayed the guilt that goes with it.

On the second weekend of September, Florida’s five regions held our state meeting in Orlando, Florida (Mickey Mouse estate) in conjunction with the Florida Gastroenterological Society (FGS). It was a huge success with 401 nurses/technicians and 170 gastroenterologists. Although we host this meeting every year with the president and president elects of the five Florida regions as the organizing committee, we learned a lot this year. We established a policy of inclusion. We cultivated a better relationship with the organizers of the FGS. The nurses gained a substantial voice in sharing the resources of the host hotel (we got a larger registration booth this year compared to the previous years) and determined the future sites for the event. The nurses also made sure that we met with the president of FGS for the pre-event conference. For the first time all the presidents and president- elects were present along with the program and registration chairpersons for each region. Much to our surprise, the FSG president brought his whole roster of officers too. It made each committee member feel extremely valuable. The lessons learned were so important as we take on different responsibilities for the years to come.

During the process of planning, everyone on the organizing committee was informed of the successes and challenges of other committees. Opinions were solicited. Each one had a voice in the overall decision. We definitely consider each other good friends as well as colleagues after this experience.

Our keynote speaker for this Multi-Regional meeting was also SGNA Immediate Past President, Carol Stevens, BSN RN CGRN. She instilled in each of us that we are leaders no matter what we are doing or where we are. We also came out of the room believing that if she

could be president of SGNA National despite what she went through in her personal life, anyone of us can persevere. "That was priceless, even Visa cannot pay for it."

The lessons I have learned by being in this role as president and part of a board of directors that does not hesitate to make things happen is the key to why I enjoyed every minute of it. I believe we make a difference. Let us continue to bring out the best in people we represent!



Hawaii, Region 18

Bobi Lee, RN CGRN

Aloha from Hawaii, the 50th state. GI certification is what our focus is all about this year. Proud to be GI professionals, we continue to challenge ourselves by becoming GI certified, or maintaining our GI certification. The Hawaii SGNA region #18 recently hosted the SGNA Doris Barrie Certification Review Course. We had a great turnout with more than thirty in attendance. Margaret Coffey, MSN BSN RN CGRN BC and Cathy Dykes, MS RN CCRC CGRN were fantastic speakers! Over the course of two days, they shared valuable knowledge to help attendees at the course review for the upcoming certification exam. Oahu, Hawaii was also fortunate to be one of the GI Certification exam sites on October 21st 2007. It's all about being the best we can be in our profession.



Indiana Region 21

Suzanne Buchanan, RN BSN CGRN

This is probably my final regional President's memo; I wonder where the time has gone. As I look back on my reign as a leader, I can see that our region has offered some great educational opportunities to the GI nurse population in and around Indiana.

With the advent of Magnet awards being sought by more and more hospitals, our registration numbers have increased. Contact hour certificates are one of the best ways to show that education has taken place. Our Spring and Fall Conferences were held in Indianapolis this year. This central location has drawn a larger crowd. Our Spring 2008 Conference will be held in Ft. Wayne and our Fall 2008 Conference will be held in Evansville. I would like to personally thank all of the wonderful people who donate their time and talents to provide these great conferences. Indiana was also on the planning committee for the Multi-Regional Conference that was held in Kalamazoo, Michigan on October 19-21, 2007.

Our region is in the process of increasing our member participation at the board level. I was very happy to see several people stay after our last conference that are interested in volunteering their time for such a worthy cause. I can personally attest to the fact that being involved with the INSGNA has many rewards. It has not only earned me some much needed education, but it has introduced me to many new friends all over the state of Indiana as well as the Multi-Regional area.



Gateway, Region 32

Laurie Wallace, RN

In the Spring of this year, GSGNA partnered with Unitas Medical to present live ERCP & EUS cases for our Spring Educational Program. Attendees were able to observe the procedures via live video broadcast. We were able to see fluro, EUS, as well as the physicians performing the procedure. Two nurse moderators assisted with communicating questions to the physicians. This event was well attended and received very positive feedback. Some in attendance had not had much experience with these types of procedures. We are currently working with Heartland SGNA to offer more live presentations for both regions' Spring 2008 educational programs. Providing this type of activity involves audio/visual broadcasting from the hospital where the procedures are being performed to the auditorium housing the educational program. In Spring 2008, the procedures will be broadcast to St. Louis and Kansas City. It can be a very costly event. We are soliciting assistance from various vendors to help absorb the cost. The ultimate goal is to be able to provide the same type of presentation at the Annual Course in St. Louis in 2009.



Eastern North Carolina, Region 42

Joyce Epps, BSN RN CGRN

Wow! It has been an exciting year. We now have 145 members in our region. We had our Fall Conference Oct 19 -20, "***Know Guts Know Glory.***" Our Friday night speaker was Dr. Arif Nawaz who spoke on "***Doing More with Less- Endoscopy in the Third World.***" Saturday's

education sessions were filled with information for those new to GI as well as those with years of experience. We also hosted a certification site in Greenville, N.C. on Sunday, October 21st.

We are striving to continue to increase membership and educational opportunities for our members. This past year our region funded 18 educational scholarships for our members. We want to continue this trend. At our Fall Conference we granted 5 new members and 5 current members half memberships by drawing from the names of those who attended our conference.

This year we will be electing a Secretary/Treasurer for the next 2 years along with our newly elected President. I can say it has truly been an honor to serve our region as President for 2006-2007. The opportunity to meet and network with GI professionals across ENC and the USA has been a dream come true. I have grown both professionally and personally through these experiences which I will continue to cherish. Thanks to everyone!



Western North Carolina, Region 43

Margaret Arp, RN CGRN

WNCSGNA celebrated their 25th anniversary at the end of September with a party and conference on September 28 and 29 in Ashville, NC! Congratulations WNCSGNA!



North Coast Ohio, Region 44

James Collins, BS RN CNOR

North Coast Ohio SGNA has returned to full stride after enjoying their summer holiday. We started our second half of our educational calendar by hosting a very successful "Train the Trainer" course in August which attracted participants from four neighboring states. These educational sessions are always a great opportunity to network and benchmark with colleagues and realize that we truly are all more or less, facing similar situations in our practice. Also, in our plans was a site for the ABCGN Examination in October to round out the programs held at our Annual Fall Course. This full day event gathered over 225 attendees as well as over 20 vendors. In the recruitment of fresh talent to serve on the Board, we have been rather successful by introducing new officers to the service as committee members and Board appointed positions. After they have become comfortable with the structure and operation of the Board, we nurture them onward to offices of additional responsibility.



Ohio, Region 45

Kim McNary, BSN RN CGRN

In 2008 Ohio SGNA will be celebrating its 30th year! Our annual Spring Regional Educational Conference will be offered for \$30.00 to ALL OSGNA MEMBERS. The Board has been

preparing for this exciting event for four years. We have begun advertising this reduced conference price in our Newsletter, and hope to increase our membership. Our Newsletter will also be featuring articles about our "Founding Mothers" and the history of Region 45. We also are planning a walk to raise money for colon cancer research. The colossal colon will be in town for that event. Those plans are currently in the beginning stages. We also are planning on hosting an ABCGN Certification exam in the fall of 2008.

Our 15th annual Multi State Conference was held in Kalamazoo, Michigan, October 19-21, 2007. Working with other regions provided great networking opportunities.



Carolina, Region 48

Robin Novak, ADN RN

CSGNA has had a busy Fall as we co-hosted with Low Country SGNA a full day education course. This year we hosted an awesome course in Charleston, SC on October 6th, 2007. We were able to provide 1.5 continuing education hours on October 5th, 2007 that highlighted a hands-on event covering ancillary endoscopic equipment. It was a great place to host an event that encompassed an entire weekend full of great activities (think sun, sand, historic culture and education!)



Low Country, Region 49

Brenda Capps, LPN GTS

Hello from LCSGNA. Just wanted to share a few things that are going on in the Low Country. We successfully held our Fall Conference on Oct. 5-6, 2007 with CSGNA. We hold this conference every year with CSGNA and it has been held in Columbia, SC for the past 2 years. It was filled with lots of excellent speakers who shared great information regarding our areas of expertise.

We in the Low Country are in a rebuilding state. I am being mentored by my fellow officers as I work toward completing this year and lead our region to bigger and better things for 2008. My goals for 2008:

1. To create a Web site for us to share upcoming events, news, pictures and any other information needed to assist with rebuilding LCSGNA.
2. To visit each of the hospitals in the boundary of the Low Country region and personally talk with each one to obtain some feedback regarding their participation and to know what I can do for them as their president and what they expect from me.
3. I have begun to create a position in our society for an Educator. This role will be to work closely with me to hold in-services for individuals to attend. This role would also help everyone gain more knowledge and also for those that are certified to be able to obtain their CEU's for recertification.
4. I am constantly looking for ways to encourage new members and I think by offering the CEU's and providing a meal that people will attend. We have also decided to hold our educational sessions out of a hospital setting. Thank you in advance for any help during our rebuilding. I feel strong about our society and

what it can offer; networking will only allow us to offer even more.



Tennessee, Region 50

Cindy Hite, RN CGRN

The Tennessee region just held our Fall Education Course at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Franklin, Tennessee. Our course began on Friday, October 19th with a CEU program and reception generously sponsored by Boston Scientific. On Saturday, October 20th, our program continued with opportunities for CEU's and time with vendors. Sunday, October 21st offered CEU opportunities for members not taking the certification exam.

Our course offered a total of 13.7 CEU's for the three day course as well as the opportunity to meet and network with peers.



North Texas, Region 55

Shari Mirzaei, RN BSN

WOW, NTSGNA had a great year. We offered more education hours and meetings than ever before. The leadership did an awesome job organizing many events. One of our highlights was a 4 day event at the fabulous Gaylord Resort over Texas this summer. This event included hosting the two day SGNA Doris Barnie Certification Review Course (14 contact hours) and a day & half (9.5 contact hour) education seminar. Nationally known speakers such as Theresa Vos, MS BSN RN CGRN, Cathy Dykes, MS RN CCRC CGRN, Susan Potter, MSN/MBA-HCM, RN CGRN and

Kathy Bean, PhD RN CGRN APRN BC, along with others gave great presentations to our group.

The event went so well, we have decided to host next year's Annual Conference at the Gaylord Resort again. So, ya'll come on down and visit us next year.

NORTH TEXAS SGNA would like to gratefully acknowledge all the vendors for their generous support in 2007.

We are excited to announce our new regional website

www.sgnaregions.org/northtx/default.htm.



Wisconsin, Region 59

Chris Bauer, BSN RN

The Wisconsin chapter of the SGNA was busy this Fall getting nominations for our elections. We sent members of the board to the SGNA Leadership Conference that was held in Chicago, Illinois.

We were also actively involved with our Multi-Regional Conference with 4 other states bordering Wisconsin that was held in Kalamazoo, MI on Oct. 19-21, 2007. These Multi-Regional conferences for our region are always well attended and fun. It is a mini-version of a National Conference for two and one-half days and is always a very educational event.

We are very proud of our website and encourage anyone to visit it at www.wsgna.org.

SGNA Regional Society Committee

The Regional Society Committee is made up of members who have served as Regional Officers and have dealt with situations similar to what you are facing. If you have a program or organizational question, or just want to brainstorm with someone who has been there, contact your Divisional Coordinator listed below. Most importantly, if you are having problems, remember that we are here to help so please do not hesitate to contact us.

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Attention ALL Delegates and Alternates!

Does your region have a new idea they would like to present to the SGNA membership? Have your region's voice be heard by submitting a resolution for the 2008 House of Delegates. Just download the *2008 Resolution Submission Form* at www.sgna.org/resources/regions_resources.cfm and return to SGNA Headquarters by January 1, 2008 to be considered for the 2008 House of Delegates in Salt Lake City! If you need more information please contact Kristin Dee at SGNA Headquarters at 800-245-7462 or email at kdee@smithbucklin.com.

Planning to take the ABCGN Certification Exam in May 2008?

SGNA will be offering the SGNA Doris Barnie Certification Review in March 2008 in Chicago, IL to help you prepare for the exam. This two day course will cover the following topics:

1. How to Study
2. Historical Perspective
3. Gastroenterology Nurse and Associate
4. Standards for Practice
5. Performance Improvement
6. Anatomy, Physiology, Pathophysiology
7. Pharmacology
8. Moderate Sedation
9. Endoscopy Principles
10. Nursing Process, Assessment and Physical Examination
11. GI Bleeding, Emergencies and Complications
12. GI Infectious Disease
13. Infection Control
14. Motility and Manometry
15. Non-endoscopic Procedures
16. Occupational Hazards
17. Principles of Research
18. How to Take a Test

The exact date is still being determined. Please check the SGNA website at https://www.sgna.org/Education/cert_review.cfm in December 2007 for further information.

This course will be offered again in August 2008 in Denver, CO to help those preparing for the October 2008 exam.

SGNA Employment Network

Job seekers and candidate seekers alike can find everything they need for their ideal work atmosphere on SGNA's employment network <http://www.sgna.org/resources/index.cfm>. Log on using your SGNA login and password to discover the wealth of open positions for job seekers and available healthcare professionals for employers. Openings and resumes in GI/Endoscopy are updated regularly. There's no better place to find exactly what you're looking for: the ideal job or the perfect fit for your staff.

Share the Wealth: Member Get a Member Campaign

You play an important role in this on-going campaign by simply communicating with your region, friends and colleagues about the wealth of benefits offered through SGNA membership. For each new member you recruit, your name will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win one of a variety of prizes, ranging from \$599 in airline travel, complementary Annual Course registration and SGNA gift certificates. The more new members you recruit, the more chances you have to win, so refer a new member today!



ABCGN Update

ABCGN would like to thank the SGNA Regional Societies who contribute so much to promote certification. Through general marketing, encouragement of members to get certified, offering scholarships for certification and recertification, and offering test sites in conjunction with your regional conferences, your contributions have significantly contributed to ABCGN's success and continued growth.

ABCGN has many ways to help regions in their continued promotion of certification. First and foremost, submit your region to be considered as a Fall Test Site or offer as a Special Test Site. Both applications are available online at www.abcgn.org or by contacting ABCGN at 800-245-7462 (option #3) or emailing info@abcgn.org. Note that ABCGN does not profit from the Special Test Site fee (\$1,000), but that this is a pass through cost from our

exam company. Secondly, there is a lot of information available online for regions to put out during your conference including the Certification and Recertification Handbooks, FAQs, and Award/Scholarship Applications. Lastly, ABCGN continues to promote certification through our membership with ABNS (American Board of Nursing Specialties) and published articles (available online at www.abcgn.org).

Finally, as you all know, GI-specific contact hours are very valuable and necessary for recertification. A large portion of recertification contact hours are earned through the chapters by certificants. If you submit your CE program through the SGNA for approval it is automatically forwarded to ABCGN for review and determination of GI-specific contact hours. If however you seek approval for contact hours through your state board of nursing, a facility approved through ANCC, or other ANCC approved provider, you will need to also submit your program for GI-specific review to ABCGN. This review is free of charge and attendees truly appreciate formal recognition of GI-specific contact hours on their certificates.

For any questions or assistance please feel free to contact ABCGN at 800-245-7462 (option #3), email info@abcgn.org or go online to www.abcgn.org. Again, thank you for your continued support of certification and ABCGN.

Coming in 2008:

- Online recertification application/payment
- Recertification credit for Poster Presentations

ABCGN is also in the process of reviewing options to offer Computer Based Testing. Visit the ABCGN website at www.abcgn.org or keep an eye out for the next CERT Report for updates.

SGNA Outstanding Regional Society Award

Make sure that your region has a chance to participate and win this distinct honor!



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, where the award and banner is presented and will receive a \$1,000 stipend.

DEADLINE: Wednesday January 15, 2008

Performance Criteria:

- Regional Society must be chartered and in good standing for a minimum of two years.
- Presented an educational display at the last Annual Course.

In 2007, the Rocky Mountain Region took home this distinct honor. This region prides itself in their high involvement with SGNA on a national level, including four past presidents! Their chapter also has a 46% CGRN certification rate. Nominate your region to qualify yourself on this growing list of Outstanding Regional Societies!

For Full Criteria and an application, please visit www.SGNA.org

***Please note any regional society winning the award may not reapply for a minimum of three years.**

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 currently employed in the field of gastroenterology/endoscopy with a minimum of five years experience. Recipients of this award receive full annual course registration fee waived, airfare, three night-hotel stay and an award presented at the Annual Course.

NOMINATION DEADLINE: November 30, 2007

Performance Criteria

The candidate has made important contributions in the success of their region by:

- Facilitator/Mentor- the nominee has impacted and nurtured the involvement of other SGNA members.
- Innovation- the nominee has created a new program or product that greatly influenced the success of our region.
- Organization- the nominee has created/re-created a process/procedure that has greatly influenced the success of our region.
- Passion- the nominee has true passion for both the profession and organization and continually demonstrates this in interactions with others.

In 2007, Kathryn Walczyk, RN CGRN took home this distinct honor. Kathryn was nominated for her continued passion for the GI/Endoscopy specialty and her ability to inspire others in her Wisconsin region to become more active. Kathy has served as president, Newsletter editor and helped organize Wisconsin's first GI Nurses and Associates Day celebration! Nominate the outstanding SGNA member from your region today!

For Full Criteria and an application, please visit www.SGNA.org