



June 2006

CTSGNA NEWSLETTER

Connecticut Region of the

Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates

Volume 2, Issue 3

President's Letter

Lori Lofstrom, CGRN, CTSGNA President

Greetings to all!

This is the last newsletter before the summer "break".

I use the term "break" loosely. CTSGNA is always active. There are committees meeting year round to plan the "Beyond the Scope" annual conference. The board is preparing for our annual business meeting.

Many of us have just returned from the National SGNA conference in San Antonio. We may be away from our work places, but we continue to "work", even during the conference. We have a number of CTSGNA nurses involved in committees and boards on the national level. This means participating in teleconferences or communicating by e-mail throughout the year. These members then meet in person at the national conference and share ideas and plan their duties for the coming year.

The other type of work that takes place during the National Conference is **networking**.

I have met many new people, exchanged business cards and ideas. I hope to continue communicating with these individuals to share challenges and good practices that we face as nurses in our regions.

If you have not had the opportunity to attend, I hope that you will consider attending in the future.

CTSGNA provides scholarships to eligible members to attend the conference. What better way to learn and share ideas with other nurses of our specialty?

Angel and I participated in the House of Delegates on Friday. We had the opportunity to learn about the legislative process and participate in lively discussions pertaining to the resolutions that we as a region discussed during our March and April state meetings.

Saturday brought all certified individuals together in their finest to celebrate. It is wonderful to see so many people taking the extra step to show their commitment to the field of GI nursing. I hope to see more CTSGNA nurses attending this recognition event in the future.

The official start of the conference was Sunday with the president's address and an incredible and thought provoking keynote speaker.

We had an engaging display of our region's activities and offerings for regional night. This was a combined effort on behalf of many people. I am very proud of the collaborative effort put forth to bring this display together.

We participated in the "Walk for Research" bright and early on Monday morning. CTSGNA donated a total of \$500. Thank you to St. Francis GI department, the staff and physicians of CTGI Endoscopy

Center and the staff of Hartford Hospital GI unit.

We had a wonderful time during Tuesday night's Awards Gala. There were 16 nurses from our region in attendance. We felt great pride as Carol Stevens gave her acceptance speech and officially began her term as the National SGNA president. She will lead us in this role until the close of the ceremonies at our next national conference in Baltimore, Maryland in May 2007. I hope to see many of our members in attendance to show support for Carol's achievement and show pride as a region.

The days were filled with educational sessions and great opportunities to learn about the newest and improved products pertaining to GI procedures and patient care. We are very proud of Michelle Day, immediate past president who presented "Nursing Considerations for Bariatric Surgery".

I always return from the national conference with a renewed vigor and passion for what I do.

I hope that each of you can participate in coming years and have the opportunity to share in this exciting and energizing experience.

Be Well,

Lori

Letter From The Editor

After returning from the SGNA Annual Conference in San Antonio, we would like to congratulate Carol Stevens on becoming President of SGNA. CTSGNA has accomplished a lot in the recent years. After finally being acknowledged as Outstanding Regional of the Year 2005, we have great representation on the national level. This year with Carol at the helm we also have Barbara Sullivan once again on the Program Committee, and both Gail Steele and Kathryn Miller on the CBGNA Board of Directors. The enthusiasm that is brought back from conference hopefully will bring new ideas to our organization.

*Gail Steele LPN,CGN
Co-Editor*

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

The following individuals were awarded scholarships to the Annual course held in San Antonio, Texas:

Barbara Sullivan, Hartford Hospital

Mary Essex, St. Mary's Hospital

Barbara LaFreniere, Waterbury Hospital

Lori Lofstrom was awarded a scholarship to attend the Annual Course from Olympus. She generously donated her reimbursement from the state and thus enabled Barbara LaFreniere to attend. We congratulate these individuals for their accomplishments, which enabled them to receive this honor and thank Lori for her generosity.

Please note that the annual business meeting will take place on Friday, June 23, 2006. It will precede the educational offering at Confetti Restaurant in Plainville. You will be receiving a mailer with the details for the June Dinner Meeting.

CBGNA UPDATE

Hopefully all certified members received the Certification Report from Nancy Eismon, Pres.CBGNA Board of Directors, via email. A major By Law change was adopted in November that all certified members are now voting members of the organization. When the call nominations come please respond. We will now be able to vote on our Board of Directors. Over the summer you will receive information about the process.

Saturday evening May 20th, CBGNA will be celebrating 20 years of certification.

A video "What Certification means to me" will be shown during the Gala and Opening Ceremonies on Sunday. Special ribbons will be given to all certified attendees this year.

All members of CBGNA should have received their packets in the mail regarding the new "submit per year" certification process. If you haven't, please contact headquarters 1-800-245-SGNA ext 3.

*Gail Steele LPN,CGN
CBGNA Board of Directors*

Dates To Remember:

Application deadline for certification in October is **August 11,2006**. Late date **August 25,2006** (CBGNA will now accept applicants up to the day of the exam if space allows.) If application is received less then 30 days prior to the exam a \$100.00 late fee will be applied.

Scholarship application deadline for exam is **June 15,2006**

Have you received your 2006 Buyer's Guide and Resource?

I am proud to note that 2 of the 5 articles in the guide are authored by CTSGNA members. Please take a moment to read all of the articles in the reference guide, including Kathryn Miller's "Electrosurgery" and Christine Sarisley and Joan Pandolfo's "Stone Extraction Tools." I am proud of their devotion to learning and sharing that knowledge with others. Congratulations ladies!

SHOW YOU BELONG!

We always have CTSGNA Logo wear available. If you would like to order a short sleeve or long sleeve t-shirt, sweat pants or hooded zip sweatshirt please contact Lori Lofstrom. Group orders are preferred.

As always, coffee mugs, ID/Badge holders are immediately available.

Please give advance notice so mugs or badge holders can be brought to monthly meetings. Logo merchandise will be on display and orders taken during the "Beyond the Scope" conference at Foxwood's in October.

CTGI Endoscopy Center celebrated GI Nurse Day 2006 with a variety of activities. All our patients and visitors were greeted with a banner announcing that it was GI Nurse Day and also announcing this year's winner of the coveted CTGI Nurse of Year. The GI Nurse of the year is chosen by her peers to receive this honor. Gary Sikorwski of Procter and Gamble provided a catered lunch and presented this year's winner, Carmen Soto RN with a plaque recognizing her achievement. A display stressing the importance of colonoscopy in colon cancer prevention was made by Lori Lofstrom and proudly displayed in the patient waiting area. This display also included a proclamation from our Governor, Jodi Rell.

We gave our patients colon cancer awareness bracelets and cards we made up urging everyone to have their colonoscopy done, risk factors, statistics, etc.

The staff were presented with hooded sweatshirts with the Center's logo on them in recognition of the wonderful job they do all year.



Gary Sikorwski from P&G presents Carmen Soto, RN with a plaque for being chosen the CTGI 2006 GI Nurse of the Year



From our national newsletter...

It is important to be involved directly by stepping up to the call for nominations or by nominating someone that you know will be great in one of the following positions. When voting comes around, it is imperative that you exercise your right and voice your wishes for the direction of the association. Vote! Get involved! The voting percentages were poor last year. Let's not repeat it in 2006! We will have a "phone tree" when voting comes around to remind you to vote for the nominated individuals.

The following was taken from the SGNA May eScope: SGNA is accepting nominations for the following positions for 2007/2008:

- SGNA President Elect (one-year term)

Together with the President, represents the Society to members and other publics. Responsible for the appointment of committees. Automatically becomes President after serving one-year term.

- SGNA Secretary (two-year term)

Maintains records of business meetings, bylaws, policies and procedures.

- Director-At-Large (two-year term)

Participates as a member of the Board of Directors, the decision-making body of the Society. There are six Directors-At-Large.

- Nominations and Elections Committee (one-year term)

Identifies qualified candidates for SGNA elected positions.

All nominations for 2007/2008 offices must be submitted in writing to SGNA Headquarters by JULY 31, 2006, for consideration. Upon SGNA's receipt of the submission, an information packet will be forwarded to the nominated individual for completion.

Visit the SGNA website at www.sgna.org/about/active.cfm and complete the future involvement.

2006-2008 CTSGNA Officers

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