



NESGNA "SCOPE"

Fall 2006

New England Region 28

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Please post at work in your GI Unit to share with co-workers.

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President's Letter

Kim Foley, BSN, RN, CGRN
NESGNA President



"You should join SGNA," my nurse manager told me way back in 1990. So I did. I went to my first educational meeting not knowing what to expect, and found a wonderful forum for learning about endoscopy and gastroenterology nursing. Before I knew it, I was networking with GI nurses from all over New England. I learned about new GI technology from vendor exhibits at the half-day meetings. I found motivation and mentoring to take the CGRN exam. What a fantastic organization, I thought. I went to every meeting.

"Why don't you run for a position on the board of New England SGNA?" This same nurse manager asked me a few years later "Oh, no," I told her. "I couldn't do that. I don't know that much about GI. No, I can't." I was just a staff nurse, I thought. Who was I to sit on the board of New England SGNA? In spite of her frequent suggestions that I reconsider running for the board, I steadfastly refused.

"How would you like to run for treasurer of NESGNA?" queried two board members simultaneously, as they approached me, one from each side, after a dinner meeting in 1999. I looked from side to side, as if caught in an ambush. A look of panic engulfed my face, I pursed my lips to say no, and found myself saying yes. I decided it was time to give back to the organization that had given so much to me. When I began my career in gastroenterology nursing, I wanted to be the best GI nurse I could be, and I was well on my way to achieving that goal because of New England SGNA.

In 2000, I began my tenure on the board, first as treasurer for two terms, then as a director, and finally as president. Although initially reluctant to become more involved with SGNA, my fears were unfounded. From my first day on the board, everyone, even past board members, was nurturing and supportive to me. That old saying that nurses eat their young is absolutely untrue in regard to serving on the board of New England. As I finish my year as president, I want to encourage all of you to become more involved with NESGNA. Don't be afraid to run for a position on the board. Every year we need candidates for the positions of president-elect, two directors, and either secretary or treasurer. Volunteer for a committee or write an article for the newsletter. We need fresh ideas to keep New England dynamic.

I am sad to be ending my year as president but look forward to serving next year as past president. There is a lot happening in 2007, not the least of which is a certification prep course being offered in the spring, and a test site for the certification exam in the fall. To the board, I want to say thank you for your dedication and hard work over this past year. To the 379 members of New England, I want to say it has been an honor to serve as president of the largest and most active SGNA region. I also want to thank you all for increasing the attendance at our educational meetings to an all time high of 200 this past September, for having the highest national voting record two years in a row, and for having 22 nurses pass the certification exam last fall, to name just a few of the things that has made New England what it is today....OUTSTANDING.



Members of the NESGNA raised \$ 2,300.00 by participating in the Guts and Glory Walk sponsored by the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America on September 9, 2006. The money was donated to the CCFA to aid in research and to increase public awareness of Inflammatory Bowel Disease. Congratulations to all of you for making a difference.

Also in the forefront of Inflammatory Bowel Disease: True Guts- a motivational documentary about the day-to-day challenges and hurdles people living with Crohns and Colitis face. Also included are excerpts from Gastroenterologist Dr Josh Korzenik and leading psychiatrist Dr Paula Rauch, both from Massachusetts General Hospital. This documentary will educate you, your patients, friends, family and co-workers. The DVD is available on line at www.trueguts.com. Cost is \$21.00 and all post production proceeds will be donated to the CCFA. A great resource for your GI Library.

Gastroenterology Nursing Certification

Congratulations to all NESGNA members who passed the certification exam or recertified this fall. The NESGNA Board would like you to know that all members who become certified, or successfully recertify in 2007, will be reimbursed \$100.00. Being certified is an accomplishment to be proud of!

Certification Prep Course - To be held in the New England area Spring 2007. Site TBA.

Certification Test Sites - Baltimore, Maryland, May 19, 2007. Application deadline March 14, 2007

New England area location TBA- October 21, 2007. Application Deadline August 15th.

Watch the NESGNA website and our newsletter for specific locations for the prep course and the October test site.

SGNA/CBGNA Education:

On October 19, 2006, SGNA in collaboration with the CBGNA offered its first live teleconference!

Theresa Vos presented the lecture titled, "ERCP and its Role in the Biliary System."

New topics will be presented quarterly. Look for the next one to be coming **January 24th 2007**. The topic will be endoscopic ultrasound. A great new tool for learning, teleconferencing is a live interactive session with question and answer time after the lecture. All you need is a telephone with speaker capability and a computer. It is easy to arrange and provides GI specific CEUs. Visit the SGNA website for more details.

!!! Don't Forget to VOTE in the SGNA National Election !!!

New England has the distinction of having the highest voter turn out in the national elections for two consecutive years. Let's make that THREE consecutive years! If you haven't voted yet get moving. Polls close on January 19, 2007. Run don't walk, to the SGNA website at www.sgna.org to read about the candidates and to cast your vote. Keep New England on top.....VOTE, VOTE, VOTE!!!!

NESGNA Celebrating 30 Years of Excellence

What a great way to end 2006! As you know by now, NESGNA was named Outstanding Regional Society for 2006, and at our Nov. 14th Dinner / Business meeting, not only were we treated to a wonderful presentation by Dr. Daniel Pratt about the latest information on Liver Transplantation, but we began the celebration of 30 years as a Chartered Region of the SGNA. NESGNA was one of the first nine regions to become chartered in 1977, and we count among our members several women who were instrumental in growing the legacy not only of New England, but also of SGNA.

The evening began with a commemorative wine glass for each attendee, which was emblazoned with the NESGNA logo. Dessert included a cake, which was also adorned with the logo.

We were honored to recognize several charter members of SGNA, as well as several past presidents or our region. Those present included: Peggy Faison, Linda Laurentano, Sybil Goulkin, Sue Sweny-Diguette, Debbie Veilleux, Lisa Heard, Linda Allen, Arlene Myers-Mckim, and Donna Girard. In addition, we were honored to have Sandy Cialfi, SGNA President-Elect (also a past NESGNA president) deliver the welcoming address. Sandy inspired all of us with her welcoming remarks outlining all of the exciting and wonderful achievements of our membership over the years.

Thank you to all of you, our members, who help to make us the exciting region that we are.

Jane Harker, MS, BSN, RN, CGRN
President-elect, NESGNA
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Current NESGNA president, Kim Foley, with past presidents and charter members. Front row: Susan Sweny-Diguette, Sybil Goulkin, Kim Foley, Linda Laurentano,. Second row: Arlene Myers-Mckim, Donna Girard, Lisa Heard, Margaret "Peggy" Faison. Present but missing from picture: Linda Allen, Debbie Veilleux, Sandy Cialfi.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The New England SGNA is again offering Scholarships for the SGNA Annual Course. You may submit an application form up to the NESGNA half-day meeting on January 20, 2007. Visit the NESGNA website at www.nesgna.org for more information.

NESGNA Calendar 2007

Not only will 2007 bring more wonderful educational meetings, we will be meeting at a different location in January and March. In an effort to make traveling easier for members west and south of Boston, we are trialing a different Marriott property. The Boston Marriott Newton, 2345 Commonwealth Avenue (Rt.30) in Newton, MA is located just off of I-95 and the Massachusetts Turnpike, not far from Newton Wellesley Hospital. The September and November meetings will be held back in our old location at Boston Marriott Burlington, 1 Mall Road, Burlington, MA. Please make note of these changes.

Save the Dates: January 20, 2007 at Boston Marriott Newton
March 24, 2007 at Boston Marriott Newton
September 15, 2007 at Boston Marriott Burlington
November 15, 2007 at Boston Marriott Burlington

NESGNA

Committed to Excellence in GI Nursing

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