

NESGNA "SCOPE"

Late Spring 2008



New England Region 28

In This Issue

President's Letter
Scholarship winners
Spotlight on....
Educational Offering
Certification updates

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

NESGNA Officers & Board 2008

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APRN, BC

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President's Letter Linda Corey MSN, APRN-BC, NESGA President 2008

The 2008 SGNA Annual Course in Salt Lake City, Utah couldn't have been better. It started with a welcome reception on Saturday night for all NESGNA and MSGNA (Maine) attendees sponsored by our friends from Boston Scientific, a chance to meet new friends and renew old friendships. NESGNA continues our presence in SGNA as Sandy Cialfi passed the Presidential gavel (reluctantly??) to Lisa Heard. Jane Harker assumed her position on the SGNA Board of Directors and Kim Foley was elected as the Vice Speaker of the House of Delegates. NESGNA (represented by Jane Harker and Sandy Hession) made it to the finals of the 2nd annual GI Quiz Bowl, but despite their best efforts and lots of help from their friends in the audience, were not able to win this fun event. NESGNA had many speakers at this year's convention, including 13 RN's, 1 GTS, 3 MDs and a keynote presentation by Lisa Heard and Kate Donovan. They ended the week with a talk entitled "The Power of Humor: It Begins With You". It was a humorous way to end a great week. Add in awesome weather, spectacular views of snow capped Watash Mountains, beautiful flower gardens and the magnificent Mormon Tabernacle choir.

Attending the convention, mingling with the SGNA board members, one gets caught up in the energy and enthusiasm and leaves with a renewed commitment to be involved in the organization. Well, the opportunity is now. NESGNA is accepting nominations for President-elect (3 year commitment), Secretary (2 yrs.) and 2 Directors (2yrs.). You do not have to be certified to run. All you need is membership and a willingness to work. Your reward: expanded circle of contacts, personal development and the chance to give back to NESGNA. Ballots will be available on our website : www.nesgna.com.

There has been some confusion about our policies regarding attendance at the seminars. Registrations are due 1 week before the seminar date. This is necessary to order food and syllabi. **For this reason we cannot accept walk-ins.** If you register and cannot attend, find someone to take your place since there are no refunds. The treasurer has a list of all who registered on time. In the case of lost or slow mail, bring your checkbook or cancelled check to verify the check was sent.

As the world around us strives to be "Green", we at NESGNA will soon join in. In the near future, we will no longer send the newsletter in the mail. We can save the cost of printing, stamps and volunteer time needed to manually place labels and stamps. Instead, the Newsletter will be posted on the website, which is updated regularly. Notices of future meetings are announced at the ½ day seminars. Sending e-mails does not work because many members do not update their e-mails. This can be easily accomplished by logging onto www.sgna.org. Go to membership and profile.

Stay well and healthy during the summer months and we will meet again in September for our next ½ day seminar, on the 13th. Don't forget to log on to the website for information of all the meetings in our surrounding area.

GI Nurses and Associates Day 2008

This year our endoscopy unit at Baystate Medical Center had it's own March Madness! March is the Colon Cancer Awareness Month! Our staff went to area malls and handed out literature the first weekend of March. March 5 we spoke to the "Eastfield Mall MallWalkers" and found the group of 50 very attentive and appreciative. March 10th, we held a "Meatball Grinder Day" and donated the \$710.00 that we raised to the D'Amour Cancer Research to be directed toward Colon Cancer Research. Our staff came in on their day off to "work" the luncheon! March 15 we held our 3rd annual GI Conference with a LIVE ercp ! March 20, another group of endo nurses gave an informative lecture to the Fish and Wildlife Services in Hadley, MA to a group of 60. We hosted a table in our cafeteria on March 25th for our hospital staff and wrapped up our week on march 26th with a special luncheon to celebrate GI Nurses Day!!

March certainly did fly quickly for us.



Spotlight on...

St. Joseph's Hospital, Nashua, NH:

The Endoscopy Unit at St. Joseph Hospital in Nashua, NH is a 5 procedure room, 11 Prep/Recovery Bay Unit. The current unit opened in January 2006 and functions very efficiently. Staffing includes 4 full time RNs, 9 part-time RNs and 3 techs allowing for flexibility in staffing for various caseloads. We are proud that 4 of our RNs are certified and all of techs have earned recognition as GI Technical Specialists.

Currently the average number of years our nurses have been in GI/Endoscopy is 10 years. Due to the fact that once a nurse joins our unit, they stay; open positions are few and far between. Our physicians have been practicing GI for an average of 27 years each. Currently the practice is limited to the adult population. In addition to GI Endoscopy, we also perform Bronchoscopy. Providing caring competent care in accordance with the mission of our hospital is a high priority and is born out by first quarter 2008 satisfaction survey results of 94.4%, with 96.7% of patients saying they would recommend the unit to others.

Kathy Bielawa, RN, CGRN

CONGRATULATIONS NESGNA Winners

Wentworth Douglass Hospital-Dover, NH: Excellence in Professionalism award from ABCGN for having 50% or more of staff certified in GI

Linda Wiebold: SGNA Scholarship to attend the Annual Course

Patricia Rumson-Cooper: \$50.00 gift certificate for SGNA products for referring a number of nurses for membership in SGNA

Educational Offerings

SAVE THESE 2008 NESGNA MEETING DATES

September 13, 2008-Saturday-7:00am-12:30pm-1/2 day breakfast meeting-Newton Marriott

November 20, 2008-Thursday 6:00pm -9:00pm dinner/business meeting-Burlington Marriott

Special Interest Group (SIG) Meetings

Please join us for the NESGNA Special interest group meetings!

Simply contact us if you would like to host a SIG meeting. We are looking for someone in New Hampshire to host a meeting. How about Western MA, Or Rhode Island, would you like to host a SIG meeting? Contact Joyce Aspell at joyceaspell@hotmail.com or Carol McAlvin at mcalvin22@aol.com

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

A limited amount of NESGNA logo denim shirts will be available for purchase at the September 13th meeting

CERTIFICATION EXAM UPDATE

Planning to take the exam in October?

When? Sunday, October, 19, 2008

Where? Hartford, CT, and other locations

WE WANT YOU !!!

Nomination forms for NESGNA Board of Directors and Officers are available on our web site. They must be received by Jane Harker no later than September 10, 2008. Ballots will be mailed to members by September 27, 2008, and the results will be announced at our November 20, 2008 at our annual dinner/business meeting. Please contact Jane at jdharker@comcast.net , or any Board member with any questions.

A reminder to the nurses who won scholarships for the annual course, this year or any year, and have not received your award. You must submit proof of attendance, eg. a copy of your CEU certificate, in order to receive the check. For more information, please contact Christopher Robbins at csrobbins@comcast.net

Visit us online at www.nesgna.org

To post announcements (no job listings, please) in the newsletter contact Jane Harker at jdharker@comcast.net

NESGNA

Committed to Excellence in GI Nursing

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