

NESGNA 2015 NEWLETTER

As we prepare for 2016, we look back on 2015 as a year of change for our organization. We've welcomed new members onto the Board, who have been supported by talented and generous veteran members. We bid farewell to Sue Douglass, 2014 President and immediate Past President, whose vision and wisdom have guided our educational mission. Sue has held several positions on the NESGNA Board over the years and her breadth of experience has been an invaluable resource. She will remain a valued member of NESGNA and, in keeping with her reputation for giving of herself, has promised to continue as an advisor to the Board. Sue is a true friend, mentor and champion to the Board and to NESGNA.

We also gratefully acknowledge the tremendous service that Christopher Robbins has provided to NESGNA over the years. Illness necessitated Chris' unexpected withdrawal from the Board in September. This departure defined for all of us how very much Chris had been doing to lay the groundwork for each conference. Chris' knowledge of all facets of NESGNA is formidable. His roles as Treasurer, Website Director and SGNA officer positioned him as the proverbial "cog in the wheel" of the planning for each meeting. To say that he will be missed is an understatement. We thank him from the bottom of our hearts for all he has given to NESGNA and SGNA.

2015 was a year that saw our conference attendance soar. The November meeting had over 200 attendees, the highest in memory. Conference evaluations have been carefully considered after each meeting and these evaluations inform the direction of future events. The evaluations revealed that you want your meetings to be affordable and free from distraction. To that end, we will be holding the March 2016 meeting at the Forefront Center in Waltham. The Forefront Center will be hosting only NESGNA on March 12th, providing the entire area for our members and vendors. The conference area provides comfort and excellent audiovisual capability. The dining facility is attractive and convenient, our vendors will have more room, and the cost is less.

The evaluations noted an approximate 60/40 split in favor of two full day conferences yearly. We will continue to evaluate this in 2016 and beyond.

Looking forward to 2016, we are fortunate to welcome Linda Wiebold as NESGNA President in 2016. Linda works at Winchester Hospital and has served the Board as a director and as Secretary. She brings many years of NESGNA experience to the office. Her energy and organizational skills will continue to be tremendous assets to NESGNA.

Maria Scholz graciously and expertly stepped into Chris' gigantic shoes as Treasurer in September and she will continue as Treasurer in 2016. Maria doggedly tracked down accounts and sifted through records in preparation for November's meeting. She spent countless hours accessing and deciphering files. We thank her for her painstaking work in maintaining the integrity of NESGNA funds.

To round out the Board, we are pleased that Leah Ladd will continue as Secretary, Ellen Fern and Julie O'Grady will serve as Program Directors, and Arlene Myers-McKim will return as Vendor Liaison. We happily welcome back Judy Oakes and June Guarente. Judy will utilize her many contacts to assist Arlene as a Vendor Liaison and June will offer her expertise to the Program Directors.

We would like to thank Deb Veilleux as she departs her directorship on the Board. We would like to recognize her tireless efforts in planning the conferences, arranging speakers, and assisting with registration and membership. Deb, we miss you already!

I look forward to serving NESGNA as Past President in 2016, under the leadership of Linda Wiebold. This will mark my third and final year as an officer on the NESGNA Board. The decision to place my name in nomination for a position on the Board was a scary one. But recognizing the depth of experience among NESGNA directors and members brought a realization that participation on the Board would enhance my practice and provide benefit to my patients, coworkers, and workplace. The opportunity to learn from and work with the amazing, supportive and committed members of our organization has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my professional life.

And many thanks to you, the NESGNA members. Without your commitment to our profession and patients, your pursuit of excellence and learning, and your ideas and direction, NESGNA would be unable to fulfill its educational mission. As we look forward to 2016, The Board of NESGNA wishes you a fulfilling and blessed New Year.

Warm Regards,

Mary Hourihan RN, MSN, CGRN

President, NESGNA 2015