

NESGNA PRESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

December 2016



Greeting to all fellow NESGNA members and colleagues. I have had the privilege of representing the board of New England Society of Gastroenterology Nurse's and Associates this past year and it has been a true honor. I started work in GI when I was expecting my first son because it was a "day job"...He will be thirty in 2017! My second son is 27. Speaking of second, I just recertified for the second time. I got involved in the NESGNA at the suggestion of not one but two very good friends and co-workers when nominations were being accepted back in 2010. I have grown in my professionalism from a board member for 2 terms, to secretary for 2 terms, and now 2 years as president-elect and president. Next year as past-president.. It will be my last final official position, but honestly I could never truly leave this exceptional organization and group of dedicated people.

It has been quite a year of new changes, development, and firsts. The board collectively made a decision based on feedback, to move the format of meetings to 2 full day in 2015, and to move the venue to the Forefront Center. In 2016, this continues to feel like to right progression for the organization. On March 12th there were 140 attendees and November 12th there were 170 attendees...both record high attendance. The New England Region has 370 members. Many members have gone on to serve on a national board, become national presidents, and receive national awards. We have alot to be proud of.

We also continue with the mission of providing the highest quality conferences on relevant topics with prominent physicians and experts in their fields. For the past 4 years we have collaborated with the CCFA to continue to provide their resources to our membership. As there have provided 3 of our 6 speakers for our March meetings in 2015 and 2016. We will be continuing this partnership in March 2017. Thanks to the dedication and professional contacts of our board members we been able to obtain the most esteem physicians and RN'S in the New England area. We are also very grateful to the dedication and support of our vendors in providing us with product demonstrations and emerging technology. Again another record set with 14 vendor representations attending March 12th and 17 vendors attending November 12th. New this year was the addition of a vendor "passport" card. This added a little fun to the event along with the addition of raffles prizes, memberships, and scholarships

In continuing with growth, our website is expanding and updating. Please visit www.nesgna.org Our registration, payments, conference syllabi, and contact are available. Also, find us on facebook. Social media is such a powerful tool and we need to tap into this as a resource. The national website, www.sgna.org has also developed this year with new menus

and graphics. Both are invaluable resources at our fingertips. Please utilize them. We take seriously comments and suggestions.. Remember we are here for you!

Nurses and technicians are a special cohesive group. We are proud, dedicated and committed to our colleagues and our profession. And most importantly to our patients. We owe them the best care we can deliver day in and day out. The NESGNA is our organization and represents these qualities as well and provide us with education to continue this commitment.

It is with heartfelt gratitude that I express my sincere appreciation to my fellow board members. Mary Hourihan as past-president. She is passionate, caring, intelligent, and a true leader, mentor and educator. I first met Mary when she volunteered to spear head the CCFA Take Steps Walk 6 years ago. She certainly showed her devotion and commitment to the NESGNA by taking on all the challenges and responsibilities. Mary has agreed to continue in 2017 as the secretary and the website administer. As many of you realize from her previous e-mails and letters, she has a talent and gift for writing. I am happy that she has agreed to continue

It is also a great honor and privilege to welcome Ellen Fern as the president for 2017. Ellen has a wealth of GI experience and has already contributed her knowledge, many ideas and expertise to the NESGNA board. We are very fortunate to have her continue on the board as president. This year she had been responsible for the CEU application process along with June Guarente from 2015 and Julie O'Grady for 2017. She assumed that responsibility flawlessly.

I am so thankful for the expertise and financial knowledge of our Treasurer, Maria Scholz. In 2015, she was able to take the financial component of the NESGNA organization and literally rebuild it..it still amazes me. Due to her fine tuning and vision we are able to offer an affordable cost for our conferences and provide scholarships, and memberships to members. We will maintain our commitment to give back to our members. Our vendors are a vital part of our financial success and successful conferences as well. A huge thank you to the experience, knowledge, and dedication of our vendor liasions, Judy Oakes and Arlene Myers McKim for obtaining the record number of vendors for 2016.

No week goes by without thinking of our fellow NESGNA board member, Christopher Robbins. He will always be in our heart and thoughts as he continues his valent recovery. Only when he could no longer do what he did for the NESGNA, did we realize how much this organization was a piece of his life and we will always continue to honor that commitment.

It is also an exciting privilege to welcome Sarah Argyropoulous and Michelle Adamyk as new elected board members...thank you to taking the opportunity to serve on our board. I hope you both find it a rewarding and invaluable experience. I look forward to 2017.

In looking ahead to 2017, I am so excited and pleased to celebrate the 40TH Anniversary of the NESGNA. We will be celebrating and acknowledging accomplishments and honors of our members. There are so many accolades and I am looking forward to a presentation of the history of NESGNA at the March 12th conference.

It is our commitment to our members by our members that make the NESGNA as successful as it has been all these years.. It is with pride that I call myself an NESGNA member.

So as this year and my presidency comes to a conclusion, I wish you all the joy, peace, wellness, courage, reflection and memories, love and comfort of family and friends, opportunities, time well spent, and adventures that this life gives us.

With warmest regards,
Linda