

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi all-

As was discussed at the fall membership meeting, there were no nominations for the open positions on the WSGNA Board of Directors this year. After consulting with SGNA, the persons holding these positions have agreed to extend their terms. Cathy Johnson will remain the Director-at-Large for Communications/Newsletter and Chris Crevcoure will remain the Treasurer for another 2 years. Margaret Hauser-Ullman, Chris Bauer and I will remain President-Elect, Past-President, and President respectively for one more year.

The board will focus strongly on succession planning during the next six to eight months. We are committed to finding talented individuals to bring new ideas and skills to the organization as well as continuing to offer professional advancement to all members as our mission states.

I hope you all take note of Peggy Gauthier's article, "The Essence of Volunteer Leadership" in this edition of the newsletter. Peggy is the ultimate example of involvement and commitment. She has been a member of WSGNA since 1979, a past regional board member, and is now serving at the national level as Secretary and the chairperson for Articles and Bylaws.

There are many reasons why people do not volunteer—not enough time, fear of commitment, insecurity about skills, lack of understanding what the job/organization requires.

Perhaps one of you out there is a bit interested but has some questions about the board member responsibilities. Those have just been revised and will be on the website soon. You may wonder about the location of the meetings—we hold the meetings at a half way point between the two farthest members. How many meetings? We usually have four meetings—2 Saturday morning meetings and 2 Friday afternoon meetings occurring the day before the Spring and Fall conferences. Worried about the time commitment? Yes, there is time involved—besides the meetings, emailing 2-4 times per week and perhaps some time spent on projects, preparation for decision making, reviewing materials, or making contacts. Thinking you may not have the skills or experience? All that is needed is an interest in and a desire to promote your fellow Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates.

Yes, a board position does require work on the member's part. But it is not without recompense. There is reimbursement for travel and a stipend for educational courses. There is the prospect to help members be a part of decision making in their practice. There is opportunity to gain new and valuable knowledge. There is opportunity to make new friends. There is opportunity to advance your own professional development. There is opportunity to accept a new challenge and obtain a sense of satisfaction from the work. As SGNA President Lisa Heard's 2009 theme states: ***SGNA is your gateway to opportunity. Vision, knowledge, and potential.***

Please..... think about what you could bring to the WSGNA table.

I wish you all a most peaceful and joyous holiday season and look forward to working with you next year.

Mary Fiebelkorn BSN, RN, CGRN

WSGNA President