



WISCONSIN SOCIETY OF GASTROENTEROLOGY NURSES AND ASSOCIATES

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2009

2009 SGNA NATIONAL COURSE - ST. LOUIS

SGNA: Expanding our Horizons

What a special occasion the 2009 SGNA National Conference was. Wisconsin was well represented and proud to witness the turning over of the presidential gavel to Theresa Vos. Theresa (Terrie) works in Milwaukee for Aurora Health Care and has shared her ERCP expertise with many of us. She gave an inspiring speech, and encouraged all members to be involved, be “change-makers,” and “address the future of healthcare and its effect on gastroenterology and endoscopy nursing.”



Terrie, we wish you the best for a successful year in your role as President of SGNA!

In this Issue:

Congratulations Terrie Vos!

President's Letter

BOD information

Upcoming Conferences

Department Spotlight

THANK YOU Notes

*Scholarship information/
Application*

More THANK YOU Notes

Call for Nominations

Meeting Minutes



Terrie Vos speaking at national convention.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Summer everyone! I hope you are all enjoying the warm weather that has finally arrived. I first want to thank Sherry Lemerond and the rest of her planning committee members for the wonderful job they did on the spring conference, "GI Wish I Knew...(Updates in Endoscopy)" that was held in Green Bay on April 4. The speakers were excellent and it was obvious that a great deal of effort went into the event. I and the rest of the WSGNA board are very appreciative of a job well done.

Another thank you to all who took part in "Know your BOD" at the spring conference. Congratulations to Janet Graves of La Crosse who won a \$50 Visa card for participating. The board members got to meet quite a few new faces also. But best of all, we met some members who would like to run for open board positions! So watch for election information this fall and be sure to cast your vote.

Revisions to our bylaws were voted on and approved at the spring meeting in Green Bay. Those changes were submitted to SGNA in May at the national course. They were approved by the SGNA board and should be on our website soon. Also the 2009 resolutions were discussed and voted on at the spring meeting. Those results were taken to the House of Delegates meeting in St. Louis. Two of the resolutions were recommended for consideration.

This year's annual course in St. Louis was extra special for several reasons. First, Terrie Vos was inducted as the next SGNA president. It was very exciting to see the passing of the gavel and to hear Terrie's inspirational presentation on the future of our organization. The 2010 theme, "Expanding our Horizons" offers both opportunities and challenges to all of us. Second, Peggy Gauthier assumed the SGNA president-elect position. We could not be in better hands with their leadership. Third, I had the privilege of meeting Jeanne Constable, the president of the new Palm Beach Treasure Coast Region. Jeanne started the region in October and our region helped them with scholarship funds to attend the annual course. Being a fledgling region, our gift was an opportunity for them to attend a national course and network with many others. I was very proud that our region could make that happen for them.

Lastly, I would like to inform you that Margaret Hauser-Ullman travelled with Team Challenge to California to run a half marathon on July 19th. Team Challenge has been organized to raise awareness of Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis, and to raise money for a cure.

If anyone would like to support Margaret with a tax deductible donation please see her website:

<http://www.active.com/donate/napa09wisconsin/napa09MHauser> or you can make a check **payable to CCFA** and

mail to her at: Margaret Hauser-Ullman

3559 E. Norport Dr.

Port Washington, WI 53074.

GO MARGARET!!!!

Have a safe and fun summer,
Mary Fiebelkorn, BSN, RN, CGRN
President, WSGNA



THANK YOU

Thanks to the Green Bay planning team on presenting an awesome conference in April. From the facilities to food to presenters, I believe everyone had an awesome time.



Does one of these hands belong to you???

We are looking for volunteers to hold upcoming conferences. We do not have a conference set for fall and are looking for Spring 2010. If you would like to volunteer or just want more information, contact any board member. A planning manual and board support is available.

2009 WSGNA Board of Directors

President

Mary Fiebelkorn, BSN, RN, CGRN
Manager - GI Center;
Waukesha Mem Hospital
262-928-7614
mary.fiebelkorn@phci.org

President-Elect

Margaret Ullman, RN, CGRN
Columbia-St.Mary's
Columbia & Riverwoods GI Lab
262-284-2761
ullmanmargaret@yahoo.com

Secretary

Lynn Miller, BSN, RN, CGRN
Columbia-St. Mary's GI Lab
414-228-8067
lmiller@columbiastmarys.org

Treasurer

Christine Crevcoure, RN, CGRN
Bellin Hospital, Digestive Health Services Unit
920-339-9918
crcvcoure@yahoo.com

Director-at-Large ~ Membership/Nominations

Sheila Gansemer, RN
Director - Outpatient Services;
Wheaton-Franciscan-St. Francis
414-423-6905
rgansemer@wi.rr.com

Director-at-Large ~ Communications/Newsletter

Cathy Johnson, RN, CGRN
Waukesha Memorial Hospital GI Center
262-544-0157
casjohnson3@sbcglobal.net

Immediate Past-President

Chris Bauer, RN, BSN
623-266-7544 or 414-520-0447
jncbauer@gmail.com

Upcoming Conferences

October 23-25
SGNA Multiregional Conference
Columbus, Ohio

April 30-May 5
SGNA National Course
Orlando, Florida

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

GI Endoscopy Center Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center La Crosse, WI

The GI department at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center began in 1966 under the direction and initiative of Dr. Duane Taebel.

Currently our staff consists of 23 RNs and 4 on call RNs, 1 LPN, 3 clericals, 5 patient liaisons, 4 medical assistants, 7 MD's (8th is coming in 2011), 2 PA's (interviewing currently for the 3rd), one clinical manager, 8 therapeutic technicians, 8 technicians, 3 reprocessing technicians, 2 health unit coordinators and 2 receptionists. Currently we have two nurses that are certified and three members of WSGNA.

In 2008 we saw a total of 10,272 patients for procedures. This includes the following: gastroscopy 2440, colonoscopy 6083, dilatation 385, sigmoidoscopy 255, ERCP 178, esophageal motility 143, small bowel capsule endoscopy 94, impedance 41, Bravo pH 25, enteroscopy 19, rectal motility 18, pH monitoring 4, endoscopic ultrasound 3 and one Peg tube placement. Also we did 583 patients for procedures of colonoscopy and gastroscopy in the outreach settings at three other hospitals in our area. One physician and two therapeutic technicians travel to these locations Tuesday through Friday. We have hired an eighth physician who will be starting in 2011. He will also do endoscopic ultrasound so we hope to increase the numbers in this area.

Our target goal is 43 procedures a day Monday through Friday. This does not include the service doctor.

Our first patient arrives at the lab at 0600 Monday through Friday and we try to have our last scheduled procedure be 1545. We have one doctor assigned to "hospital service" and they then take care of any emergent patients in any area of the hospital. There is a nurse and a therapeutic tech on call Monday through Thursday from 1700 to 0700 and on weekends from Friday at 1700 till Monday morning at 0700. Normally on Monday through Friday we have the service doctor and four other physicians in the lab doing procedures throughout the day.

We feel that to celebrate success and to recognize staff for their contributions, commitment to excellent patient care, and personal achievements is important and we do this in a variety of ways. Our Sunshine club recognizes birthdays, GI anniversaries, and perfect attendance by quarters. For GI Nurses Day nominations were made for staff in the department who showed qualities that support the mission and vision of Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center and the impact they have on others from patients to staff. On Nurses Day – hospital wide recognition and nominations contributed to awards in leadership, education, research, etc. For social gatherings – new hires are welcomed with signs in department, article in our unit newsletter, we hold baby and wedding showers, have a unit picnic for employees and their families and a Christmas Party for employees and a guest.

Suggestions to improve our lab, the clinic setting, patient care, efficiency, etc. are submitted by staff into the suggestion box. These are reviewed and published in the monthly newsletter and small awards given to those submitting ideas. Bridges is our hospital newsletter and it has spotlighted our Gundersen Lutheran Employee Colon Cancer Screening Saturday that is held twice a year. GI staff (Doctors, nurses and techs) volunteer to work (but yes we are paid) on Saturday and our patients are GL employees. Employee feedback has been very positive about this offering.

Recently two nurses from the GI department received recognition for their role in improving patient care. Kathleen Martland was awarded the Proud to be GI award for 2009. She was recognized for her commitment to patient education regarding prepping for colonoscopy and education about the procedure. Patient satisfaction scores and comments reflect positively about her role.

Julie Gorski RN BSN along with Peggy Corey RN BSN OCN from Hematology/Medical Oncology recently completed a research study "How Nurses use Motivational Interviewing to Improve Cancer Screening Rates." These nurses had a Nursing Research Fellowship for 2007-2008. Julie did a poster presentation on this study at SGNA in May 2009 and received third place. Julie also coordinates the Saturday employee screenings and a "Strike out Colon Cancer" campaign that includes an outing to a La Crosse Loggers semi pro baseball game. These activities help promote colon cancer screening and improve the screening rates in our area.

Continued from Page 4...

Our department is very proud of our patient care, high patient satisfaction scores, our efficiency as a team in the GI endoscopy suite and our staff satisfaction. In the 2005 through 2007 we completed a total remodeling of the clinic and lab space. Staff at every level were involved in the planning of the department and implementation of efficiencies for patient care in our department.

At present our biggest challenge will be incorporating bronchoscopy into the GI department. Currently this is done in a special procedures lab by nurses in that area. We are in the process of ordering the equipment for fluoroscopy and other needed equipment for this space within our department to allow us to perform both bronchoscopy and ERCP in our lab area. Currently we travel to the radiology department to do the ERCP's.

We are different from many GI departments in that the hospital and clinic GI areas are combined. One area of the department is clinic patients, medical assistants, phone nurses, doctors and PAs, clerical support staff and patient liaisons.

The other side of our department is the lab area with 10 private pre procedure rooms, seven procedure rooms two of which are equipped for general anesthesia and then ten private recovery rooms. Patients are placed on a cart when they arrive in the department for a procedure and travel through out the lab on this same cart, that way we do not have to move them off the cart for the procedures. This is great for patient and staff safety and it also adds to our efficiency. Another aspect of our unit that has been part of our patient care since its start is that we have a RN and technician in every colon and upper endoscopy procedure with the physician.

We currently do follow up phone calls to patients the week following their procedures. One of the things we ask is if they were satisfied with the care they received in our department and if there is anything we could have done to make this experience better for themselves or someone else in the future. Of course as you might expect it is: can't you change the stuff you have to drink – but in truth most of the comments reflect on the great team work in our department, that staff all seem happy and are enjoying what they do, that they take time to explain things to them and that they can't believe they were hesitant to have a colonoscopy. These comments are shared with staff on a monthly basis.

A year ago we started with computer documentation in all areas of the lab using the EPIC system that was tailored for Gundersen Lutheran. Staff find this to be a satisfier not only for accurate and in time charting but for the ease in using this system. As an organization we continue to make improvements in this system and expand the use of it.

If you would like more information about our GI Endoscopy Center at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center you can contact the clinical manager, Diane Krueger RN, at dmkruege@gundluth.org . Or you can go to the Gundersen Lutheran web site, www.gundluth.org, and see additional pictures of our lab and short bio information on the doctors and PA staff.

Submitted by Diane M. Harding, RN BSN



Aerial Photo of Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center, La Crosse

THANK YOU, Diane! I think it is interesting to see how other departments function and what they are all about!! If you want to let us know about you, send an email to casjohnson3@yahoo.com **OR I may find you!!!**

WSGNA INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN "DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT"

WSGNA is looking for Newsletter spots about YOU! We'd like to hear about your GI department. How big is it? How busy? How many staff members do you have? What do you do to "WOW" your patients? How do you celebrate success? What makes your GI department special? And anything else you would like to say!!

We'd like our members to know more about their peers. You don't have to be an author to submit your story. We can write it for you if you like. Here are some questions to start with. Just answer and we'll do the rest.

Name of GI department: _____

Name of person submitting _____

How can we contact you? _____

How old is your department? _____

How many patients do you see (per week, month, whatever) _____

How many procedure rooms do you have? _____

What is your staff mix (RNs, Techs, clerks, processing tech, etc.)? _____

How many of your staff are certified? _____

How many are WSGNA members _____

What is your patient mix (EGD, colon, bronch, etc.)? _____

Do you do any special procedures (manometry, EUS, pH, etc.)? _____

What do you do to celebrate successes? The department's, an individual's, GI Nurses Day, etc.

Would you like to recognize someone in your department for their extraordinary efforts, work, or a special accomplishment? _____

What is your department most proud of? _____

What is your department's biggest challenge? (Perhaps someone who reads this has the same issue and can help! _____

What do you feel makes your department special or different from other GI departments? _____

Do you have a customer service story that you would like to share? _____

Do you have any pictures that you'd like to put in the newsletter? _____

Anything else?? Anything at all!? _____

That's it. You've done it!

Send your notes/comments to:

Cathy Johnson at casjohnson3@yahoo.com

Or fax to 262-928-4669 Att: Cathy

THANK YOU NOTES FROM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



To WSGNA,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the scholarship you awarded me for the WSGNA Spring Regional Conference "GI Wish I Knew...(Updates in Endoscopy)", held in Green Bay, Wisconsin, April 4, 2009. After being on the planning committee for the 2008 spring WSGNA conference I can appreciate how difficult it must have been to plan a conference in these hard economic times. Yet the 2009 Spring Planning Committee put together a wonderful program that covered some new and very interesting topics.

It was very interesting to hear "Celiac Disease: A personal perspective" by Rie-Ann Jansen, RN, BSN. Her talk was about how being diagnosed with celiac sprue disease had affected her and her family. What an eye opener! The follow up talk "Restaurant Survival for the Celiac: A Chef's Perspective" by Chef Jeff Igel was fun and very informative. He was a great speaker who gave some practical advice for people with celiac sprue, on how to deal with eating out at restaurants that not only apply to those who suffer with celiac sprue disease but would also apply to those with any type of dietary restrictions or allergies.

The last speaker of the day Sumedha Ghate MS, Genetics Expert, talked about "Genetics of GI Malignancy and Cancer Genetics Counseling". She presented her topic in a way that was very interesting and easy to understand. I wish we would have had more time to listen to her talk about this complicated topic!

Once again I would like to thank WSGNA for the scholarship which made it possible for me to attend this conference. I encourage everyone to apply for the scholarships offered by WSGNA and SGNA and take advantage of the opportunity to further your knowledge of GI nursing.

Sincerely, P

Pamela Graham RN, CGRN



I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for selecting me as a recipient for the WSGNA scholarship to attend the Green Bay, WI on April 4, 2009.

As a member of the SGNA in the last 3 years now - I have learned so much in topics related to GI area. My personal goal is to attend more classes, seminars, and conferences as it relates to the GI specialty.

This year I attended the regional conference in Green Bay, WI. Nurses and techs were warmly greeted by our committee members. Official sponsors shared information and gave away prizes as we learned their new products. Later, prizes from the WSGNA raffle tickets to winners were handed out.

Many of my peers in the specialized area are very professional and knowledgeable in their roles as GI nurses. Many shared laughs and information about their experience in their area of GI field. One nurse spoke about her personal experience as she struggles to face her daily needs with Celiac disease.

Topics like Balloon Enteroscopy, Esophageal Ablation of Barrett's Esophagus and GI Pathology were all very informative and easy to grasp. These topics will definitely help with my daily practice as a nurse.

Also, a vibrant chef spoke about his perspective about Celiac disease and to help us understand the meaning of the special diet that many encounter.

Lastly, we participated with discussion in the topic of Genetics of GI Malignancy and counseling. The counselor helped us to review and understand why it is important to get a good family genetic history as it relates to certain types of GI disorders or diseases.

Overall, it was a good day for me and everyone else. Although I didn't win any door prizes, I know that attending a well organized conference was well worth it and my goal to learn more in the GI related topics was accomplished.

*Thank you very much,
Edgar Catacutan*

THANK YOU NOTES CONT'D...

Dear WSGNA,

I would like to thank you for awarding me a scholarship to attend the spring regional conference in Green Bay on April 4. It was a great conference, and a great opportunity to network with coworkers in the field of GI. Thanks also to the planning committee for all their hard work in making the conference a success. The day was filled with interesting topics and very well informed speakers. From learning of the small bowel enteroscopy, to helping us understand more in the advancement of genetic counseling, I found everything very informative. A big THANK YOU goes out to Rie-Ann Jansen and Chef Jeff Igel for helping me understand a little better the difficulties faced by celiac patients every day. I hope everyone was able to take new information back to their GI labs like I was. Thanks again.
Mindy Klein, LPN, CGN

WSGNA,

Congratulations to the Spring Conference planning committee and the WSGNA on another outstanding conference. Interesting topics, excellent speakers, and networking with colleagues, vendors made for an interesting fast paced day. I am looking forward to sharing this valuable information. Thank you for the scholarship!

Karin Johnson, RN, CGRN



I would like to thank each of you so very much for this opportunity to attend the National Conference in St. Louis. The classes were invigorating, and Terrie Vos' speech about her vision for '09-'10 was incredibly inspiring. She spoke about challenges, opportunities, collaboration, accountability, and defining our future, our rights, privileges, and duties; validating our worth as professionals; developing leadership; taking ownership, and knowing our values; thinking outside of our comfort zone. All of these words were really the core of her message to have people step up to the challenges of leadership in

SGNA on local, regional and national levels; encouraging members to extend their knowledge through classes, on line study, seminars and conferences to help better care for our patients. She also emphasized the importance of collaboration with Medical groups (such as SGNA & ASGE) being examples of collaboration for all members to follow. She also spoke of not forgetting the past, where SGNA has been, as it moves into the future.

The most intriguing presentations were from: Dr. Jennifer Lightdale and Lawrence Muscarella PhD. Dr. Lightdale spoke about how important it is to be prepared for every emergency situation, and that at Boston Children's Hospital, they utilize simulated patients and situations (computer controlled) which are video taped to train staff for emergencies in their lab, including codes. The team who trains, watches the video and critiques their responses. She said they utilize frequent training just as airlines do to keep people ready and prepared, so their responses are natural rather than being unpredictable. She spoke of how important to have great communication skills during emergencies, and use of closed loop communication (repeating aloud all instructions) and ensuring that all feel part of the team. She also spoke of how important Capnography monitoring is for patient safety, and explained the monitors.

Dr. Muscarella is Director of Research and Development for Custom Ultrasonics Inc. He spoke extensively about Biofilms, how they form, how to prevent their formation, and the implications for scope cleaning. He is very adamant that SGNA's current cleaning policy and recommendations are accurate (he researched 1500 articles) and that if they are followed religiously, and scopes are maintained and repaired quickly there should be no problems with formation of biofilm on or in scopes.

I was also able to attend the ABCGN banquet, where our unit was awarded a "Unit Excellence in Professionalism" award.
Dorothy Wobick

Please extend my appreciation to WSGNA for choosing me as a scholarship recipient to attend the 2009 SGNA National Conference. I had the opportunity to attend many fine presentations that increased my knowledge of GI nursing as well as giving me different perspectives on the day to day operation of other GI departments. Meeting and sharing with so many nurses from so many places enabled me to come back with new ideas information on emerging trends and an enthusiasm to share with my department and encourage them to think about attending next year. A special part of the conference was the pride I shared with my co-workers in seeing our director, Terrie Vos assume the leadership of SGNA for the coming year. It was an excellent experience.

Patricia Rozek

THANK YOU NOTES CONT'D...

I would like to thank the WSGNA scholarship committee and members at large for the generous scholarship to attend the national conference this year. I am a certified GI nurse and by attending I am able to gain a significant amount of GI and standard CEU credits as well as learn a tremendous amount of information regarding current and emerging diagnostic and therapeutic techniques in GI to share with my colleagues and to enhance my professional career. I was able to network with other GI leaders around the country sharing my experiences and learning from them what they are experiencing. The wide variety of vendors and displays was also very valuable to make connections for product information.

For me personally, I was able to glean information regarding the latest on "NAPS", GI reimbursement, current technology trends, and leadership tips for effective managers. I was particularly impressed with the general session by Dr. Lawrence F. Muscarella, PhD on "An Infection Control Update: GI Endoscopes and the Risk of Transmission of Biofilms, C. difficile and Other Epidemiologically Important Infectious Agents". It was the most interesting and informative infection control information that I have ever heard.

Also I was extremely impressed with the summation speech regarding the 2009-2010 SGNA theme for next year, by the new SGNA president, Wisconsin's own, Theresa Voss. She is very dynamic and well spoken.

Sincerely,

Denise Ertl



Thank You WSGNA

A scholarship provided by the WSGNA gave me the opportunity to attend the national SGNA conference in St. Louis, Missouri in May. I was able to broaden my knowledge base by attending sessions about the newest biologicals available for the treatment of crohn's and colitis, laparoscopic surgeries used in the treatment of colon cancer or diverticular disease, and new testing available to assist in the diagnosis of irritable bowel disease.

One of the sessions that made the biggest impact on me involved a patient that had several errors that occurred during her course of treatment following a Nissan fundoplication. The errors and lack of prompt intervention eventually resulted in her death. While none of these errors happened in the GI Center, it reminded me of our daily duty to be diligent safe practitioners and a patient advocate for people receiving our care.

The tough economic times and decreasing educational budgets available from hospitals, often make attending educational seminars difficult. I am honored to belong to WSGNA, which is committed to helping GI nurses, and techs attend continuing education opportunities.

Thank you

Karon Lankford RN BSN CGRN

Staff Nurse

Waukesha Memorial Hospital



Scholarship applications are being accepted for SGNA Multi-Regional conference until September 1st. You may also submit an application for certification/recertification until September 1st. Monies will be paid upon receipt of attendance/successful certification or re-certification. Application form is enclosed in newsletter. Winners will be notified by September 15th.



WSGNA EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION (FALL)

WSGNA Educational Scholarships have been established to financially assist WSGNA members in attending SGNA/WSGNA educational courses. Scholarships will be awarded as outlined in the scholarship policy and procedure.

Name _____

Date _____

Address _____ Member since _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email address _____

Title _____ Position _____

How long have you been a GI Nurse/associate? _____

Are/Have you been involved in GI Nursing in your hospital/community/state/regional or national organization? _____

Have you ever received a WSGNA scholarship before? When? _____

What would a scholarship mean to you; any special considerations? _____

The number of scholarships and the amount of each scholarship granted will be determined by the Board of Directors and Scholarship Committee in December of each year.

Please indicate below which course you are applying for: (The application deadline for the following scholarships is September 1 of the year to be awarded)

_____ WSGNA Fall Education Course

_____ Multi Regional Conference

_____ Scholarship for _____ Certification _____ Recertification (2 each, selected annually in September)

Selection criteria:

**A member of WSGNA for one year or more as of January 1st of the year you are seeking the scholarship.

**Currently working in the field of GI.

The monies for the scholarship will be reimbursed upon the submission of a copy of your contact hour certificate, a brief synopsis of your experience at the educational course and how attending enhanced your professional career. This is due within 30 days of attendance and will be published in the newsletter.

Contact any board member if you have questions.

Submit to: Director at Large, Nominations and Membership

Revised 11/08

LETTERS FROM DONATION RECIPIENTS

The following letters were received last year after we made donations to these organizations. We will be doing our 2010 budget in November and may be looking for organizations to contribute to.

Dear Margaret,

With warm appreciation, I would like to thank you for your generous gift of \$1,500.00 to support the **Bonnie Lynn Mechanic Celiac Clinic at Children's Hospital and Health System**. As you recommended, we will direct the gift to the data base and reference binders.

Contributions from generous donors like you enable doctors, nurses, scientists, child advocates, and health educators to find ways to keep kids healthy and safe. Gift commitments have helped Children's Hospital achieve national recognition for patient care, child advocacy, education and research. Best of all, donations have helped to save lives.

If you have any questions about Children's, or would like a personal update on our activities, please feel free to call me.

Thank you again for your strong belief in the power of philanthropy, and especially for your strong belief and investment in Children's. We are truly grateful for your support!

Sincerely,

Rhonda Plotkin
Development Director

Dear Margaret,

Thank you for WSGNA's \$1,000.00 donation in support of **CCFA Camp Oasis**. Because the cost of keeping camp affordable for families continues to become more difficult to reach, it is very much appreciated that you have contributed in support of CCFA's annual camp event.

This year, the number of campers that registered from the state of Wisconsin increased from 29 to 44 in 2008. We are excited to see that the number of kids attending Camp Oasis is growing, and that we are helping these kids forge long lasting and positive relationships with other children and teens that are affected by Inflammatory Bowel Disease.

Our goal is to provide children with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis a "normal" camp experience. Children and teenagers from 10-18 who attend the camp have the opportunity to forge important bonds, make friends, and replace the sense of feeling different and separation with a network of support from fellow campers, counselors and staff. Camp Oasis serves an important role in building greater self confidence in a young person and parents can be assured their child can safely spend time away from home. Camp Oasis allows children to have an experience of a lifetime.

Thank you again for your kind and generous support of CCFA.

Kind regards,

Dan McBee
Development Assistant
CCFA-Wisconsin Chapter

*On behalf of myself and all the kids from camp, Thank you! Thank you!
Thank you! Nadine Davis*

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

WSGNA Nominations Form (Odd Year)

Please check the offices that you are nominating yourself or someone else for:
(if nominating multiple people, please copy this form and fill out one for each nomination)

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

President-Elect Secretary Director at Large - Membership/Nominations

Please submit form on or before September 15 to:

Current Director at Large: Membership/Nominations or

Email any Board Member with questions.

✂-----

The following are the new descriptions of the WSGNA leadership roles due for election this year.

PLEASE take time to read them; then consider nominating yourself or someone else. **Thank you!**

President Elect

Making a three-year commitment, the president-elect serves a one year term and automatically becomes president upon completion of that year or a vacancy in the office of president. Following the year of president, this individual serves as immediate past president.

Eligibility: Voting member of WSGNA in good standing for past 2 years

Responsibilities and Duties of:

The President-Elect:

- Shall automatically accede to the presidency when the Regional Society's President's term ends;
- Shall become acting WSGNA President and assume the duties of the office in the event of the President's absence, disability, or resignation;
- Shall serve as an advisory member without vote on WSGNA standing and special committees and shall also perform such duties as may be delegated by the WSGNA President, or the WSGNA BOD;

The President:

- *Serve as official representative and spokesperson of the regional society; communicate society's mission, goals, and positions to its various publics;*
- *Preside at all meetings of the Board and society;*
- *Work closely with the SGNA and the regional board members to manage the affairs of the regional society;*
- *Serve as leader of the BOD to support and monitor the society's mission, goals and positions;*
- *Monitor emerging issues and evaluate the society's activities in relation to the needs of the members;*
- *Mentor president-elect and other WSGNA leaders;*
- *Serve as an ex-officio member of standing and special committees except for Nominations and Elections*
- *Serve as WSGNA delegate to meetings of other organizations including (but not limited to) WNA and other state nursing organizations*
- *Appoint all committee chairs and members for the presidential year (except nominations and elections) with the approval of the Board*
- *Submit reports of presidential activities to the BOD at every board meeting;*
- *Submit an annual report of the regional society to the regional society and SGNA Board of Directors*
- *Write columns for WSGNA News (Presidential Message)*

NOMINATIONS CONTINUED...

The Past President:

- Shall automatically accede to the past presidency when president's term ends.
- Shall become Chair of the scholarship committee for WSGNA and assume the duties of annual review and revision of the scholarship policies and procedures as well as review candidate applications and notification for scholarship awards.
- Attend Board and business meetings
- Attend WSGNA educational offerings
- Attend Multi-Regional planning committees
- The past president serves as educational liaison to the BOD. This includes collaboration on any educational efforts sanctioned by the BOD. Examples include regional and multi-regional offerings.
- The past president also serves as mentor to the president, providing leadership, support, and counsel as needed.

The past president is in a key leadership position on the BOD as she/he has already served as president-elect and president before assuming the position of past president. By default this position is the most experienced in terms of history, visibility and leadership through the BOD and therefore ultimately to the membership.

Time Commitment: (For President; time commitment is less for president elect and past president) May be as much as 4-8 hours a week depending on the business of the regional society.

Travel: May be 11-14 or more days per year. (Regional events; National Educational Conference; multi-regional event; leadership conference; 4-6 business meetings.)

Reimbursement: See WSGNA Policy on Reimbursement section of this form

Treasurer

As a member of the Board of Directors, the treasurer works closely with the Board and SGNA headquarters staff in preparing and executing financial policy for the Regional Society. The treasurer serves a two-year term with election in the even year.

Eligibility: Voting member of WSGNA

Background in business or finance desired, but not necessary.

Previous Treasurer experience or as a committee chair or director is desired.

Responsibilities and duties of:

- Serves as the financial representative/resource person for WSGNA
- Assists in the direction of all financial affairs, and signs checks of the Regional Society, in accordance with Section 12.03 of the WSGNA By-laws;
- Serves as the Chair of the Finance Committee for the term of office;
- Works with the Board of Directors in the development of an annual operating budget for WSGNA;
- Monitors financial activity, investments, income and expenses on a monthly basis in conjunction with WSGNA BOD and Committees;
- Advises the BOD regarding investments, reimbursements and the development of financial policy;
- Present financial reports to the BOD as requested;
- Present financial report to the WSGNA membership at the annual/biannual membership business meeting;
- To be bonded, the cost to be borne by WSGNA
- Attends all meetings of the Regional Society and all required Board meetings.

Time Commitment:

May be as much as 4-8 hours every month depending on the business of the regional society. Travel may be 6-14 or more days per year. (Regional events; multi-regional event; 4-6 business meetings).

Travel Required: Board of Directors Business meetings; Regional Educational Conferences; SGNA and Multi-Regional Conferences (optional)

Reimbursement: See WSGNA Policy on Reimbursements section

Director-At-Large

As members of the Board of Directors, the Directors-at-Large work closely with the Board and SGNA headquarters staff in providing management duties of the Regional Society.

Eligibility

Voting member of WSGNA

Background in management, organization skills desired, but not necessary.

Responsibilities and Duties of a Director

- Serves as a member of the Board of Directors and participates as an informed decision maker
- Monitor emerging issues and evaluate WSGNA's activities in relation to the needs of the members.
- Explore information required to make sound decisions on WSGNA's policies, programs, and activities.

NOMINATIONS CONTINUED...

- Read and respond to all Board correspondence as necessary in a timely manner;
- Serve as Director on WSGNA committees and reports to president of WSGNA
- Present committee reports, proposed programs, and action plans to the BOD for approval/progress.
- Participate in and/or chair BOD committees and task forces as appointed by the President.
- Attend all Regional Society and all required Board meetings

Membership/Nominations

- Elected by the membership in the odd year of two year term
- Utilizes and adapts the SGNA guidelines as a basis for recruitment and retention.

Communications/Newsletter

- Elected by the membership in the even year of two year term
- Works with the Immediate Past-President to identify the projects and programs for nominations and elections.
- Reviews website for content and accuracy
- Liaison to webmaster
- Writes newsletter.

Time Commitment:

May be as much as 4-8 hours each month depending on the business of the regional society. Travel may be 6-14 or more days per year.

Travel Required: Board of Directors Business meetings; Regional Educational Conferences; SGNA and Multi-Regional Conferences (optional)

Reimbursement: See **WSGNA Policy on Reimbursements** section

WSGNA Policy on Reimbursements:

WSGNA reimburses expenses for transportation (airfare, mileage, etc.) and lodging (based on double occupancy). Other expenses such as copying/ materials, phone, and postage are reimbursed based on WSGNA policy. For the position of President—WSGNA reimburses expenses for transportation (airfare, mileage, etc.) and hotel (based on double occupancy) for the SGNA National Conference/House of Delegates; Leadership Conference (President -Elect) mileage; hotel

Note: It is recommended that the candidate have a clear understanding of the commitment, time involved, frustrations and rewards, personal support of family/significant other, employer and professional colleagues for this two-year commitment.

Reimbursement

WSGNA reimburses expenses for transportation and lodging (based on double occupancy) for regional society conferences

Registration fee at Regional Society conferences waived

Expenses such as copying/printing materials, phone calls, and postage are reimbursed based on WSGNA policy

Please contact a board member if you would like more information about a certain office.

Visit us at
www.wsgna.org



MEETING MINUTES

WSGNA
Board of Directors Meeting
Hotel Sierra
Green Bay, WI
April 3rd, 2009

Present: Mary Fiebelkorn, President; Chris Crevcoure, Treasurer; Cathy Johnson, Director Communications; Sheila Gansemer, Director Membership/Nominations; Margaret Hauser-Ullman, President-Elect; Chris Bauer, Past President; Lynn Miller, Secretary.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Mary Fiebelkorn @ 8:10 PM.

Approval of minutes: The minutes of the January 10th, 2009 Board of Directors meeting were approved as written.

Committee Reports:

Membership/Nominations-Sheila Gansemer

Sheila reported we now have 183 members, down from a previous 225. There were 11 applicants for the WSGNA Spring conference scholarships with 5 awarded and 6 for SGNA with 4 awarded. 2 extra scholarships for National were given this year to support our own WSGNA members in the National spotlight. Terry Vos is the new President of SGNA and Peggy Gauthier, the President-Elect of SGNA. WSGNA responded to the appeal from SGNA for funds to defray the cost of National by awarding a \$1000 educational scholarship to our colleagues from the newest chartered regional in Palm Beach. Sheila said the ballot for open positions on the BOD for fall are Secretary, Director at Large Membership/Nominations, and President-Elect. Nomination forms are available in the website. **Item open.**

Communications-Cathy Johnson

Cathy reported the Spring newsletter was out last week on the website in PDF format. Mary Garcia has finalized the new logo and it is being put on our website. Cathy is exploring website funding possibilities from Abbott rep. Mike Cameron. This may remain a possibility even with the cutbacks in funding and the current rules affecting sponsorship from vendors. Cathy needs volunteers to submit articles for the "Department Spotlight" section of the newsletter. The new WSGNA logo is now on the SGNA site and Mary Garcia will be getting reimbursed for her services as previously agreed upon by the BOD. **Item open.**

Treasurer's Report-Chris Crevcoure

Chris shared her Treasurer's report, which was reviewed by the group. Questions were answered and discussion followed. Chris is investigating the best rates available for our \$10,000 CD that comes due in July; rates are down given the economic downturn. She has again bonded our WSGNA Treasury thru West Bend Mutual. Current assets are \$27,350.62 checking and the \$10,000 CD.

Old/New Business:

Logo update-Banner purchase

As Cathy previously noted the new logo is on the WSGNA website and also has been accepted to the SGNA website. The logo is available for the BOD for their use as needed. Thank you Cathy for all your work with the implementation. The Board discussed various options for a new banner for WSGNA. Chris C. shared information she obtained from a local company in Green Bay that makes banners and other types of signage used throughout the US. Their various products are used in many venues from professional sports to Government flags. They have already offered some excellent suggestions to Chris for what would work best for our needs. Chris and Cathy will work up a design with the company and obtain quotes for our banner and present the information at a future board meeting. Item open.

Future Conferences

Mary reported there would be no WSGNA Fall 2009 conference. In 2010 for Fall Nancy Hammes indicated the possibility of La Crosse hosting the conference. No volunteers have indicated interest for a Spring 2010 conference. For the 2011 Spring conference, Terry Vos has indicated a possible interest for St. Lukes in planning it. Mary noted that the 2010 Multi-regional will be in Chicago and in 2011 it will be Wisconsin's turn to host it. **Informational.**

Policies on Website

Mary handed out copies of the WSGNA Policies and Procedures currently on the website which were reviewed. After discussion changes were made and accepted by the board. Mary will finalize them and have the changes made accordingly for their publication on the website.

The question of the possibility of offering commercial time to vendors on the website was brought up. SGNA will be consulted. Another idea brought up was the possibility of the WSGNA website being utilized for web learning. These interesting possibilities will be considered and if feasible hopefully implemented in the future.

Mary reviewed her plans for the Business meeting tomorrow at the conference.

Next Board Meeting:

Saturday, August 8th, 2009

Time: 9:00

Location: Fiddleheads 10530 North Port Washington Road, Mequon, WI

The meeting was adjourned by Mary Fiebelkorn at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Miller, BSN, RN, CGRN, Secretary

MEETING MINUTES CONTINUED...

**WSGNA Spring Business Meeting
Hotel Sierra 333 Main Street
Green Bay, WI
April 4th, 2009**

President Mary Fiebelkorn called the meeting to order at 12:35. A confirmation of a quorum of members present was established.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the October 4th, 2008 Business Meeting. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

A. Treasurer's Report: Chris Crevcoure shared information on the financial status of WSGNA. The present balances in our accounts are: Money Market \$27,350.62, Checking \$3825.12, CD \$10,000. Chris noted she has the new computer program for our WSGNA financial records, up and running smoothly. It is convenient and runs with the bank for an easy method for keeping our records accurate. For any questions regarding the WSGNA Treasury Chris has a detailed Treasurer's report available for review by members.

Membership/Nominations: Sheila Gansemer reported the WSGNA membership is currently at 183. Sheila noted the open positions on the BOD for elections in the fall are: Secretary, and Membership/ Nominations. She asked that members consider running themselves and also consider nominating their colleagues. Sheila shared the BOD decision to offer a \$1000 educational scholarship for our newly chartered sister region in Palm Beach, Florida. SGNA made an appeal to all regions to help defray costs associated with the National Conference. We chose to help this new region since they have limited financial resources in their Treasury. Their thank you note is included in the Spring newsletter. Sheila reported the recipients for the 4 SGNA 2009 Annual Course Scholarships are: Denise Ertl, Karon Lankford, Pat Rozek, and Dorothy Wobick. WSGNA Spring 2009 recipients are: Ed Catacutan, Pamela Graham, Karin Johnson, Mindy Klein, and Ursula Lackey. Today's winners for SGNA membership renewals are: Kathy Czechanski, Barb Piehl, Keith Heckert, and Joan Komars. Winners of new SGNA memberships are: Betsy Boeck, Gina Von Ruden, Patty Stewart-Triedli, and Barb Pier.

Communication/Newsletter: Cathy Johnson shared information on the new WSGNA logo now up on the website and on the Newsletter. Cathy has archived and updated the newsletters on the website. Mary Garcia has updated information on BOD contact information. She also has made the new logo available for use by the BOD.

WSGNA Bylaw Changes/Revisions-Mary reviewed the following changes to WSGNA Bylaws for approval by the membership, they will then be submitted to SGNA for their approval. A. WSGNA will have a **minimum of 2 Directors**. B. Nominations/Elections eligibility change to **a voting member for 2 consecutive years**. C. President/President-elect eligibility shall be a **Board member elected to serve on the BOD within the previous 5 years**. D. Membership meeting notice changes will be revised to **read sending by electronic means 14 days prior to the meeting date**. E. Voting by WSGNA membership may be done by proxy, written, fax, email, or regular mail. Mary noted this mirrors the SGNA bylaw. F. Directors voting by regular mail **changed to reflect email voting may replace regular mailed ballots**. This also mirrors SGNA's bylaw. G. A majority at any WSGNA meeting **including proxy delivered by email can authorize changes**. This also reflects the SGNA bylaw. H. WSGNA – BOD will have a **minimum of 2 Directors**. I. WSGNA **may send by electronic means, with 30 days between notices and voting, changes to the bylaws**.

Nominations/Elections for 2010-Volunteers are needed for the open Board positions of Secretary and Director at Large for Membership/ Nominations. Members please consider serving your organization at the local level. Election forms are available on the website.

6. Future Educational Offerings: Mary spotlighted the dates for the upcoming **SGNA Annual Course in St. Louis on May 18th-21st, 2009. The Fall Multi-Regional Conference will be held in Columbus, Ohio October 16th-18th, 2009.**

New Business- Margaret Hauser-Ullman reviewed the SGNA HOD resolutions handouts. Some of the highlighted ones reviewed are #1 which is related to RN PEG role delineation and #2 related to SGNA having a PEG competency/certification developed. Please review your handout and return it to the ballot box so your delegates may make your decisions known at the HOD in St. Louis. Chris Bauer recognized our own WSGNA members who are in the National spotlight. Terry Vos will be installed as the new President of SGNA in St. Louis and Peggy Gauthier is President-elect for SGNA 2010. Congratulations to both Terry and Peggy for their well deserved honors. We are in great hands with them at the helm of our organization. Chris asked for members to submit their email addresses to make it easy to continue to share information and keep all members informed of WSGNA business.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 13:05 by Mary Fiebelkorn.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Miller, BSN, RN, CGRN, Secretary