

wsgna

Newsletter

www.wsgna.org

December, 2008

Wisconsin's Winter Wonderland!
I'm watching the snow as I type this newsletter. Christmas is coming and the cold is here for the duration. Take time to find your inner child and enjoy the season with family and friends.

With all of our busy schedules, it's a gift to ourselves to curl up with a book, bake cookies, or make snow angels!
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Busy Fall Season

The fall educational offerings are over. Many members attended Harvest Day in October at Brynwood Country Club. The Froedtert GI department did an excellent job in providing us all an information packed day. Thank you to Froedtert planning committee for all your hard work, time and effort!!

Peoria, Illinois was the site of the multi-regional conference in mid-October. This was well attended by the surrounding region and also offered excellent learning and CEU opportunities. Next year you can travel to Columbus, Ohio for the 2009 conference.

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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, and 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



WEBSITE

www.wsgna.org

CHECK US OUT!!!



Many changes are taking place on our WSGNA website. Most of our forms are on there now. If you need a scholarship application, contact info for BOD, policies and procedures, old newsletters, or links to related topics, please check it out. A new logo is soon to be 'unveiled'. We are thinking of starting a 'chat' or blog area. If anyone has a question about how someone does something, a problem they want to discuss, looking for peers going to a conference, ... This would be a nice way to 'network' with each other and get answers when you need them, not months later. I would appreciate any feedback on this plan, would you use it, what would you like to see on it, or any other newsletter, website topics. Contact me at casjohnson3@yahoo.com or 262-544-0157.



Thanks again to Abbott Immunology who has graciously offered to help offset our costs for 2008. Your support helps us to provide many opportunities for our members!
Thank you, Mike Cameron and Abbott!

WSGNA BOD

President

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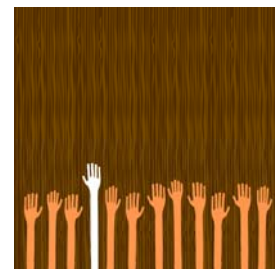
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The Essence of Volunteer Leadership

People volunteer for a number of reasons. Most often one thinks of volunteers as only doing so to help others. It is perfectly okay for volunteers to want something for themselves also. It seems out of the “norm” the idea that a volunteer could actually benefit from doing volunteer work. The best of volunteerism does involve the desire to serve others, but this does not exclude other motivations as well. WSGNA, as well as SGNA, is lead by volunteer leaders, that is, leaders who do not receive monetary compensation for their work. These volunteers are committed to the future of the art and science of Gastroenterology Nursing. What motivates these leaders? What are the benefits? After doing a personal inventory of motivating factors, the writer has come up with the following list:

- To demonstrate commitment to the specialty of GI nursing
- To assure a progressive dynamic organization
- To gain satisfaction from accomplishment
- To be challenged
- To be part of a team
- To learn new things
- To gain leadership skills
- To network with colleagues
- To make new friends and to have FUN



This is by no means an exhaustive list and other leaders surely would have additions.

WSGNA, as with many organizations that rely on volunteer leaders, find the search for future leaders often comes up empty handed. We all bring different skills and talents to the leadership table. It is this diversity that keeps boards alive and vital. Do these commitments take time? Yes, they do. The question to ask is: Do I have a few extra hours a month to donate to the growth and stability of my professional organization? Please consider volunteer leadership as an exchange, benefiting both you and WSGNA. Your Board of Directors is committed to succession planning, success of the organization and all this will be accomplished by mentoring new leaders. WSGNA is dedicated to the professional development and advancement of its members.

Peggy Gauthier MS, BSN, RN, CGRN

Thanks in response to a scholarship:

Thank you, WSGNA, for the recertification scholarship. It is much appreciated.

Karin Johnson, RN, CGRN

"DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT"

Waukesha Memorial Hospital GI Center



In the GI center at WMH we have 33 staff members. This includes 1 RN manager, 3 unit secretaries, 23 RN's, 3 LPN's, 1 GI tech, 2 CNA/transporters, and 1 processing tech. Of above staff, 11 are certified (out of 17 eligible). 16 are WSGNA members. We have 8 procedure rooms, including one dedicated fluoro room. We have 24 admitting/recovery rooms.



We are a busy department, averaging 35-45 cases daily. We do all endoscopic procedures, including ERCP, EUS, Bronchoscopies, and most recently added, Super Dimension Bronchoscopy. These newer bronchoscopies enable the thoracic surgeon to map out lung tumors and retrieve tissue for biopsy. These biopsies are interpreted by a pathologist in the GI center, giving a diagnosis within minutes. The surgeons may place 'fiducials' to accurately mark these tumors and the patients then may go for cyber knife treatment.

For special occasions, we have lunches and for GI nurses day, we participate in the regional event. We have a 'sunshine committee' and we help out friends and co-workers. In the past few months, we have had a movie night. One of the best things about working in this GI center is the people we work with. We get along well and appreciate everyone's 'expertise' and what they "bring to the table." Many of our nurses have greater than 15 years of experience in the GI lab!

One of the things that set us apart from other GI areas we've talked to is the support we get for continuing education. Many of our staff attends WSGNA offerings, as well as multi-regional and national conferences. Our manager strongly supports our need for CEU's for recertification and general conference attendance and assists us through our education budget.



During March, for colo-rectal cancer awareness, we have giveaways for patients; have informational displays in the cafeteria with snacks, and posters in the immediate GI area for patients and their families.

One of the struggles we deal with is scheduling and staffing. It's difficult to staff regular hours when our schedule changes often, (i.e.: inhouse add-ons). We have made strides in the past with setting an 'end time' for outpatient procedures and limiting the timing of procedures. This has enabled us to gain back a little control over what we do. It has also decreased our overtime. We currently have openings for RN's in our center. This is in response to conversations with our manager and her management team. Our openings now are for additional staff, not replacements.

We spend a lot of time orienting new staff, but for some people this isn't a good fit. Prior to hiring a new employee, we allow them to come and shadow us at work and get a feel for a regular day. We have received positive feedback for doing this.

If you would like any more information about the GI center at WMH, please contact Mary Fiebelkorn, RN, manager, at mary.fiebelkorn@phci.org or 262-928-7614.

If you and your department would like to be highlighted, fill out the form on the following page(s) and email me a picture(s) if you choose. You may fax to Cathy Johnson at 262-928-4669 (Waukesha GI Center), or email casjohnson3@yahoo.com

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

We'd like to hear from YOU! (Lacrosse, Stevens Point, Wausau, Janesville, Two Rivers, Eau Claire, Marinette, Prairie du Chien, Monroe, and ALL others!)

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.)? _____

Do you have any special support groups for patients or services that you offer?

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

Does your department recognize Colo-rectal Cancer Awareness in March? What do you do for it?

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

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

April 4 - WSGNA Spring Conference KI Convention Center Green Bay

May 16-20 - SGNA National Course St. Louis, MO

October 16-18 - Multi Regional Conference Columbus, Ohio

Plan now, doesn't forget to apply for your scholarship!

Congratulations to the following who won memberships for SGNA for 2009 at the Spring Conference in Waukesha and the Fall Conference at Brynwood Country Club:

Margaret Hauser-Ullman
Nichole Michels
Gael Lippert
Andrea Fenrich

Joan Welles
Marcie Jascor
Lavon Frank-Thompson
Marianne Sullivan-Granger

Tammy Fellenz
Kathleen Nault
Jack Daniel
Chris Micus

Kori Chaignot
Carol Stephany
Barb Lindner
Joan Schmit

Please remember that all cards must be returned to Chris Crevcoure at 3104 East River Drive, Green Bay, WI 54301 by December 10, 2008. So why not get it out and send it now?

Membership entitles you to SGNA membership, subscription to the Gastroenterology Nursing journal, on-line discussion forums, discounted educational conferences, and more.

2008 Leadership Conference

In early October, President Elect Margaret Ullman attended the SGNA leadership conference in Chicago. Following are a few key points Margaret wanted to share.

New allowable Contact Hour for re-certification for CGRN: Volunteer Involvement in a GI related professional organization ABCGN, SGNA, or SIGNEA at the national or regional level. You must be involved as an officer or on a committee or task force. Maximum hours are 3 hours per year for maximum of 9 hours.

You may use a program from the Learning Link to present at a conference. The contact hours are already approved @ \$20.00 per contact hour. A separate certificate must be provided.

New SGNA region: Tampa, Florida

HOD resolution passed: Author of HOD resolution must be available to explain resolution to the HOD during the national conference. The author does not need to be present.

There is a new Advanced Associates online program available through the SGNA website. It consists of 3 modules at a cost of \$100.00.

Regional Night at the Natl. Conference has been discontinued. Feedback from members: Too many things were scheduled into this first day of the conference.

A syllabus will no longer be printed at Nationals. SGNA will send the access to download the needed materials. A CD Rom will also be distributed in the coarse bag.

CHARITABLE DONATIONS

November 24th, 2008



Dear Members,

During this holiday season of giving and charity, I would like to tell you how some of the proceeds from conferences and dues are being used.

This year, we selected two worthy organizations, i.e. The Wisconsin Chapter of Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA), and the Bonnie Lynn Mechanic Celiac Disease Clinic at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.



The CCFA runs Camp Oasis. It's a great place for kids with IBD to have fun in a supportive environment. We'll be helping a needy child attend this camp for a week in August. Then, we'll be giving the Bonnie Lynn Mechanic Clinic enough funds to defray the cost of providing educational/resource binders to parents and children with celiac disease.



Thanks for your continued support of WSGNA. It has enabled us to grow the organization, enhance our knowledge and support our community.

To all, have a safe and wonderful holiday.
Margaret Hauser-Ullman
WSGNA President-Elect

SCHOLARSHIPS

At our fall conference in October, we gave away four \$125.00 to random attendees. We did this to show how easy it is to apply for and get these monies. No one had applied and the money is there for you! On rare occasions we have had to select from applications, but often no one applies. Please consider filling out an application if you would like to or are planning on attending a conference. The criteria for selection and requirements are on the website and on the form enclosed. Also, the Sharon Worzalla grant, listed on the website, is currently being revised. This will be available at the end of 2009. Stay tuned for more info!

WSGNA Educational Scholarship Application (Spring)

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 March 1 of the year to be awarded)

____ WSGNA Spring Education Course

____ SGNA Annual Course

____ Certification/ ____ Recertification – (2 each, selected 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

WSGNA
Board of Directors Meeting
Four Points Sheraton Milwaukee North
8900 North Kildeer Road
Brown Deer, WI
October 3rd, 2008

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

1. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Mary Fiebelkorn @ 13:25.
2. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the August 9th, 2008 board of Directors meeting were amended as follows: Under Treasurer report, change 30days to 60 days of the event to WSGNA Treasurer. For the Spring Conference 2008, change the profit amount to \$16,681.18; add to Chris Bauer's motion the effective date for the Vendor table fee of \$750 begins with the Spring 2009 conference and registration fees will be \$75 member \$125 non-member. An additional addendum: IRS mileage reimbursement is 58.5 cents per mile. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes with the changes as noted.
3. **Committee Reports:**
 - **Secretary-Lynn** thanked Sheila for taking the minutes at the August meeting.
 - **Membership/Nominations-Sheila Gansemer**
Sheila reported WSGNA now has 237 members. She is working on updating the scholarship application format for Spring and Fall educational conferences, these will be posted on the website. Sheila announced the status of applications for scholarships for this fall: **0**-WSGNA Fall 2008, **0**-Multi-regional 2008. There were **2** recipients for re-certification scholarships: Gael Lippert and Karin Johnson.
Item open.
 - **Communications-Cathy Johnson**
Cathy gave an update on the status of the website. Mary Garcia plans to have our revamped website up by meeting time tomorrow. Cathy showed some examples of the new offerings on our site. Thanks to Cathy for her work with Mary in making this happen for WSGNA. Chris requested an update on the billing process for the Webmaster charges. **Item open.**
 - **Treasurer's Report-Chris Crevcoure**
Chris reported the latest total to date for rebates from SGNA of \$3585. Chris gave a detailed review of the status of WSGNA's accounts and transactions, discussion followed. Mary reviewed the proceeds from the Spring 2008 conference of \$16,681.18. Cathy will follow up with Mary Garcia regarding the billing process for the website and report back to Chris. **Item open.**
4. **Old Business:**
 - **Final Budget Approval for 2009-ALL**
Mary presented her proposed budget for 2009. A detailed and involved discussion of the budget items followed. Funding for Scholarships for 2009:
 - **\$2000** Two scholarships to SGNA annual course (\$1000)

- **\$500** Four scholarships to Spring Regional Conference (\$125)
- **\$500** Four scholarships to Fall Regional Conference (\$125)
- **\$700** Two scholarships to Multi-Regional Conference (\$350)
- **\$600** Two scholarships for taking the Certification test (\$300)
- **\$500** Two scholarships for Recertification (\$250)

The Board left the option open to fund four scholarships for Certification if there are no applications for Recertification. The type of award, such as monetary or recognition with a plaque, for the Sharon Worzalla Scholarship was discussed with the option left open at this time. Lynn will obtain more information on biographical data for Sharon. It was clarified that when distributing gift cards to those achieving certification, WSGNA members only would receive them. More discussion followed on the many details and issues regarding the budget. Mary provided an excellent breakdown of expenses and projections related to BOD expenses based on the duties described in each respective job description. The budget will be finalized at the next Board meeting after receiving and reviewing further information related to options for charitable contributions and other expenses.

Item open.

- **Job Description updates-Mary**

Mary presented her drafts for updating the BOD job descriptions. Each one was carefully discussed, reviewed, and compared with the suggested content and format from SGNA. Revisions were made accordingly. Mary will type them up and present them at the next Board meeting. Once again, thank you Mary for all your work on this task. **Item open.**

- **Website Updates-All**

Board pleased with new site and looking forward to future developments.

Informational.

- **Nominations/Elections for 2009**

Sheila reported there is one new candidate joining in the race for Treasurer. Diane Ballard joins incumbent Chris Crevcoure for the office of Treasurer. Cathy Johnson the incumbent communications Director is the only candidate for this position at this time. Discussion followed regarding the eligibility requirements for the position of President Elect followed. Margaret is seeking information regarding this matter this weekend while attending the SGNA Leadership meeting in Chicago. This will be discussed at the next BOD meeting when more information is available. **Item open.**

- **Decisions on Contributions/Donations-All**

The Board discussed various options for WSGNA's options for charitable donations available. Margaret is obtaining information related to Celiac related options and will present her findings at the next BOD meeting. **Item open.**

5. **New Business**

Mary related she is will be making the changes to the WSGNA Conference Planning Manual available in email format rather than printing a hard copy due to the costs involved with the printing. **Informational.**

The Board discussed options to distribute available monies for use by members for registration fees for tomorrow's conference. It was decided that member's names would be drawn at the business meeting and scholarship monies would be distributed then. Cathy will reprint winners of SGNA renewals and new memberships for publication

in the newsletter. **Item open.**

Mary will ask for nominations for open positions on the BOD at the business meeting tomorrow. **Informational.**

Next Board Meeting:

Date: Saturday, November 1st, 2008

Location: TBD

Time: 9:00

The meeting was adjourned at 17:00 by Mary Fiebelkorn.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Miller, BSN, RN, CGRN, Secretary

**WSGNA Fall Business Meeting
Brynwood Country Club
Milwaukee, WI
October 4th, 2008**

1. President Mary Fiebelkorn called the meeting to order at 11:50. A confirmation of a quorum of members present was established.
2. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the April 19th, 2008 Business Meeting. Motion carried.
3. **Committee Reports:**
 - A. **Treasurer's Report:** Chris Crevcoure shared information on the financial status of WSGNA. She has been able to resolve the problems with Wells Fargo in relation to obtaining our funds from their investment branch. These funds are now in a \$10,000 CD. Balance of other WSGNA funds are: Money Market-\$8599.30; Checking-2624.86. We've received \$3585 this year from SGNA in membership rebates. The proceeds from the Spring 2008 Waukesha conference are \$16,681.18. Thanks to Mary Fiebelkorn and her crew for an excellent educational opportunity. For any questions
 - B. regarding the Treasury, Chris has a detailed Treasurer's available for review by members.
 - C. **Membership/Nominations:** Sheila Gansmer reported WSGNA is now 237 members strong! Sheila asked for nominees for the open positions on the

Board: President-elect, Communications/Newsletter, and Treasurer. Nominations are due by October 15th. Ballots will be out in November. The recipients of the WSGNA awards for re-certification are: Gael Lippert and Karin Johnson. Sheila reminded members there are 4 scholarships available for members for Spring & Fall educational conferences. Check the WSGNA website for updated applications. Today we are again distributing renewal and new SGNA memberships to the conference attendees. Since there were no applications for scholarships for today's conference, Mary announced the names drawn from WSGNA member attendees today and distributed accordingly.

- D. **Communications/Newsletter:** Cathy Johnson reported on the status of our website. The new logo is now up, check out the updated and streamlined look. Keep coming back to check out other changes as they are implemented to make it as user friendly as possible. The next newsletter will be out in November. A reminder it will be emailed out to members who have provided Cathy with their email addresses and also be available on the website. The website also provides a format for any members to communicate any questions or concerns to President Mary Fiebelkorn.

4. **House of Delegates Resolutions for 2008** - Mary noted the resolutions that passed the HOD in Salt Lake City.
5. **Nominations/Elections for 2009** - Mary asked for nominations for The openings on the Board, President Elect, Communications/ Newsletter, and Treasurer. Please don't hesitate to nominate yourself or any other member interested in the opportunity.
6. **Future educational offerings:** Mary highlighted the upcoming planned educational opportunities:
 - **Multi-Regional Conference-Peoria, Illinois on October 17th - 19th, 2008.**
 - **Spring 2009 WSGNA Conference in Green Bay, WI - date pending.**
 - **SGNA National Conference-St. Louis, Missouri on May 18th-21st, 2009.**

Mary asked for volunteers to host future WSGNA offerings in the upcoming years. Anyone interested can contact the members of the BOD at any time.

7. **New Business:** Mary asked for any concerns or input from members. None were brought forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 by Mary Fiebelkorn.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Miller, BSN, RN, CGRN, Secretary

WSGNA
Board of Directors Meeting
Fiddleheads
10530 North Port Washington Road
Mequon, WI
November 1st, 2008

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

**Chris Bauer, Past President joined in via cell phone from Arizona.
Peggy Gauthier joined the meeting midway.**

1. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Mary Fiebelkorn @ 8:15.
2. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the October 3rd, 2008 board of Directors meeting were discussed and approved as written. Discussion followed including but not limited to changes from SGNA. It was noted that dues to SGNA were increased to \$120 new & \$105 renewal fees affecting our budget for 2009. Mary noted the proceeds from the Froedtert Fall 2008 conference will be around \$10,000. Chris Bauer brought up options to be considered for our investments. After discussion it was decided to leave our CD investments that are coming up for renewal, in the Bank rather than in the Credit Union as the Banks are paying a higher return. It is anticipated that WSGNA will realize less income from Multi-regional and Regional conferences in the future due to changes in the industry and the downturn in the economy. Of note is that Multi-regional will be hosted in Wisconsin in 2011.
3. **Committee Reports:**
 - **Membership/Nominations-Sheila Gansemer**
Sheila reported WSGNA membership remains steady at 237. She noted the scholarship revisions need to be reviewed. The application on the website is updated. The BOD will clarify the policy as to how often scholarships can be received, collection criteria, and information requested on the application. It was noted that the application deadlines for 2009 are March 1st & Sept. 1st and will also be in the newsletter. We will possibly send email reminders for deadlines for applications. The BOD will review the criteria used for choosing scholarship recipients, to include certified/non-certified, geographical location, duplicate reimbursement. **Item open.**
 - **Communications-Cathy Johnson**
Cathy shared an update of the website. Target date for the next newsletter is the end of November. **Informational.**
 - **Treasurer's Report-Chris Crevcoure**
Chris updated her report from our last meeting in October. Items in the checking account were reviewed. The Money Market return was nominal and the statement for the CD's is forthcoming.
4. **Old Business:**

- **Multiregional-Mary**
Mary reported that Nancy Gondzur will continue to represent WSGNA on the planning committee. In view of some changes affecting Multi-regional Nancy may need an available partner to help her with upcoming planning activities. **Item open.**
 - **Contributions-Margaret Hauser-Ullman**
Margaret gave an update of her conversations with Rhonda Plotkin, Foundation Director, and Elaine Danner, Dietician, from Children's Hospital. They identified their needs for serving their celiac patient population. One of the most cost effective items that WSGNA could fund is a data base from Clan Thompson. This would provide info. on ingredients for thousands of foods and drugs. This data base would allow Elaine to cross reference these meds with foods to avoid and provide this info. to families. This is an area of concern for almost all children with Celiac Sprue who are on numerous meds, as many of these meds do not interact well with certain gluten free foods. Presently she has no data base and must do this on an individual time consuming basis. CHOW Celiac clinic reaches populations statewide through their satellite clinics. The BOD discussed the issue and agreed to donate **\$1500** to the celiac clinic at Children's Hospital. This will be used for the data base purchase, with the remainder utilized for educational materials for patients and their families. It was also agreed that WSGNA will also donate **\$1000** to CCFA. **Item closed.**
5. **New Business:**
- **Nominations/Elections for 2009**
Mary introduced Peggy Gauthier to the BOD. Peggy provided guidance to the Board regarding clarification of the interpretation of the WSGNA bylaws which mirror the SGNA bylaws. Since the bylaws state that a nominee for President-elect shall have previously served on the BOD there is no eligible candidate coming forward for the ballot at this time (WSGNA bylaw Article VII, 7.022). Peggy has been in consultation with the executive staff at SGNA headquarters. Peggy reported that SGNA advises that it is acceptable, according to the bylaws, for all members of the current BOD of WSGNA to stay in their respective positions for 2009. This is addressed in the bylaws for incumbents to remain in their positions if necessary. Peggy noted that the current BOD members, who would be eligible to run for the position of Pres.-elect next year, strongly consider the route for ascension to this office. Peggy is willing to write an article for the newsletter and/or speak to WSGNA members to consider volunteering to run for BOD. Other points brought up for discussion and clarified by Peggy were: When the Pres. is off the BOD they may run again for Pres-elect since the term would not be consecutive. Peggy noted this is a common problem throughout SGNA regions of finding enough volunteers to serve on the BOD. She had some suggestions for the BOD to consider reaching out to different locales in the state and stressing the benefits of serving such as stipends offered for education, personal growth and satisfaction. **Thank you Peggy**, for sharing your time, your valuable insights, and helping guide the BOD.
 - **Resolutions for SGNA**
After discussion it was decided that Chris Bauer and Lynn will formulate a resolution regarding the dissemination of information and business operations using standard US Postal Service mail delivery or email as the accepted standard. It was felt that

using email will cut down on costs related to postage for instance for mailing out ballots, as well as printing costs. Email can also be more timely and efficient, and hopefully increase communication. Peggy will be available via email to assist with authoring the resolution. **Item open.**

- **SGNA Leadership Conference**

Margaret mentioned some of the ideas brought up. Offering other regions help with their identified needs where we may have more expertise for instance. The BOD is willing to help any region that requests assistance. WSGNA will continue our involvement in the Midwest Multi-regional conference, apparently this in a rather unique educational offering. **Informational.**

- **WSGNA Spring Conference 2009**

Chris Crevcoure will contact Sherry from Green Bay regarding questions and concerns the planning committee has related to the conference. Tentative date is April 4th. The question was raised if SGNA could furnish Regional data on a CD available each Jan 1st. **Item open.**

- **Financial Records**

Chris Crevcoure brought up the possibility of WSGNA utilizing a standardized program to be used by the Treasurer for keeping the records of the Treasury. A motion was made and carried by the BOD to have "WSGNA purchase a computerized accounting program to be used by the Treasurer and President to keep the financial records of WSGNA to be passed on to future WSGNA BOD". Chris and Mary will seek input and implement an acceptable program as soon as feasible. **Item open.**

- **WSGNA Board of Directors**

The Board has a discussion and brainstormed ideas for increasing member involvement in WSGNA. We will try to go all out in 2009 to present a ballot with a slate of candidates for the BOD to serve in 2010. The BOD (absent Chris Bauer who was no longer joining in via cell phone) discussed the make up of the BOD for 2009 as it was outlined by Peggy Gauthier. Everyone is willing to proceed with the plan for the Board remaining as it is now.

Next Board Meeting:

Saturday, January 10th, 2009

Location: Fiddleheads 10530 N. Port Washington Road, Mequon, WI

Time: 9:00

2009 WSGNA Board Meeting Dates

Friday, April 3rd, 2009 preceding the Green Bay Spring Educational Conference

Saturday, August 8th, 2009 Fiddleheads, Mequon, WI

Saturday, November 7th, 2009 Fiddleheads, Mequon, WI

The meeting was adjourned by Mary Fiebelkorn at 10:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Miller, BSN, RN, CGRN, Secretary