



# *Regional Presidents' Memo*

**A newsletter for SGNA Regional Society Presidents, President-Elects, Delegates and Alternates**

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***A Message from the SGNA Board***  
*Betty McGinty, MS HSA BS RN CGRN*  
*Director of Regional Societies*

Spring is an exciting time for SGNA Regional Societies. With the start of a new year, we welcome all new Regional Presidents and President-Elects, as well as other officers. The Presidents' Memo is a great resource to provide you with ideas and suggestions to make your region successful.

The SGNA 38th Annual Course, *The Link Between Practice and Care*, is rapidly approaching. The dates this year are May 6-11, and it is time to make plans to attend. The courses and presentations this year are exceptional, and the networking opportunities are invaluable. Indianapolis, Indiana will be a fun and interesting location for the SGNA Annual Course. Many members will find this to be a time to bring family members along to enjoy the attractions of the city.

The Regional Leadership Session will be held Friday, May 6, from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. This offering is a condensed version of the Annual Leadership Conference that was held in October. This conference summarizes the expectations, responsibilities, and resources available to you. It also offers a great opportunity to network with other regional leaders and to exchange information.

An important role as president, president-elect, delegate or alternate is representing your region at the SGNA House of Delegates. You should have received the six House of Delegates Resolutions to review with your region. House of Delegates activities begin on Friday, May 6 at 12:30 pm with the House of Delegates Workshop. Here, you will learn everything you need to know about being a

delegate or alternate for your region. At 3:30 pm, the Reference Hearing begins, where you will hear discussion on the resolutions and the actual voting process will follow. Being a part of the House of Delegates is exciting and rewarding, as you represent your region and are a part of the future of SGNA.

Following the House of Delegates is the annual SGNA Rechartering Ceremony. Here, each president receives his or her charter for completing all requirements to remain a SGNA region in good standing.

As new presidents, you will soon be introduced to your assigned Divisional Coordinator, who will enhance and maintain the flow of communication between all SGNA Regional Societies and SGNA Headquarters. Your Divisional Coordinator is there to support on-going growth and activities of the Regional Societies, to monitor and support new Regional Society information, and to monitor regional compliance with requirements for rechartering.

Divisional Coordinators will update the regional presidents regarding SGNA activities and will provide the opportunity to discuss any challenges. The Divisional Coordinators, Emily Brett, the SGNA Headquarters Staff Liaison and the Board Liaison to the Committee are there to lend assistance and support. Please do not hesitate to contact any of these resources for regional issues.

On behalf of the Regional Societies Committee and SGNA leadership, we thank you for everything you do as leaders of your Regional Societies. You are the face of SGNA to our members, and you have the opportunity to make a difference. Keep up the great work!



### **Arizona, Region 3**

*Catherine Yows, RN CGRN*

Greetings from Arizona! The board of directors from ASGNA is excited about the upcoming year. We are planning several educational and community events. This year we will be launching a webcast with our educational offerings to reach as many GI nurses and associates as possible. To obtain access to the webcast, please visit our Web site. All fees go through PayPal.



### **Arkansas, Region 4**

*Debbie Oltmans, MSN RN CGRN*

Arkansas SGNA began the year with a positive balance in the bank. We are planning to use some of the money for a Christmas party for ARSGNA members in late November. In an effort to increase our membership, we offered an ARSGNA membership at our first meeting of the year in January. We held a \$50 drawing for a gift basket at the March meeting, and in September we will give away tuition for our fall conference.



### **Northern California, Region 6**

*Mary Veridiano, BSN RN BS CGRN*

Hello! My name is Mary Veridiano, BS BSN RN CGRN, and I am the current president of Region 6. So far, this has been a good learning experience as I have taken on this new and exciting role. I enjoy being able to provide the information needed to ensure that everyone is familiar with what is going on.

On March 26, the Northern California Region 6 Spring Conference offered seven GI specific contact hours. It was located in San Ramon, California, which is close to the award winning TriValley Wineries.

Also, our Fall Course on September 24, 2011 is at the King's Beach Lake Tahoe Conference Center. Here, we will be able to see stunning panoramic views of the surrounding sierras and relax at the serene shores of Lake Tahoe.

In other news, I'm so proud of the NCSGNA Web site and what it has become. This was our main bridge of communication to both members and non-members. Three newsletters are published annually to keep those who are interested up-to-date and informed. The conference registration process has been made tremendously easy through the use of PayPal and although we still mail some of the brochures, we continue to promote environmentally friendly ways of providing the information online.

Our scholarship to the Annual Course is also posted on the Web site. We will continue to increase our membership and certification by incorporating the benefits in our Web site and conference brochures. Furthermore, e-mail addresses of the board members are also posted to further assist our GI community.

In addition, our Legislative Director and the board members submitted proclamations for the March 23 GI Nurses and Associates Day to the Governor of California and to their local city mayors. I am pleased to announce that attendees of the San Ramon Conference received a sports bottle with the

NCSGNA logo in celebration of GI Nurses and Associates Day.

Please feel free to contact me or any board member and visit us at [www.ncsgna.org](http://www.ncsgna.org).



***Southern California, Region 7***  
*Midolie Loyola, BSN RN CGRN*

My name is Midolie Loyola, BSN RN CGRN and I am the new president of Southern California SGNA! I have been on the board for seven years, serving as secretary and newsletter editor and more recently contributing as the Web site coordinator. Our Web site had a bit of a makeover last fall and we are now able to provide online registration and payment through PayPal for our conferences.

On March 19, we hosted our SCSGNA 2011 Spring Conference in Pasadena, California at the Pasadena Hilton. We were excited to have Terrie Vos, MS BSN RN CGRN, Immediate Past President of SGNA speak on ERCP. We had numerous vendors available during breaks and lunch time to provide hands on demonstration opportunities for our attendees.

In the fall, we will be having our 2011 Fall Conference in Temecula, California, with Dr. Patricia Raymond, MD FACP FACG, as one of our distinguished speakers! We look forward to having both of these popular and dynamic speakers with us!

As a region, we celebrated GI Nurses and Associates Day by sending our members a token of gratitude for their contributions to GI Endoscopy. Since our spring conference happens to also be National Certified Nurses Day, we are acknowledging all certified nurse attendees with a sweet treat.

Finally, our greatest pride was being awarded the 2010 Regional Society of the Year Award at the Annual Course in Orlando last year! It was the efforts of many dedicated people in our region that helped us win the coveted honor! I am blessed to volunteer my time with this group of fantastic board members, all who are dedicated professionals, passionate about GI/endoscopy nursing. They encourage me to be the best professional GI nurse I can be. I appreciate how

we do that for one another especially at SGNA's Annual Course and I look forward to seeing you in Indianapolis!



***Rocky Mountain, Region 8***  
*Jeanine Penberthy, MSN RN CGRN*

We have started off this year with a bang! Our spring conference will be held on April 8-9, 2011. Our Program Committee has done a fabulous job with the diversity of speakers and topics to meet the educational needs of our region.

This year we are very pleased to announce that for GI Nurses and Associates Day, we were able to obtain proclamations from the Governor's office of Colorado and Nebraska.

The goals for this year have been sent out to our membership and they are: accountability, transparency and community involvement.

Some of our region's members will be volunteers in the 3rd Annual Undy 5000, a 5K and one-mile fun run that raises funds to help support the Colorado Colorectal Cancer Screening Program, a program to help screen uninsured Coloradans. We also have representatives from RMSGNA participating in the upcoming 9Health Fair, teaching about colon cancer screening. For the first time this year, we are looking to participate in the Crohns & Colitis Foundation of America Walk. Five of our members will be speaking at the 38th Annual Course in Indianapolis!

We are always looking for more people to become involved with RMSGNA. We have put a challenge out to our membership to get involved if you see room for improvement. Not only are we looking to our members to join the standing committees, but a new area has been created, Specific Events, such as being the representative for the Undy 5000 or the 9Health Fair.

We continue to have representation at the Colorado Nurses Association and the Colorado Federation of Nursing Organizations. This year we have added

representation to the Colon Cancer Alliance and are pursuing new avenues for professional involvement.

We are looking forward to a very busy and productive year. Keep an eye on our progress toward the goal of involvement via our Web site, [www.rmsgna.org](http://www.rmsgna.org). I am looking forward to representing RMSGNA and working with all of the regional presidents.



**Connecticut, Region 9**  
*Kathy Vinci, RN CGRN*

The Connecticut SGNA is in full swing in planning our fall conference. This year it will be held at the Mystic Hilton on November 5, 2011. Our Hands-on ERCP Course is on November 4, 2011 from 12:00 pm – 5:15 pm in the Mystic Hilton as well.

CTSGNA has developed a new scholarship. We call it the CTSGNA Scholarship in Medical Mission Work/Approved GI Related Projects. This scholarship is dedicated to the professional development of a GI nurse in the area of GI/endoscopy or a related field. The scholarship is for community service work and/or not-for-profit projects and can be used to offset expenses incurred by anyone who is involved with a GI related project, mission work or related field of community service that goes above and beyond. I would like to make a resolution at the House of Delegates to include this type of scholarship at the National SGNA level.

Connecticut is proud to have Kathryn Miller, RN CGRN as a member of CTSGNA as she will become President of ABCGN this May at the SGNA Annual Course. Michelle Day, BSN RN CGRN, will again be one of the presenters for Train the Trainer. Michelle is also on the National SGNA Practice Committee. Gail Steele, LPN CGN, is on the National SGNA Awards Committee and Chris Sarisley, MSN BSN RN CGRN, is on the National SGNA Practice Committee and on the *Gastroenterology Nursing* Journal Editorial Board. Barbara Sullivan, RN BSN CGRN, is on the Connecticut Crohn's and Colitis Task Force and I am on the National Crohn's and Colitis Task Force. CTSGNA will be walking in the Take Steps for Crohn's and Colitis, walk in May.



**Central Florida, Region 11**  
*Judy Burris, RN CGRN*

I am a new but recycled president for Central Florida, Region 11. I have been in GI for 27 years and sat for the certification exam the first year it was offered in 1986. Half of my career was in management but I recently returned to bedside procedural nursing. I love being back with the patients and being a "real" nurse again. I work in endoscopy at the Mease Countryside Hospital in Clearwater, Florida.

We will be hosting a CFSGNA contact hour dinner meeting on Friday, April 29 at our hospital. The topic will be, "Alternative Medicine for the GI Patient."

Along with the other Florida regions, we are working on establishing a new SGNA Web site and are also in the middle of planning for our joint meeting with our physicians at the Peabody Hotel in Orlando, Florida in September. At this event, all six regions come together for education and networking. There are usually around 350 nurses and associates and about 150 physicians.



**Florida Gulf Coast, Region 12**  
*Cheri McDonough, RNC MBA*

My name is Cheri McDonough, RNC MBA, and I am the new president of Florida Gulf Coast, Region 12. I have worked in the Endoscopy Department at Sarasota Memorial Hospital for 11 years in pre-op, post-op and procedures. Our region covers the southwest coast of Florida.

We are planning for our spring conference slated for April 30 to be held in Naples, Florida and our fall conference for November 12 in Sarasota, Florida. We strive for interesting GI specific subjects and give an

SGNA membership scholarship as a door prize to entice more people to become involved in our organization.

We celebrated GI Nurses and Associates Day by having a table in the cafeteria and handing out information about Colon Cancer Awareness. We have all pledged to talk to family, friends and strangers about the importance of colonoscopies.



**Greater Orlando, Region 14**  
*Jackie Mahoney, BSN RN CGRN*

March was our busiest month of the year as we had two events that we are proud to share with everyone. First, we had our second annual 5K run/walk called, Let's Run Over It! on March 19 in Melbourne, Florida. This race brought awareness of colon cancer to be preventable, treatable and beatable! Proceeds went to the Cancer Society. A health fair followed the race at Holmes Park.

Our second event was our annual Spring into Endoscopy conference on March 26 at Cape Canaveral Hospital in Cocoa, Florida. We were especially excited to have two pediatric GI physicians speaking about foreign bodies and celiac disease in children. As always, the annual event proceeds went to continuing education for our members. Every year we are able to help send nurses to the Annual Course and to our state SGNA conference held in Orlando, which is being held at the Peabody Hotel on September 16-18. Teamwork makes all this possible. I thank my board members and the many volunteers that help every year, quietly but effectively.



**Louisiana, Region 25**  
*Carolyn Bulot, RN CGRN*

The LSGNA Board of Directors will be offering only a fall conference this year with the location still pending. I am looking forward to seeing you there. The conference is an excellent opportunity to network with co-workers and obtain GI specific contact hours that so many of us need.

I would also like to encourage many of you to take advantage of the educational grants and scholarships we have to offer. It involves very little time and effort to apply. If you have never been to the SGNA Annual Course this is a good way to get reimbursed for your expenses and also to obtain an enormous amount of educational offerings. The experience is phenomenal!

Please utilize the LSGNA Web site for future announcements and upcoming events. It is an excellent resource. As always, you may also contact any member of the board with your questions or ideas. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve as your president.



**Maine, Region 26**  
*Linda Gondeck, RN CGRN*

On March 23, 2011 we celebrated GI Nurses and Associates Day with a Members Only Dinner. A talk on "Updates in Colorectal Cancer" was presented and provided one contact hour. MSGNA members attended free of charge, as this was a benefit for being a member.

On Saturday, April 2 we will be having our spring conference in Augusta, ME. Many interesting topics will be covered.

As a new president to MSGNA, I am looking forward to attending the SGNA Annual Course in Indianapolis in May. It will be a great learning experience for me and I'm looking forward to

meeting other presidents from other regions.



**Chesapeake, Region 27**  
*Xena Wilder, BSN RN CGRN*

We are the Chesapeake region of SGNA and are celebrating our 30th anniversary this year! We are going stronger than ever. We recently held several successful events; on March 12-13, 2011, we, along with Old Dominion SGNA and Delaware SGNA, hosted the Multi-regional Spring Conference at the Sheraton Hotel in Reston, Virginia. On March 23 we celebrated GI Nurses and Associates Day at Chef Geoff's Restaurant in Washington, DC. And, of course, we're all looking forward to the 2011 SGNA Annual Course to be held on May 6-11 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The roster of our officers for the upcoming year has been set. I will be serving as the President of the Chesapeake SGNA. I will be assisted by President-Elect, Dorsey Drummond, RN CGRN, from Inova Fair Oaks Hospital in Fairfax, Virginia. I am grateful to our Past President, Hettie Mercer, MSN RN CGRN, also from Sibley Memorial Hospital for her dedicated service and continuing support. Rounding out our roster are Treasurer, Judy Gilbert, BSN RN CGRN from Sibley Memorial Hospital, and Secretary, Kathy Costello, ADN RN CGRN from Inova Alexandria Hospital in Alexandria, Virginia.

Special congratulations to our long-time Education Chair, Carolyn McQuighan, BSN RN CGRN, from Sibley Hospital in Washington. Carolyn won the 2010 SGNA Regional Member of the Year Award. We're so proud that our national organization has recognized Carolyn for what we've long known about her. She truly is a national asset and this recognition is well deserved. In addition to my duties as incoming president, I serve as our vendor liaison. Thanks also to our other board members for each area of their responsibilities: Scholarship & Awards led by Barbara Pedersen, BSN RN CGRN; Newsletter led by Cathy Dykes, MS RN CCRC CGRN and last, but not least, Web site managed by Hettie Mercer, MSN RN CGRN. Way to go, ladies!



**New England, Region 28**  
*Christopher Robbins, BSN RN CGRN*

My name is Christopher Robbins, BSN RN CGRN, and I work at the Digestive Health Care Center at Massachusetts General Hospital. I am the 2011 President of Region 28, New England (NESGNA). Our region covers all of Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. Our region holds four half-day meetings throughout the year, attracting over 150 nurses to each meeting. Our last meeting was held on March 26, 2011. I am very excited to mention that we have introduced a panel discussion at each meeting. It is a 30 minute open discussion with a panel of experts answering hot topics that are being experienced at GI units throughout our region.

Our first topic was around the use of anesthesia in the unit with advanced GI procedures such as ERCP and EUS. On the panel were two nurses who use anesthesia and two who do not. The discussion was so robust that we ran out of time, but the panel stayed after the meeting to handle all the extra questions that the format generated. This month's topic is "Infection Control in the Hospital vs. Ambulatory Care Centers."

NESGNA followed SGNA's lead and went "green" last year. We stopped printing our syllabus, and instead put them onto the Web site prior to the meeting for download. Our region has realized a significant decrease in printing costs that we were able to put directly back into the region.

New England is a very large region with over 390 members. Because we are so large, we like to let each member tell the group a little about their facility. Sometimes it's hard to get volunteers. What we started to do at each meeting is to pull a name from all the registrations and ask them to write a small paragraph about their facility, which gets published in our newsletter. To sweeten the deal, we began giving away the *SGNA Pocket Guide* to the lucky spotlight facility.

NESGNA is very proud of the fact that seven members became certified last year. We are hoping to increase those numbers in 2011. NESGNA believes

in the importance of certification and realizes that it can be a daunting task to collect the necessary contact hours to recertify. That's why NESGNA budgets money annually toward three scholarships to cover the cost of the Annual Course registration fee.

GI Nurses and Associates Day was March 23. At Massachusetts General Hospital as well as at many other facilities in the New England region, we are geared up for a full day of education and promotion of our nurses and associates. We greeted visitors to MGH in the lobby with information on Colorectal Cancer Screenings, as well as showcasing our nursing practice with posters and videos.

NESGNA is very proud to announce that Jane Harker, MS BSN RN CGRN, one of our past presidents, has been awarded the Gabriele Schindler Award. This is the most prestigious award that SGNA can bestow to a GI clinician. Jane has been an inspiration to me as my mentor and friend and I don't know another person who deserves this honor more than Jane.



**Minnesota, Region 30**  
*Lynn Mueller, BSN RN*

My name is Lynn Mueller, BSN RN, and I am the new president for our region. We have an exciting 1.4 contact hour class for GI Nurses and Associates Day. It was held March 31 at Pazzaluna Restaurant in St. Paul, Minnesota. We had great food, networking and of course the class on Polypectomy.

In May, many of us will travel to the Annual Course in Indianapolis, Indiana. Additionally, many will also participate in the Crohn's and Colitis Walk, on May 22. This is a 5K walk to benefit the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America. Our Past President, Jane Bugbee, RN CGRN serves on the Crohn's and Colitis Board.

Also on May 22, there is a 5K walk for Colon Cancer Awareness called the Get in Gear Race. A number of our members will be participating in this walk as well.

Our region is also preparing for our fall conference in October. We are coordinating speakers, content and vendors.



**Mississippi, Region 31**  
*Sundra Powell-Bishop, RN CGRN*

Hello from Mississippi SGNA! We have completed a very busy 2010. We ended the year with a Holiday Membership Drive dinner and took this opportunity to pass out applications for membership, explain some of the benefits of membership and encourage the participants to become active in the organization.

We are starting 2011 with restructuring MSSGNA. We need to strengthen our administration by continuing to reach out to our members to become involved in the planning phase. We are planning membership drives in different regions of the state.

In February, MSSGNA worked with the Mississippi Gastroenterology Society and co-hosted their annual conference, so we will not host the annual Mississippi and Louisiana SGNA Spring Conference this year.



**Nevada, Region 33**  
*Rosario Balintag-Onrubia, BSN RN CGRN*

I am Rosario Balintag-Onrubia, BSN RN CGRN the 2011 president-elect for Nevada SGNA, Region 33. I have been a certified GI nurse since 1995 and was involved with reviving the Nevada SGNA in 2002. I served as the treasurer until 2010 with 23 active members and an ever energetic Past President, Atsede Waktole, BS RN CGRN who had the idea of reinstating the Nevada SGNA.



**Central New Jersey, Region 35**  
*Beverly Levanti, RN CGRN*

I have been a member of SGNA for seven years and a Certified Gastroenterology Registered Nurse for five years. I am honored to have been elected as president of the Central New Jersey SGNA region.

This year will be very busy and exciting for the Central New Jersey region. We will be hosting the NJ Tri-Regional Conference on October 15 at the JFK Conference Center in Edison, NJ. I hope that all who attend will find the topics interesting and educational. I am grateful that so many of our members have volunteered to help recruit speakers and sponsors for the conference.

In 2011 we will be providing scholarships for two members to attend the Annual Course in Indianapolis! We also provide scholarships for members to attend the Tri-Regional Conference. Each year the number of scholarships may vary due to funds available. We believe that our associates and technicians are vital members of our team and encourage them to become involved in SGNA. In 2010 our region awarded five associates and technicians with scholarships for their SGNA membership dues.

I look forward to working with all of our dedicated members and improving the quality of life to those we serve.



**Central New York, Region 37**  
*Terry Markiewicz, MS RN CGRN*

Greetings to all of you from snowy Central New York, Region 37! I think I can speak for all of our members when I say, ‘Where the heck is spring???’

In between digging out from under all the white stuff, we have been busy planning our next conference. It

was held on March 25-26 in Latham, NY. We called it GI & More, and our speakers presented on a variety of topics such as motility, electrosurgery and use of APC, GERD, biofilms and more. We even included a one hour presentation on interventional bronchoscopies.

Our members were ready for Colorectal Cancer Awareness month with different plans at their individual facilities. One unit will be wearing BLUE along with pins that say, ‘Ask Me Why I’m Wearing Blue.’ They have also enlisted the help of their payroll department as educational materials will be distributed with paychecks. This is an active time of year for everyone involved in GI nursing.

We are fortunate enough to be able to award scholarships to members for the upcoming SGNA Annual Course. This year, three deserving nurses will be getting financial assistance to attend.

CNYSGNA is on Facebook – become a fan!

We have had a few members over the years that have been very active in SGNA and ABCGN on a national level. I would like to recognize Barbara Schwant, BSN RN CGRN, who is the current President of ABCGN. Barb will be relinquishing this post at the Annual Course. We all recognize and appreciate the commitment, time and dedication Barb has shown over the years. Thank you, Barb, for a job well done!



**New York Metropolitan, Region 40**  
*Melinda Lugay, RN BSN MS CGRN*

The return of Region 40 is nothing short of a “rebirth of representation.” The absence of a local formalized organization for the past five years meant that the hard working and dedicated GI nurses in the five boroughs of New York existed, but were not formally acknowledged as a group. We are happy to say that with a handful of dedicated nursing leaders and members, we are back to the Society, mother ship SGNA. Region 40 is now open to business, the biggest success story the region has done in years.

I am stepping down from the presidency in 2011, paving the way for new talents to provide direction

and leadership. I challenge the young and energetic members to commit time and take on this exciting pursuit. We should care for each other in the profession by taking a step beyond service and support each other's growth with sincerity in our hearts and intelligence in our minds. I am happy in the belief that somehow, someone will take on this challenge. We have yet to show the best of New York!



***Western New York, Region 41***  
*Grace Smith, BSN RN CGRN*

The 2011 Board of WNYSGNA consists of the following nurses:

President: Grace Smith, BSN RN CGRN  
Past President: Sandra Brentnall, AAS CGRN  
President Elect: Lisa Fleming, AAS RN CGRN  
Secretary: Patti Knight, AAS RN CGRN  
Treasurer: Ann Christ, AAS RN CGRN  
Program: Rosemary Zimmer, BSN RN CGRN  
Janet Cadin, AAS RN CGRN  
Communications: Mary Jo Ciaccia, BSN RN CGRN MPA  
Carol Stringer, BSN RN CGRN

I have been a member of SGNA for 17 years and certified for 14 years. I am employed at Highland Hospital in Rochester, NY. I have worked in the Highland Endoscopy Center for 22 years.

I have been involved in the WNYSGNA serving on the program committee, and as president-elect/president in 2002-2003. I have attended several Annual Courses and have presented at both the national and local levels. In 2010, I began serving on the board again as president-elect and 2011 as president. I am very fortunate to have a group of experienced board members with many years of GI experience. Also, all of the board members are GI certified. I am also very grateful to Sandy Brentnall, RN CGRN, our past president for her longtime involvement in SGNA and ABCGN. Sandy is the back bone of WNYSGNA. At present, she is the only charter member still serving on the board.

WNYSGNA has been in existence for 33 years. WNYSGNA had its first meeting in 1978 at The Genesee Hospital in Rochester, NY. Charter members were Cathy Coles (Genesee Hospital), Vivian Jones (Mercy Hospital in Buffalo), Sandra Brentnall, RN CGRN, and Deb Maher (both from Newark-Wayne Community Hospital), Joan Carrol (Our Lady of Victory Hospital Buffalo), Norma Rogers and Carol Sterns (Syracuse). Shortly after, Janice Cooper and Fran Surowick from Millard Filmore attended subsequent meetings. Unlike today, we had a medical advisor; Dr. M. Vilayat Ali from Buffalo General Hospital.

In 1979 we received our charter from National SGNA and other members started joining us from surrounding hospitals. Eventually members of our chapter from the Syracuse area formed their own chapter and became Central NYSGNA.

In 1981, at the National Educational Course in NYC, we won first prize for a pictorial display. WNYSGNA was also the first region to be featured in what was then called the *SGA Journal*.

Over the years, we have had members who have served at the National SGNA level and received an outstanding recognition. Marcia Gruber, MSN RN CGRN, served as the national president, and Wally Cwalina, RN CGRN, is a Gabriele Schindler Award winner. Fran Surowick received the Author of the Year Award.

Region 41 has a lot of things that make us proud. I am confident that this year will be filled with much hard work and success. Although our region did not have any formal plans for the month of March, the different local hospitals and surgery centers that we work at are all doing various things to celebrate Colon Cancer Awareness month, such as passing out buddy bracelets, CRC star lapel pins, blue bags with the CRC star, and celebrating with a cake in the hospital cafeteria. Aside from this, screensavers throughout RGH (Rochester General Hospital) are providing information about Colon Cancer Awareness. Rochester General Hospital is hosted their annual GI Teaching Day on March 26, titled, Dive into GI that provided contact hours for all attendees. At our hospital, our Chief of GI will be performing a colonoscopy on a local radio celebrity, which I am sure will provide conversation on the morning commute. At Strong Memorial Hospital, in the Digestive Disease unit, a local TV personality will be videoed having a colonoscopy.

On March 19, our board met to discuss many issues, including plans for our spring dinner meeting and the revamping of our Web site. What better way to celebrate then to be with fellow GI certified nurses!

At our facility, GI Nurses and Associates Day is celebrated annually with lunch from our manager and posters from SGNA hung in our department.



### ***Eastern North Carolina, Region 42***

*Bonnie Streeter, MSN RN CGRN*

It has been an exciting year for the members of the ENCSGNA. We have put on two conferences, providing 15 contact hours for our members.

Last spring, our conference was held in Wilson, NC, where we learned about capsule endoscopy, endoscopic cholecystectomy, propofol sedation and microbes in endoscopy.

In the fall, we traveled to Greenville, NC to learn about radiofrequency ablation, gastric obesity procedures, EUS and methemoglobinemia amongst other GI topics.

We are currently getting ready for our next conference in Carolina Beach where we will again provide our members with an opportunity to learn more about their chosen profession.

In addition, our members continue to excel in giving back to their region by taking part in such events as the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Durham Regional has also received the Hallmark of a Healthy Workplace Award. Many of us celebrated GI Nurses and Associates Day by decorating our units with posters and with planned activities that educated the public on the importance of screening colonoscopies.

We are particularly proud of how our region is so involved in our national organization. In the past year, I served on the Nomination and Elections Committee, Catherine Collins, MBA BSN RN CGRN, currently serves as Vice-Speaker of the House and Kristine Barman, BSN RN CGRN, is Chair of the Program Committee, which planned this

year's Annual Course in Indianapolis, Indiana. It is an honor to serve with such a wonderful group of men and women who are so dedicated to their profession.



### ***Western North Carolina, Region 43***

*Diane Bowen, BSN RN CGRN*

Hello from Western North Carolina! We finished out 2010 and started off 2011, with what seemed like a weekly return of snowy and icy days, as did much of the country! So after all those school snow days, exorbitant power bills, treacherous travel and freezing cold winds, we are now on the brink of spring, and looked forward to our upcoming spring SGNA meeting, which was held on March 25-26. This meeting took place at Forsyth Medical Center in Winston-Salem, NC. Our featured speaker, Dr. Patricia Raymond, MD FACP FACG, regularly presents at SGNA National Conferences! We enjoyed hearing from her, as well as all others on the agenda.

The fall meeting for Western North Carolina will be held on October 8, in Greensboro, NC. Plans are already well underway for that conference. It will be held at the Koury Convention Center-Sheraton, which is easily accessible from Interstate 40. Please be sure to mark your calendars.

We have several board members who will be attending the Annual Course in Indianapolis, and as usual we continue to encourage member attendance and try to boost those numbers by offering scholarship assistance.

As your 2011 president, I have a great example and mentor to follow! Debbie Orndorff, RN CGRN, our 2010 president, did a great job with increasing communication within the region, updating e-mail contacts, maintaining frequent communication with our webmaster to insure that information on the site was current, and always responding promptly to board and member needs.

It is my goal to continue to enhance the Web site, we have already implemented online registration and the option to use PayPal for attendees and vendor

registration; this was an active feature for our spring meeting. This process has just been completed with the assistance of our treasurer and our webmaster.

It is also my plan to continue frequent communication with the membership and to encourage professional development through certification. We actually have 4-5 nurses here in our Endoscopy Suite preparing for the exam. Good luck to them and all other regional students!

Additionally, I feel that communication with our neighboring regions is important; we need to try to draw attendees from other regions/states as an ongoing means of professional development and networking.

Over the course of our careers in nursing, we can never stop learning; we must always strive to remain current with our practice to enhance patient care and the progression of our specialty! Looking forward to a great year!



***North Coast Ohio, Region 44***  
*Teresa Rowe, BSN RN CGRN*

My name is Teresa Rowe, BSN RN CGRN, and I am the President of North Coast Ohio, Region 44 for 2011. I work as a team leader in the outpatient endoscopy unit at a Cleveland Clinic regional facility in Wooster, Ohio. I have been an SGNA member since 2002 and active within my region since 2008.

Our region hosted a GI Nurses and Associates Day celebration Wednesday, March 23 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm at Medina Hospital in Medina, Ohio. Anyone could take part in a fun evening of GI Jeopardy. On Saturday, April 16, our spring meeting is taking place from 7:00 am – 12:00 pm. It will be held at the Cleveland Clinic Wooster Specialty building.



***Ohio, Region 45***  
*Joan Metze, BS BSN*

I am very excited about being the president of the Ohio region for the next two years. For the last four years, I have been a board member for my region as historian and editor and as president-elect. I have had the privilege of working with such great people.

Our region was very busy planning our spring educational meeting that was held on March 26 in Columbus, Ohio. This year, we asked our members to bring canned goods to the meeting that will be donated to a charity in Columbus.

We are also busy planning our 4th Annual Colon Cancer Awareness 5K Run/Walk that will take place on April 16 at Lunken Playfield in Cincinnati, Ohio. The proceeds from this event are given to the Colon Cancer Task Force in Cincinnati, a part of the American Cancer Society. This money is used to get the word out to the community about the importance of Colon Cancer Screenings.

One of our goals that we reached was redesigning our Web site. We are now trying to increase our online communication with our members.



***Pennsylvania, Region 47***  
*Victoria Farr, RN CGRN*

Greetings from Pennsylvania! Looking forward to spring arriving!

We had well attended educational offerings occur during our region's fall conference in October 2010. Thanks to Pam and Jane for all of their hard work! This year's Fall Conference will be held October 14-16, 2011 at the Holiday Inn Grantville in

Grantville, PA. Please contact Priscilla Bernola, RN CGRN, with any questions.

Educational scholarships were awarded at the Fall Conference to two members to assist in their expenses of attending the Annual Course in Indianapolis this coming May.

We continue to use our Web site in an effort to improve communication. This is where our members will find their region's upcoming events and details. Please visit [www.pasgna.com](http://www.pasgna.com).

It has been a pleasure serving as president of Region 47. This will be the last year of my term. Pamela Nero, BSN RN CGRN, is the current president-elect and will be taking over in 2012. Pam is dedicated to the continued professional growth of our membership and to the patients we care for on a daily basis.

Happy scoping, growth and success to all regions!!!



### **Carolina, Region 48**

*MaryAnne Malone, RN CGRN*

My name is MaryAnne Malone, RN CGRN, and I am the new president for this region. I have been a member of SGNA since the late 1980s and have previously been a member and president from CNYSGNA.

We relocated to the upstate area in South Carolina just a little over a year ago. I wanted to remain active in SGNA, so I took on the role of president of Region 48.

SGNA has been a large part of my life since becoming a GI nurse some 26 years ago. The networking and friendships I have encountered over the years are priceless.

Our goal is to provide education for the GI nurses and associates in the upstate area and to have an active region with many new members.

The CSGNA is sponsoring a conference on May 14, 2011 in the Spartanburg, South Carolina area with

some new and old topics. More details to follow on the CSGNA Web site.

I hope everyone had a Happy GI Nurses and Associates Day.



### **Low Country, Region 49**

*Jill Benoit, BSN RN CGRN*

We began 2011 with a Dine and Learn sponsored by US endoscopy, and a demonstration of our Web site, [www.sclcsгна.org](http://www.sclcsгна.org).

On March 26 we had a social get together in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina to celebrate GI Nurses and Associates Day.

On April 16 our region will host a Spring Mini-conference where we will provide four contact hours, which are generously sponsored by our local vendors.

Plans are being made for an early fall Dine and Learn. We will wrap up the year with our fall conference, November 4-6, 2011 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina at the beautiful Marriott Grand Dunes Resort on the beach. We are planning on having 12 contact hours with a goal of all 12 being GI specific. We hope to see you there.

Best wishes for a wonderful 2011!



### **Tennessee, Region 50**

*Mark Rose, MS RN CGRN*

Tennessee SGNA will be presenting their 30th Annual State Meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee this year. The one and a half day program will be October 21-22 and promises to be an excellent educational and fun event. Jayne Lusk, DIPL RN CGRN, the program chair has gotten some of the volunteer state's best speakers and knows everyone will enjoy and benefit from the wide range of topics. After the programs, downtown Knoxville (Market Square), Tennessee, offers dozens of interesting shops and

great restaurants all within walking distance of the Crown Plaza Hotel.



### **Greater Houston, Region 53**

*Darlene Gassoway, BSN RN CGRN*

Greetings from Greater Houston SGNA! We were excited about our 6th Annual Spring Conference, which took place on Saturday, March 5, 2011. We anticipated 100 or more attendees, mostly GI nurses and endoscopy technicians. From 1999-2004, our region hosted an Annual Fall Conference; however, we decided to change the time of year due to several other conferences taking place at the same time. We added a pulmonary topic to our program this year, as it seems more and more Endoscopy Labs are doing Bronchoscopies.

For GI Nurses and Associates Day, at my institution, we set up a display on the Skybridge, illustrating what services we offer in our Endoscopy Department. Also, we asked the Liver Transplant folks to participate with us, as their patient population is very much a part of the clients we see and take care of in our GI Lab.

Throughout the rest of this year our region will offer four to five more monthly programs (each worth one contact hour), as we strive to provide educational offerings for GI professionals who cannot attend the one day conference.

I look forward to attending the SGNA Annual Course in May. It is always a pleasure to connect with nurse colleagues, learn new things and have FUN!



### **Mountain West, Region 57**

*Eileen Canzonetti, MSN CGRN NE-BC*

MWSGNA sponsored the **FIRST EVER** Colon Cancer Awareness 5K event in Utah. We have been

planning this exciting event for many months, meeting weekly and preparing and getting the word out. We were also able to spotlight this event on local TV. We brought forth this idea at our Fall Conference in September 2010 and took ideas from the attendees for the "name" of the run. Our final decision was Buns Up 5K Run.

Our Board has been very involved and this has been truly collaborative work for us. It has been a lot of work, but both fun and exciting. Our goal was to have at least 250 runners, hopefully many more! We have participation from many of the local Gastroenterology practices and all the hospitals. All proceeds from this event will be donated to the state health department program that assists in obtaining colon cancer screenings for those with low income.

As in the past, MWSGNA was part of the annual University of Utah Therapeutic Endoscopy Course, held in Park City, Utah. Back by popular demand was the one day Hands- on Therapeutic Endoscopy Workshop for all GI nurses and techs. This always gets very high marks as a useful learning experience.

We plan on having another fall conference this coming October, most likely to be held in the Davis Conference Center. We will begin to plan for this conference soon after the Buns Up 5K Run.



### **Pacific Northwest, Region 58**

*Sheryl Tack, ADN RN CGRN*

Hello from PNWSGNA! My name is Sheryl Tack, ADN RN CGRN. I'm proud to be the president for 2011 and 2012. Our region includes Washington, Idaho, Montana, Alaska and Oregon.

The date of our 2011 Fall Conference is Saturday, October 15, 2011. The location is the Red Lion Hotel in Bellevue, WA and there will be a Friday night event. More information to come! Be sure and check out our Web site, [www.PNWSGNA.org](http://www.PNWSGNA.org).

On behalf of our region we hope all of you had a very happy GI Nurses and Associates Day! We totally rock!!!



### **Wisconsin, Region 59**

*Lynn Miller, BSN RN CGRN*

I am the new president of the vibrant Wisconsin SGNA. I've been a member of SGNA since 1992 and previously served on the WSGNA board as treasurer and secretary.

It has been my pleasure to assist with the planning of many regional educational offerings and serve with a dedicated and committed group of individuals on our board who have the interest of our members at heart.

We are proud to be the home region of Peggy Gauthier, MS BSN RN CGRN and Terrie Vos, MS BSN RN CGRN, our outstanding current and past leaders of SGNA.

Our WSGNA Board of Directors is dedicated to offering excellent educational opportunities for our members. We will have our spring conference, Anchors Away, Smooth Sailing through Endoscopy on April 30, 2011.

In August, we will again offer a webcast educational offering. This new venue was launched in 2010 by our Past-President, Margaret Hauser-Ullman, ADN RN CGRN. WSGNA will also host the Multi-Regional Fall Conference from October 7-9, 2011.

To celebrate GI Nurses and Associates Day, WSGNA offered a stipend for members to use to help sponsor a celebration for their area. In the southeastern area we held a gathering with an educational offering, including food and fun at an area restaurant.



### **Heartland, Region 60**

*Jan Brooks, BSN CGRN*

2011 is off to a great start for Heartland Regional SGNA. We are in the process of offering a seven week certification review class. This is offered FREE of charge. We opened the class to anyone who is interested in taking the certification exam as well as those interested in learning more about GI. Our response has been great. We have had 60-70 attendees these first few weeks, several from miles away. With the assistance of one of our area hospitals, we are also giving contact hours for the classes. Nothing better than a FREE contact hour!

In the middle of this class, we held our spring conference on March 5. With March being Colon Cancer Awareness Month, the theme for this conference was, The Tail End of it All. We had presenters speaking about colorectal surgery, care of the ostomy patient, hereditary colon cancer, infectious diseases with the GI patient, rectal EUS and rectal manometry. Our region shared the Blue Colon Cancer Stars for each attendee. As an added bonus, one of our physicians asked that his honorarium be used as a Nursing Education Scholarship. That was really neat and greatly appreciated.

We are off to a whirlwind start, but things are going well. We truly appreciate the support of our many vendors, area hospitals and nurse managers. We would not be able to do the things we do without them.

Mary and I both hope this finds each of you doing well. We also look forward to seeing many of you in Indianapolis, Indiana at the SGNA 38th Annual Course.

Congratulations on GI Nurses and Associates Day!



**Old Dominion, Region 62**  
*Cindy Taylor, BSN MSA CGRN*

I send you a warm Virginia welcome as winter is coming to an end and the beautiful crocus have popped up from beneath the ground sprouting glorious purple and yellow petals.

The ODSGNA Board of Directors has been very busy this past year hosting three educational meetings; DelMarVa, Williamsburg and Beyond Basics. We are currently in the process of planning the 2011-2012 educational events. We revised the Policy and Procedure Manual and updated ODSGNA bylaws. Currently, we are preparing for ODSGNA officer nominations and elections.

As I write the President's Message, we are making plans for the 2012 DelMarVa Conference, which will be hosted by the Delaware region. I wish to extend a big thank you to Eileen Collins, Kim Cooper, RN CGRN and Nancy Schlossberg, BA BSN RN CGRN, for coordinating the first ODSGNA Beyond Basics course in Hampton, Virginia.

Our plan is to hold a Back to Basics and Beyond the Basics one-day educational event every other year; a need recognized and requested by our ODSGNA members.

Margie Danner-Roth, BSN RN CGRN, Williamsburg Course Director, will collaborate with ACG and ASGE to host the Regional Post Graduate Williamsburg Course, September 9-11, 2011.

Back to Basics will be held in Fredericksburg, Virginia on November 5, 2011. This course will be coordinated by Irene Akers, MSN RN and Amanda Zuker. Many thanks go to the Planning Committee and members of ODSGNA for coordinating educational events throughout the year. Their efforts, time and participation are essential for successful meetings are greatly appreciated.

The revised ODSGNA regional bylaws will be presented to the members at large, voted on this spring and submitted to SGNA for approval in the fall.

The IRS is now requiring non-profit, tax-exempt organizations to submit more information to make the organizations as transparent as possible, thus we have updated the ODSGNA Policy and Procedure Manual to include the following policies: Whistleblower Policy, Document Retention Policy and Vested Interest Policy. These policies will be submitted to SGNA during the 2011 rechartering process. The policies will be discussed at the Annual Membership Meeting during the Williamsburg Conference, which takes place September 9-11.

ODSGNA members, it's time to submit nominations for president-elect and secretary. Nominations close May 31. All potential candidates seeking nomination shall be a member in good standing for two years. Please submit nominations to Campbell Harris, BSN RN CGRN, [chili@comcast.net](mailto:chili@comcast.net). For convenience, voting will be held online this year. Results will be announced at the Annual Fall Educational Meeting in Williamsburg and posted on the Web site. The race is on so get excited, nominate and vote!

I would like to recognize those nurses who passed the GI Certification Exam this year. Certification validates your qualifications and demonstrates your professional aspirations and desire to improve the quality of patient care and delivery of services to your GI patients. Congratulations to you all.

As always, I would like to applaud the members and the board of directors for their efforts, successes and accomplishments. The road to success is always under construction. The 2011 May Annual Course will be as successful as the 2010 Annual Course.



**Vermont, Region 63**  
*Cindy Mullin, ADN RN CGRN*

Greetings from VTSGNA! My name is Cindy Mullin, ADN RN CGRN. I am the 2011 VTSGNA President. I presently work as a staff nurse in the Endoscopy Unit at Rutland Regional Medical Center in Rutland, Vermont. I am very excited and energized to begin my term as president. GI is a passion for me and I look forward to sharing this passion in talk and educational exchange.

VTSGNA will be holding our spring meeting and educational conference on April 2 in Springfield, Vermont. It will be held at the Howard Dean Educational Center on South Street. The staff of the hosting endoscopy unit at Springfield Hospital has organized a wonderful day with presentations on diverticulosis, sedation in endoscopy, celiac disease and advantages of electronic medical records, just to name a few. VTSGNA will be holding a business meeting at lunch time.

For more information and directions, please go to our Web site at [www.vtsgna.com](http://www.vtsgna.com).

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### Contact Hour Application Deadline Change

The deadline for submitting an application for nursing contact hour approval through the SGNA Approver unit has changed. Applications shall be submitted to SGNA headquarters for approval **at least 30 days prior** to the scheduled date of the educational activity. Applications received less than 30 days prior to scheduled activity will not be accepted. Please contact Cindy Friis, ([cfriis@smithbucklin.com](mailto:cfriis@smithbucklin.com)) with any questions.

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### Quarterly Regional Membership Reports

As part of our “Road to 80” membership campaign, regional leaders will begin to receive quarterly membership updates specific to your region. These reports will serve as a membership overview and include regional membership totals, retention rate, the number of new members and other important statistics to give you a better picture of your regional membership composition. Keep an eye out for this report to hit your inbox in early April. If you have any questions regarding your report, please contact Mollie Corbett at [mcorbett@smithbucklin.com](mailto:mcorbett@smithbucklin.com).

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### Regional Leadership Quarterly Webinars

Following the House of Delegates Resolution that was passed in 2010 and feedback we received from the October Leadership Conference and the December Membership Webinar, SGNA we will begin hosting quarterly webinars on a variety of topics that apply to you as leaders. This is an exciting

way to earn one or more contact hours, while networking with other regional leaders.

The topic of the first quarter webinar will be *Legislative Advocacy* and will be presented by Phyllis Malpas, MA RN CGRN, SGNA Director of Legislative Activities. The webinar will take place on **Wednesday, April 6** at 7:00 pm Central Time. To sign up for this webinar and for more information on future webinars, please click [here](#).

*Regional Leadership webinars generously supported by Medivators.*

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### 2011 House of Delegates Resolutions

The **2011 House of Delegates Resolutions** are now posted on the House of Delegates Web page, which can be viewed by clicking [here](#). Please share this information with your regions, as your delegate or alternate will be voting on behalf of the membership at the Annual Course in May. Below is a schedule for the House of Delegates events taking place on Friday, May 6 at the Annual Course.

Below is the schedule for the House of Delegates activities this year:

LS-2 House of Delegates Workshop 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm

House of Delegates First Meeting & Vice-Speaker Election 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm

House of Delegates Reference Hearing 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

House of Delegates Second Meeting 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm (*Credentialing*)

SGNA Regional Rechartering Ceremony 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

For questions regarding the House of Delegates, please contact one of the below representatives:

Speaker of the House: [Kimberly Foley, BSN RN CGRN](#)

Vice Speaker of the House: [Catherine Collins, MBA BSN RN CGRN](#)

House of Delegates Staff Liaison: [Emily Brett](#)

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## Regional Rechartering Ceremony

Following the House of Delegates Second Meeting, the SGNA Regional Rechartering Ceremony will take place from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Each region that successfully rechartered for 2010 will be called up on stage to accept their Rechartering certificate. This ceremony is a wonderful way to celebrate your region. Please have your Regional President or assigned representative present at 6:00 pm to begin lining up in regional order.

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## Regional Leadership Session

On Friday, May 6, before the House of Delegates begins, the Regional Leadership Session (LS-1) will take place from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. This session offers 3.25 contact hours and is open to anyone interested in becoming an SGNA leader at the regional or national level and is a condensed version of the SGNA October Leadership Conference. Topics for this session include, Financial Management and Budgeting, Sponsorship, Business Professionalism, Governance and a break-out session with your Divisional Coordinators.

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## Regional Officer Resource Center

As some of you are new regional leaders this year, you may not be aware of the Regional Resource Center and all the information it has to offer! The Regional Resource Center can be located by hovering over the “Regions” tab and clicking “Regional Officers” in the drop down menu. This page, set up for regional leaders offers information and links to the upcoming webinar, the 2010 Regional Society Handbook from the October Leadership Conference, the Regional Directory, the House of Delegates Web page, SGNA Headquarters’ Resource documents, along with all of the Regional Rechartering forms. [Click here](#) to visit this Web page!

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## Explore the New and Improved Marketplace!

SGNA is pleased to announce that the upgraded online Marketplace is now live. Fully integrated with the new SGNA Web site, the Marketplace was designed with you in mind. Highlights of the new Marketplace include the resources you need using the five new product categories, tracking your order with the shopping cart, viewing previous purchases with “Order History” when you log in and the

convenience of being able to shop 24 hours a day. Remember to log in to the Marketplace to view membership discounts and special offerings.

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## ABCGN 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Come celebrate ABCGN’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the ABCGN Certification Recognition Dinner, which will take place from 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm on May 9, 2011 at the Annual Course in Indianapolis, Indiana. If you actively hold the CGRN or CGN certification designation, you are invited to attend this dinner. If you are actively certified with ABCGN, there is no charge for this even, but pre-registration is required and can be marked on the SGNA Annual Course registration form.

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## Regional Liability Insurance

As a Regional Society, the individual officers, directors and members are exposed to potential risk in connection with liabilities of the Regional Society. SGNA Headquarters includes regions in both SGNA’s general liability and Directors and Officers liability policies. By equally sharing the cost, each Regional Society winds up paying only a fraction of the cost that would be incurred if attempted to secure coverage independently.

In order to ensure that your region is covered from an event that could potentially be a liability risk for your region, this \$115 payment should be submitted as soon as possible. Please send your payment, along with the [Regional Liability Insurance Invoice](#) to the following address.

SGNA Membership  
8287 Solutions Center  
Chicago, IL 60677

If you have any questions about the Regional Liability Insurance, please contact SGNA Headquarters at 800/245-SGNA (7462) or email [ebrett@smithbucklin.com](mailto:ebrett@smithbucklin.com).

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## Regional Society Important IRS Tax Update

As your may or may not know, SGNA Headquarters files a Federal Group tax return on behalf of all the regional societies. We collect this financial information from you during the rechartering process when you fill out and complete the Income and Expense Report.

Due to SGNA's non-profit status, the type of form we submit to the IRS is called a Form 990. The Form 990 was revamped in 2008 and now requires organizations to submit more information to help make the organizations as transparent as possible. One of the requirements was for each non-profit to draft and implement the three business policies listed below.

1. [Whistleblower policy](#)
2. [Document Retention policy](#)
3. [Vested Interest policy](#)

SGNA Headquarters will be requesting copies of these policies during this year's Rechartering process (November 2011).

If you have any questions regarding how to draft these policies please do not hesitate to contact SGNA Headquarters at 800/245-7462 or e-mail [sgna@smithbucklin.com](mailto:sgna@smithbucklin.com). We appreciate you taking the time to implement these new policies so we can comply with the IRS regulations and maintain our federal tax exempt status.

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## SGNA's 38th Annual Course!

Don't forget to register for the 38th Annual Course, which takes place May 6-11 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Start planning now to advance your clinical skills, leverage the teachings of top-notch speakers and stay up-to-date on industry trends and gain best practices. At the 38th Annual Course you will also:

- Enhance your career with over 120 educational sessions from ten tracks.
- Get the contact hours you need — earn up to 42.5 in a few short days.
- See the newest products and services up close at the Exhibit Hall.
- Maximize your 2011 education dollars with an extensive program happening in one place.

- Stay relevant and stay connected within the GI/endoscopy community.

Register and book your housing online by [clicking here](#). Please contact [sgna@smithbucklin.com](mailto:sgna@smithbucklin.com) or call us at 800/245-7462 with any questions regarding the Annual Course.

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## Share Top Speakers from your Regional Event

Have you seen or heard of an engaging or dynamic speaker? Would their topic be applicable for the SGNA Annual Course? SGNA Headquarters encourages you to share any top speakers you've seen to potentially have them present at an upcoming Annual Course. The SGNA Program Committee values your input and is open to a wide variety of presentation topics.

Specifically the Program Committee looks for the following qualities in a speaker:

- Is a recognized leader in their topic area
- Currently practices in focused topic area that he/she is being requested to speak on
- Has prior speaking experience on a national or regional level
- Has published articles, books, book chapters, etc. on the topic being requested
- Has conducted or participated in a research study related to the topic

Please visit the [Speaker Suggestion Page](#) to submit any speaker suggestions throughout the year. If you have any questions please direct them to Christina Kowalski at [ckowalski@smithbucklin.com](mailto:ckowalski@smithbucklin.com).