



Special points of interest:

- Presidential Letter
- 2013 CTSGNA Nurse of the Year Linda Leavitt
- Fall SGNA Leadership
- GI Review Course
- Election Results
- CTSGNA 2014 Meetings

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Presidential Letter

As I put this last Presidential Summary together, I would like to recognize the deep appreciation, value, and respect for all past and future Board Members. One of the most important take aways is that through all members working as professional group, in harmony, is how we can make a real difference. I would like to thank everyone for your input, hard work, and support during my term. It has been an honor to serve CTSGNA. The work that I was able to do at this level has provided me to grow in this relationship based organization, and I know that the new Board will have the same opportunities.

Every single member of CTSGNA is respected for your talents and contributions, and I hope that I am not telling anyone something you don't already know and feel.

Planned for January, 2014, is the GI/Endoscopy Review Course, being coordinated with National SGNA. All members, and non-members are encouraged to register. The course will provide 11.25 contact hours on Saturday, January 18 (all day) and Sunday, January 19 (1/2 day), over the Martin Luther King weekend. The cost for members is \$250, and \$350 for non-members. The curriculum has been designed to meet the needs of those new to GI, those who are interested in becoming certified in GI, and those who wish to obtain live contact hours for re-certification. The course will be held at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford, CT. Please see the registration form within this newsletter.

The Connecticut By-Laws, policies and procedures will be reviewed, revised, and re-built by the new slate of the Board of Directors. This task will begin in January, and more details regarding progress will follow in the upcoming months.

The mission of CTSGNA, in focusing on providing education to our members, has been a privilege to be a part of. In addition, we have made ground in speaking in one voice to the Governor of CT. related to potential healthcare changes regarding anesthesia care extenders, and bringing forth two grass-root resolutions to the National level. Our newly found on-line newsletter has allowed us to step into a new world of communicating to all of our membership, complete with email blasting. Tele-conferencing for Committee Meetings is within our reach. We are as committed as ever in providing scholarships to our members and in honor of past members. We are also providing direct communication of "National SGNA News" to Connecticut. We have come a long way, and there will continue to be more changes in the future growth of our organization. Let us all embrace even more changes that are ahead.

With appreciation, and wishes for a happy and healthy 2014.

Christine Sarisley, MS, APRN, CGRN

Linda Leavitt CTSGNA GI Nurse of Year 2013



Chris Sarisley and Linda Leavitt

Linda Leavitt from St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford received CTSGNA GI Nurse of The Year for 2013. Linda has been a GI nurse for 18 years, earning her the knowledge and skills to move forward in being one of the first RN's at St. Francis to get certified In GI. In addition, she is certified in BLS and ACLS, and practices by example as the Clinical Expert in Endoscopy. She is the "Go To" person for both staff and MD's, and a resource to everyone around her.

As Team Leader, Linda is leading the Endoscopy Unit in its transition to EPIC, as a Subject Matter Expert with this project going Live in April 2014. Other examples of her leadership in GI are her clinical skills and precepting in all specialties, including ERCP, Motility, Radiofrequency Ablation and Bronchoscopy. Linda is responsible for coordination all supplies and special ordering of products and devices, and is highly knowledgeable of all equipment. She coordinates education and in-services with all vendors, and serves as the liaison for all problem solving.

Linda is a leader in participating in the interdisciplinary and ongoing meetings with MD's regarding the management of the Endoscopy Department. She is a key member in collaborating with the GI, Pulmonary, Colo-Rectal, and Anesthesia Physicians. She is an honest, reliable, and flexible team player, and is the person who works with individuals meeting staffing requests. Linda also completes and finalizes the time schedule and payroll weekly.

Linda is in her 3rd year of teaching the CTSGNA Hands on Workshop and uses all current equipment along with a poster presentation in her demonstrations. She is calm, and has a sincere demeanor, with outstanding interpersonal skills. She values and is valued by those with whom she works. She has attended several State Meetings for CTSGNA this year, and has always attended the annual BTS Daylong Meeting.

2013 Fall SGNA Leadership Course

Michelle Day and I had the pleasure of representing CTSGNA at the fall SGNA leadership course. We were also privileged to attend an all-day course on Presenting for Success by Marjorie Brody. The class was very informative and educational. Michelle, as Director of Regional Societies' coordinated the two day Leadership course. I presented the House of Delegates Workshop with Vice Speaker Christopher Robbins. Other topics presented were: leadership advice, contact hours, re-chartering requirements, membership workshop, ABCGN update, regional budgeting and composing strong regional leadership. This leadership course gives a new leader at the regional level a very strong foundation to start off with. I hope other leaders will be able to attend in the future.

Kathy Vinci RN, CGRN
Speaker of the House of Delegates

Beyond The Scope Committee Report

Thank you to the members of Connecticut SGNA for allowing me to chair the BTS 2013 Committee. As we all know, from our daily practice, nothing happens without great team effort and cooperation. This was how it was for the BTS event. It was a success because of the amazing team of individuals I worked with to put it together. Each person brought with them good ideas and enthusiasm. I worked with people with many years of experience in planning this event and they mentored me and encouraged me and for this I thank them. I also worked with people new to this experience and we learned together and supported each other.

I would like to encourage everyone interested to volunteer for this committee. The benefits and rewards are greater than you might think. You get to work with nurses from many different institutions with years of GI experience. You get to network with people you might otherwise never meet. You will find people you can use as resources for your GI questions. You can save money. If you serve on the BTS committee you can attend the BTS program for half price. Best of all, you can make new friends and memories to last a lifetime. Yes I did agree to chair BTS 2014, so join me and get involved.

Respectfully Submitted

Carolyn Checovetes RN CGRN Chair Beyond The Scope 2013

Prepare for the CGRN Exam and Earn Contact Hours Close to Home

Make your plans to attend the GI/Endoscopy Nursing Review Course, January 18-19, 2014, at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford, CT.

Course Details:

- **This one-and-a-half day course will provide:**

- > An overview of key areas related to GI/endoscopy nursing practice
- > Tips on how to prepare for the American Board of Certification for Gastroenterology Nurses (ABCGN) certification exam

- **Participants will receive the *GI/Endoscopy Nursing Review: Certification Study Manual* as part of their course registration**

Location:

Innovation + Learning Center at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center
Collaborative Theater – CT Institute for Primary Care Innovation (CIPCI)
260 Ashley St.
Hartford, CT 06105

Time:

- Saturday, January 18, 2014
 - Registration/Breakfast – 7:15 am
 - Course – 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
 - Lunch will also be served
- Sunday, January 19, 2014
 - Breakfast – 7:30 am
 - Course – 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Registration Fee:

SGNA Member - \$250

Non-member - \$350

Space is limited – register today! Online registration is now open and available via the SGNA website. Pre-registration closes **Friday, January 10, 2014.**

Course participants earn **11.25 contact hours.**

SGNA is accredited as a provider for continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

SGNA GI/Endoscopy Nursing Review Course

Registration Form:

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center

Collaborative Theater – CT Institute for Primary Care Innovation (CIPCI)

260 Ashley St, Hartford, CT 06105

January 18-19, 2014, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm (Day 2 – 12:00 pm)

Please Type, Print Clearly, or Attach Business Card.

Full Name: _____

Place of Employment: Professional Degree: _____

Address: _____

City: State: Zip: Country: _____

Phone: Fax: E-mail: _____

A. Registration Fees (please check appropriate price)

SGNA Member Registration \$250

Non-Member Registration \$350

B. Payment Information

1. Full payment by check must accompany this form (US funds only)

2. Checks should be made payable to SGNA and mailed to:

SGNA

8287 Solutions Center

Chicago, IL 60677-8002

3. Visit www.sgna.org/Events/GIEndoscopyNursingReviewCourse.aspx to register online and pay by credit card.

4. Refund Policy: All requests for refunds are subject to a \$100 processing fee and must be received in writing no later than **January 10, 2014**. No refunds will be processed after that date.

5. Total Payment: \$ _____

PLEASE NOTE: ALL REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2014.

Elections for 2014-2015

Elections were held at our **November Dinner meeting**.

The results of the elections are as follows:

President: Kathy Vinci

President– Elect: Chris Sarsley

Secretary: Barbara Comstock

Treasurer: Rita Botelho

Board of Director's

- **Carolyn Checovetes**
- **Mary Essex**
- **Pattie Pontolillo**

CTSGNA State Meetings 2014

January 18-19th:

SGNA GI Review Course @ Saint Francis Hospital,
Hartford, CT

February 26th: Bristol Hospital

ERCP Pancreatitis Dr. Dan Smiley

March 20th: Middlesex Hospital

April 12th: Four Contact hours presented by Steris
Disinfection/Reprocessing

@ Sheridan Hartford South

May: National SGNA

June 20th: Hartford Hospital

Infection Prevention/ Speaker Michelle Day

September 18th: Midstate @ East Campus Conf. Room
C-Diff/Challenges and Treatments/Christine Couture PA

October 24th:ERCP

October 25th: Beyond the Scope

@ Sheridan Hartford South

November 13th: Diner Meeting

Location: TBA