

It is hard to believe we are stepping into the summer months. Having just returned from the National Conference in Phoenix, I feel refreshed with new information and knowledge. I especially enjoyed the leadership courses which focused on what it takes to have a successful organization. The most important concepts were to be honest, demonstrate respectful behaviors, and have an open mind to be able to hear what all members have to say. Being able to speak from the heart helps to make it safe to speak up. Recognizing the importance of bringing in new members, and creative ways of encouraging participation in SGNA activities, and also serving on the Board were also encouraged. New ideas always bring forth another way of doing something and can present exciting changes. If you always do what you always did, you will always get what you got. Going forward means to take a deeper look about the potential for where you can go. One of the keynote speakers emphasized the importance of how to create change by understanding those who can't or won't. Those who resist change are those who are more closely tied to the history (Thomas Kuhn, 1976).

Two resolutions passed in the House of Delegates, and both were from Connecticut. The first resolution is that National SGNA will support 2 \$1000 scholarships annually for a GI Medical Mission. This concept was modeled after the CTSGNA Medical Mission Scholarship. It was amazing to hear about the wonderful spirit and volunteer efforts of SGNA members. One nurse went to Kenya to teach reprocessing techniques. The second resolution put forward was to celebrate a week of GI Nursing as opposed to 1 day, patterned after Respiratory Therapy Week. As the fall approaches, we encourage you to think about resolutions you would like to be considered, and submit them. If you need help, please ask and we can show you how easy it is to use the template to make your ideas become formalized.

Kudos to those in Connecticut who over the years have supported ABCGN's activities and goals. This has included volunteer membership on the board, as Past President Kathryn Miller, RN has led this group for many years. In addition, over the years, many SGNA members have volunteered in the item writers' workshop, and currently Kathy Mazzerolle, RN, MS is serving on the Continuing Education Peer Review Group (CEPRG). She reviews in detail reports for applying for CEU's. In past years, Gail Steele, LPN, has also been a past member of the Board. Towards these efforts, Connecticut, Region #9 received the ABCGN National Award for Outstanding Certified Region of the Year. This banner will be displayed for the first time at our June dinner meeting, and again at Beyond the Scope in the fall.

Also, congratulations to the University of Connecticut for receiving a National Award for Professional in Excellence for having 50% or more of staff GI certified. Only 18 centers in the country have received this award, and UCONN is the only center in Connecticut.

Finally congratulations to Kathy Vinci who will be serving as the Vice Speaker of the House of Delegates, and who also did a poster presentation on the Crohn's and Colitis Nursing Task Force. Also congratulations to Barbara Sullivan and Michelle Day for their repeat performance on teaching reprocessing.

Have a great summer! See you at the June 14th dinner meeting. Please sign up on the web for this dinner.

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