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SGNA's Connecticut Regional Society

The SGNA Connecticut Regional Society (CTSGNA) is made up of a team of dedicated and knowledgeable professionals. It is that strength and pride in our organization that has helped us weather some challenging times — and allowed us to shine at our best.

Our board of directors has worked long and hard over a two-year term. We have reorganized our region (nine) to mirror more of the practices at the national SGNA level; revamped policies and created new ones; signed a contract with an online college to provide a member discount; and created detailed navigational tools for event planning to assist in mentoring members into new roles.

We remain committed to continue to provide the benefits to members and ensure the fiscal viability of our chapter. Many scholarship opportunities continue to be offered, and as well as opportunities available for members to teach regionally.

In 2017, CTSGNA received its second the ABCGN Outstanding Certified Region of the Year designation. This has been through our involvement in providing education statewide regionally and nationally. In addition, we have been able to provide partial reimbursement for certification and recertification to our members.

There are also changes made related to fees and technology for our regional course (which is a major source of funding). This year marks

the 25th year of providing the region's Saturday all-day course, and the 16th year of the attached Friday half-day and well-respected hands-on ERCP workshop. This annual weekend provides over 11 contact hours each year, most of which are GI-specific.

The board took additional steps to reassess fees for each program, evaluate exhibitor fees, provide discounts to GI techs, and make changes in honorariums.

All registration was upgraded at the door using laptops, email blasting was used to enhance publicity, and a database was created for publicity with future programs. Each year, email updates for attendees will be added to keep electronic database up to date.

This board has taken a leap of faith, stood by to support the new changes, and are appreciating the benefits of major housekeeping.

All of this has been accomplished while still facing personal challenges related to major job changes, increased work-related traveling, significant health crises, family responsibilities, celebrating births and enduring losses.

This team has stood strong and proud, through juggling and sharing responsibilities — and we are proud to serve the members of CTSGNA. ■

Submitted by Christine Sarisley, MS, APRN, CGRN



SGNA's Connecticut Regional Society's board members are pictured, from left, Barbara Comstock, RN, CGRN; Christine Sarisley, MS, APRN, CGRN; Mary Jason, MBA, MSN, RN; Janet Cordova, BSN, RN, CGRN, RN-BC, CMSRN; Kathy Vinci, RNC, CGRN; Carol Stevens, BSN, CGRN, CFER; and Joanne Struble, MSHA, BSN, CGRN. Not pictured is Kathleen Saunders, RN, CGRN.