**No27**

**March 2007**
**CNY SGNA Newsletter**

**Central New York Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates.**

**President's Message:**
Hello CNYSGNA members,
Thank you for allowing me to represent you this year as your president. It's an honor as well as an education represent our region at the national conference in May in Baltimore. To anyone who has never attended a national conference, it is quite an experience in educational offerings, in networking opportunities, in seeing first hand new products at the vendor exhibits and in just plain good times. Seriously consider attending a national conference and you will be happy you did.

The Spring CNYSGNA Conference is March 31, 2007 in Syracuse. Coleen Feocco and Carolyn McKay have lined up some excellent speakers for Saturday. As a special treat, they have scheduled the Olympus On - Site State- of - the -Art Mobile showroom to be at our conference. These "innovative Olympus technologies" will be available Friday, Mar 30 from 12-8pm and all day Saturday from 9:30 to 4:30pm. Hopefully everyone will be able to take the opportunity to see this GI Lab on wheels. I hope to see a lot of our members at the conference.

Until then, stay warm, and drive safely as our winter continues.

Mary Ellen Barrett, RN, CGRN
President, CNYSGNA
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**President –elect's Message**:
Greetings from Elmira. Hope you all had a happy and healthy holiday season. Sorry I missed the Fall meeting but I want to thank all of you for your vote. I must admit I was a little hesitant when Barb called me and asked me if I would consider running for President Elect. I wanted to become a more active member but I was not sure that was the answer. Barb reassured me that I would have all the support I needed to help me fulfill my duties so I agreed and I am looking forward to the next two years. I hope to see all of you at the Spring Meeting in Syracuse and hope to bring several nurses from our GI LAB.

I am busy planning my one and only daughters wedding which is taking place July 28,2007 in Elmira and she resides in VT. It is quite a challenge planning a long distance wedding but very exciting.

I spend any free time skiing with my husband and was very happy to see winter arrive. THINK SNOW!!!!!

Suzanne Gursky

**SPRING EDUCATIONAL MEETING**

**DRIVING ON THE ROAD TO GI EXCELLENCE**

**March 31, 2007**
**Drivers Villiage, Cicero, NY**

**Coleen Feocco**
**rfeocco@twcny.rr.com**
**315-475-2802**

CANDLEWOOD SUITES-
SYRACUSE AIRPORT;
5414 South Bay Road,
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**Editor's Note:**
Happy GI Nurses Day, March 28th. I hope that each of you will receive the recognition that you desreve and I hope that you will offer something education wise to your communities.

March is Colon Cancer Awareness month. It is up to us to "spread the word" that Colon cancer is curable when found early. The state average for late-stage detection is 60.4 per cent. Almost every county in New York State is over 50 per cent. There is a state cancer screening program for those without insurance. We need to get this information out to the public. Please send pictures or notes either online or snail mail and share what you have done this year for your community or your place of employment. If we get a response, we will share it on the webpage.

For the first time, you have the chance to pick the Director's of the Certifying Board of Gastroenterology Nurses. Please

vote. You should have received a ballot in the mail, or you can go online www.cbgna.org and follow the directions for printing a ballot to FAX or mail. All ballots must be faxed (312-673-6723) or mailed and postmarked (CBGNA, 401 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611) by Wednesday, April 11th. Note that any ballot submitted without your ID #, or without signature, will not be counted.

I had hoped to get this newsletter out earlier, but my luggage was lost for awhile and time passed. I would like to offer an address that we all could send a serviceman or woman an Easter or Holiday card. Too late for St. Patrick's Day, but after watching Bob Woodruff's program, it is a small gesture for those who have served and are recupperating. Send cards to:

Karen Haas, Chief Voluntary Service (135)
Stratton VA Medical Center
113 Holland Ave.
Albany, NY 12208

Thanks to Bill Ericsen for getting me this information.

We have many applications for the scholarship this year. Yea. I hope this means education and networking are looking good to you. Remember that March 31st is our Spring conference with great speakers and networking and the Olympus Mobile van with State of the Art showroom. Come and tell me what you would like to see in the future newsletters. I hope to see you there. Find a roommate for the Baltimore National meeting. Share rides.
Find out what others are doing to improve patient care.

Good luck to all that are planning to take the certification exam. Check out the CBGNA website for tips on taking the exam.

Please consider having a committee to apply for Top National Regional. We have a very active regional. Come with ideas. We could win that honor with a little work. Get recognized for your efforts.

I will be sending in photo's from the last year for the slideshow at National. E-mail or bring your photo's to Syracuse.

March 14th and 15th, I will be representing you at the New York State Nursing Summit being held by NYSNA. I hope to have plenty of information for you in my NOLF report.

So spread the word on colon screening, VOTE for your CBGNA Director's, come to Syracuse Match 31st for a great educational confernece and networking, send a letter to a serviceperson, and pat yourself on the back March 28th for a job well done.

Next newsletter will have a list of websites for online GI education.

Barbara Schwant, BSN, RN, CGRN

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**DATES:**

**March 2007** - Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month
http://www.sgna.org/Resources/crca.cfm

**March 28, 2007** - GI Nurses and Associates Day
http://www.sgna.org/education/ginursesday.cfm

**March 31, 2007** Spring Education Meeting Syracuse, NY
Coleen Feocco
rfeocco@twcny.rr.com
315-475-2802

**Vermont 14th Annual Spring Conference.** April 7, 2007.Ellen Antognioni, 802-447-5027
ema@phin.org

**May 18-23, 2007** 34th Annual Course Charting a Course for Professional Growth Baltimore, MD

**Certification Exam, May 19, 2007.** Application late date is March 28th, although there is a late sign-up option.

**CNYSGNA Fall Conference October 20th, 2007 Glens Falls, NY** Cathy Bolton 518-926-6220 (w) Held at the Great Escape Lodge Water Park. .

**Fall Certification Exam**, Oct. 21, 2007. Application due Aug. 15, late date is Aug. 22, 2007.

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**MEMBERSHIP: 88**

**Your President, Mary Ellen Barrett** has been in Endoscopy for 18years., a member of SGNA for 16 years and has been certified CGRN for 11years. (Mary Ellen has been a nurse for 38 years.) She has held several offices ( Secretary and Education Chair, and now President.for CNYSGNA). She has chaired two conferences and worked on others.

Mary Ellen has two grown children and five beautiful grandchildren
She enjoys gardening, reading and needlcrafts.
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**Old equipment:**
We donate old equipment to : "Division of Gastroenterology", Fatima Memorial Hospital, Lahore, Pakistan. The contact person is Dr. Arif Nawaz, who can be reached by e-mail at: **gidoc2000@yahoo.com**. Tell him either Cathy Collins or Coleen Feocco gave you the contact info. He lets us know when he will be stateside, and we ship him supplies and he reimburses us the shipping costs. I recently donated 3 fairly obsolete bp/ekg/oximetry units and he is ecstatic! He is always glad of ercp equipment and will buy old scopes at fair market value.
Coleen Feocco
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**From Carol Gilg, a Scholarship winner, 2006**:

I attended the SGNA annual course in San Antonio in May of 2006. During the 6 days there were many educational opportunities and many opportunities to network with other professionals. I have always been interested in any ethical or legal issues and we were presented a very interesting case of a recent malpractice suit against a nurse in Arkansas. It was presented by a nurse-attorney and a GI legal nurse consultant.

The question is– Are we legally responsible if a patient drives himself home after receiving sedation for a GI procedure. In this case on admission the patient stated that he had a ride home, the procedure was done under sedation and when discharging the patient it was discovered that the patient did not have a ride and he intended to drive himself home. He was offered many different options such as being admitted to the hospital overnight, calling someone to drive him, keeping him for 8 hrs in the hospital before driving and the patient refused all of these options. When his wife was called she did not understand the concern as she stated that when the patient was there a couple of weeks before for a different GI procedure the patient had driven home because she does not drive. This was the first the staff knew of this because when he was in previously he stated his wife was driving home and his wife accompanied him for that procedure.

The patient left the hospital because he could not be physically restrained, he drove and was involved in a one car accident and he died. After a couple of years the patient's wife sued the hospital and the nurse.

This case demonstrated the importance of proper documentation of all the events that took place that day.

After 2 appellate courts trials the GI nurse was absolved from liability and the case was resolved.

This case demonstrated that nurses can't be held liable if a patient does not tell the truth before receiving sedation, we can't physically restrain a patient from leaving the hospital, and the patient has to assume some responsibility if he refuse all attempts to keep him safe. It is our responsibility to keep our patient's safe and we must be sure they have a ride home before sedation is given. If they do not have a ride the procedure needs to be canceled or the patient has the option of having the procedure without sedation. It also reinforces the importance of complete documentation to protect us against malpractice.
This is just one example of the many excellent educational opportunities available during the Annual Course. I encourage everyone to try to attend the SGNA Annual Course whenever possible.
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**Secretary's Message**::
Nora Connelly, SIGNEA's President (USA), sent us an acknowledgment of our Regional's continued sponsorship of three nurses in developing countries. This year's recipients were:
1) Nora Alexandra Delgado, a Head Nurse in Quito, Ecuador
2) Sister Patricia White, Ward C11, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, St. Michael, Barbados
3) Valentia Lapins, Head Nurse, Riga 1069, Latvia
Each will receive the SIGNEA newsletter (published three times a year) which contains news from National Member Countries and articles from other SIGNEA members and experts.
SIGNEA's goal is "to establish international standards and research that ensure patient care in addition to providing education, training, and information exchange opportunities."
Want to expand your horizons? Call 1-847-297-5088 or E-Mail SIGNEAHQ @ AOL.COM. to join the International organization.

Happy Traveling.....Gayle E. Millis,AAS,RN,CGRN

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Check out our website once in awhile:
www.cnysgna.org

"Newsletters represent the authors' opinions based upon the current understanding and usual practices in this field. Except as stated, it does not represent SGNA guidelines or procedures. Practitioners must adapt the information to their individual situations. SGNA accepts no responsibility for specific applications of this information."

Marc Yankowski of Boston Scientific has agreed to sponsor our newsletter. Thank you Marc If you need to contact Marc Boston Scientific: 1-800-471-3226 x3132

**CNY SGNA:**
**YOUR 2007 BOARD:**

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