



No29

December 2007  
CNY SGNA Newsletter

Central New York Society of  
Gastroenterology Nurses and  
Associates.  
Region 37.

**President's Message:**

**Seasons' Greetings**

Its that time of year again, all the hustle and bustle of the holidays are upon us. Hopefully, everyone had a great fall and can look forward to the winter months. We had a wonderful time at the Fall Conference at the Great Escape Lodge in Lake George. We can now look forward to the Spring Conference at the Turning Stone in March.

With the new year comes the need for new officers to keep our Regional going strong. We have over 100 registered members and should be able to draw from the whole group, not just a few. According to the by-laws, we have the obligation to hold business meetings and offer contact hours to maintain our Regional status. To keep the Regional going, we need people willing to give a commitment of some time, ideas,

love of GI Nursing and desire to continue what others have started. This past election had all offices unopposed, with 3 of those offices filled by the existing officers. The President-elect has been an officer before. Every year we need to fill 4 offices and there is a shortage of people willing to make that commitment. Each office running unopposed is not a true election and if the existing officers decided not to run again, we would have had a real problem. We would be in violation of the by-laws.

There are some perks with holding an office. The President and President –elect get to attend the annual National Conference with their expenses paid by CNYSGNA. The conference for 2008 is in Salt Lake City , Utah. The officers have their annual dues paid by CNYSGNA and the hotel accommodations are covered for one night for the attendance at Board meetings. This helps for any additional cost you feel you may incur by accepting the commitment

Please give this idea some serious thought as we go into the new year and volunteer if you can for one of the positions that will become available in 2008 for the year 2009...as always President-Elect, Treasurer, By-Laws, and Membership.

Until March, have a great holiday season, stay warm and healthy and enjoy.

Best Wishes .....  
Mary Ellen Barrett, President  
CNYSGNA

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**MEMBERSHIP: 125**  
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**SPRING EDUCATIONAL MEETING**

**Diversity in GI-Making GI Personal**

When: **March 28 & 29, 2008**  
Where: **Shenendoah Golf Club** (adjacent to Turning Stone Casino)

To learn more, please contact Babette Clapper at 315-624-7035(w) 315-339-3296 or by email at: b.clapper@hotmail.com

**Hotel Reservations:** 1-800-771-7711

Code SGNA

Tower: \$130/night: Inn \$80/night  
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**Editor's Note:**

There is a **letter from Deborah Elliott**, MBA from NYSNA with the answers to some of your questions from the Fall meeting. Entire letter is on following page. (What a tech can do.)

Please **renew your membership** for 2008. It is due. [www.sgna.org](http://www.sgna.org)

Please **vote for SGNA board**. (Free contact hour available with the vote.) [www.sgna.org](http://www.sgna.org)

February begins **voting for ABCGN**, the Certifying Board. Please vote. [www.abcgcn.org](http://www.abcgcn.org)

**Scholarship information** is included with this newsletter, due Jan. 2, 2008. After this year, the information will be on our website only. We will save a few trees.

Article from Babette Clapper on the **Spring Educational meeting**. You are going to love it.

There will be a two week window in May and October to take the **Certifying exam online**. (This will be at Castle exam sites, possibly CompUSA). Stay tuned.

In the haste of holiday preparation, I have highlighted the important items that are on the following pages. I don't want you to miss the information but it all can't appear on the front page.

I have retired from St. Clare's Hospital, after 30 years. I am now working at Ellis Hospital in Schenectady, about 2 miles away.

I work with the same doctors and a fantastic group of nurses. It is not easy for an older nurse to move from a spot that she is very comfortable to a new location. They have made it quite positive. I do believe the paper work may be more than at my old hospital!!

And it is fun to learn something new each day.

Anyway, I have a different work number. It is very hard to say farewell after all those years, but we are waiting to hear what the State has to say about a merger due to the Berger Commission so we may all be working together soon. Stay tuned.

Be aware that there is a new Category for recertification that is a Poster presentation. Category 9. [www.abcgcn.org](http://www.abcgcn.org)

You have a very active regional. I want to thank Cathy Bolton and her group for giving us a great Fall educational program. It was a packed day of good information. But no time to do the waterslide park!!

Congratulations to Brenda Hayes as President-elect for 2008. Thank you to all who were on the ballet. We appreciate your commitment.

Please note that NYSNA is working toward a BSN entry level

for RN's starting in 2019. Everyone would be grandfathered in. Most other professional organizations require a Master's already. The technology in nursing is requiring more education. Please look at this site for more information. And let your Board know if you want CNYSGNA to support this item.

[www.RNEducationAdvanceNY.org](http://www.RNEducationAdvanceNY.org)

#### **President-elect's Message:**

I hope you have enjoyed the unseasonably warm fall weather as much as I have. My recent trip to the Fall conference at the Great Escape Lodge was breathtaking. The fall foliage was at its peak. KUDOS to Cathy Bolton and her staff for a superb conference. We had a great turnout and vendor support was fantastic! Barb and I even ventured to the water park for a couple of the water slides.

I am looking forward to my upcoming Presidency and just returned from the SGNA Leadership Conference in Chicago. It was a very rewarding experience. I had an opportunity to network with many of our colleagues and Divisional Coordinators and we were able to share many of our concerns, ideas and interests. We were able to write some resolutions which were very good. The Regional Society Committee is making preparations for Regional Night at Salt Lake City and want to know what educational emphasis our region has and give everyone the opportunity to share these successes with the other SGNA regions. I want to thank CNYSGNA for funding my trip it was a great learning experience

and will be very helpful during my term as President. I appreciate all your support !!!

The Fall meeting will be held on October 25, 2008, in Elmira, hosted by Suzanne Gursky and staff from the Arnot Ogden Medical Center. Please save the date and as more information becomes available I will share it with you. I look forward to seeing you at the Spring meeting

Suzanne Gursky RN

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#### **SPRING EDUCATION MEETING**

**From Babette Clapper:**

**The theme is: Diversity in GI-Making GI Personal**

Radiation Safety for the patient and the staff.....Bob Pizzatiello, Upstate Medical Physicist

EUS and Pseudocyst Drainage...(speaker to be announced, Cook Medical sponsoring)

Dr. Gumustop..from Albany...(topic to be announced) Olympus Sponsoring

Legal Updating.....Bruce Smith

Hepatitis B-Disease review and current therapies

Biologics-review of who where and why....Dr McDermott from St. Peter's Albany

Body Medicals for the staff and patient....Dr. Dan Dischaivo

Dr. Jessie Greene from Albany...topic to be determined

Rooms currently available at the Tower for \$130/night, and at the Inn for \$80/night; If staying at the Inn there will be a shuttle running both

Friday night and Sat. nonstop to the Golf Club.

There is a 10% discount at the spa in the casino.

We will have hand and chair massages-FREE

As always, basket raffles, and door prizes.

It is spa themed for a relaxing day of learning about topics for the benefit of the patient and the nurse. We all need a little pampering.

If there are any special requests for the uniform vendor, call or e-mail Babette. Vendor can only bring so many items.

#### **DATES:**

#### **Dinner Meeting, Treatment of Malignant Colorectal**

**Obstruction** on Dec. 10, 2007 at Bellini's Restaurant. 6:30-8:30. Sponsored by Boston Scientific. Space full.

#### **CNYSGNA Spring Conference March 28, 2008 , Utica, NY**

Babette Clapper, RN. 315-624-7035 Held at Shenendoah Golf

#### **GI Nurses and Associates Day, March 26, 2008**

#### **SGNA's 35th Annual Course May 16-21, 2008**

Salt Lake City, Utah

#### **SGNA & YOU - The Power to Make a Difference**

#### **Certification Exam May 17, 2008**

#### **Certification Exam October 19, 2008**

#### **CNYSGNA Fall Educational Meeting October 25, 2008 Elmira, NY**

**Sue Gursky 607-255-7130**

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Check out Central NY's website :[www.cnysgna.org](http://www.cnysgna.org)

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When you are making out your Christmas card list this year, also include one for the following address:

A Recovering American Soldier  
% Walter Reed Army Medical Center  
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20307-5001

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#### **SOMETHING COOL THAT XEROX IS DOING**

If you go to this web site, [www.LetsSayThanks.com](http://www.LetsSayThanks.com)

You can pick out a thank you card and Xerox will print

It and it will be sent to a soldier that is currently serving in Iraq . You can't pick out who gets it, but it will go to Some member of the armed services.

How AMAZING it would be if we could get everyone

We know to send one!!! This is a great site. Please send A card. It is FREE and it only takes a second.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if the soldiers received a bunch Of these? Whether you are for or against the war, our Guys and gals over there need to know we are behind them...

#### **Suggestions for Process Improvement Projects:**

Handwashing pre and post procedures (Dr. and nurse); Time out-are they being done and documented; clo-test vs pyloritek for H. Pylori-which is better for our dept; Labeling of medications. complication rates, ie. reversal agents. mislabeling of specimens and missed specimens. Turn around time, scope repairs, cancelled procedures after the patient arrived to the procedure room-i.e. prep inadequate or issues with sedation/anesthesia. (From the discussion forum)

From **Deborah Elliott, MBA, RN**  
Associate Director, Education,  
Practice and Research  
New York State Nurses  
Association  
11 Cornell Rd, Latham NY 12110  
With the help of our library and the  
State Board for Nursing, I am able  
to provide you with answers to the  
questions your colleagues raised

post my presentation last month. I realize that some of the RNs in attendance were hoping for more specific explanations which I wasn't able to adequately provide and perhaps they left feeling as though they didn't get what they were looking for, but unfortunately, the answers are not always as clear cut as we would like them to be. Just as the role of the RN continues to expand and advance as new technologies emerge, so does that of the LPN and unlicensed persons. The role of the State Board for Nursing is to ensure that the public is protected from unsafe practice and they continue to re-evaluate each situation as it arises. The State Board for Nursing is the only entity that can interpret education law and generate opinion. The role of NYSNA is to provide direction and guidance to nurses through education and consultation regarding scope of practice issues and best practice. The role and legality of unlicensed persons in the care of patients is ever challenging because they are not governed or regulated by the State Education Department and are often promulgated by physician groups. I hope the following explanation will provide some reassurance, comfort and guidance for RNs practicing in the field of endoscopy and promote a safe working environment, The areas that were still in question were as follows:

- 1) **Can techs assist the surgeon in the execution of the instrument used to obtain biopsies?**
- 2) **May LPNs snare polyps?**
- 3) **May LPNs inject dye during an ERCP into the biliary and/or pancreatic ducts?**

According to the NYS State Board for Nursing, both unlicensed persons (techs) and LPNs, if they have been taught and can demonstrate competence, can serve as a second set of hands in endoscopic procedures, **only** if such a procedure does not require clinical judgement or patient assessment. There are two very important components of this statement; 1) if they have **been taught and can demonstrate competence**, and 2) if the procedure they are being assigned to do **does not require clinical judgement or patient assessment**.

This is where the role of the RN becomes critical. According to the American Nurses Association (ANA) and supported by the Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates (SGNA), the RN is accountable for the quality of care rendered to patients.

The RN assumes the responsibility for assessing, planning, implementing, directing, supervising, evaluating direct and indirect nursing care, and identifying outcomes for patients in the gastroenterology setting.

The RN is responsible for determining the education and competency level of assistive personnel to whom he or she is delegating (ANA, 2004).

I hope this helps as the GI RNs continue to provide quality patient care and manage a growing clinical specialty. Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in your wonderful conference. Let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Enjoy the holiday season!  
Deb

**Deborah Elliott, MBA, RN**  
Associate Director, Education,  
Practice and Research  
New York State Nurses  
Association  
11 Cornell Rd, Latham NY 12110  
Voice: 518.782.9400 x282  
Fax: 518.782.9533  
Email: [deborah.elliott@nysna.org](mailto:deborah.elliott@nysna.org)

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7921 (w) 315-455-5035 (h).  
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5049(w) 518-237-2262(h)

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12182 [maryannecgrn@MSN.com](mailto:maryannecgrn@MSN.com)

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**Finance/Budget :** Janet Moran, RN. 518- 399-7341(h) 518-243-4258 (w). FAX 518-243-1325 56 Vines Rd.

Ballston Lake, NY 12019  
[Pmoran1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:Pmoran1@nycap.rr.com)

**Scholarship:** Anne Schmidt

10 Carroll Terr. Albany, NY  
12209 518-462-3179 (h) 518-626-6315 (w)  
[Rschmid1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:Rschmid1@nycap.rr.com) or  
[Anne.Schmidt@va.gov](mailto:Anne.Schmidt@va.gov)

**Practice Committee, SGNA.**  
MaryAnne Malone, RN, CGRN  
518-262-5049(w) 518-237-2262(h)  
18 Viewpointe Dr. Troy, NY  
12182 [maryannecgrn@MSN.com](mailto:maryannecgrn@MSN.com)

**Editor/NOLF rep/Director on CBGNA Board:** Barbara Schwant, RN, BSN, CGRN 518-887-2850 (h), 518-243-4258(w) FAX 518-243-1325 (w) 309 Muselbeck Rd. Pattersonville, NY 12137 [schwant@juno.com](mailto:schwant@juno.com)

**American Board of Certification for Gastroenterology Nurses**  
800-245-7462, option 3  
[Abcgn.org](http://Abcgn.org)

**National Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates:** 800-245-7462  
[www.sgna.org](http://www.sgna.org)  
e-mail: [SGNA@sba.com](mailto:SGNA@sba.com)

Local education members:

**Binghamton:** MaryFran Cumiskey, RN, CGRN 201 Frey Ave. Endicott, NY 13760 \_ 607-762-2276 (w), 607-748-7156(h) [www.mommer201@aol.com](mailto:www.mommer201@aol.com)

**Capital District:** Terry Markiewicz, MS, RN, CGRN. 104 St. Stephens La. W., Scotia, NY 12302 518-243-4258 (w) 518-399-0703 [feedkramer@aol.com](mailto:feedkramer@aol.com)

**Syracuse:** Coleen Feocco, BA, RN, CGRN 315-475-2802 (h) 315-470-7921(w) 2210 South Geddes St. Syracuse, NY 13207 [rfeocco@tweny.rr.com](mailto:rfeocco@tweny.rr.com)

**Website:** [www.cnysgna.org](http://www.cnysgna.org)  
**Webmaster:** [ecbcunia@gmail.com](mailto:ecbcunia@gmail.com)

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1-800-471-3226 x3132