

The Light Source

SUMMER 2005

The Pacific Northwest Society of Gastrointestinal Nurses and Associates Newsletter
Serving members in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington

Editor's Note

This issue of the **Light Source** is short and sweet. We set our main focus on the information you'll need for taking the GI Certification exam and on the Fall Conference.

In the first section of the newsletter, you'll find information about a review course for the GI Certification exam coming to Seattle. PNWSGNA has arranged for Doris Barnie to teach her renowned review course. Of those taking the exam, her students have consistently scored higher than the average. For anyone thinking about becoming certified, I highly recommend taking her class. I think you'll find it to be one of your best career investments. See the special flyer insert for information about the class.

The second section deals with the certification exam itself. This year, the testing site will take place at the same location as our Fall Conference. Information regarding the eligibility requirements for taking the test can be found on page 3.

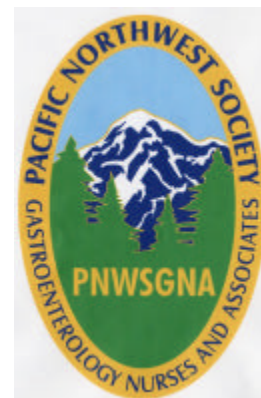
The third section of the newsletter has information about the upcoming Fall Conference. This year the conference is being held in Lynnwood, Washington at the Embassy Suites. Information about the conference is on page 4.

The final section is related to the other issues of our region. The new Tech Credentialing program that SGNA is developing will be offered this summer. It's exciting that our GI Associates will now be recognized for the important contributions they make to the field of gastroenterology. Encourage your Techs and Associates to take the course.

Besides this newsletter, you can find information and applications for the conference and classes on our website: www.pnwsгна.org.

In closing, I would like to give thanks to Kelly Anderson for her assistance with the editing of our newsletter, and a special thanks to PEA, especially to Christa Bowen, for formatting our newsletter and taking on the expense of producing and mailing our newsletter and flyer.

Bill Smiley, BSN, RN
PNWSGNA Editor



**Certification
Review Course,
Certification
Exam & Special
Fall Conference
Issue**

**All the
information you
need for the
conference and
exam can be
found inside!**

**Certification
Review Course—
Special Insert**
applications can also be
downloaded from the PNWSGNA
website

**Certification Exam—
Page 3**

**PNWSGNA Annual Fall
Conference—Page 4**

BOARD NOTES

President's Message



Hi everyone! We are already well into the year and it is great to be writing my first article as President. We are in the planning and finalizing stages of the Annual Fall Conference (October 14th, 15th & 16th Embassy Suites, Lynnwood, WA). This year we are fortunate to have an entire weekend event. Friday evening we begin with a presentation sponsored by Boston Scientific, then we proceed into the weekend with our conference through Saturday and Sunday. The GI certification exam will be offered on Sunday for those who wish to take it.

We have speakers presenting a wide variety of topics from Laparoscopic Colectomy to patient safety in the GI lab. We'll cover issues in women and have a keynote speech from a nurse/ attorney. She will give a mini deposition to provide us with information about documentation and legal requirements as nurses in the endoscopy department.

The afternoon break sessions will be sponsored by our vendors Olympus and Boston Scientific. Topics are still being decided on, therefore, if you have any burning issues you would like to see covered in these sessions just let me know.

Heather Blythe-Foss (President Elect) and I are on our way to Minneapolis this week to represent our members at the national conference. We will voice your input regarding the House of Delegates resolutions and return with new ideas for you and our colleagues.

In regard to the conference being held in Boise this June 24th, you may find more information about all our offerings from our website www.pnwsгна.org.

Debbie Tombs RN, CGRN
President

Message from Your President -Elect

First, I thank you all for allowing me the privilege of going to Minnesota for the Spring Conference. It was a great honor to represent the Pacific Northwest SGNA.

I attended the House of Delegates workshop and the Re-Chartering of our region. Both were very informative. As an individual member or as a group (PNWSGNA) I have learned that the SGNA really does listen to our suggestions and concerns, so I encourage you to let your voice(s) be heard. I attended many classes and acquired a great deal of information to share with my colleagues. I also managed to have fun and attend some great parties. I truly do not know what we would do without our very supportive sponsors. I am sending a heartfelt thank you to them from all of us at PNWSGNA.

The Fall conference is slowly approaching and we are currently in the planning stages. Keep the weekend of October 14, 15 and 16th open on your calendars. To all who would like to take the Certification Exam I have been working with the SGNA testing company - Castle Worldwide- and they will be offering the test at the Fall Conference on October 16, 2005. Start studying! I am also working with Marianne Houlne, CGRN, on a prep course. More information will be available soon..

Finally, I would like to reach out to our members to get involved. It is a worthwhile organization with minimal time investment. We welcome you to our board meetings as they are open to all members. For times and locations of our meetings please see our newsletter.

Heather Blyth Foss
PNWSGNA President Elect
Valley Medical Center
Renton, WA

Past President's Message

Hello to Everyone,

As we weave our way through 2005, I realize how quickly time flies. It's hard to believe that my three-year term as president is coming to an end. I have learned a lot during my term on the board of PNWSGNA, and I hope I was able to reach out to our members. It is time to begin looking for new board members and a president-elect. The only requirement for president-elect is two years' experience on the board. If you or anyone you know is interested please e-mail me. Election ballots will be coming out in July or August and results will be announced at the PNWSGNA



Fall Conference in October.
See you there.

C. Jeanne Ronk, RN, CGRN
Past President

Certification Update

Congratulations to all of the candidates who took the certification exam at the SGNA Annual Course in Minneapolis this past May. From what I hear, a record number of candidates traveled to Minneapolis to take the exam.



This year will be a busy one for me as I have accepted the position of Chair for the CBGNA Item Writers Committee. I will be working with a very special group of experts to write and edit the GI certification exam questions and answers. I'm constantly amazed by the amount of research that goes into each and every question that appears in the exam.

I will also be working closely with the PNWSGNA (Pacific Northwest Regional Society) to organize some exciting events for 2005. Check your mailbox for the PNWSGNA flyer. You may visit their website at www.pnwsгна.org, for details about the upcoming GI prep course with Doris Barnie, as well as the Fall Conference and Certification exam.

Regarding the instructor for the GI review course, I've had the honor of meeting Doris Barnie on a number of occasions. She is truly a talented nurse and an unbelievable instructor. I'm excited that she has consented to come to Seattle to teach her course. It has been an honor to be a part of the effort bringing her to Seattle. She is the founder of the Certification Board and can identify with each candidate as they prepare for the exam. This is a wonderful opportunity for all who are thinking of taking the exam and would like to learn from the teacher who started it all.

I will continue to work closely with the CBGNA Board on a national level and want you to know that I would be happy to answer any questions or fears that you may have while preparing to take the Certification exam.

Feel free to Email me at mhoulne@hotmail.com or leave a message on my cell phone at (425) 652-7794 with your contact information.

I hope to see you at the prep course and the Fall Conference.

Marianne Houlne RN, CGRN
Valley Internal Medicine/ Valley Medical Center
Renton, Washington

CERTIFICATION EXAM INFORMATION

Location: At the same site as the PNWSGNA Annual Fall Conference.

Embassy Suites
20610 44th Avenue West
Lynnwood, WA 98036
Phone: (425) 774-2500
Fax: (425) 774-0485

Date: October 16th, 2005

Application deadline: August 12th, 2005

Late Registration deadline: August 26th, 2005

Review course (Renton, WA): July 9th and 10th

Specific Exam Information: Visit the Certifying Board of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates website at www.cbgna.org

Email questions to: info@cbgna.org

Toll-free number **1-800-245-SGNA (7462) option 3**.

Eligibility: You must be active in GI nursing for a total of 2 years full-time or part-time with the equivalence of 4,000 hours within the past 5 years. The signature of two practitioners to validate your status.

Scholarships: There are several scholarships available from the different societies. The best way to find out what is offered is to visit the following websites:

- Certifying Board of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates: www.cbgna.org
- Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates: www.sgna.org
- Pacific Northwest Regional SGNA: www.pnwsгна.org

Also the toll-free number **1-800-245-SGNA**

Preparation

The CBGNA website has information and suggestions for test candidates. Visit www.cbgna.org to download the examination information and registration packet.

The CBGNA offers study materials that include a study guide and study modules. The study guide includes study tips, suggested references, and a 100-question practice test!

Come to the PNWSGNA Review Course with our guest lecturer, Doris Barnie. We will have information available to help you.

Don't Forget - If you are a regional member and pass the exam, the PNWSGNA will **refund 50% of your exam fee!**

PNWSGNA ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 15 and 16, 2005

Course offering 7.8 CEU's



This year we will be holding the PNWSGNA Annual Fall Conference Saturday, October 15th at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Lynnwood. The administration of the CBGNA Certification exam will be held at **the same location** on Sunday, October 16th.

If you have the chance arrive early, Boston Scientific will be sponsoring a Friday Night Bash on the 14th. This event is always a lot of fun and a good way to unwind with your GI friends before the start of the Conference.

The Embassy Suites Hotel Seattle - North / Lynnwood is located at:

**20610 44th Ave. West
Lynnwood, WA. 98036
Phone (425) 775-2500**

ROOM DISCOUNT ARE BEING ARRANGED FOR COURSE ATTENDEES

Syllabus at a Glance

Carol Stock, JD - talking about legal issues and documentation.

Susan McCormick, MD - female GI issues.

Michael Millie, MD - laparoscopic colectomy.

Fred Drennan, MD - patient safety issues in the GI lab.

Watch our website www.pnwsgna.org for updates.

Greetings from Alaska

The snow is finally disappearing and it is starting to look like spring. The sound of studded snow tires has diminished. The renewal of nature is upon us. Alaska is a great place to live! My wife and I have resided here for almost ten years and have no intention of leaving.

The field of gastroenterology is growing rapidly in this region. In Anchorage there are 4 hospitals with GI departments: Alaska Regional, Providence, Alaska Native Medical Center and Elmendorf AFB hospital. We have two independent endoscopy centers. I am uncertain as to the number of nurses in the other clinics, but we at Alaska Regional employ four full time nurses.

With the opening of the second endoscopy center some of our hospital volume has decreased. I am expecting the volume to pick up again, especially with tourist season rapidly approaching. An increase in visitors often brings with it an increase in GI complaints. We should have enough work to keep the eleven endoscopists, two colorectal surgeons and ancillary staff busy.

In closing, I would like to take a moment to let you know how much I've enjoyed the position of director-at-large. Having fallen into the specialty by "accident" if you will, I have discovered a field that I truly love. I am proud to be one of the few nurses in this area to have earned the CGRN recognition. I look forward to seeing all of you in Minneapolis in May. Until then feel free to contact me at twhilts@hotmail.com or at Timothy.Hilts@HCAHealthcare.com

Tim Hilts, CGRN

Available in Summer 2005

SGNA ASSOCIATES will now be able to earn recognition as a **GTS**, GI Technical Specialist.



Overview of Program:

There will be eight (8) modules that need to be taken and completed (passing a post test):

Module 1 Anatomy

Module 2 Equipment

Module 3 Reprocessing/Infection Control

Module 4 Patient Care

Module 5 Risk Management

Module 6 Roles & Responsibilities/Communication

Module 7 Safety

Module 8 Emergency Preparedness

Upon completing the 8 modules, an Official Recognition of Completion and a GTS lapel pin will be awarded to the associate.

Modules will contain slides, diagrams and supporting documents.

Each Module will have a post test to evaluate the competency of the learner.

Pricing:

All 8 modules for an SGNA Member

Tech/Associate: \$80

All 8 modules for a Non-Member

Tech/Associate: \$160

Each module will also be available for purchase separately with contact hours available.

Pricing for non-Techs/Associates will be by contact hour: \$20 Member/ \$30 Non-Member

Contact hours for each program have not yet been determined.

<http://www.sgna.org/Education/associates.cfm>

2005 PNWSGNA
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Visit YOUR website!

www.pnwsgna.org

**DATES TO
REMEMBER**

- Certification Exam
Application Deadline
August 12, 2005
- Certification Exam
Review Course,
July 9-10, 2005
- Certification Exam,
October 16, 2005
- PNWSGNA Annual
Fall Conference
October 15-16,
2005



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