

Face Lift on the Website

The OSGNA website is in the process of having a face lift. We have hired a website designer to update the site and manage the site for a year. In that year, we are hoping to learn how to maintain the website ourselves so we can save that cost. The application for the March meeting, the latest newsletter and a link for the Colon Cancer Awareness Walk taking place in Cincinnati can be found at the site. There is also a link for the national SGNA meeting being held in Orlando, Florida. We would like to showcase our members on the site also. Please send us pictures of how you and your facility celebrated GI Nurses and Associates week in your hospital or free standing center. You can email them to jm52699@aol.com.

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Ohio Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates
OSGNA

THE SCOPE

The Ohio Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates Newsletter



February 2010

Happy New Year from Our President

Happy New Year to everyone! It is hard to believe that this is the start of my second and final year as OSGNA President. The first year seemed to go by fast. At our January board meeting we were discussing how to get more of our members involved in being on the board, or just being involved in planning a meeting. It seems like it is always the same people. I think that this is the most common problem every board in every region has. I think a common misconception is that it takes up too much of your free time and takes you away from family. That was one of my reasons for not getting involved. Once I started on the board (as newsletter editor/historian) I realized that as a commitment it didn't take that much time. There are 4 board meetings a year (usually about 2 hours per meeting) so that is 8 hours a year. That is really not a lot of time. If you are on the planning committee for a meeting, the jobs are divided up so that the more there are on the committee the less one person has to do. That makes the time commitment not long at all. At our educational meeting in March if you have any interest or would like to find out more about what is involved, try talking to a board member. We'd all be glad to share information with you.

Hope you will all join us at our educational conference on March 6, 2010 at the Robert's Centre in Wilmington. If you have not received one please check out the website (osgna.org) and download one.

Just a reminder that March is colon cancer awareness month. We are looking for stories and pictures of how you and your facility celebrated Colon Cancer Awareness and GI Nurses and Associates week.

We are very excited about the fact that the process of updating our website has begun. It will be much more up to date and user friendly. Look for updates in the newsletter which will be online in the near future. Please make sure we have all your updated information, including your email address. I know that some members may not like the idea of an online newsletter; change isn't always comfortable or easy. You will be able to print it out if you so desire and it is much more eco-friendly. Special thanks to Joan Metzger for getting the ball rolling!

Hope to see you at the March 6th meeting and if not there at the SGNA national meeting April 30-May 5 in Orlando, Florida.

Best regards,
Debbie Vance

2010 Election Year Nominations

This fall is an election year for OSGNA officers. Voting membership in OSGNA is limited to licensed nurses and associates involved in or associated with gastroenterology and/or endoscopy nursing practice. Voting members may hold elected office positions. The positions that are up for election are: President Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. Each elected officer will serve a term of two years.

The president elect is responsible for updating and being knowledgeable about the bylaws as well as fulfilling duties delegated by the President. Joan Metzger will be the President January 1, 2011.

The secretary records the minutes of the quarterly board meetings, assists at the registration table at conferences and is responsible for the society's bylaws, policies, and all correspondence.

The treasurer is responsible for the society's funds, responsible for the registration fees from our conferences, keeping an accurate membership list, and providing a yearly report to SGNA, and the Board. Please consider running for office. Contact Kim McNary if interested in any of these positions.

Third Annual Colon Cancer Awareness Walk

OSGNA is once again sponsoring the Third Annual Colon Cancer Awareness 5K Walk/Run to be held on April 17, 2010 at Lunken playfield. This year we have added a 5k run also. The entrance cost is \$15.00. Continental breakfast will be provided by Kroger. We are looking for corporate sponsoring. If anyone has any suggestions please email them to jm52699@aol.com. The link to register online for the walk/run can be found on the osgna.org website. You can also print out a registration form and mail it to Kim. Last year we had almost 300 participants. This year our goal is 500 participants. Please help us meet our goal. Proceeds stay in Cincinnati and are used by the Colon Cancer Task Force of Cincinnati to educate the community about colon cancer prevention and the importance of a screening colonoscopy.

Legislative Liaison Education Co-Chair

OSGNA is again one of the co-sponsors of Nurses Day at the Statehouse. For the past 3-4 years this annual event has reached participant capacity well before the scheduled date; in other words it continues to be a "sold out event". It has been reported that one in every fifty voters in Ohio is a nurse, what a source of power and a voice we have as a group! This year's event is scheduled for Wednesday February 24. The deadline for registration was February 12. If you would like more information about the day's events or to register online go to www.ohnurses.org. Since OSGNA is one of the co-sponsors our members receive a discount and can register for the day's events including lunch for \$45.

Each of the co-sponsoring organizations are encouraged to present a topic that has the potential to influence the legislative process, while benefiting health care consumers and/or health care workers in our state. OSGNA is very passionate about the importance of public awareness of Colon Cancer Screening as well as needed follow up health care for colon cancer patients, especially those that are underserved or uninsured. Please refer to the Talking Points that OSGNA will be presenting at this year's event. The theme for this year's Nurses Day at the Statehouse is "Nurses as Legislative Partners: An Informed Voice for Health Policy".

The next OSGNA education conference will be held at the Roberts Conference Centre in Wilmington, Ohio. Deadline for registration is February 22. We look forward to seeing you there! The Holiday Inn connected to the Roberts Centre, is holding a limited number of hotel rooms for conference participants. Space is limited so register early!

There were well over 200 participants at the Multi Regional SGNA conference held in the Columbus area this past October. For those of you that attended, I thank you for helping to make the conference a huge success. The next Multi Regional SGNA conference will be the third weekend in October 2010 and will be held in the Chicago area. Planning is already underway with a site choice in Schaumburg, Illinois.

I would like to thank all of you for supporting my efforts in running for a Director position on the American Board of Certification for Gastroenterology Nurses (ABCGN). I am pleased to share with you that I have been elected to the board. I am both excited and humbled and realize that it was truly a team effort. Thank you again for your belief and confidence in me. I am very pleased to be a part of your team!

Sincerely

Shirley Flowers, BSN, RN, CGRN

Colorectal Cancer

The American Cancer Society estimated that over 106,000 new cases of colon cancer and over 40,000 new cases of rectal cancers would be diagnosed in the year 2009, with over 49,000 deaths attributed to colorectal cancer.

Colorectal cancer has been described as a silent killer, often presenting with no obvious symptoms. Approximately 75% of all new cases, or using the American Cancer Society's 2009 figures, about 110,000 colorectal cancers occur in individuals with no known risk factors other than being 50 years of age or older. Only 10% of those people diagnosed in the advanced stages of colorectal cancer are expected to survive 5 years. If colorectal cancer is detected at its earliest stages, the 5 year survival rate increases to 90%.

In 2004 a Colorectal Cancer Legislation Report Card initiative was begun. The list of participants included some of the most influential organizations in the country involved in the fight against colorectal cancer. One of the main objectives of their initiative was to generate awareness and support for the importance of colon cancer screening. The Legislation Report Card rates each state using a grading scale of A-F to highlight whether the state has legislation in place in support of colorectal cancer screening for its citizens. In 2009 Legislation Report Card for the first time included more states receiving a grade of "A" than "F", for enacting colorectal cancer screening laws. The grade of "A" went to 22 states whose laws require insurance coverage according to current and future screening guidelines. This is particularly noteworthy as guidelines have recently been updated and now include new technologies such as virtual colonoscopy and stool DNA testing. Around the same time of the latest Legislation Report Card, new data from the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) attributed increasing colorectal cancer screening rates in part to state laws requiring private insurers to cover screenings. A new survey also revealed that inadequate coverage of the costs for colon cancer exams was one of the greatest barriers for people seeking screening exams, even those with private insurance.

Two of the "A" states are our neighbors, Indiana and Kentucky. Another neighbor state, Pennsylvania was among 4 states that received a "B". The "B" grade was given to those states that met current screening

guidelines, but because their guidelines are not specific, coverage of future advances in screening methods stand a chance of not being covered. Ohio is among 19 states that received an "F". An "F" was given to those states that have no legislation requiring insurance providers to cover colorectal cancer screenings. However, there is a bright side and an opportunity! Senate bill #64 sponsored by Senator Kevin Coughlin and co-sponsored by Senators Fedor, D. Miller, Morano, Sawyer and Turner would provide coverage for colorectal cancer screening along with associated laboratory tests. Let's help Ohio "make the grade". Let your legislators know how you feel about Senate Bill #64 and show support for this bill's initiative.

According to Daniel Smith, president of ACS CAN nearly 46 million Americans have no health insurance, and many Americans have no health insurance, and many Americans who have private insurance are not getting tested because they cannot afford it. Our continued efforts are needed to pass colon cancer screening coverage laws so that more citizens can receive the lifesaving screenings and care that they need.

The Prevent Cancer Foundation recently thanked U.S. Senators Sherrod Brown from Ohio and Kay Bailey-Hutchinson from Texas for amending the Senate's version of the health care legislation bill to include language that would also provide coverage for those participating in clinical trials. As you know some of the clinical trials of today are the cures of tomorrow.

March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month pass it on! Colorectal Cancer is Preventable, Treatable and Beatable!

Treasurer's Report as of 1/8/2010

Current Membership: 196

Encourage all your fellow GI nurses and associates to join SGNA. When you are a member you get the national newsletter, regional newsletter, voting capability, discount on educational offerings and a magazine. To join go to SGNA.org

