



NEWSLETTER

Tennessee Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates

Volume 1, Issue 1

Winter 2016-2017

Inside this issue:

Treasurer Needed 2

Membership Renewal 2

GI Nurses and Associates Week 2

SGNA Annual Course 3

Certification Exam 3

Newsletter/Website Update 3

2017 TSGNA Fall Course 4

Dates & Deadlines 4

2016 TSGNA Annual Course

The TSGNA Annual Course on October 15th and 16th at The Inn at Opryland in Nashville was a huge success. On Friday night, October 14th, attendees were greeted with appetizers and beverages upon course registration. Some of the sessions the following two days included Balloon Endoscopy, Manometry and pH Testing, and Advances in IBD. After the Saturday sessions, many enjoyed a show at The Grand Ole Opry with a Trace Adkins sighting in the restaurant of our

hotel between shows! There were sixty three nurses and techs and twenty vendor representatives at the course. A total of 9.5 contact hours were earned by full attendance of all

sessions. Thanks go to 2016 TSGNA President Frances Schroeder and her program planning committee for the wonderful annual course! Great job!



Friday evening Board of Directors' Meeting-left to right: Kris Rabon, Michelle Gregory, Sheri Butler, Vicki Pollan

TSGNA Representatives Attend National SGNA Leadership Conference

On November 4th and 5th, TSGNA was proud to have four members of our Board of Directors representing us at the annual National Leadership Conference held in Chicago. There they met with other regions' and SGNA leaders in workshops

and discussions regarding important issues in SGNA today. They were: Alice Kidwill-TSGNA President, Michelle Gregory-TSGNA Secretary, Vicki Pollan-TSGNA President Elect, and Diane Moore-West Division Director. Diane is also a

Regional Societies Liaison for SGNA and has served in many other positions in SGNA and TSGNA over the years. Thank you ladies for representing TSGNA!

2017 TSGNA Board of Directors

President - Alice Kidwill:

alice.kidwill@hcahealthcare.com

Immediate Past President -
Frances Schroeder:

franceschroeder@comcast.net

President Elect - Vicki Pollan:

vpollan@gastro1.com

Secretary - Michelle Gregory:

michellegreg@comcast.net

Treasurer - Jayne Lusk:

jaynelusk@yahoo.com

West Division Director - Diane

Moore: dianem210@gmail.com

Middle Division Director - Janice

Butts: Janice.butts@sth.org

East Division Director - Kimberly

Campbell: kim10campbell@aol.com

Like and
Share the
TSGNA
Facebook
Page

2017-2018 TSGNA Treasurer Needed

Jayne Lusk has been serving as Treasurer of TSGNA since 2015. As of the end of 2016, we do not have a new treasurer to take her place. Jayne has agreed to continue serving, until we find her replacement. Any one who is a member of TSGNA may hold the position as long as he or she meets the requirements posted on our website, TSGNA.org. It is a two year commitment, with many rewards. Being a member of the Board of Directors for TSGNA will give the right person the opportunity to meet new people who may become life-long friends or even employers. Formal learning opportunities with

contact hours are numerous, including webinars provided by SGNA, presentations provided in local meetings, and sessions during state and national annual courses. Informal learning includes life skills such as budgeting and handling financial documents, participation in Board of Directors meetings, and electronic communications, all valuable items to include on a resume. Many employers want new hires to be actively pursuing educational opportunities and developing leadership skills. Networking with other GI professionals is often the best method of solving common issues in the field of gas-

troenterology nursing. The financial rewards are notable also. As a board member, SGNA membership is paid by the region, as is the TSGNA annual course registration. Being a board member also helps one earn points toward certification and education scholarships. Please inquire by emailing our President, Alice Kidwill, or Jayne herself.

It's Time for Membership Renewal!

SGNA membership renewal is currently underway. By now you should have received your renewal notice through the mail and reminders by email. Renewal is very easy and can be accomplished by mailing your renewal form back to SGNA. Or you can visit the SGNA website and renew online with a credit card. Make any necessary corrections on your renewal form before sending it in, especially your email address. Email is the method TSGNA will contact you with meeting notices, this newsletter, and other important information.

This is also the time of year most GI Lab managers are submitting budget requests for the coming new year, making it the perfect time for you to ask your employer to purchase SGNA memberships for you and your peers as a benefit of your employment. Corporate membership information is available on the SGNA website. If your employer knows nothing about SGNA or corporate memberships, educate them! Print the information and applications for them, as they will probably not take the time to do it themselves. It is also

likely they do not know there are discounts for multiple memberships when purchased in this manner.

If you still have to renew on your own, ask your peers if they are members also. Have applications ready for them, with your name on the "Referred By" line. You may just win a prize from SGNA by referring new members!

For more information, contact Sherri Butler at: sbutler@gastro1.com

Renew now so you don't miss anything!

GI Nurses and Associates Week - March 20th thru March 24th

What will your unit or office do?

Send your celebration plans now to be printed in the next newsletter. That issue will be emailed on March 1st.

In the East Division-Knoxville there will be a GI Nurses & Associates Week Celebration/MiniCourse on Saturday, March 25, 2017, from 8:00 am until Noon. Three contact hours will be earned by attendance. The celebration will be free and open to all but RSVPs are required. More information will be available as plans are finalized. Email the Knoxville Chairman, Mike Travis, at mtravis@utmck.edu, or the Knoxville Secretary, Sarah Cole, at ihelpothers2live@gmail.com for more information and your RSVP.

Get the free SGNA App from your app store. You can stay up to date while on the go!

GI Facts:

What are some causes of esophageal varices?

Answer on page 4



For more information and to register go to www.SGNA.org

Certification Exam Registration

From the Certification Handbook at ABCGN.org- "Certification for gastroenterology nurses demonstrates accountability to the general public for gastroenterology specialty practice. Additionally, the process of achieving and maintaining certification helps to ensure that the professional is continually improving and refining skills. The continuing education process

improves responsibility, commitments and motivation to the profession."

Certification exam registration is \$420 for SGNA members and must be accompanied by the official application packet. See the Certification Handbook on the ABCGN website for more information about the application process. Registration for the May exam opens on January 1st and ends on February

28th. Start planning now for the spring exam.

There are scholarship opportunities available for the Fall exam. Go to www.abcgcn.org, www.sgna.org and www.tsгна.org for more information, as the opportunities frequently change and the application deadlines are usually several months in advance.

Good luck!

Newsletter Revival and Website Redesign

It's been a few years since TSGNA has published a newsletter and the website has been updated. As most of you understand, we all have multiple obligations-work, family, church, community, and for some of us, TSGNA responsibilities. Some of us tend to over-commit. Please forgive us if we sometimes fall a little short. We try, but we have the same priorities as you probably have. As Communications Chairperson, I promise: 1) I will try to get this newsletter

emailed to all members quarterly. Your part is making sure that SGNA and I have your correct email address.

2) I will try to have relevant and interesting information on both the website and in the newsletter. Your part is sending information to me and sharing the results with your peers. Please post this newsletter somewhere in your unit. And,

3) I will try to have the website redesign complete by January 1.

Your part is to check it out and spread the word!

Feel free to offer constructive criticism. Complaints only are not very helpful, so please make suggestions, offer solutions, and let me what you want to read. Send information to gailgalyon@gmail.com and put TSGNA newsletter on the Subject Line. Thanks!

Gail Galyon, Communications Chairperson

TSGNA Mission Statement from TSGNA Policy:

The Regional Society's duty is to provide educational opportunities to its members .

Websites of Interest

TSGNA.org
SGNA.org
ABCGN.org

Make the 2017 TSGNA Annual Course into a Mini-Vacation

On October 21st and 22nd, 2017, GI nurses and techs from the states of Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina, Kentucky, Alabama, Mississippi, and possibly others, will descend upon Chattanooga. There at the TSGNA Annual Course, we will learn new information in gastroenterology nursing, network with other professionals, and hopefully have a little fun while in Chattanooga.

Bring your family for an extended weekend, or perhaps stay an entire week, and enjoy all that the surrounding area has to offer. Some favorite sights to see include: Rock City, The Tennessee Aquarium, The Chattanooga Choo Choo, Ruby Falls, and the historic Lookout Mountain Incline Railway. For more information, go to www.chattanooga4fun.com. Plan now to enjoy this diverse and growing, family-friendly city.

GI Facts

“Esophageal varices are related to portal hypertension, which is often associated with alcoholic cirrhosis, but may also be seen in patients with cirrhosis resulting from chronic hepatitis, portal vein thrombosis and congenital disorders such as biliary atresia.” -from Gastroenterology Nursing-A Core Curriculum, 4th edition

DATES & DEADLINES

December 31st: ABCGN Recertification by Contact Hours Deadline

January 1st: TSGNA Education Scholarship Application Deadline

January 1st thru February 28th: ABCGN Registration Window for May Certification Exam

March 1st: SGNA Associates and Advanced Associates Program Scholarship Deadline

March 20th thru 24th: GI Nurses and Associates' Week

Please visit the appropriate websites for more information