



NEWSLETTER

Tennessee Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates

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Fall 2017

TSGNA ANNUAL FALL COURSE—October 13th

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"Bridging the GI Gap", TSGNA's 2017 Fall Course, will be held in Chattanooga, TN for the first time in several years October 13th thru October 15th, 2017. This GI educational weekend will begin on Friday night with a welcoming reception at the Chattanooga Marriott Downtown at 7:00 pm. SGNA members, non-members, vendors, and educators will gather all day on Saturday and half a day

on Sunday to share information, new products, and enjoy networking opportunities with other GI professionals.

Approximately 10 contact hours have been applied for through SGNA for this course.

Registration is now open. For information, agenda, and other course information, please visit the website, TSGNA.org, or contact Alice Kidwell at alicetsgna@gmail.com.

Additional hotel information is on the website also. Consider bringing your family for a short vacation. Some favorite sites to visit include Rock City, The Tennessee Aquarium, The Chattanooga Choo Choo, Ruby Falls, and the Historic Lookout Mountain Incline Railway. For more information about Chattanooga and all there is to see and do, go to www.chattanoogaafun.com.

Why Go to the Annual Course?

1. To have fun! It's just nice to get away from home for a little while and do something different!
2. To learn cool GI stuff and dazzle your work buddies with your new knowledge!
3. To impress your boss with your desire for education!
4. To earn contact hours. Many employers and your GI certification renewal require them!
5. To make new friends!
6. To re-acquaint with old friends!
7. To talk with other GI professionals about common problems/situations.
8. To take advantage of the networking opportunities. You never know when you may want to look for a new position, work toward additional educational goals, or need a GI - affiliated sales rep's help.
9. To visit places you've never been! Chattanooga's a pretty cool place visit!
10. To win door prizes!
11. To sample the local cuisine!
12. To learn about SGNA membership, benefits, and TSGNA/SGNA leadership opportunities.

So there you have it—a dozen reasons to go to the annual course this fall. If you've never been, you should consider attending. If you have been before, please come again and bring a friend. Sharing the costs with a co-worker makes it more economical for you, or you could ask your employer about sending you to the course.

See you there!

Chattanooga Fun Fact #1:

According to "Where To Retire" magazine, Chattanooga is one of the 8 Terrific Towns for History Lovers.

Chattanooga Fun Fact #2:

Chattanooga has been recognized as a top travel destination by Parade, Travel & Leisure, USA Today, Southern Living, and Men's Journal, among others.

COMMITTING TO EXCELLENCE

Excellence. There's that word again. Aren't we all growing weary of it? Its overuse rivals that of other recently overused words and phrases. However, the word *excellent* can be used to describe many wonderful things. SGNA uses it to describe GI Units who have shown a commitment to infection prevention, a supportive and educational work environment, and positive patient outcomes.

GI units applying for **The Flame Award for Unit Excellence** demonstrate that they believe they are an exceptional work environment. By working in an exceptional work environment it is hoped that the individuals will provide excellent patient care, resulting in positive patient outcomes.

As healthcare providers, promoting positive patient outcomes is the very core of our patient care goals. Nearly all of us can say we became healthcare providers to help people. Helping people just means we want our patients to have positive patient outcomes. We want them to feel better, be better, or to be the best they can be.

Do you believe you are committed to infection prevention? Are you working in a supportive and educational work environment? Do your patients consistently have positive outcomes?

If so, encourage your manager to apply for **The Flame Award for Unit Excellence**. If your manager is not a member of SGNA, you should be asking why,

then encourage him/her to do so. Show him/her the SGNA website and all the great benefits of being a member, including GI-related contact hours, standards and guidelines, managerial resources, and networking opportunities. Corporate memberships encourage employees to become involved in their professional organization and demonstrates the employer's commitment to support and educate their staff.

Applications and criteria for **The Flame Award for Unit Excellence** are available at sgna.org and are due by February 15, 2018 for the 2018 award.

Membership Renewal Coming Soon!

Unless you joined mid-year with an 18 month agreement or have a 2 year membership that includes 2018, your SGNA membership will soon be due for renewal. Have you been asking yourself if it is really worth it? You **should** be asking if can you afford **not** to join.

The value of SGNA membership should not be measured in dollars alone. One should view membership as an investment in his/her career. It demonstrates commitment and dedication to the profession you've chosen.

Your nursing education did not end when that diploma or degree was placed in your hand. Like it or not, GI nursing is one of the more technological specialties that requires ongoing education. Employers must require proof that competency exists. SGNA is an excellent resource for that education and those competencies through webinars, live courses, and peer-reviewed journals. Many are free or at discounted prices to members.

Are you currently having a personal financial crisis? Apply for the Membership Dues Scholar-

ship at SGNA.org. But hurry! The deadline is October 1.

Affiliation with a professional organization with over 8000 members and recognized by physicians, other nurses, and patients is an additional benefit to membership, as well as online forums, career assistance, and a discount for the certification exam and study materials.

Watch for your renewal notice coming soon to your email. Renew immediately so you don't miss anything. Refer a co-worker and receive a gift from SGNA!

Certification/Recertification Scholarships

It's time to start thinking about applying for a Certification Scholarship through TSGNA for next year. This scholarship is awarded twice a year, in the winter and the summer. Its purpose is to help members who pass their certification exam or earn recertification. Points are awarded to the member based on his/her participation in TSGNA and SGNA. Merely attending meetings, precepting new nurses on your unit, and being a member will help you earn points! Your total time working in

gastroenterology helps too! It's that easy! Year after year, scholarship deadlines pass with no or few applicants. You can't win if you don't apply!

Use your membership to your advantage and apply for a certification scholarship. If you're aren't eligible for certification yet, at least look at the application, participate accordingly in 2018, and earn points toward a scholarship! Go to TSGNA.org for the application.

TSGNA applications are due January 1 and July 1. The scholarship must be used within 1 year of being awarded. This is a reimbursement scholarship. The winner must be awarded the scholarship before earning certification or recertification, then submit successful evidence of earning the certification, among other documents to receive reimbursement.

ABCGN, the testing body for the exam, also offers scholarships. The deadline for the application for the May exam is November 1. Go to ABCGN.org for more info.

Chattanooga Fun Fact # 3:

Chattanooga is the ONLY city in the world to be named twice as Outside Magazine's "Best Town Ever" designation!

Chattanooga Fun Fact #4:

The Incline Railway is also known as "America's Most Amazing Mile" with its 72.7% grade up the side of Lookout Mountain and its amazing views of the city.

DO YOU WANT TSGNA TO CONTINUE?

The Tennessee Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, Inc. (TSGNA) is a professional organization of nurses and associates dedicated to the safe and effective practice of gastroenterology and endoscopic nursing. TSGNA carries out its mission by advancing the science and practice of gastroenterology and endoscopic nursing through education, research, advocacy and collaboration, and by promoting the professional development of its members in an atmosphere of mutual support. This is the Mission Statement of TSGNA.

Unfortunately without member support this mission statement will become null and void, meaningless, and non-existent because TSGNA will go away if we don't have leaders.

In the last newsletter a call for nominations went out and **no** responses were received.

Without leaders TSGNA will lose its charter with SGNA, meaning it will no longer exist. Many employers require contact hours, both general and within their specialty as does Certification renewal. Contact hours are also one option RNs can use for license renewal. Without TSGNA, members

may be forced to buy contact hour opportunities online or through journals and attend conferences in other regions (states).

TSGNA needs your support and TSGNA will support you in your new challenge to become a leader. That support will come from "old" leaders, SGNA itself, and the TSGNA Bylaws.

You are **URGED** to consider running or volunteering for a position in TSGNA for 2018. Most positions require about 1 hour (average) of time per month for the organized leader to perform the required duties.

TSGNA OPEN POSITIONS FOR 2018

Per TSGNA Bylaws, the following positions are now open for election or volunteering for calendar year 2018. See the TSGNA Bylaws and the Organizational Chart as posted on TSGNA.org.

Board of Directors Members (elected by entire region)

President-Elect: This candidate must be from the Middle Division due to the location of the 2019 Fall Course being in Middle Tennessee. This is a one year term as President-Elect, followed by a one year term as President, then a one year term as Immediate Past President for a total of a three year commitment upon election. As President Elect, you will attend Leadership Training in Chicago this November, the SGNA Annual Course in Orlando in May 2018 and again in 2019 at a yet-to-be-disclosed location with expenses for these trips paid by TSGNA, and on the job experience readying you for the position of President.

Secretary: This candidate can be from any division. It is a 2 year term.

East Division Director: This candidate must be from the East Division (east of Crossville) and is elected for a 2 year term. Next year, Division Directors will be elected for the West and Middle Divisions, as well as Treasurer and the 2019 President-Elect (who will be from East Tennessee due to location of annual course in 2020).

Division Officers (elected by local area-the Divisions of West, Middle, & East)

Although welcome at Board meetings, Division officers are not Board of Directors members and their attendance at Board meetings is not required. **Division Chairman and Secretary-**

West; Division Chairmen and Secretary-Middle; Division Chairmen and Secretary-

East-Knoxville; Division Chairmen and Secretary-Chattanooga: Candidates must be from their respective divisions and are elected by their division members for a one year term.

All positions require membership in TSGNA during the period in which the position is held. Go to TSGNA.org for more information about each position and to submit your nominations, including your own if volunteering. Current officers are encouraged to submit their own nomination if he/she wants to continue in that position or desires a change in position. This will allow the Nominations/Elections chairperson to view the entire pool of candidates and respective positions instead of requiring her to contact all the persons individually. In the instance that no one runs or volunteers for any position, she will need to know if the present officer is willing to continue those duties. Please help her out with this requirement by emailing the form.

A benefit of holding any of the above positions is that your membership in SGNA for 2018 will be paid by TSGNA-a benefit worth \$125. Simply fill out a paper membership enrollment form after you've been elected (or notified that you have the position if no one else runs) and submit it to any board member! Another benefit? - Free registration at the TSGNA Annual Course in the fall of 2018, an approximate value of an additional \$125! Not being a member in 2017 does not exclude individuals from holding positions in 2018. You are, however, obligated to perform the duties of the position you hold (you cannot simply take a position in order to gain free membership and other benefits).

2017 TSGNA Board of Directors

President - Alice Kidwill:
alicesgna@gmail.com

Immediate Past President -
Frances Schroeder:
franceschroeder@comcast.net

President Elect - Vicki Pollan:
vpollan@gastro1.com

Secretary - Michelle Gregory:
michellegreg@comcast.net

Treasurer - Brenda Johnson:
BrendaJohson@msn.com

West Division Director -
Diane Moore:
dianem210@gmail.com

Middle Division Director -
Janice Butts:
Janice.butts72@yahoo.com

East Division Director -
Kimberly Campbell:
kim10campbell@aol.com

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DATES & DEADLINES

October 1 thru October 31: ABCGN Certification Exam

October 1: SGNA Membership Dues Scholarship Deadline

October 13 thru October 15: TSGNA Annual Fall Course

November: Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month

November 1: ABCGN Certification Scholarship Application Deadline for May Exam

November 15: ABCGN GI Professional of the Year Award Nominations Deadline

January 1: TSGNA Education (Certification/Recertification) Scholarship Deadline

Please go to appropriate website for more information

www.tsgna.org

www.sgna.org

www.abcgcn.org



SGNA 45TH ANNUAL COURSE May 20th thru 22nd, 2018

Explore the Orlando-area and enjoy all that it has to offer. With exclusive Walt Disney World® discounts being offered for SGNA Annual Course attendees, this is one week you won't want to miss!