



# NEWSLETTER

Tennessee Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates

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Spring 2017

## TSGNA ANNUAL FALL COURSE—October 13th thru 15th, 2017

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**NOTE THE DATE CHANGE!!!**  
 Due to the popularity of the host city for our annual course, our meeting date has been changed. Please make a note of that on your calendar today, or better yet, reserve your room now!

The TSGNA Annual Course will be held in Chattanooga the weekend of October 13th through October 15th. TSGNA President Alice Kidwill says:

We are hard at work planning our fall conference "Bridging the GI Gap" to be held in Chattanooga, TN for the first time in many years on October 13-15. I am excited to be part of hosting it in this amazing city. Please share any ideas for speakers and topics that you would like to see included as this is your conference! You can email me directly at

[AliceTSGNA@gmail.com](mailto:AliceTSGNA@gmail.com). "

The meeting venue is the Marriott Downtown, 2 Carter Plaza, Chattanooga, TN 37402, and their phone number is 423-756-

0002. Take advantage of the discount by asking for the special TSGNA room rate when making your reservation.

Registration information for the course itself will be available on our website in coming months. We also hope to have online payment available for course attendees and vendors at that time.

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.chattanoogaofun.com](http://www.chattanoogaofun.com).



L to R-Melissa Crabtree, Jessica Lynch, and Dawn Slater of Blount Gastroenterology in Maryville, enjoying the Reception on Friday night during the Annual Course held in Nashville last October.

### Other Upcoming Events in TSGNA

GI Nurses and Associates Week - March 20th thru March 24th—Check out the free GI Nurses and Associates Week resources at [www.sgna.org/Events/GI-Nurses-Associates-Week-2017](http://www.sgna.org/Events/GI-Nurses-Associates-Week-2017). Free Thank you cards, cake templates, and other great tools to show your appreciation are available for the celebration in your unit!

East Division-Knoxville will be celebrating GI Nurses and Associates Week on Saturday, March 25. A Mini-Course will be held at the University of Tennessee Medical Center from 8:00am until noon. The focus will be ERCPs and Scope Reprocessing. Three contact hours will be earned by attendance. The event is **FREE** and membership is not required, but **RSVPs are suggested**. For more information and to RSVP please email Mike Travis, East Division-Knoxville Chairman, at [mtravis@utmck.edu](mailto:mtravis@utmck.edu) or Sarah Cole at [ihelpothers2live@gmail.com](mailto:ihelpothers2live@gmail.com). Space is limited.



Diane and country music star Wade Hayes, whom she met because of SGNA!

## WHY BE CERTIFIED?

There are many reasons why one would seek certification in his/her nursing specialty. Promotions, different employment opportunities, and bonuses are a few that come to mind. For Diane Moore, the reasons are personal.

"I joined SGNA in 1993, the year I first started working in GI part time. Like all other areas of the Nursing field I have been in, I wanted to learn more and be a better leader in my field. When I was chosen to be the President-Elect for TSGNA, I felt it was a good time. I wanted to show my peers that I was good in my field of Nursing. I wanted to show that I could be a knowl-

edgeable leader. I wanted to be the best I could in my field. Being certified has not helped me get any raises, but it has given me great self confidence that I know what I am doing. And by continuing my education in Gastroenterology Nursing, I have been able to keep my certification. It has opened many doors for me with SGNA."

As Diane said, she joined SGNA in 1993. Since then she has been very active by holding various leadership positions both in TSGNA and SGNA. Currently she is the West Division Director, and also a Regional Societies Liason on a national level. Diane has been all over the country, attending various

SGNA events including annual courses each May. She has made numerous friends and taken advantage of networking opportunities throughout the United States. She encourages everyone to become certified.

The registration window for the spring certification exam is now closed. Good luck to all who registered and will be taking the exam in May. For everyone else, consider taking the exam this fall. Scholarships are available thru TSGNA and ABCGN., but start looking for those opportunities now. The fall exam registration window will open June 1 and continue through July 31. For more information, go to ABCGN.org.

For more information go to [SGNA.org](http://SGNA.org)

## Review Course for Certification Exam

Taking the certification exam in May? Consider taking SGNA's Review Course on March 11th and 12th at Caromont Regional Medical Center in Gastonia, NC. This one and a half day course will provide a review of key areas related to the gastroenterology nursing practice, as well as tips on preparing for the exam.

Participants will receive the *GI/Endoscopy Nursing Review: Certification Study Manual (2nd ed.)* as part of their course registration.

Go to <http://www.sgna.org/Events/GI-Endoscopy-Nursing-Review-Course> for registration information.

**HURRY!** Registration for the review class closes on Friday, March 3rd!

## New Website Launch

The newly redesigned TSGNA website will be live soon if not already. Go to TSGNA.org for all new information. It was promised at the beginning of January, but was a much bigger project than anticipated. Thank you for your patience and your input.

You will be able to see this and the previous newsletter on the website, as well as scholarship applications, election & nomination forms, recognitions, membership information, Fall course news and hopefully much, much

more. But we need your input to be successful!

Please send information about your patient advocacy runs and walks, charity events, meetings, unit and office celebrations, photos, and anything else you think would be of interest to the GI community to

[gailgalyon@gmail.com](mailto:gailgalyon@gmail.com). Please put TSGNA on the subject line. Don't forget to include contact information so others can find out more or how to participate.

If you would like to submit an

article for either the newsletter or website, or simply want to volunteer to help, also contact me at the above email address.

We hope the new website and the newsletter better meets the needs of our members. We also hope to have TSGNA Fall Course registration payment options online soon too. Check it out!

Please copy and post this newsletter in your workplace to share with your peers!

See the newly designed website at

[TSGNA.org](http://TSGNA.org)

Chattanooga Fun Fact # 1:

What TWO popular snack items are a part of Chattanooga's history?

Chattanooga Fun Fact #2:

What attraction in Chattanooga is specifically for pedestrians and why is it world famous?

Answers on page 4

## Do You Want to Make a Difference? Do You Want To Be Heard?

SGNA can help you do that by providing you with the basic education you need to understand the legislative process. Only by learning how the legislative process works can you begin to develop your own personal plan for informing your elected legislators of your wishes regarding their decision making. After all, they work for you!

Go to [www.sgna.org/Issues/Legislation](http://www.sgna.org/Issues/Legislation) for your guideline Understanding and Influencing the Legislative Process. Also there, you will find links to help you learn who your elected officials are and how to contact them.

SGNA has also partnered with other organizations to advocate for issues important in gastroenterology, nursing, and other patient advocacy topics. Get involved! Learn what your congressmen are doing and how they're voting. You have the power to make a difference!

It isn't too late to join SGNA. Go to [sgna.org](http://sgna.org) and look at the different membership classifications and fees. Also check out the membership benefits that include discounted merchandise, free contact hours, and discounts on annual courses. Lead the way with SGNA, while developing the career you've always wanted. Use your SGNA membership as much or as little as you choose. But do choose SGNA today.

## New Treasurer for TSGNA Found

Member Brenda Johnson has stepped up to become our new treasurer. Brenda works as charge nurse in the GI Lab at Parkridge Health System in Chattanooga. She has been a nurse for 25 years and moved to East Tennessee about 2 1/2 years ago. Brenda became

certified around seven years ago while working in Florida. She is married and has three children and four grandchildren. She loves nursing and writing and combines the two by writing for an online nursing magazine called [allnurses.com](http://allnurses.com). She brings many years of experience to her new position

here in TSGNA and enjoys a new challenge to keep her sharp. Thank you Brenda for stepping up to this role! You are appreciated! Brenda can be reached by email at [Brenda-Johnson@msn.com](mailto:Brenda-Johnson@msn.com).

## SGNA 44TH ANNUAL COURSE



If you've never been to an SGNA Annual Course, this year should be your first! The opportunities are numerous. World class speakers and presentations, diverse cultures and ethnicities represented, and the chance to develop your career in the direction in which you choose, all while having fun in the Big Easy!

Earn up to 35 contact hours and take advantage of your SGNA discount by attending the course while it occurs in the South close to home. For more information and to register go to [www.sgna.org](http://www.sgna.org). Early bird registration ends March 31st.

2017 TSGNA Board of Directors

PLEASE NOTE UPDATED EMAIL ADDRESSES

President - Alice Kidwill:  
alicesgna@gmail.com

Immediate Past President -  
Frances Schroeder:  
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West Division Director -  
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Middle Division Director -  
Janice Butts:  
Janice.butts72@yahoo.com

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

Answers to Fun Facts about Chattanooga:

#1: The MoonPie was created in Chattanooga in 1917, and the world's first franchised Coca-Cola bottling plant was built in Chattanooga.

#2: The Walnut Street Bridge spans a half-mile across the Tennessee River and is the world's longest pedestrian bridge. It was built in 1890.

## DATES & DEADLINES

March: Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

March 3rd: Registration ends for Certification Exam Review Course

March 11th - 12th: ABCGN Certification Exam Review Course in Gastonia, NC

March 20th - March 24th: SGNA GI Nurses and Associates Week

March 25th: East Division-Knoxville Mini-Course, 8:00 am until Noon

March 31st: SGNA Annual Course *Early Bird* Registration Ends

April: Esophageal Cancer Awareness Month

April 1st: ABCGN Certification Scholarship Application Deadline for October Exam

May 1st - May 31st: ABCGN Certification Exam Testing Window

May 7th - May 9th: SGNA Annual Course in New Orleans

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

June 1st - July 31st: ABCGN Registration Window for October Exam

Please go to appropriate website for more information

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

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

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