



Michigan Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates



APRIL/MAY 2015 PATHFINDER

Hi to all, as immediate Past President I want to congratulate all of Michigan's MSGNA members on the strength of your dedication to and passion for GI Nursing! We have one of the strongest Regionals in the SGNA's mother organization. This is due to your willingness to be active members. The Board of Directors (BOD) with the support of many local hospital and/or ambulatory center staff members, continue to offer outstanding educational conferences, but it is your willingness to attend and participate in these sessions! You are the reason the BOD works constantly to search for evidence based topics and faculty who are not only current in their practices but are also innovators in their specialties. At this point I need to throw in; please fill out your evaluations and list ANY topic you want presented. If you are new and want some of the basics covered, or if you need more in depth information on a newer process or procedure, tell us. We really do read all the evaluations! And if your unit is stepping into a new procedure and want to brag about it send it to Sheri King to get it in the Pathfinder, we would love to hear about it and be able to congratulate you! We are all amazing professionals and need to be very proud.

Another thing that our planning committees do is to protect our break times; 1) to meet our vendors and 2) to allow networking with our peers. Our vendors are truly important to our GI practice, not only with their financial support but their presentations of the newest or most improved products and services. They trust the GI RN and Technicians to be open to change and that they are the purchasing champions. The second break is really dedicated to networking with peers. Be brave, introduce yourself to a peer from a different facility, and find out how similar or different their practice is from yours. Sit new peers at lunch, start a "table topic" and just see how easy the conversation flows!

Also as immediate Past President one of my roles this year is to facilitate our election process. From solicitation of nominations for the open positions on your BOD's, to sending out the biographical information on the candidates, to sending out the voting process, and tabulating the results. Guess what? It's again going to be electronic! The paper process was a HUGE expense and tremendous man hours used to accomplish the process, now I'm not afraid of a little work, but come on, this is 2015! How many of you have phones that you can text on or reach the internet on or take pictures with! Our past 2 years of voting members who actually participated in our elections process was dismal. Nominate a peer or nominate yourself! Being on the BOD's is a professional achievement and a great way to ignite (or reignite) your passion for GI Nursing. Besides that, it is also fun! If you need help accessing nomination forms please contact me @ nursepatti@gmail.com. Voting is not only a privilege



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There are six scholarships available for fall (September) conference. Tuition and 50% of two nights hotel stay will be offered. Applications are available on MSGNA website.

Poster Presentation financial assistance is available. Poster is to be presented at National Conference. Submit abstract to SGNA by August 1st. If abstract accepted, MSGNA may offer financial support up to \$1500.

5. **Past President Report**-Patti Yonkovit, RN, BSN, CGRN: Organizing voting process. Concern that there is lack of member involvement in voting process, 18 members voted for MSGNA election, 29 for national election. Patti emphasized that voting validates our participation in our organization; it gives us an opportunity voice an opinion.

Nominations are open until June 1st for three board members: President- Elect, and two Directors at Large- Membership and COMON/Policy/Procedure/Bylaws. Please consider yourself or a member for nomination.

6. **Newsletter/Website Report**-Sheri King, RN, BSN, CGRN: Please check to make sure your profile with SGNA is current. This is the information used to email conference registration, etc. There were nine bounce backs with attempt to email Pathfinder this past December. Registration for conferences can be done electronically or you can mail in registration forms emailed to your home. Please forward Sheri any activity information you would like to share from GI Nurse and Associate week, including pictures.
7. **Vendor Coordinator Report**-Ruth Dobberfuhl, RN, BSN: 33 vendors at this conference. They reported a lot of good interaction and are looking forward to the fall Traverse City conference. If you know of vendor contacts that you would like to see participating at conferences, please let Ruth know the contact information.
8. **Membership Report**- Pat Root, RN, CGRN: There are 261 total members, 39 new members in 2014, 15 new members thus far in 2015. 5 – 10 year members, 3 – 15 years members, 6- 20 years members, 2- 25 year members, 1-30 year member. Karen Kaylor from St. Claire Shores is longest original member.
9. **Policy/Procedure/Bylaws/COMON Report**-Deb Schroeder, RN, BSN, CGRN: COMON is a legislative nursing group comprised of representatives of various specialties in nursing. They meet four times a year. Senate Bill 68 (Expand scope of practice for nurses) is being discussed; please go on line and review, let your legislative members know how you would like them to vote on this issue.

10. **Program Chair Report**- Diane Thompson BA,LPN,CGN/Ruth McClure, LPN, CGN:
 - SGNA 42nd Annual Course - Baltimore, Maryland, May 15-19, 2015



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- MSGNA Fall 2015, Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City, MI, September 11-13, 2015, Munson Hospital Endoscopy staff. \$168.38, which includes taxes and water park fee (4 passes). Park Shore Resort at \$70 plus tax/fees will also be an option. There will be a topic on pain for pain credit.
 - MSGNA Conference, Spring 2016, March 18-19, Somerset, Troy. Karen Tingstad and the endoscopy staff at The VA Hospital - Ann Arbor.
 - MSGNA Fall 2016 – Date and Place TBA
 - Nancy Denton will shadow Diane as Program Chair.
 - Need a site for fall 2016 MSGNA conference. Please let Diane or Ruth know if you would consider hosting.
- If you are due to recertify (CGRN) this year, please do so by Dec. 31st so as not to have to retest. Information can be found on ABCGN website.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Catton, RN, BSN, CGRN
MSGNA Secretary

MSGNA PROGRAM REPORT

**Mark Your Calendars
Great Education Dates Coming Your Way**

SGNA 42nd ANNUAL COURSE

**“Stepping Forward...Connecting with Our GI Community”
Baltimore, Maryland
May 15 – 19, 2015**

Great networking opportunities for nurses and associates in the practice of GI/Endoscopy

MSGNA FALL 2015

**Great Wolf Lodge
Traverse City, MI
September 11 – 13, 2015**

Munson Hospital Endoscopy staff will be hosting this great “up north” fall conference

23rd Annual Multi-Regional SGNA Conference

**“Providing GI Education on the Prairie”
Double Tree Hilton**



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Bloomington, Illinois
October 30 – 31, and November 1, 2015

MSGNA SPRING 2016

Date and Place TBA

Karen Tingstad and the endoscopy staff at The VA Hospital- Ann Arbor will host this educational conference

MSGNA FALL 2016

Date and Place TBA

We are working towards helping you stay on top of the best GI education available.
The more we know, the stronger we are.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Diane Thompson

MSGNA Program Chairperson

H—810-744-1971, C—810-240-9314, Email: dathompson920@gm

[What is C.O.M.O.N?](#)

I'm Debbie Schroeder and in addition to being Director-at-Large of Policy and Procedures I am your representative to THE Coalition of Michigan Organizations of Nursing (C.O.M.O.N). This organization is "dedicated to the advancement of Nursing in the State of Michigan. C.O.M.O.N's mission is to serve as a vehicle that gives all nurses the opportunity to collectively work together to achieve mutually agreed upon goals for Nursing in Michigan". Membership in C.O.M.O.N includes over 40 different nursing specialty organizations. Some examples are: MSGNA, Academy of Med/Surg Nurses, American assoc. of Critical Care Nurses, Michigan College of Nursing., Michigan Assoc. of CRNA'S. Michigan Board of Advanced Practice Nurses just to give you an idea.

The last meeting was March 19, 2015. We approved the changes to the bylaws which were very minimal. Also on the agenda was Bill # 2 which has been in the senate for 2 years waiting to be approved.

Details about the SB2 proposed legislation:



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- SB 2 defines the scope of practice for APRNs and brings Michigan's Public Health Code (PHC) into alignment with national education and practice standards for three roles of APRN Practice (nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives and clinical nurse specialists.)
- SB 2 allows for full prescriptive authority within the parameters of APRNs' education, training, and national certification. Licensure and prescriptive authority for qualified APRNs allows for better tracking of outcomes, increases billing transparency and clarifies accountability.

C.O.M.O.N is encouraging all Nurses to know who their representatives are and to write them in support of this Bill.

ABCGN Updates

ABCGN Certification/Recertification Scholarships

The American Board of Certification for Gastroenterology Nurses awards scholarships in the spring and fall to aid candidates with financial assistance for certification and recertification. **The next deadline for application is June 1, 2015.** Additional information and application forms can be found on the website.

Recertification Deadline December 31

The Recertification deadline is December 31. **If you are due to recertify in 2015, please submit your online application on or before December 31.** The recertification application can be found on the website.

MSGNA Scholarship Application

The MSGNA Scholarship is designed to award two categories of MSGNA members an opportunity to participate in the MSGNA fall conference. The scholarship includes full payment of tuition and 50% payment of 2 nights' accommodations. All winners will be notified two months prior to the fall conference.



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Fall MSGNA Conference Harvesting the Fruits of the GI Grapevine October 11-13, 2015 Great Wolf Lodge Traverse City, MI

Forward completed applications to:

Katherine Smith
6762 Chancery Dr. SE
Alto, MI 49302-9007
Or
smitka42@aol.com

The MSGNA Board of Directors will score all applications.

- Please follow the directions carefully.
- Answer all questions thoroughly.
- Each question must be completed.
- The last two questions are subjective and will be rated according to content not length. The answers **must** be typed.
- If another sheet of paper is required, please number your answer in reference to each question and include your name on each sheet of paper.

This application must be received no later than July 1, 2015.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: (H) (_____) _____ (W) (____) _____

Please indicate which scholarship you are applying for:

_____ **MSGNA member 0 – 5 years** _____ **MSGNA member > 5 years**

MSGNA Scholarship Application

Name _____

1. Current consecutive years as SGNA/MSGNA member _____

2. CBGNA certified Yes _____ Year _____ No _____



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3. Will you definitely be able to attend the MSGNA fall conference?

Yes _____ No _____

MSGNA Involvement

4. _____ Board Member

Date: _____ Office: _____

5. _____ Nominated and accepted nomination for board member.

6. _____ Never nominated, but willing to serve.

7. _____ MSGNA/SGNA committee or task force member within the last 5 years.

Date: _____

8. _____ Written article for the *Pathfinder* within the last 5 years.

Date of article and topic: _____

9. _____ Written article for the *Gastroenterology Nursing Journal* within the last 5 years.

Date of article and topic: _____

10. _____ Chair/co-chair MSGNA conference.

Date: _____

11. _____ Committee member MSGNA conference.

Date: _____

12. _____ Chair/co-chair SGNA or multi-regional conference.

Date: _____

13. _____ Committee member SGNA or multi-regional conference.

Date: _____

Conference Attendance

14. Fall MSGNA 2012

Date: _____

15. Spring MSGNA 2013

Date: _____

16. Fall multi-regional 2012

Date: _____

17. SGNA annual course 2012 or 2013

Date: _____

QUESTIONS 18 AND 19 MUST BE TYPED

18. In what specific ways have you promoted the MSGNA?
(Use an extra sheet of paper if necessary.)

19. Briefly, describe the direction you would like the MSGNA to take in the future and how you would participate in this advancement.
(Use an extra sheet of paper if necessary.)

ABCGN Recertification Program Changes



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January 1, 2013, ABCGN begin implementing the following changes to its recertification program:

1. All recertification applications will need to be submitted using ABCGN's online recertification application.
2. ABCGN has added another category—Category 13: Involvement in other GI related organizations or publications--to help candidates amass the necessary contact hours.
3. Due to escalating operating expenses, ABCGN is increasing the recertification fees by \$50 (\$10 per year).

Online System

The online system exactly mimics the paper application and is a quick and easy method to submit without the hassle and cost of mailing the paper application. It is also a convenient system for tracking contact hours over the five-year period.

As with the paper application, certificates and back-up documentation are not required with the initial submission. If randomly selected by ABCGN for audit, you will be contacted and asked to provide this additional documentation.

ABCGN staff is happy to assist you with this process. We know you will find it's much simpler to keep track of your hours within the online system, and a quick and convenient way to recertify.

Category 13

In response to inquiries, ABCGN has decided to broaden the areas of study for the CGRN to maintain national certification. Category 13: Involvement in other GI related organizations or publications has been added. Two (2) contact hours per year will be awarded for involvement in these GI focused professional organizations as an officer, committee/task force member at the regional or national level or as an appointed publication editor/reviewer. Minimum GI specific hours granted will be 2, maximum 10.

Fee Increase

With the economy still struggling, recertification makes all the sense in the world for 2013. Recertification reflects your ongoing commitment to gastroenterology nursing.

There have been significant changes in the recertification program over the past five years, including:

- Categories have been added.
- Modifications have been made in minimum/maximum requirements.
- Online systems implemented

All these enhancements were made with you, the CGRN, in mind, but they do come at a price. Beginning in 2013, the fee to recertify is increasing by \$50 or \$10 per year to \$350 for SGNA members (\$435 for non-members). This is the first increase in several years and is necessary to cover ABCGN's increasing expenses. For those of you who participate in the submit per year program, you will need to pay the extra \$10 only for the years you have remaining till recertification.

ABCGN Headquarters 330 North Wabash Avenue, Suite 2000 Chicago, IL 60611 Phone: 855-25-ABCGN or 855-252-2246 Fax: 312-673-6723 E-m



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Beginning in 2015, ABCGN is excited to announce a new program: **Quest for Success**. This exclusive opportunity allows individuals to continue on their journey for CGRN certification. The **Quest for Success** program will grant exam participants a reduced rate to take the test again for a second time should their initial attempt prove to be unsuccessful.

Preparing to take the CGRN exam is a major commitment and personal investment. Making the choice to reach this important professional milestone is now easier, since the **Quest for Success** program allows you to sit for the exam a second time at a deeply discounted rate.

How does it work? First, CGRN hopefuls should sign up to take the 2015 Spring Exam which is offered the entire month of May. The registration window opens January 1 and runs through February 27. Following the testing results, exam candidates who did not pass the exam will be given an opportunity to sign up for the Fall 2015 exam at a 50% discounted rate. This one-time **ONLY** discount applies to the second consecutive exam sign up. The **Quest for Success** program allows for continuous study and encourages individuals to keep working towards their CGRN certification.

Thank you for your votes in confirming me as your Treasurer. I am quickly immersed in the financial end with the Spring Conference approaching. Please contact me if you have any questions on budget, income or expenses.

Mary Pierce

Treasurer

Associates Program Scholarship

This is a quarterly scholarship and the deadlines for submission are March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1.



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SGNA Associates Program Scholarships have been established to financially assist SGNA associate/technician members and non members with purchasing the Associates Program. The Associates Program is an online education program that provides an associate/technician the opportunity to validate their skills by being recognized as a GI Technical Specialist (GTS). The Associates Program is not an official certification but does help enforce the associate/technician commitment to the GI/endoscopy profession. Scholarships covering the cost of the Associates Program will be awarded quarterly to those members and non members who meet the established criteria. The number of scholarships awarded will depend upon funds available.

Take Advantage of Free CEs From SGNA!

Did you know SGNA offers free online contact hours to members? You can find free CE offerings in the "[Learner-Driven Education](#)" section of the SGNA Marketplace.

SGNA Medical Aid Scholarship

SGNA is offering this scholarship to financially assist SGNA members who are participating in a medical aid trip. Funds of \$1000 will be awarded to scholarship recipients. This is a one-time, non-renewable scholarship. The recipients will be announced at the end of January. Funds will be provided up front and must be used by the end of the calendar year in which they are awarded. Proof of participation in a program must be provided before funds are issued. Scholarship recipients will be asked to write a brief article about their experience for *SGNA News* upon their return.

Criteria:

Applicant must be a member of SGNA in good standing, and meet all criteria of the organization through which they are traveling. The medical aid trip must be through an established organization, and not independently planned. While proof of participation in a program may not be available at the time of application, proof be provided before funds are issued.

Send completed applications by December 31 to:

SGNA Headquarters
330 N Wabash Ave
Suite 2000
Chicago, IL 60611

Fax: 312.673.6694

Email: sgna@smithbucklin.com

To be considered complete, applications must include:



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- Completed application
- Essay, no more than 500 words
- Flyer/brochure of program (this can be printed from the internet)
- Proof of participation if available (i.e. a letter/email from the organization)

Statement:

I understand that if I am selected for the SGNA Medical Aid Scholarship I must submit proof of participation from the organization before I receive funds from SGNA. I am willing to write a brief article about my experience for *SGNA News* upon my return.

Signed Name:-

Date: 35T

Electronic Signature: *Only necessary
if submitting by email.

Printed Name:35T



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GI Potluck Luncheon Celebrating GI
Nurses and Associates Day at Munson
Medical Center in Traverse City!
Hosts for our Fall Course!



(Your newsletter editor is too foolish to figure out how to make Amy's pictures bigger in this software. I apologize wholeheartedly!)



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Our Spring Conference Planning Committee! They did a Wonderful Job!



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More Planning Committee Members!

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