Celebrating GI Nurses and Associates Day
March 26

How will you celebrate?

Planning for GI Nurses and Associates Day is already underway in Wisconsin!

WSGNA supports the 4 quadrants of our state with $750 for a celebration.

Our southeastern, northwestern, and northeastern quadrants need to be planning and finalizing their festivities. Past events have included speakers with dinner, networking, and fun with colleagues. Talk with your sales or drug reps—some may be interested in helping your area celebrate. Contact WSGNA board if you have questions or need help.

Read more about this celebration by going to: http://www.sgna.org/Events/GINursesandAssociatesWeek.aspx and celebrate all week, too! You deserve it!
WSGNA Fall Regional Course November 2013

A BIG THANK YOU to Margaret Hauser-Ullman, RN, CGRN and her planning committee from Aurora Health Care for the EXCELLENT WSGNA Fall Regional Course!!

Margaret Hauser-Ullman, RN, CGRN ~ Chair
Amy Komp, RN, BSN, CGRN
Sue Nuccio, ACNS-BC, CGRN
Laura Schaefer, MS, RN
Noelle Verhein, BA

Kelly Cleveland, BA
Sandra Schneider, RN, CGRN
Pam Ostrowski, MS, RN, CGRN
Theresa Vos, MS, BSN, RN, CGRN
Mary Beth Sulik

JOIN! RENEW! JOIN! RENEW! JOIN! RENEW! JOIN! RENEW!

If you haven’t RENEWED YOUR SGNA membership yet—please do! and encourage your co-workers to JOIN. Being a part of this professional organization has many benefits; such as education, research, advocacy, and collaboration opportunities!

A BIG THANK YOU to Margaret Hauser-Ullman, RN, CGRN and her planning committee from Aurora Health Care for the EXCELLENT WSGNA Fall Regional Course!!

Why should you become a Certified GI Professional?

Certification is an attestation of commitment to professional excellence. It tells those around you that you are an individual interested in building an evidence-based relationship to nursing practice that goes beyond your day to day job.

The most important reason for a nursing professional to consider getting certified is to validate his or her competence in their specialty. Say YES in 2014 and DO IT! Apply online today for a scholarship to certify/recertify:

http://www.wsgna.org/machform/view.php?id=15170
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2014

President
Deb Schmeling MSN RN CGRN
Froedtert Hospital
pschmeling1@wi.rr.com

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CNIII
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Unit Educator - GI/OPD/2SW
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sue.machones@phci.org

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GI Center
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Treasurer
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Manager – GI Center
Waukesha Memorial Hospital
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Director-at-Large
Membership/Nominations
Diane Harding BSN RN
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GI Lab
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dmhardin55@hotmail.com

Director-at-Large
Communications/Newsletter
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Froedtert Hospital
awerth1@gmail.com

Immediate Past-President
Sheila Gansemer RN
Director – Outpatient Services
Wheaton Franciscan
rgansemer@wi.rr.com
sheila.gansemer@wfhc.org

Top row, left to right: Mary Fiebelkorn- Treasurer; Sheila Gansemer- Immediate Past-President; Anna Werth- Director-at-Large Communications/Newsletter; Sue Machones- President-Elect; Bottom row, left to right: Cathy Johnson– Secretary; Diane Harding Brown-Director-at-Large Membership/Nominations. Missing from group photo is Deb Schmeling– President.

How do I become a WSGNA Board Member?
WSGNA is searching for individuals that have an interest in GI and looking to expand their professional goals by choosing to run for office. If you are interested or know of someone please let us know. Information regarding the board member duties can be found on our web page. You can also contact any board member directly to ask questions. This is an opportunity to expand your networking, education, and leadership skills.

Thank you! – WSGNA Board of Directors

Please consider running for office this year!
Get started now—Online Nomination Form
http://www.wsgna.org/machform/view.php?id=15651

SPOTLIGHT:
GET TO KNOW YOUR BOARD MEMBERS
Anna Werth RN CGRN,
Director-at-Large -Communications/Newsletter
WSGNA Board member since January 2013.

“I have lived in Wisconsin since 1999 and have been a nurse for 32 years. I have worked in GI for the last 5 years and became certified as a CGRN in 2013; also, over the years have earned my CCRN and CNOR. I believe in being certified in my specialty to improve my knowledge and to show my commitment to professional excellence and provide the best care to my patients and their families. Being a board member has provided me with positive Peer feedback and professional resources and has widened my circle of GI Nurses.”
Scholarship Recipients from 2013

I would like to thank WSGNA for awarding me with a Scholarship for Certification in GI Nursing through SGNA. With over 7 years of experience in the field of gastroenterology as a triage nurse, hands on experience in assisting with GI procedures, and hours upon hours of studying, I felt prepared to sit for the ABCGN Certification Exam. I found the exam to be very challenging and it reinforced the fact that GI Nursing is an ever changing field that requires never ending improvement.

I am proud to have achieved the designation of CGRN and to be associated with the fine group of dedicated individuals comprising ABCGN. I do not doubt that the experiences and opportunities I have had though my employer, GI Associates, provided me with the knowledge base required to pass the certification exam.

Having received a WSGNA Scholarship motivates me, further, in moving forward in my career. I strongly encourage others planning to attend Conferences or sitting for Certification or Recertification, to apply for scholarship monies.

Janet L Horak, RN
October 27, 2013

Dear WSGNA Board of Directors.

It is with extreme gratitude that I write this letter of thanks for selecting me as a recipient of a SGNA recertification scholarship. I really appreciate your support and kindness. This scholarship will substantially lessen the financial burden on me especially due to some recent medical expenses related to cancer.

Thank you again for the generosity.

Sincerely yours,

Sue Machones, RN, BSN, MSN, CGRN

WSGNA,
Thank you for the recertification scholarship. In these times of budget cuts and limited funds, I am grateful for receiving this.

Thank you,
Karin Johnson, RN, CGRN

I would like to thank WSGNA for the opportunity to be awarded the scholarship for the certification exam.

Taking the certification exam has been something that I wanted to do for a long time. It had been on my mind for years. I finally took the leap. The time was right for me. I dedicated time to study. My college kids encouraged me to study and to take the exam.
Of Special Note cont’d...

Although I made the time to study (a lot), I found that my years of experience as a GI nurse was the most beneficial. As I was taking the test, I would think..."Oh, I’ve had this happen", "This is what we do", "I remember Dr.XXX talking about this". Observation and asking questions is so important.

I feel a sense of personal satisfaction in not only taking the exam but especially passing it. I will continue to share my knowledge with co-workers and patients/families. I will continue to observe, ask questions, and apply what I acquire to improve the field of gastroenterology nursing.

Thanks, again, for the scholarship award. 

Sincerely,

Maryann ("Rie-ann") Jansen

WSGNA Supports the Community!

Two worthy community services have benefited from cash donations to help them provide services for people in need. WSGNA has again given a cash donation of $1,000 to Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, Bonnie Lynn Mechanic Celiac Clinic to provide children and their families with educational materials. Lake Area Free Clinic received $1,200 to help defray the cost of Colonoscopies for those who cannot afford them. Please read the following to see how much it is appreciated!

Dear WSGNA,
Thank you! We were thrilled to receive WSGNA’s recent gift of $1,000.00. As requested, your gift will again provide reference materials for the patient families who are served at our Bonnie Lynn Mechanic Celiac Clinic.
Contributions like the ones we receive from your organization enable us to conduct research to advance pediatric health care practice and help us provide the best possible care to kids. The WSGNA’s investment in our mission is critical in the work that we do and we are grateful for your support.
Thank you again for your many years of support for our celiac clinic patients!
With much gratitude,
Kelly W. Sachse
Senior Planned Giving Director

Dear friends at WSGNA,
Thank you for your most generous donation to the Lake Area Free Clinic in support of GI Services. Our mission to the community is to provide a free health clinic, staffed mainly by volunteer professionals, to provide access to free medical care for the low income, working, uninsured who do not participate in government health programs. Through your donation, you affirm your support of this mission and help us meet specific needs of the community.
We need and appreciate your interest in our work. Your donation will help ensure that Lake Area Free Clinic will continue to work toward the health and well being of area communities.
In health,
Lake Area Free Clinic
Mary Reich RN
PROPOSED CHANGES TO WSGNA BY-LAWS

SGNA, our parent organization has made changes to their official by-laws. It is recommended that Regional Societies align their by-laws to SGNA. To that point we are proposing the following changes to our WSGNA by-laws.

Current wording:

6.042 Secretary and Treasurer: Elections to fill the office of Treasurer shall be held in even numbered years. Persons elected as Secretary or Treasurer shall hold office for a term of two years or until their successors are elected. Persons elected as Secretary or Treasurer shall not be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

Proposed wording change:

6.042 Secretary and Treasurer: Elections to fill the office of Treasurer shall be held in even numbered years. Persons elected as Secretary or Treasurer shall hold office for a term of two full years or until their successors are elected. Persons elected as Secretary or Treasurer shall not be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

Current wording:

6.062 President-Elect: If the office of President-Elect becomes vacant, the vacancy shall be filled by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the Board in office by a currently seated Board member who meets the qualifications of President-Elect (see Section 7.02) to serve as acting President-Elect until the end of the term.

Proposed wording change:

6.062 President-Elect: If the office of President-Elect becomes vacant, the vacancy shall be filled by the affirmative vote of the majority of the members of the Board in office by a currently seated Board member who meets the qualifications of President-Elect (see Section 7.02) to serve as acting President-Elect until the end of the term.

As a WSGNA member your approval is needed by a vote for the proposed wording change to the WSGNA BYLAWS. Go to this webpage to approve or disapprove the proposed changes:

http://www.wsgna.org/machform/view.php?id=13318
If anyone would like us to spotlight their department, fill out the form below and send to anna1@wi.rr.com. Thank you!

WSGNA INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN “DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT”

WSGNA is looking for Newsletter spots about YOU! We’d like to hear about your GI department. How big is it? How busy? How many staff members do you have? What do you do to “WOW” your patients? How do you celebrate success? What makes your GI department special? And anything else you would like to say!!

We’d like our members to know more about their peers. You don’t have to be an author to submit your story. We can write it for you if you like. Here are some questions to start with. Just answer and we’ll do the rest.

Name of GI department: _________________________________________________________________
Name of person submitting _____________________________________________________________
How can we contact you? _______________________________________________________________
How old is your department? ___________________________________________________________
How many patients do you see (per week, month, whatever) ________________________________
How many procedure rooms do you have? ________________________________________________
What is your staff mix (RNs, Techs, clerks, processing tech, etc.)? ___________________________
How many of your staff are certified? ____________________________________________________
How many are WSGNA members _______________________________________________________
What is your patient mix (EGD, colon, bronch, etc.)? _____________________________________
Do you do any special procedures (manometry, EUS, pH, etc.)? _____________________________
Do you have any special support groups for patients or services that you offer? ________________
What do you do to celebrate successes? The department’s, an individual’s, GI Nurses Day, etc. ______________
Does your department recognize Colo-rectal Cancer Awareness in March? What do you do for it? ________________________________________________________________
Would you like to recognize someone in your department for their extraordinary efforts, work, or a special accomplishment? ________________________________________________________________
What is your department most proud of? __________________________________________________
What is your department’s biggest challenge? (Perhaps someone who reads this has the same issue and can help!) ________________________________________________________________
What do you feel makes your department special or different from other GI departments? ______
Do you have a customer service story that you would like to share? __________________________
Do you have any pictures that you’d like to put in the newsletter? __________________________
Anything else?? Anything at all?? _______________________________________________________

That’s it. You’ve done it!

Send your notes/comments/form/pictures to: Anna Werth at awerth1@gmail.com Or fax to (414) 259-0856 ATTN: Anna W.
# WSGNA Board of Directors Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

**Minutes**  | **November 15, 2013**  | **Radisson Milw West, Wauwatosa WI.**

**Meeting Called**  | 1430

**Type of Meeting**  | WSGNA Board of Directors Meeting

**Facilitator**  | President: Sheila Gansemer

**Note Taker**  | Secretary: Sue Machones

**Attendees**  | Present: President: Sheila Gansemer; President-Elect: Deb Schmeling; Director-at-Large Communication/Newsletter: Anna Werth; Treasurer: Mary Fiebelkorn; Secretary: Sue Machones; Director-at-Large Nominations/Membership: Diane Harding Brown; Immediate Past-President: Cathy Johnson

| Secretary Report/Minutes | Sue

**Discussion**  | Minutes: August 17, 2013 BOD meeting minutes were reviewed.

**Conclusion**  | Motion was made to approve minutes with minor corrections; motion was seconded and carried by the members.

| Treasurer Report | Mary

**Discussion**  | Expenses & credits reports were reviewed.

**Conclusion**  | If anyone would like to review the report, please contact Mary.

**Discussion**  | There is only one outstanding check that needs to be deposited.

**Conclusion**  | Mary will follow-up on with the outstanding check. Mary will speak to person at the Fall Conference.

| Membership/ Nominations | Diane

**Discussion**  | Diane reports that the WSGNA membership is approximately 172.

**Discussion**  | WSGNA awarded two Certification & two Recertification fees.

**Conclusion**  | The two members that were awarded re-certification monies were:
|  | o Karin Johnson & Sue Machones.
|  | The two members that were awarded certification monies were:
|  | o Mary Ann (Rie-Ann) Jansen & Janet L. Horak.
|  | Mary will be sending those members awarded these scholarships their check and a congratulatory letter.

| Communication/ Newsletter/ Facebook | Anna

**Discussion**  | The November WSGNA newsletter will have the Fall Conference highlights included.
### WSGNA Board of Directors Meeting

#### FOLLOW UP
- Update from Anna from the survey sent to those nurses and associates who didn’t renew their membership this year to discover the reason for non-renewal.

#### OLD BUSINESS
- Nominations & elections: Diane states the 3 open positions: President-Elect, Secretary & Director-at-Large Nominations/Membership were filled.
- All voting was done electronically. Only 9 members voted.
  - Discussion was around how to:
    - inform the members of the advantages of being a board member
    - encourage members to vote

#### DISCUSSION
- Election results: President-Elect: Sue Machones
  - Secretary: Cathy Johnson
  - Director-at-Large Nominations/Membership: Diane Harding Brown
- Discussed putting something in the “SPOTLIGHT” the newsletter about the benefits of being a board member.
  - Also, email the newsletter to all our different regions encouraging nurses & associates working in GI areas to become members & board members.
  - Advertise on our website when & where the board meetings are held
- How to encourage members to vote—we will send out voting reminders electronically.
  - Also, have the newsletter sent around the time of voting.
- Mary will send the voting dates to Mary Garcia so she can update the dates in the policy.

#### CONCLUSION
- Discussed the possibility of calling members once in June/July regarding running for a board position & then again September 1-15th to encourage members to vote.
  - We would script something to say when we called.
  - Each board member would have a list of members to call.

#### DISCUSSION
- Scholarships:
  - Increase the National Scholarship monies to include 4 days instead of 3 days
  - Increase the 2 Multiregional from $350 to $500.
  - The Regional (4 Spring & 4 Fall) are $125 each
  - Webinar Scholarship is $50
- Diane stated that there is need for some revisions on the scholarship application forms.
- $25 gift cards are given to those members who become certified during the year.

#### FOLLOW UP
- Diane will work on the scholarship forms & email them to the board members for their feedback.
- Have received the names of those who became certified in 2013 so we can mail them their gift card?

#### NEW BUSINESS
- Sheila received a request or inquiry from Elmbrook Hospital GI Lab regarding hosting a GI Review Course.

#### DISCUSSION
- We are looking for sites to host conferences for 2014, especially the Spring Conference. Discussed that if no one steps forward, the BOD would host the Spring Conference.

#### FOLLOW UP
- Sheila will check with Margaret in Madison to see if they would be interested in the Spring Conference.
### WSGNA Board of Directors Meeting

#### DISCUSSION
- Past President to coordinate getting the names of attendee who will be attending the Fall Conference.

#### CONCLUSION
- Update on Thank You cards sent by Deb for those who will be attending the Fall Conference.

#### DISCUSSION
- There are two bylaw resolutions that the members are to vote on.

#### CONCLUSION
- Sheila will present at the member’s meeting tomorrow the two bylaw resolutions that the members need to vote on in the next several weeks.

#### DISCUSSION
- Board member to be stationed at the WSGNA membership table during the Fall Conference this weekend.

#### FOLLOW UP
- Update on responses from the board members who manned the WSGNA membership table.

### Future Agenda Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGENDA ITEM</td>
<td>Mary will discuss the CY14 Budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGENDA ITEM</td>
<td>Update our by-laws—we still have the 2009 date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGENDA ITEM</td>
<td>Future conferences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGENDA ITEM</td>
<td>Members to discuss charitable donations at the November meeting. Please bring specific details of any recommendations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGENDA ITEM</td>
<td>Sheila needs each board member’s SGNA ID number.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGENDA ITEM</td>
<td>We need to decide where we would like to make our charitable donations for 2013.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGENDA ITEM</td>
<td>2014 meeting dates, times &amp; places</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NEXT MEETING
- January 11, 2014 at Cool Bean’s Café

### MEETING ADJOURNED
- Meeting adjourned at 1700

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We’d love to hear from you about your achievements! If you are presenting a poster, giving a presentation, conducting a quality improvement project, involved in research or activism at any level, or taking part in volunteer activities, feel free to share with us! I hope to make this a new “column” in the newsletters, so please send your info to: awerth1@gmail.com.
**Scholarships**

The Annual SGNA Course will be here before we know it! Scholarships to make your attendance more affordable are available! Use the application below or go online using this url: [http://www.wsgna.org/machform/view.php?id=14337](http://www.wsgna.org/machform/view.php?id=14337)

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**WSGNA Educational Scholarship Application**

WSGNA Educational Scholarships have been established to financially assist WSGNA members in attending SGNA/WSGNA educational courses. Scholarships will be awarded as outlined in the scholarship policy and procedure.

Name__________________________________________________________  Date______________________________

Address_________________________________________________________  Member since______________

City_______________________________________________________________  State__________  Zip_______________

Phone______________________________  Email address ________________________________

Title__________________________________________  Position ________________________________

How long have you been a GI Nurse/Associate? ________________________________

Are/Have you been involved in GI Nursing in your hospital/community/state/regional or national organization? ________________________________

Have you ever received a WSGNA scholarship before? When? ________________________________

What would a scholarship mean to you; any special considerations? (minimum 25 words) ________________________________

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The number of scholarships and the amount of each scholarship granted will be determined by the Board of Directors and Scholarship Committee in January of each year.

Please indicate below which SCHOLARSHIP applying for and its DEADLINE:

- _____SGNA Annual Course  **Deadline March 1**
- _____Webinar—**Due 30 days prior to event**
- _____WSGNA Regional Course —  **Due March 1 for Spring Course / September 1 for Fall Course**
- _____Multi-Regional SGNA Course —  **Due September 1**

**Scholarship Criteria:**

1. Separate application is needed for EACH individual scholarship you are applying for.
2. Recipient of National SGNA Annual Course Scholarship will NOT be eligible for any other scholarship in the year in which this scholarship was received.
3. A member of WSGNA for one year or more as of January 1st of the year you are seeking the scholarship. Membership date is SGNA website Regional Membership roster date.
4. Currently working in the field of GI.

The monies for the scholarship will be reimbursed upon the submission of a copy of your contact hour certificate, a brief synopsis of your experience at the educational course and how attending enhanced your professional career. This is due within **30** days of attendance and will be published in the newsletter. Contact any board member if you have questions.

**Submit to:**  Director at Large, Nominations and Membership  
**Diane Harding, Director-Membership/Nominations**  
[dmhardin@gundluth.org](mailto:dmhardin@gundluth.org) or  
[dmhardin55@hotmail.com](mailto:dmhardin55@hotmail.com)
IMPORTANT WSGNA LINKS TO BOOKMARK

SCHOLARSHIPS: http://www.wsgna.org/machform/view.php?id=14337
NOMINATIONS: http://www.wsgna.org/machform/view.php?id=17990
WSGNA DSA: http://www.wsgna.org/machform/view.php?id=15651
ABCGN Certification /Re-Certification Scholarship:
http://www.wsgna.org/machform/view.php?id=15170

‘Be Green — it is easy and fast when you do it online!’

Upcoming Conferences

WSGNA Regional Conference to be announced...

May 2-6, 2014
SGNA's 41st Annual Course
Nashville, TN

October 17-19, 2014
Multi-Regional Conference
Kalamazoo, Michigan

Visit www.wsgna.org