We go bananas at our conferences

US endoscopy made us a personalized banana with their gi4000 electrosurgery unit.

We are grateful for our vendors, who choose to support our conferences in exchange for the opportunity to show us their products. Thank you, vendors!

Our Regional NCSGNA Conferences

Our conferences rely on generous donations of time and content from our speakers, who are mainly rewarded by your energy and enthusiasm. Our all-volunteer Board of Directors spends time and energy ensuring that we support the Northern California SGNA with educational conferences while still maintaining fiscal responsibility. Consider taking the next step—start out by observing, asking, or even volunteering yourself!

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• Keep Your Membership Up-to-Date—SGNA wants to ensure that you have uninterrupted access to year-round member benefits.

• Visit the Member Center to renew your membership today!
Message from the Past President

A Time Worth All the While…

I just wanted to take the time to thank the NCSGNA Board of Directors and the NCSGNA Members for allowing me the opportunity to serve for the last four years. I have learned a great deal about leadership and teamwork that I have found to be quite invaluable. I will say, I was very nervous about serving on the board initially (mostly because I had no idea what to expect); but once I got to know the team, I realized that I had a generous amount of support.

I strongly encourage folks among the membership to consider serving. Yes, it requires time out of your schedule—and yes, a commitment is necessary. However, the satisfaction of putting together these conferences and having everything fall into place is worth it.

Serving as President also allowed me to step outside of my comfort zone and speak in front of an audience. As terrified as that felt, I also felt proud to break out of my shell (which is not an easy thing for a shy person like me).

Also, serving on the Board allowed me to attend the national SGNA conferences and meet other GI nurses that I otherwise would have never had the chance to experience. If anything, NCSGNA opened my world up beyond the confines of my small GI department, and for that I am forever grateful.

It gave me a chance to grow and expand my horizons and I would absolutely want others to enjoy that opportunity as well.

With that said, I wish the Board of Directors all the best and I hope to see everyone at a future conference.

Thank you,
Shaleena Kumar, MSN, RN, CGRN
Guiding Light

Message from the Director of Community & Legislative Relations

Recent occupational licensing reform legislation considered in various states has alerted private certification organizations to significant threats to their activities. These bills have included provisions that would:

- bar many professionals holding certifications from private organizations from using the titles “certified” or “registered”;
- create evidentiary presumptions and barriers to state professional licensure laws recognizing or requiring certifications from private organizations; and/or
- establish governmental certification programs that would supplant private certification programs, in some circumstances.

Currently, the states of Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Wisconsin have active federal professional certification bills under consideration.

The Institute for Credentialing Excellence and the American Society of Association Executives spearheaded the formation of the Professional Certification Coalition (PCC) coalition designed to stem and counteract further harmful legislative initiatives. The Coalition will also engage in advocacy campaigns and provide members with resources and tools to advocate to legislators regarding pending legislation that affects professional certification.

Find more information about PCC at https://www.profcertcoalition.org/about-pcc.

As of July 2019, 115 members, including ABCGN have joined the coalition. Other nursing organizations include: American Association of Post-Acute Care Nurses (AANAC), American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN), American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), Commission on Nurse Certification (CNC), Infusion Nurses Certification Corporation (INS), Medical-Surgical Nursing Certification Board (MSNCB), National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA), Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission, Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB).

SGNA encourages certification for all GI RNs. The CGRN credential allows GI nurses to further demonstrate their commitment to GI nursing. Whether the harmful consequences of the legislation are intended or not by the bill sponsors, certification organizations can expect the introduction of similar legislation.

Stay alert! NCSGNA newsletter will keep you updated with any information on this and other legislation, especially as it impacts GI Nurses in California.
NCSGNA Fall 2019 Board Meeting Minutes

NCSGNA Board Meeting Minutes  
September 20, 2109

Present: Kendall Yoshisato, Shaleena Kumar, Sheila Nuqui, April Heuschel, Dawn Neblett-Cross, Lydia Blethrow, Elena Gomes, Ted Miller (Guest).
Absent: Kristine De Guzman, Janelle Del Rosario, Nancy Schlossberg, Emily Scafidi

NCSGA Board Minutes, March 15, 2019, were unanimously approved by all BoD present.

Board Member Reports
President (Sheila): Thanked everyone for efforts given to facilitate this years Fall conference.
- Sheila indicated 220 attendees (incl. Vendors) estimated for catering. Cost $76/ppl.

President-Elect (April): Spring conference (March 14, 2020) will be at Walnut Creek Marriott. Considering, Fall 2020, conference site to be at Grand Sierra Resort (Reno) vs Hilton Hotel SF airport. April is helping with speakers for next conference and is asking for potential speakers. Dr. S Lewin (UCSF) has agreed. Nancy S, via email, indicated she has some speakers.

Dir of Vendors (Elena): 14 vendors registered to attend conference. Friday night, Boston Scientific and Cook had dinner presentations for attendees that registered. Elena stated for simplicity only one vendor should have dinner presentation on the future Friday nights.
- current vendor table registration fee is $550.

Dir of Membership (Dawn): 197 attendees (176 RNs & rest GI Techs) registered for conference. There are 10 new NCSGNA members, 8 are attending conference.
- "Mail Chimp" was used to send out brochures. Found to be very efficient.
- The early bird reg will now end on the Sunday (not Friday) 4 weeks prior to conference. Full price reg will end on the Sunday (not Friday), 2 weeks prior to conference.

Dir of Publicity/Scholarships (Lydia): More directors need to be able to access and update the NCSGNA website. Lydia, at times may not be able to access website (off the grid). In next month website will have mobile access to make updates.
- please send in your newsletter articles to Lydia no later than November 1st.

Treasurer (Kendall): Reviewed Budget (see budget report & summaries).
- HoD Resolutions, two SNGA resolutions will pass: i) allotted time for vice speaker will be 2 minutes, ii) regional dues will be standardized for all regions ($15).
- BoD has access to SGNA website Community link where there are files stored pertaining to our accounting and budget. We may add other NCSGNA files to this private access portal.
- BoD may not recognize expense of “Stripe” fee for on-line registration (~$1,000/conf).
- Accounts are averaging a loss each year. Need to look at recovering this loss to maintain reserve of $70 - 80k, approximately the cost of bi-annual conferences.
Action Items:
1. The reg deadline day will now be Sunday (not Friday) for early bird & full price reg.
2. Motion passed to increase vendor registration fee to $650/table.
3. Motion passed to no longer send out brochures via usps (will reduce waste & cost).
4. Decision to f/u with Dr. Leung for ABC’s of ERCPs. Ted/April to f/u with Kendall’s support.
5. Sheila/Lydia to communicate with Dr. Hsu, to outline BoD time constraints for advanced endoscopy training session.

Minutes respectfully taken by Ted Miller
**Leadership Directory**  
Contact information for the NCSGNA leadership

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**NCSGNA Calendar of Events**

- **March 14, 2020**  
  **NCSGNA Spring Course**  
  Walnut Creek Marriott Hotel

- **May 15-19, 2020**  
  **SGNA Annual Course**  
  Louisville Kentucky

- **September 12, 2020**  
  **NCSGNA Fall Course**  
  Grand Sierra Resort and Casino
The NCSGNA Scholarship is open to members only. This information is for informational purposes only. Please download your application from www.ncsgna.org. You will be asked to provide your:

Name:________________________________________
Address:_____________________________________
City/State/Zip Code:_____________________________
E-mail:_______________________________________
Home Phone:______________________________
Employer:____________________________________
Work Phone:______________________________

What is the scholarship for?

The goal of this scholarship is to help a regional member attend the SGNA Annual Course. One $1000.00 scholarship will be awarded to be used for registration, airfare, and hotel accommodations. Recipients must provide documentation of actual use of funds.

What criteria are used to award the scholarship?

- The applicant’s support of SGNA, both regional and national;
- The applicant’s promotion of GI nursing;
- The applicant’s activities within their hospital and community;
- The applicant’s participation within local, state, and federal government on behalf of nursing and health care issues;
- The applicant’s participation in other nursing organizations.

What is the application process?

Begin by checking off any activities in which you have participated (each category is assigned a point value by the Scholarship Committee). Expand upon these activities, include other areas that you feel demonstrate your qualifications for this award, and add any additional comments. Return this entire form and your comments to the Scholarship Committee Chairman.

Eligible applicants must have been a voting licensed nurse or associate of NCSGNA for two years or more, must demonstrate support of NCSGNA’s goals and objectives, must currently be employed in gastroenterology. Members of the Board of Directors and those who have received an NCSGNA Educational Course grant within the past three years are ineligible.

ACTIVITIES

When did you join SGNA/NCSGNA?___________________________
Years in GI Nursing:___________________________
Academic/Professional Credentials:_____________________________
Northern California SGNA:_____________________________
President: held office
President-Elect: held office
Past President/Historian: held office
Secretary: held office
Treasurer: held office
Director of Exhibits: held office
Director of Scholarship/Publicity: held office
Director of Membership: held office
Director of Education: held office

National SGNA or ABCGN (e.g., HOD Speaker or Vice Speaker; national Board Member):

SGNA Foundation Board Member; SIG Group Coordinator;
Annual Course poster presenter, speaker, committee member, monitor or moderator):

Education (e.g., staff in-services, community presentations, teaching student nurses, mentoring new employees):

Government (e.g., special projects, resolutions):

Health Fairs/Other Professional Organizations/GI Nurses Day:

Miscellaneous:

Research/Educational Posters

If your poster is accepted for display at the Annual Course, you may be eligible for a monetary subsidy.

Here’s hoping you will join us at the 2020 SGNA Annual Course!!!