

## HEARTLAND SGNA

The Heartland Regional Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates (HRSNGA) is affiliated with the national Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates (SGNA). Our professional organization advances the science and practice of gastroenterology and endoscopy nursing through education, research, advocacy and collaboration. The primary purpose of HRSNGA is to bring the benefits of the national membership to SGNA members at the local level.

### INSIDE

Meet Deborah Schmidt 2

Meet Marie Fanning 2

Meet Aline Moore 2

Meet Debra Fieth 3

Meet Candice Quillin 3

Meet Afton Becker 3

Meet Laura Habighorst 4

Dr. Patricia Raymond 4

Fall Conference 5

Michelle Day 6  
SGNA Pres.

# Heartland SGNA Newsletter

SUMMER / FALL 2017

## Heartland Regional SGNA—Who are We?

**Welcome to our Summer/Fall newsletter!** In this issue we will be highlighting all of our board members of HRSNGA. We hope our stories inspire you to consider becoming part of our active board! We all started just wanting to learn more but worked our way to wanting to become an integral part of SGNA. Each of us has grown in some way professionally and personally. Enjoy our stories, check out our website—[www.hrsnga.org](http://www.hrsnga.org)—and consider becoming part of this great professional nursing organization!

**To become a member go to:**

[https://  
www.sgna.org/Join/  
Become-a-Member](https://www.sgna.org/Join/Become-a-Member)



### SGNA Mission Statement

**The Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates** is a professional organization of nurses and associates dedicated to the safe and effective practice of gastroenterology and endoscopy nursing. SGNA carries out its mission by advancing the science and practice of gastroenterology and endoscopy nursing through education, research, advocacy, and collaboration, and by promoting the professional development of its members in an atmosphere of mutual support.

## Jennefer Nichol BSN RN CGRN—President

Hello everyone, I am currently your HRSNGA President which is a very new position for me. I have served as a Director at Large, Director of Education, and was President-Elect for 2017 until July.

I have been the Clinical Re-

source Nurse for GI at Saint Luke's North for the past 2 years, but I have worked in GI for the past 18 years. So far serving on the board has been rewarding, and a great resource for me. I get to constantly converse with other GI nurses about best practices and how other facilities

are doing things. There is so much support here. I urge you to become a member of our organization today!

I am so excited about what is going on for HRSNGA. We have a fantastic fall line up for our conference this year. I hope you get to attend!



## Deborah Mercer BSN RN CGRN— Treasurer

This will be my 10 year Anniversary as a member of SGNA and Heartland Regional SGNA and as I reflect back I realize how much my life has been enriched. The Conferences over 10 years ago drew me in with interesting topics and speakers. I knew then that Heartland Regional SGNA was an organization I wanted to be a part of. I began to meet new people involved in GI, I started networking and sharing knowledge and experiences. Well, initially I did more learn-

ing from so many experienced people before building a solid knowledge base myself. After volunteering to help at Conferences I became an active Board member. I love the camaraderie I share with my fellow Board members. We have had many wonderful experiences individually, together and as a part of the spectacular world of GI.

I have learned so much from the roles I have fulfilled within the Board. Each one interest-

ing and challenging in its own right. The ability to be an active part of the planning and execution of the Conferences that are presented by the Heartland Regional Board of Directors is an exciting and rewarding accomplishment. We have been able to bring some wonderful, entertaining and knowledgeable speakers local as well as nationally to share the education, regulations and new standards to our attendees. (cont. pg 4)

“We have had many wonderful experiences individually, together and as a part of the spectacular world of GI”

Deborah Schmidt

## Marie Fanning BSN RN CGRN—Secretary

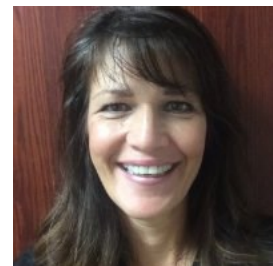
My name is Marie Fanning and I am the Secretary for HRSNGA. I received my BSN from Avila University in 1998 and have been in GI for the past 16 1/2 years. I was a student/graduate nurse at Independence Regional Medical Center then found my way to Consultants in Gastroenterology where I stayed for 16 years as Dr. Arthur Brock's

nurse until he retired.

I now work in the Centerpoint Medical Center GI Lab where I am learning about Medivators AER and all about the inner workings and reprocessing of endoscopes. I have been GI certified since 2003 and a member of HRSNGA for 4 years. I participate on the HRSNGA Board as Secretary. I am married to Jim Fan-

ning and we have 4 adult children and 6 grandkids.

Even though I am busy with family and work every day, HRSNGA has offered many opportunities to meet new people, go new places and grow as a leader.



## Aline Moore MSN RN CGRN Immediate Past President



Aline Moore

Wow, what can I say about my experience as the Immediate Past President of HRSNGA but that it is a wonderful experience! You get to meet nurses from different hospitals. As members of the board we all get to put our lovely heads together

to come up with terrific ideas for our conferences. Sometimes we come up with interesting titles for the conferences but most importantly, we are able to get amazing speakers to come share their knowledge with all of us.

As the Immediate Past President I helped organize and plan the Certification Review

Class that was offered this past spring. I also assisted with the planning of our next fall conference where all attendees will be dazzled by the amazing line up of speakers. **So please consider attending our board meetings that are always posted on the HRSNGA.org web site. We need your support as well as your knowledge!**

## Debra Fieth RN CGRN—Director at Large

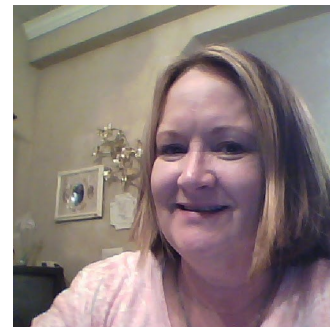
I received a call from a HRSNGA board member about 7 years ago, asking if I would like to be part of the HRSNGA board as Secretary. I had no idea that when I said yes, that I would still be on the regional board and now a member of the Regional Societies Committee with SGNA. I have been in GI for over 31 years with the last 3 years as an Infusion Nurse with a Kansas City GI practice. Throughout the years of being a board member, I have gained many new friends

networking with other nurses in the field of GI while attending several national conferences all over the states. I have had the pleasure of participating in 3 review courses in our region, sharing our knowledge and education with others and the ability to help individuals who are wanting to be certified.

Our regional society has a community service project each year raising funds for Hope

House. I have made several quilts to be raffled with all donations going to the organization. It has been my pleasure to share my favorite pastime with all of you.

I encourage anyone who has thought about the future of GI nursing to take the opportunity to join our Regional society and experience what I



## Candy Quillin BSN RN CGRN— Director at Large

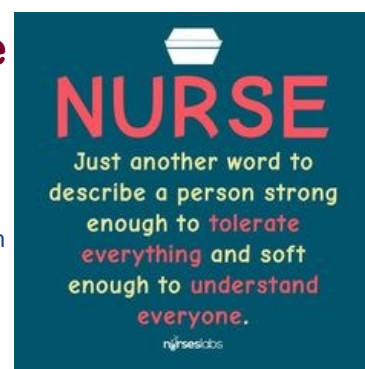
I currently serve as Director at Large and the National Healthcare Policy liaison for Heartland. I joined the GI team at St. Joseph Medical Center in 1989 and moved to KU Endoscopy in 2016 as Educator. I have been certified in GI since 1991; but I am still growing and learning. I helped start Heartland SGNA, which was originally in Topeka, and have tried out about every leadership position

at Heartland and multiple positions at the national level. I love the relationships and personal support system I have developed through the organization both locally and nationally.

Do you want to find out what others are doing, how others practice, best practice, help with new protocols and policies, learn to do presenta-

tions, how to make an education or research poster, see other people's GI labs? Well join this awesome organization and you will have all the resources you need to get started and grow.

I love GI and have never regretted going with this subspecialty. In addition, GI has great meetings with great food! And that about sums up my GI career...



## Afton Becker BSN RN CGRN—Director of Education

My experience with Heartland Regional SGNA (HRSNGA) began with attending regional education conferences. I quickly learned SGNA would offer myself many opportunities for personal and professional growth. One might ask, why should I join a professional nursing organization and what benefit would joining provide me?

First, many people join for the educational opportunities. As nurses, it is important to stay up-to-date with the latest advances and techniques within our specialty fields. SGNA offers opportunities for continuing education through conferences, review courses, webinars, and a national course. Second, others join for personal



and professional growth. If you are looking to advance your career and develop leadership and communication skills, then joining SGNA may be a place to begin.

Continued on page 6

## Deborah Mercer(Cont'd.)

(Cont'd from page 2). Had I not been involved, I would never have had the opportunity to meet so many fascinating people and learn about the vast number of topics that have been covered over the years.

The desire to become Certified was fueled by my personal and professional growth as I became an experienced Therapeutic Endoscopy RN. The Board of Directors at that time was

an important support system to help bolster my confidence in myself and the challenge I was undertaking. The Certification Review Class that was presented benefited numerous GI RNs as well as myself. I was absolutely thrilled after passing the Certification Exam! I enjoy the inclusion in the Local Heartland Regional SGNA and belonging to a greater organization, SGNA. This affords us the opportunity to help change

and create legislation and policies which greatly impact our practices making our voices heard within the organization as well.

Overall, my experiences with Heartland Regional SGNA have been positive, enriching and empowering. As I am very new to my role as Treasurer, I still receive much support and help from the previous Treasurer to help my transition.



## Laura Habighorst—Webmaster

I have been involved in HRSGNA and SGNA for over 12 years. I have served on the local level in many roles including Director of Education and President. For the past two years I have had the privilege to serve on the National Board of SGNA as Speaker of the House of Delegates and this year as Director. My current responsibilities within

HRSGNA are to serve as webmaster, maintaining and updating our website with the assistance of Nursing Network. Nationally I am the board liaison to the Healthcare Policy Committee and the Specialty Interest Groups.

SGNA has taught me many things over these years. How to improve in patient care, reprocessing, leadership, advoca-

cacy and many other things. Consider becoming a leader. Start small as a helper at a conference or consider serving as a director-at-large. You will not regret your choice!



## Register NOW—September 23!

Dr. Patricia Raymond



**RETURNING TO KC—Dr. Patricia Raymond!** She is our special guest speaker at our fall conference.

The author of **Don't Jettison Medicine, Colonoscopy: It'll Crack u Up!** and **Colonoscopy is a Gas!**, numerous serious medical papers contrasted by amusing editorials, Dr. Raymond hosted Housecalls, a popular

regional NPR medical talk show. Norfolk, Virginia NPR affiliate station WHRV 89.5 FM broadcasted "Housecalls" through 2007; archived programs are available at [Your Health Choice.net](http://YourHealthChoice.net). Raymond writes regular columns in My Family Doctor

and Endonurse magazines, and speaks nationally to health care professionals about rekindling our passion for our health care careers ([www.RxForSanity.com](http://www.RxForSanity.com)). She also presents Colon Cancer Awareness programs as the singing sensation, **the divine Ms Butt Meddler** ([www.ColonJoke.com](http://www.ColonJoke.com)). For more info on the conference see page 5.



## SGNA Webinars



You can receive SGNA webinars with CE at home or work. Fee for members is \$15 and non-members \$20. Topics include:

Minimum Registered Nurse Staffing for Patient Care in the Gastrointes-

tinal Endoscopy Unit (2012)  
and Role Delineation of the Registered Nurse in a Staff Position in Gastroenterology (2012)  
Guidelines for Nursing Documentation in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (2013)

Statement on the Use of Sedation and Analgesia in the Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Setting (2013)

Standards of Clinical Nursing Practice and Role Delineations (2014)  
Hepatitis C Management: Practical

Strategies for the GI Nurse (2015)  
CRE Transmission and GI Nursing Practice (2015)  
Standards of Infection Prevention in Reprocessing of Flexible Gastrointestinal Endoscopes Webinar (2016)  
Standards of Infection in the Gastroenterology Setting (2016)  
Capnography Monitoring During Moderate Sedation: How an SGNA Fellow Took Current Evidence and Worked toward Putting it into Practice (2016)

**High-Level Disinfection:**  
**Minimally required for semi-critical devices. Cleaning followed by HLD should eliminate enough pathogens to prevent transmission of infection (Rutala & Weber, 2016b).**

## SGNA Standards and Practice Guidelines

Do you have a question about standards of practice? Go to the SGNA Standards and Practice Guidelines for help. These are available for free:

<https://www.sgna.org/Practice/Standards-Practice-Guidelines>

Guideline for Use of High-Level Disinfectants & Sterilants in the Gastroenterology Setting (2017)

Standards of Infection Prevention in Reprocessing of Flexible Gastroin-

testinal Endoscopes (2016)  
Standard of Infection Prevention in the Gastroenterology Setting (2015)  
Standards of Clinical Nursing Practice and Role Delineation Statements (2014)  
Guidelines for Documentation in the Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Setting (2013)  
Understanding and Influencing the

Legislative Process (2012)  
Guideline for Performance of Flexible Sigmoidoscopy by Registered Nurses for the Purpose of Colorectal Cancer Screening (2009)  
Guidelines for Preventing Sensitivity and Allergic Reactions to Natural Rubber Latex in the Workplace (2007)  
Multisociety Guideline on Reprocessing Flexible Gastrointestinal Endoscopes (2016)

## Fall Conference Sept. 23 NKC Hospital Pavilion

Our fall conference is loaded with great information and fun. **Dr. Patricia Raymond** is back with her great sense of humor about endoscopy including fecal microbiota transplantation and the "Liver Dance." **Dr. Michael Farrar** will review the new recommended guidelines on anticoagulants and bridging patients for procedures. **Drs. Amit Rastogi and Michael Hagan** will be discussing POEM

(peroral endoscopic myotomy) for achalasia and interesting cases in EUS. Another requested return speaker is **Kimberly Karnes ANP-BC** from Chicago and she will be reviewing the latest in Irritable Bowel Syndrome.

You can register at [www.HRSGNA.org](http://www.HRSGNA.org). Fees for SGNA members are \$60 and non-members are \$75. Techs are always welcome and their fee is \$40.

As always we will be collecting supplies for Hope House, a shelter for domestic violence. Go to <http://www.hopehouse.net/get-involved/donate-items> to see what their current needs.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON SATURDAY THE 23RD!**

When a person decides to become a nurse, they make the most important decision of their lives. They choose to dedicate themselves to the care of others.

[nurses.together.com](http://nurses.together.com)

## Afton Becker, cont.d

Involvement in SGNA builds confidence. There are committees to join and social and political causes supported by the organization that need passionate volunteers. Third, involvement with SGNA offers opportunities for nurses to obtain specialty certification. Specialty certification has been shown to improve patient safety and helps you gain recognition for both your

competence and professionalism. SGNA offers discounts on educational/study material to members as well as a discount rate when applying to take the test. Last, SGNA offers many opportunities to network. Building your network can help you discover new best practices; not to mention, the opportunity to develop life-long friendships. I am so grate-

ful to serve as the Educational Director on the HRSNGA board. Join SGNA, you won't regret it!



## Meet SGNA President Michelle Day



TRAIT INNOVATIONS Professional Studios portraits.

The SGNA 2017-2018 President, Michelle Day, MSN, BSN, RN, CGRN, has a lot about which to be excited. Her desire to connect with members and a passion for gastroenterology comes from working more than 20 years in this field.

A graduate of Broome Community College in Binghamton, NY with an Associate of Science Degree – RN, and University of Phoenix with a BSN and MSN, Michelle is currently Team Leader for Comprehensive Liver Center and Transplant Program at Harford Hospital in Hartford Connecticut.

We caught up with Michelle to find out more about her path to GI, as well as her future direction as President of SGNA.

**What brought you to the field of GI—what made you choose this career?**

I started my career on a medi-

cal surgical floor and was drawn to the difficult surgical patients. I was asked by the nurse manager to follow her to a new cardiology floor that she was going to manage. I joined her on the new cardiology unit and advanced to clinical leader. After a few years as clinical leader, I was looking for the opportunity to continue to grow and I had applied for a few different roles within the hospital. I asked one of the APRNs on the unit for a reference, she told me she had worked in gastroenterology before moving to cardiology and suggested that I apply for the GI endoscopy role that was opened. I knew during the interview and tour of the unit that GI would be interesting; they were performing therapeutic procedures! I was hooked! After the interview, the endoscopy manager called to let me know the posting had changed and they needed a

nurse with GI experience, which I of course did not have. I was disappointed, but the endoscopy manager said she was hoping to have another opening shortly and I could call her back in a few weeks for an update. I called several weeks in a row to find out about the opening. Unfortunately, for several weeks I heard the same answer, “not yet”; but she continued to encourage me to call back. Finally, after several weeks she had a different response and asked, “Do you want a job?” Of course, I said yes!

I remain passionate about GI because I was invited to an SGNA meeting and SGNA provided me with opportunities to grow, learn, and have lifelong friendships with others as passionate about GI as I am.

**Continued on page 7**

# Scholarships Available



Heartland SGNA offers several scholarships throughout the year to members and new members of SGNA.

**4—Certification/Recertification Scholarships—\$420**

**4—\$500 Education**

**2—\$1000 Education**

**4—Memberships**

Information regarding each of the scholarships can be found on our webpage.

<https://hrsgna.nursingnetwork.com/>

[page/22481-certification-scholarship-and-poster-contest](https://hrsgna.nursingnetwork.com/page/22481-certification-scholarship-and-poster-contest)

OR

[https://s3.amazonaws.com/nursing-network/production/attachments/36671/original/Heartland\\_20Regional\\_20Handbook\\_20Revised\\_20September\\_202015.pdf?2015](https://s3.amazonaws.com/nursing-network/production/attachments/36671/original/Heartland_20Regional_20Handbook_20Revised_20September_202015.pdf?2015)

*“...our goal to be the voice of gastroenterology nursing and drive the quality of care in gastroenterology nursing practice.” - Michelle Day*

## Michelle Day (cont'd. from page 6)

**What are you most excited about as SGNA President?**

I'm most excited to continue to connect with our members and to share my passion for gastroenterology with them. Our members are doing great things and advancing the practice of gastroenterology. I want to hear their stories, their ideas, and help spread the word about what they are doing. I enjoyed meeting and talking with the

attendees, regional leaders, and committee members at our annual conference in New Orleans; it was wonderful to hear the enthusiasm they have for what they do and the depth of expertise they are willing to share.

I'm looking forward to sharing with other professionals what a strong vibrant association SGNA is and all of the exceptional work our mem-

bers are doing at the bedside, in the office, and in the procedural suites. I'm looking forward to building relationships with our members and other professionals to help SGNA achieve our goal to be the voice of gastroenterology nursing and drive the quality of care in gastroenterology nursing practice.

## Future Events-Check our website for more info

September 22, 2017: An Evening with Dr. Patricia Raymond Affaire Kansas City MO

September 23, 2017: HRSGNA Fall Conference North Kansas City Hospital Pavilion

November 11, 2017: Saint Luke's Digestive Disease Conference Sheraton Overland Park

February 24, 2018: GI Lecture and Hands On with Boston Scientific More info to come

March 10, 2018: Expert Strategies in Gastroenterology More info to come

April 20, 2018: KU Live More Info to come

May 20—May 22, 2018: SGNA 45th Annual Course Walt Disney World Resort Lake Buena Vista, FL



Heartland Regional Society of SGNA  
P.O. Box 25822  
Overland Park, KS 66225  
[www.hrsгна.org](http://www.hrsгна.org)

On October 3, 1989, a group of almost 100 nurses met at Shawnee Mission Medical Center to begin discussions about forming an organization of G.I. Nurses in the Kansas City metropolitan area. It was agreed by all who attended, that area G.I. nurses and associates were in need of a method to network, share experiences and provide educational programs to keep us abreast of the latest in our specialty. The dinner that evening was sponsored by Pentax Corporation, and an educational program was provided on the internal functions of the Pentax scopes. Throughout the next two years, meetings were rotated among the area hospitals for the purpose of providing discussions and education on clinical topics relating to Gastroenterology. The first slate of elected officers were: Peggy Hieronymous, President, Peggy White, PresidentElect, Geribeth Auslander, Secretary, and Candice Quillin, Treasurer. Peggy was the key person in our charting efforts. The first membership dues were \$20.00 per member to join. At this time, a nurse or associate could join a Regional without joining the national organization. Membership for the first fiscal year was 68 members. The officers developed our first set of Bylaws and Articles, wrote our goals, and started planning our future. **More history in our next newsletter!**

# JOIN US TODAY!

We hope you have learned a little bit more about each of us and the journey we have taken with not only with Heartland SGNA, but SGNA as a whole.

There is great opportunity to become an active Board member. The rewards are the inspiration to provide the conferences, education, speakers, prizes, drawings and giveaways. The networking, mentoring and support are the fuel for the spirit to maintain active engagement on the Board of Directors. You too can become involved, just contact any one of the Board members via our website:

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

