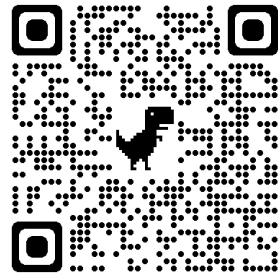


## 2023 board members :

- **President:**
  - Cathy Bauer
- **Treasurer:**
  - Pam Cowan
- **Secretary:**
  - Aileen Naro
- **Associate Member:**
  - Emma Townsend Rogers
- **Board Members at large:**
  - Kathryn Lyons
  - Sherri Brown
  - Aleta English
  - Dianna Amick

## Upcoming Events

Virtual Gastroenterology Review Course: February 3, 2024



Save the Date April 5-6th, 2024

Hybrid GNCSGNA Spring Conference Hosted by: Wake Med Cary



# GNCSGNA Newsletter

DECEMBER 2023



## Presidents Message

Hello all:

It has been such an exciting year to be your president. We accomplished so much and continue to plan on great accomplishments in the years to come.

You still have time to become a member of the GNCSGNA regional board. Nominations are open until November 30th. I hope that you will consider becoming a part of this great leadership team. What better way to have front seat tickets to the happenings in your region than being a part of the planning. Time obligations are minimal but the rewards are many.

I hope you all have a wonderful Holiday season spending time with family and friends. I look forward to getting back together with you all in April for our Spring Conference hosted by Wake-Med Cary.

All the best to you,  
Cathy Bauer RNBS, MSN, MBA, CGRN  
Region 42 Greater North Carolina SGNA President

# GNCSGNA Represented in Guatemala

Ally Naro and Aleta English

In early November, Central America Outreach Endoscopy (CARE) sent a group of ten people to Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala. This team included three Gastroenterology attending's, one Gastroenterology Fellow, one anesthesiologist, one endotech and three nurses. Team members included Sarah Manfred BSN, RN (UNC Health), Shedrak Morales endotech (Raleigh Endoscopy), Michael Dougherty, MD (UNC Health), Silpa Yalamanchili, MD (Raleigh Endoscopy), Nicholas Nickl, MD (retired, Lexington, KY), Sydney Greenberg, MD (UNC Health), and Leigh Hudnall, MD (UNC Health). **Rounding out the team were GNCSGNA's board members, Aleta English MSN, RN, CGRN and Aileen Naro BSN, RN, CGRN, both of UNC Health.** The team spent one week in Guatemala and scoped for a total of three days. During that time 42 procedures

were performed. These procedures were mostly upper endoscopies with a few colonoscopies mixed in. Many challenges were met and conquered by this wonderful team. Some of these challenges included hand reprocessing endoscopes with Cidex in a poorly ventilated environment, necessary reuse of single use supplies, and old equipment that did not function well. Language and patient literacy were also significant barriers as patients spoke either Spanish or the native language Tz'utujil. The challenges incurred during this trip were significant but a great learning experience for all involved. Flexibility is the key to a trip like this and this team excelled in that manner.

Guatemala was a beautiful and welcoming environment. The Hospitalito Atitlan was a wonderful host, feeding the staff lunch daily, providing each team member a gift to remember them by and assisting the team with anything we needed. The food was amazing, fresh and home-made everywhere. Staff were also provided some downtime in the city of Antigua to sightsee a little bit. Everyone left with great memories, new friends and a feeling of accomplishment as well as knowing they made a huge difference in these people's lives. Everyone involved said they would love to take this adventure again and highly encourage others to take a similar trip!



“Flexibility is the key to a trip like this and this team excelled in that manner.”

## 2023 in Review

**Spring ENCSGNA Conference**  
**Hosted by Carolina East GI**  
New Bern, NC  
March 10-11, 2023  
In-person Attendees: 68  
Virtual Attendees: 75

**Spring Digestive Health Review Course**  
Hosted by Pinehurst Medical  
February 11, 2023  
In-person Attendees: 30  
Virtual Attendees: 51

**Membership:**  
Total Members: 264

**Fall GNCSGNA Conference**  
**Hosted by VA Kernersville Health Center: Digestive Health**  
October 6-7, 2023  
In-person Attendees: 74  
Virtual Attendees: 85

**August Virtual Digestive Health Review Course**  
August 19, 2023  
Virtual Attendees: 64

**Scholarships awarded:**  
SGNA Annual course: 4  
Recertification: 1