



Kimberly Cooper, RN, BS, MSN, CGRN
ODSGNA Treasurer Candidate

As Old Dominion SGNA's (ODSGNA) current Treasurer, I am looking forward to another term as ODSGNA's Treasurer. Participating in ODSGNA as a board member has offered me many opportunities to share my knowledge and experiences with fellow GI nurses and to also keep current with the latest trends in GI nursing. In addition, I have been offered opportunities to participate in DelMarVa SGNA, Back to Basics, Beyond Basics, Endoscope Reprocessing Course, and Certification Review courses, which has afforded educational opportunities to SGNA members and fellow GI nurses and technicians with enough revenue to offer numerous scholarships for both National and Regional courses over the past four years to members, GI nurses, and technicians.

As the ODSGNA Treasurer, the Region has maintained a balanced budget with its main focus on educational opportunities for all GI staff. Conferences have been fun with raffles, drawings, and inexpensive contact hour benefits. As a member of the Board of Director team, my participation in the courses included managing registration, expenses, and developing templates for PowerPoint presentations/brochures for ODSGNA and DelMarVa courses. As a photographer, I was honored to have been asked to take pictures of attendees via the ODSGNA photo booth at conferences, at no expense to ODSGNA, which added fun and a little souvenir for our attendees to take home with them. I was recently offered and accepted an added position as co-treasurer for DelMarVa SGNA. I am looking forward to expanding my role and talents within SGNA.

My educational background is testimony of my lifelong commitment to education. I graduated as an LPN in 1975; earned an Associate's Degree in Nursing in 1977; a BS in Organizational Management and Development 1998; and an MSN from Walden University with a specialty in Nurse Informatics in 2013. Nursing background and experiences includes work experience in Medical/Surgical nursing in neurology, oncology, and gerontology; Telemetry; and ICU. Awards and honors include: Chesapeake Regional

Medical Center nurse of the year in 1986 and 1992 and membership in Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society.

I found my niche in gastroenterology nursing 28 years ago when I became a staff nurse in Endoscopy. I became an SGNA member in 1992 eager to learn more about the specialty. I earned my Certification in Gastroenterology in 1995. Since then, I have held various positions within gastroenterology including resource manager - responsible for ongoing education and supervision of daily activities and then became the Unit Director of Endoscopy in the late '90s. Over the years other roles were added to my list of responsibilities to include a Nurse Manager over Pre-Surgical and Surgical Admitting Units. I have also assumed the role of Interim Director of Surgical Services a couple of times as the organization sought a permanent Director position and as the Interim Business Manager. While in the Nurse Manager role, my responsibilities included managing the budget, as well as staffing; maintaining quality by following organizational and accrediting agency guidelines and standards of practice; promotion of patient, employee, and physician satisfaction; and a member of the implementation teams for the Endoscopy and Surgical Services intraoperative documentation systems.

During the past four years, my role at Chesapeake Regional Healthcare changed significantly. I assumed a full time role as the Perioperative Services System Administer. One might think that I stepped out of the GI realm with this move, but I have not. I support the Endoscopy Endo writer, Sterile Processing Department instrument tracking system, the OR's Tissue Tracking Manager, and all periop nursing documentation and OR/Endo Scheduling applications. I was involved in the implementation of a new organization wide electronic medical record (EMR) system, which was an enormous plus to Endoscopy and the Surgical Services department, who had been working in a silo for so many years. Electronic documentation has afforded the opportunity to track patient care and procedure data, which has improved accuracy in data collected for tracking quality measures specific for GI nursing, in order to identify opportunities for improvement.

I love GI nursing for the opportunities that prevail - to be a part of a team and physicians who are innovative and dedicated to quality. The technical aspects of GI nursing give a sense of accomplishment and opportunities to use creativity to meet the ultimate positive outcomes, especially in therapeutic/ complicated procedures. I love challenges and problem solving opportunities, which is included in all my day to day activities. Even as a Nurse Informaticist, I continue to be involved as a nurse and resource to staff.

Along with my love for GI nursing, I love my family, which includes a son and daughter, who live close by and my adorable 7 year old grandson. Our four legged family members include two Aussies that are too smart for their own good. As a family, we have hosted 13 high school foreign exchange students over a span of 15 years, with each student spending a full school year living in and becoming a part of our family. I spent 20 years as a volunteer with the foreign exchange program, Youth for Understanding, as a student representative and mentor. Photography and travel are my top favorite past times, as well as a long walk on the beach with my Aussies.

I look forward to continuing to be involved in the organization and ODSGNA to help meet the needs of our members and the gastroenterology arena. I have a strong background as a Nurse Manager in maintaining a budget and as the region's current Treasurer. I look forward to the opportunity to serve ODSGNA for another four years as the Regional Treasurer. Please consider voting for me, as I will work hard to continue to meet the needs of ODSGNA.