

More FAQs About Shared Interest Groups

How do SIGs work?

SIGs have the autonomy to meet as they choose. We presume that most SIGs will meet face-to-face several times a year (perhaps monthly) at a time and location that meets the needs of its members. There will be no charge for these meetings. SIGs may also have reserved tables at GSAE luncheons. If SIG members find it convenient, SIGs may also conduct their meetings prior to or after GSAE luncheons.

Meetings will most often have a topic, though not a planned program. These are not symposia with speakers. They are opportunities for people with similar interests to come together to share experiences and ask questions.

Each SIG will also have a listserv on which members can post questions to the whole group between meetings.

Do I have to attend every meeting?

No, we recognize that every person can't attend every meeting. Go when you can, and no one will make you feel guilty when you can't be there. The listserv that accompanies each SIG will help keep everyone connected between meetings, and that connection will be even more important when you miss a meeting.

Can I join more than one?

Yes, you can join as many as you wish.

I have staff members who might benefit from a SIG. Can they join a SIG?

Only if they are GSAE members. Our goal with SIGs is to make GSAE more valuable to its members. If we allow non-members to attend, it dilutes the value. The cost of dues is a small price to pay for a year's worth of SIG connections.

I don't see a SIG that interests me. What can I do?

We're open to creating more SIGs. Each SIG needs a facilitator, so be ready to suggest someone (perhaps yourself) when you suggest a new topic.

Can corporate members join?

Yes. We believe that corporate members often provide expertise that is helpful to SIG members. We ask you to remember, however, that SIGs are about sharing information and building relationships. They are not appropriate places to sell your products and services.

If you participate and share good information, you'll automatically position yourself as the expert, and business will come your way. Hard-selling will be a turnoff, and it will diminish your ability to gain business from GSAE members.

