

# Board Member Perspective

## Insights from ANNA's First Emerging Nephrology Nurse Professional Fellow



**A**s the first member to serve in the newly created role of Emerging Nephrology Nurse Professional Fellow on the ANNA Board of Directors (BOD), I have been blessed with the opportunity to learn what happens behind the scenes of ANNA as an organization. Member satisfaction is on the mind of every board member. The BOD is always looking for ways ANNA can support nephrology nurses on the front lines of care, engage us to reach beyond our own nephrology nursing practice, and connect with medical professionals and patients across the nation and worldwide.

With a little over 1.5 years of nephrology nursing practice experience and 2 years as a nurse, I was seeking ways to get engaged beyond acute hemodialysis. I was looking for opportunities to get involved as I have a background in political science concentrated in health policy. My long-term goals are to be more active in changing our healthcare system from the ground up and improving the lives of patients through improved health policy legislation.

Being one of the youngest members on the BOD was intimidating at first, but I was warmly welcomed by the BOD and executive staff. I have grown as I learned from their wisdom and experience in nephrology practice. Throughout the 2021-2022 ANNA year, I was fortunate to become engaged in different ways, including:

- listening in on the Leadership Committee calls,
- being engaged with current health policy updates from Capitol Hill, and
- learning invaluable information at the National Symposium and Nephrology Nursing Practice, Management, and Leadership Conference.

One of my most memorable experiences was attending my first in-person board meeting, during which the BOD worked to create a new strategic plan for the upcoming 3 years. The BOD looked to me for a fresh perspective and suggestions for how ANNA can continually improve the member experience. I was honored to have a voice at the table!

ANNA President-Elect **Angela Kurosaka** has taken me under her wing, and I believe she will shake things up for the organization in promising ways in the future. I look forward to seeing what she plans to do next year as our ANNA President and hope to continue to support her in her mission to continually improve our organization.

Overall, I was very impressed with how well the board members worked together, and how they were not afraid to move away from the norm and propose big changes to the organization during strategic planning sessions. With the hard work put in by this BOD, the future of ANNA looks bright and engaging, with an even greater emphasis on inclusion and celebrating diversity within our organization.

As my time serving in this role wraps up, I want to continue my momentum by:

- advocating for new emerging nurses to join the nephrology nursing practice and become involved in ANNA,
- following the developments for nephrology nursing and patients on Capitol Hill, and
- advocating for policy changes that positively impact our patients.

I also want to become more involved with my local ANNA chapter and increase our membership and engagement. Ultimately, I would like to gain a few more years in nephrology practice before running to serve as a board member. I have enjoyed my experience immensely serving as the first Emerging Nephrology Nurse Professional Fellow on the ANNA BOD and appreciate the members who advocated for this meaningful experience. Thank you for this opportunity! ↑

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2021-2022 ANNA Board of Directors  
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### Listen to Podcast Interview

Virginia Henry shared her experience serving as the first Emerging Nephrology Nursing Professional Fellow on the ANNA Board of Directors in a recent episode of ANNA's *Nephrology Nursing Perspectives* podcast series. Access the podcast episode on the ANNA website at [annanurse.org/perspectives](http://annanurse.org/perspectives). ↑