

# 2021-2022 Annual Report

## Positioning ANNA for the Future through Strategic Planning



As the 2021-2022 ANNA year comes to an end, I want to thank you for the privilege and honor of serving as ANNA President. When I accepted the ANNA vision crystal at the start of my presidency, I had three goals for the organization:

- Continue to show appreciation for ANNA leaders and members
- Develop emerging nephrology nurse leaders
- Conduct strategic planning

## Highlights of the Year

### New Strategic Plan

Some ANNA “firsts” during the 2021-2022 year included the delivery of a “State of the Association” address to members previewing the new strategic plan. The focus of ANNA’s 2022-2025 Strategic Plan is the development and investment in Our People, Infrastructure, and Brand. During the Board of Directors (BOD) meeting in February 2022, ANNA leaders embarked on the first steps in planning and implementing this exciting new plan. View the 2022-2025 ANNA Strategic Plan online at [annanurse.org/strategicplan](http://annanurse.org/strategicplan) and watch for some big changes in the coming months for ANNA!

### Board of Directors

#### Composition and Terms of Office

ANNA welcomed the association’s first Emerging Nephrology Nurse Professional Fellow, **Virginia Henry**, to the BOD. We look forward to continuing this program in the year ahead and receiving input from this non-voting member of the Board. **Tanisha Leonard** will serve in this role during the 2022-2023 year.

Following the membership’s vote to approve a proposed amendment to the ANNA Bylaws, the terms of office for the roles of Secretary, Treasurer, and Director on the BOD will increase to 3 years starting in 2023. Additionally, beginning with the 2023 national election, individuals may serve no more than two full terms on the national BOD, plus completion of an unexpired term if they are elected or chosen to fill an unexpired term. Thank you to BOD members **Lillian Pryor**, **Tanya Scott**, **Nancy Colobong Smith**, and **Dr. Angie Kurosaka** for their work on this important initiative.

### Committees and Specialty Practice Networks

Another first this year included the implementation of a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee under the leadership of Chairperson **Dr. Loretta Jackson Brown**. Dr. Brown directed the committee in implementation of a member survey, education efforts across the association, and leadership in this crucial area of work.

The Health Policy Committee, under the direction of Chairperson **Donna Bednarski**, continued to advance ANNA’s advocacy efforts by lobbying for legislation, revising the *ESKD Briefing Book*, and collaborating with other organizations such as Kidney Care Partners, the Alliance for Home Dialysis, the American Society of Pediatric Nephrology, the National Kidney Foundation, and KDIGO, to name a few.

Additionally, another first was the formation of a Home Dialysis Task Force in response to the “Improving Access to Home Dialysis Act of 2021” (H.R. 5426). Chaired by **Donna Bednarski**, this task force will be holding a “think tank” to explore opportunities and barriers to improving access to home dialysis therapies.

Thank you to the Nominations Committee, spearheaded by Chairperson **Alice Luehr**, who presented a great panel of candidates for the 2022-2023 national election. Congratulations to the elected leaders who will join the BOD in May 2022: President-Elect **Jennifer Payton**, Secretary **Kristin Larson**, Director **Michelle Gilliland**, and Director **Faith Lynch**.

Thank you to members of the Research Committee, Drs. **Amber Paulus** and **Kelly Dyar**, for writing a proposal that secured a \$10,000 Project Firstline grant from the American Nurses Association (ANA) to promote infection prevention through the dissemination of ANA materials. Information about the Project Firstline initiative and links to the educational materials are available on the ANNA website at [annanurse.org/projectfirstline](http://annanurse.org/projectfirstline).

ANNA's Specialty Practice Networks (SPNs) continued their valuable contributions to the association. Under the oversight of SPN Chairperson **Faith Lynch**, SPN team members planned networking sessions for the National Symposium, updated clinical fact sheets, coordinated educational webinars on trending practice and professional topics, and shared their expertise via the discussion forums in ANNA Connected.



## Educational Opportunities and Resources

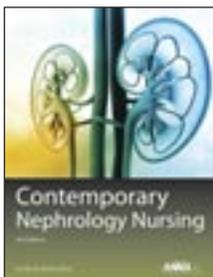
Education continues to be a focal point for the association. In summer 2021, the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) reaccredited ANNA as an approved provider of continuing education for 4 years. This reaccreditation status reaffirms the strength and validity of the education ANNA offers.

The 2021 National Symposium was held virtually due to the waning pandemic. September 2021 brought brighter times, and ANNA offered its first hybrid event, the Nephrology Nursing Practice, Management, and Leadership Conference. Registrants participated in person in Hollywood, FL, and virtually from their homes or workplaces.

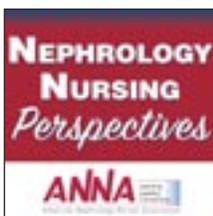
In October 2022, ANNA launched its first modular based Nephrology Nursing Certification Review Course. Developed by **Dr. Cynthia Smith**, the course prepares nurses for the Certified Nephrology Nurse (CNN), Certified Dialysis Nurse (CDN), or the Certified Nephrology Nurse-Nurse Practitioner (CNN-NP) exams.



Watch for the release of the fourth edition of ANNA's textbook, *Contemporary Nephrology Nursing*, in late spring 2022. This edition features new chapters and content to address the advancing practice of nephrology nursing. Thank you to Editor **Sandra Bodin** and the many authors and reviewers who contributed to this publication.



This year, ANNA also has been busy creating a series of podcast episodes. If you have not listened to them, I encourage you to check them out at [annanurse.org/podcast](http://annanurse.org/podcast). Also, another first was the creation of a "Why We Must Lead" video series. Stay tuned for a Leadership Challenge that will be launched very soon by the Leadership Committee.



In the end, although I may not have included your name in this report, I see all of you and appreciate your efforts, leadership, involvement, engagement, and hard work! Thank you for electing me and trusting me to serve as the first male president and the 52nd president of ANNA. I am humbled and honored to follow all the awesome leaders who served before me, and I hope I have done my part to continue ANNA's culture. This experience and responsibility will remain one of the best opportunities of my career!

To the current BOD – **Lillian Pryor, Dr. Angie Kurosaka, Sara Kennedy, Tanya Scott, Nancy Colobong Smith, Elizabeth St. John, Lucy Todd**, Emerging Nephrology Nurse Professional Fellow **Virginia Henry**, and Executive Director **Dr. Tamara Kear** – thank you for your engagement, leadership, and work to ensure we have a solid strategic plan in place and to uphold ANNA's mission to improve members' lives through education, advocacy, networking, and science. ↑

**David F. Walz, MBA, BSN, RN, CNN, FACHE**  
ANNA President  
Greater Minnesota Chapter #329