Alabama

R. Michael Huddle #235

Led by President Thelma Cunningham, our chapter hosted a Nephrology Nurses Week celebration at the Mobile Infirmary Medical Center in Mobile, AL. The 153 attendees enjoyed food, gift bags, and a CE on Wheels educational event entitled Substance Abuse, Addictive Personality.

Plans are underway for our next educational event, pending vendor support. Once the information is available, we will publicize the date, location, and topic via ANNA Connected.

Hazel Taylor #239

Three chapter members are running for positions on the national ANNA Board of Directors! Angie Kurosaka is running for president-elect, Barbara Odom is running for director, and Sara Kennedy is running for treasurer. Please watch for your national election ballot to arrive by email on December 4 and vote for your fellow chapter members!

Congratulations to the following chapter members who have earned recognition at their workplaces. Sherri Hendrix completed her BSN and was promoted to care manager on the renal floor at DCH Hospital in Tuscaloosa, AL. Lorie Hosmer was promoted to nurse manager of the renal floor at DCH Hospital.

Several chapter members attended ANNA’s Nephrology Nursing Practice, Management, and Leadership Conference in New Orleans. Jane Davis spoke at the conference.

We have been busy on the educational front as well! We hosted a meeting in Huntsville, AL, in August and a meeting in Birmingham, AL, in September for Nephrology Nurses Week. During this meeting, we showed off the five proclamations we received for Nephrology Nurses Week. We also held our 34th Annual Nephrology Update in Birmingham in November.

Nominations for chapter officer positions are due to Sara Kennedy (sarakennedy@bellsouth.net) by November 30. We need candidates for chapter president-elect and secretary. Please refer to the email sent out via ANNA Connected with information about running for a chapter officer role.

Members of the R. Michael Huddle Chapter participated in a Nephrology Nurses Week celebration in Mobile, AL. Pictured (from left) are Birtha Roberts, President Thelma Cunningham, and Health Policy Representative Susie Carswell.

The R. Michael Huddle Chapter hosted a Nephrology Nurses Week celebration in Mobile, AL.

The R. Michael Huddle Chapter hosted a Nephrology Nurses Week celebration that included an educational presentation and gift bags for attendees.
Watch for additional information regarding chapter events and news. Please contact a chapter officer with questions, comments, or suggestions for meeting topics or locations.

Arkansas

Arkansas #215

The nurses on the nephrology unit at Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week by providing two luncheons during the week. During a special recognition ceremony, five nurses were honored for completing advanced nursing degrees, two nurses were recognized for their service to the unit, and a Nurse of the Year was announced. Five nurses on the unit are ANNA members.

California

Nephros South #506

Our chapter is mourning the sudden loss of Barbara Merkle, the iconic leader of Nephros South. We are dedicating this article to her.

Barbara’s dream was to be a nurse. After graduation, she joined the Army and was a Major in the Army Nurse Corp, serving in Hawaii during the Vietnam War. In 1974, she moved to San Diego, where she resided until her death on August 13. She worked in nephrology nursing for over 30 years in a variety of roles in acute and chronic renal care, including outpatient dialysis, staff and patient education, shift supervisor of a chronic dialysis unit, home hemodialysis training coordinator, and primary nurse in a hospital-based dialysis unit. A staunch advocate for nephrology nursing, she was most comfortable as educator and mentor to nurses and technicians in the clinical setting. She enjoyed learning about the latest research and new advances in technology, surgery, and medical treatments for kidney disease.

Barbara was a role model to everyone. She provided compassionate and holistic care for her patients. She was serious about patient advocacy, utilizing all members of the multidisciplinary team. She expected integrity and excellence in herself and others. Her many attributes included honesty, respect, courage, and leadership. She combined an exceptional work ethic with a wonderful sense of humor. Everyone remembers her hearty laugh and her Bronx accent. Outspoken and opinionated, she lived her beliefs and walked her talk. She lived life with an open heart and an open hand.

Barbara’s commitment and passion were never more apparent than in her dedication to our chapter. She was a founder of the original chapter, Nephros, in 1978, which initially served both Orange and San Diego counties. As membership grew, the chapter split, and the San Diego Chapter became Nephros South. Barbara did more than any other member or officer to promote the success and longevity of Nephros South. She served in every office in the chapter more than once. When the chapter needed a treasurer and no one volunteered, Barbara “raffled” a piggy bank containing a note awarding the recipient the office of treasurer. The surprised and unsuspecting member graciously accepted. Some of us “stepped up to the plate” to become officers and still serve to this day.

Barbara was the backbone of the chapter for many years. Even after retiring from nursing in 2007, she continued to serve as an officer. Very generous with her talent, time, and resources, she was always available to assist, encourage, and coach other officers. She enabled the officers to attend the ANNA leadership orientation so that we could appreciate the scope of the national organization and learn more about our individual roles. We have many memories of our times together at ANNA national conferences, chapter events, local nursing programs, and high school health fairs. We always had fun as well. Like the time four of us sang Dallas on a downtown Dallas street corner while waiting for the bus to take us to the symphony. Barbara showed us how to enjoy our free time!

Barbara inspired all of us to develop and contribute our own ideas and skills. She was supportive and caring of her colleagues, promoting a balance of work and fun. She was a catalyst for the synergy and harmony that continues to exist among the current chapter officers. Our longstanding service and dedication to the chapter are a testament to Barbara’s legendary leadership. She was a giant among us. We now stand on the shoulders of this giant, navigating our way in a changing world of nephrology nursing. We are honored to have had her friendship and guidance.

Chumash #528

Our chapter celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week by hosting two nurse appreciation dinner parties – one on September 11 in Woodland Hills and another on September 13 in Oxnard. A total of 68 nurses and technicians attended the parties. Invitations were distributed to Chumash chapter members, including President Sandy Corrigan, who participated in Nephrology Nurses Week celebrations.

Ed Concepcion nominated Chumash chapter member Sandy Corrigan as a “STAR” nurse.
Chapter Update

Florida

South Florida Flamingo #206

Welcome to seven new chapter members: Leela Boodram, Margaret Hanner, Andy Hermoso Romero, Sherese Bennett, Lorianne English, Shawntavia Montero, and Regina Mujstra. We are excited that our chapter is growing steadily. We invite you to participate in chapter activities and consider serving as a chapter officer in the future. Welcome all!

We celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week with three educational dinner events on September 11 at Timpano Italian Chophouse in Ft. Lauderdale, September 12 at Fleming Steakhouse and Wine Bar in Coral Gables, Miami, and September 13 at Capital Grille in Palm Beach Gardens. We had a huge turnout, and we thank Amgen for sponsoring these dinners.

We also presented 2018 Nephrology Nurse and Nephrology Nurse Practitioner of the Year Awards. Lorianne English received the Nephrology Nurse Practitioner of the Year Award, and Jeanette Mitchell was recognized as Nephrology Nurse of the Year with three educational dinner events on September 11 at Timpano Italian Chophouse in Ft. Lauderdale, September 12 at Fleming Steakhouse and Wine Bar in Coral Gables, Miami, and September 13 at Capital Grille in Palm Beach Gardens. We had a huge turnout, and we thank Amgen for sponsoring these dinners.

We also presented 2018 Nephrology Nurse and Nephrology Nurse Practitioner of the Year Awards. Lorianne English received the Nephrology Nurse Practitioner of the Year Award, and Jeanette Mitchell was recognized as Nephrology Nurse of the Year.

Attendees at the Nephrology Nurses Week celebrations hosted by the Chumash Chapter had the opportunity to win raffle prizes.

Dr. Debra Hain, president of the South Florida Flamingo Chapter, and colleagues supervised undergraduate nursing students who were screening for diabetes, hypertension, and CKD in a rural Appalachian community.

South Florida Flamingo President-Elect Shushanne Wynter-Minott presented the Nephrology Nurse Practitioner of the Year 2018 to Lorianne English (right) at a chapter dinner event during Nephrology Nurses Week.

Jeanette Mitchell (left) received a plaque for the 2018 Nephrology Nurse of the Year from South Florida Flamingo Chapter President-Elect Shushanne Wynter-Minott.

dialysis centers and nephrology offices within the chapter area prior to the events, and included a call for nominations for nurses who go the extra mile to improve patient experience as “STARs.” This year, nine nurses were nominated! All of them received certificates of appreciation and were offered the opportunity to give an acceptance speech. Attendees also participated in the raffle drawing, and a few lucky winners received gift baskets full of goodies.

The September events also served as farewell parties for our chapter president, Sandy Corrigan, who is retiring and relocating to Tennessee. Sandy has been working in the nephrology field in different capacities for 38 years, most recently as a nurse practitioner. She has been a great leader for our chapter, and we will miss her! Sandy is looking forward to staying active with ANNA after retiring. Thank you, Sandy, for your many contributions. We wish you all best in this new chapter in your life!
the Year. The winners with a plaque and gifts.

Dr. Debra Hain, our chapter president, has been busy supervising undergraduate nursing students who were screening for diabetes, hypertension, and CKD in a rural Appalachian community. Thank you, Deb, for all you do!

We will host a certification review on March 2-3, 2019, at Hollywood Memorial Hospital in Hollywood, FL.

We are busy building a great chapter and always looking for volunteers!

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**Georgia**

**Dogwood #224**

Our chapter celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week with a Renal Certification Jeopardy game and had fun tapping into our creative side with wine glass painting and kidney cookie decorating. We received Kidney Disease Awareness and Education Week and Nephrology Nurse Week proclamations from Governor Nathan Deal. On October 16, Amgen sponsored a dinner meeting at Maggiano’s Perimeter.

Lillian Pryor and Angela Taylor-Smith attended the ANNA Board of Directors meeting at the ANNA fall conference in New Orleans. We are excited that Lillian is running for ANNA National President-Elect! Erma Boykin will be the Chronic Kidney Disease SPN Leader for the upcoming year. We are very lucky to have such positive role models encouraging ANNA membership and mentoring future leaders in our organization.

Welcome to our newest members: Vaughna Everett, Josephine Garcellano, Phuc Lieu, Russell Neptune, Adrian Outridge, Carey Vaughn, Ashley Costello, Peter Dural, Vickie Jones-Sanders, Patti Key, Erica Moss, and Jennifer Tyson!

We are happy to spotlight the Atlanta VA Medical Center nephrology and dialysis nurses in this issue. We are honored to have you as a part of our chapter!

Watch for details regarding the annual holiday “Toys for Tots” meeting sponsored by Pentec. As we look forward to spending time with our families at Thanksgiving, we are also blessed with our ANNA family and colleagues.

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**Illinois**

**Windy City #305**

As this article was going to press, our chapter was still collecting registrations for our fall dinner/educational program featuring the Tablo®, a versatile, all-in-one portable RO. The program, co-sponsored by Outset, was held October 11 at Pescatore Palace Restaurant in Franklin Park, IL.

This is your last chance to take your chapter involvement to the next level! A Call for Nominations will go out to all chapter members through ANNA Connected. Contact a chapter officer and get your name on the ballot to become a chapter officer for the next fiscal year (2019-2020). Chapter officers will be appointed if enough candidates are not available to fill a ballot. The deadline to submit your name is December 1. Think about it and let us know as soon as possible. You may contact any chapter officer through our Facebook page – www.facebook.com/ANNAwindycity – for further questions and support. You are never alone in our chapter. There is always an experienced colleague to offer assistance as needed. Don’t be afraid to get more involved!

Looking ahead to the new year, start planning now for the 2019 National Symposium to be held April 14-17 at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas, TX. ANNA will celebrate its 50th anniversary of service to the nephrology community. Watch the ANNA website (annanurse.org) for details.

We are always looking for assistance in planning chapter programs, events, and activities. If you have suggestions, please contact a chapter officer. Our chapter is only as educational and fun as our most active members. Continue to learn, lead, and connect with your local chapter. Share your thoughts and happy holidays!

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**Kentucky**

**Bluegrass #322**

It is hard to believe that 2018 is drawing to a close. As you set your goals for the coming year, please consider an officer role in your chapter. We are currently accepting nominations for officer positions to start in April 2019, and we would love to hear from you. These roles are not overly time consuming and they provide a wonderful opportunity for professional growth. For more information, contact Chapter President Gail Starnes at gstar2@twc.com.
Chapter Update

Thank you to all the nurses and technicians who attended the KHAKY/IPRO Renal Conference in Louisville, KY, on September 11. Our chapter was involved in planning this highly rated interdisciplinary conference.

Our chapter also held a CE on Wheels program at UK Hospital on September 27.

We wish all of you a very merry and safe holiday season.

Maryland

Baltimore #101

Welcome to the new members who joined our chapter in 2018: Sheena, Meskerem, Tinika, Deena, Patricia, Wilma, Nicole, Michele, Myla, Candice, Eunice, Shannon, Nolya, Roxana, Yannel, Nathaniel, Denise, Holly, Stephanie, Lori-Ann, Amalia, Paula, Angela, Christine, Kimberly, Esl, Laxmi, Jolie, Sonja, Muyeon, and David.

We hope that you attended the chapter conference on November 11 at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Baltimore. Continuing education is probably the most important reason that you joined ANNA, and attending a conference is an excellent way to earn CE credits in a short period of time. Speakers add their personal experiences and enthusiasm when sharing on a topic that stays in your memory more easily than reading a CE article by yourself. We hope that you also used the conference as an opportunity to meet and network with other nephrology professionals. In addition, the vendors at the back of the room offered another opportunity for education, but in an informal, hands-on format. The Baltimore Chapter works to provide a local conference every year.

The national conference has ten times the impact of the local chapter conference! We encourage all members to attend one of the ANNA national conferences in the upcoming year. A national conference has so many excellent speakers and topics. When you return home, you can listen to more sessions online and earn even more CE credits. The networking is great at the national conference, with a fantastic app for posting pictures, making comments, and connecting with people you have met along the way.

Wait until you see the exhibit hall! You will have an opportunity to see, touch, and hear about renal products. You will walk out with bags full of literature, samples, and new contacts. The posters also are in the exhibit hall. These are inspiring presentations by members from all over the world who share a practice or an idea in a visual format. You may be motivated to try one of these ideas or to develop your own poster for next year’s conference. The national conference is so rich with information, it will take you months to review and digest it all. It is well worth the effort and the cost to attend.

Now to make plans to attend the 2019 National Symposium in Dallas or the 2019 Nephrology Nursing Practice, Management, and Leadership Conference in San Diego.

Michigan

Michiganna #312

The chapter had a wonderful turnout for our fall conference held at the historic Grand Hotel on beautiful Mackinac Island. Eleven people participated in the CNN/CDN review on Saturday, and there were 41 conference attendees from all over Michigan.

The conference featured excellent topics and even greater speakers. Speakers included Dr. Michael Kraus, Dr. Ramin Tolouian, Jennifer Mansfield, Schwana Thaxton, and Penny Baker. Thank you to the speakers for sharing such valuable information to help us provide the best patient care in our practice. CE credits were available as follows: 5.25 from ANNA, 1.0 from NxStage, and 4.8 for those who attended the CNN/CDN review – for a total of over 11 CE credits.

The conference included raffles with the following lucky winners: a 50/50 raffle – Kim Sims; Michigan gift basket – Bonnie Wagner; a spa gift basket – Emilie Curtis; and a movie gift basket – Rosemarie Paclibar. Congratulations to the winners!
Vendors included NxStage Medical, B. Braun, Medisystems, Hillestadt Pharmacy, Sanofi, and Fresenius Renal Therapy Group. Thank you to the vendors for their support, promotion of nephrology education, lunches, and helping make our conference so successful!

**Minnesota**

**Greater Minnesota #329**

Our chapter is pleased to endorse **David Walz** for ANNA President-Elect. David is the Section Director for Family Birthing Services, CentraCare Health, Central Minnesota. Previously, he was the Program Director for the CentraCare Kidney Program, a hospital owned and operated 10-facility dialysis programs along with a large acute program. David has been involved in ANNA for 22 years. He has impacted our patients and our practice in Greater Minnesota. David has experience with hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, home hemodialysis, nocturnal dialysis, and acute dialysis (IHD, CRRT, PD, TPE, and aquapheresis). He has been instrumental in developing staff-assisted HHD in a nursing home. On the local level, David has been involved in our chapter by serving as treasurer, health policy representative, president-elect, and president. David has been highly involved in our chapter conferences and collaborative conferences with the Southeast Minnesota Chapter. On the national level, he is currently serving his second year on the national board as treasurer. He has chaired health policy and has attended the Nurse in Washington Internship in Washington, DC. He has lobbied on Capitol Hill with ANNA on behalf of our patient population. We are incredibly thankful to have had David’s leadership, friendship, and support these past years. We feel David would represent ANNA members with the hard work and passion that he has shown these past 22 years. Again, the chapter highly recommends you vote for David Walz as our next ANNA President-Elect.

**Missouri**

**St. Louis Metro #307**

Our chapter has been very busy since the last update. Relypsa hosted a speaker event with dinner at Flemings Restaurant.
on August 28, Attendees learned more about Veltassa from St Louis’ own Dr. Rothstein as we enjoyed excellent fare. We conducted a business meeting and presented early Nephrology Nurses Week gifts.

During Nephrology Nurses Week, chapter members each received an e-gift card in appreciation for all they do for our renal community throughout the year.

Sanofi Genzyme hosted a speaker event at Bonefish Grill on September 27. We learned about Fabry disease and its treatment. The food was delicious, and we enjoyed getting together as a group.

On October 18, we held the St. Louis Metro ANNA Fall Nephrology Education Day at St Luke’s Hospital. The event featured great speakers and provided CE credits.

Central Missouri #318

On September 1, the chapter held an educational dinner meeting on Fabry Disease in Nephrology Patients at Brasserie French Steakhouse in Columbia, MO.
Linda Manwaring from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, MO, was the speaker. She is a genetic counselor for the Department of Pediatrics, Division of Genetics and Genomic Medicine. The program was very interesting and informative. Attendees included nurses, social workers, technicians, and dietitians.

Our fall 1-day conference, Nephrology Update, was held on November 1 at the Courtyard by Marriott in Columbia, MO. Designed for health care providers who care for CKD and dialysis patients, the program featured a wide variety of topics and speakers, including two patient speakers.

New Jersey

Garden State #125

We hope everyone had a chance to celebrate Nephrology Nurses Week. Chapter leaders visited numerous facilities for Nephrology Nurses Week to provide staff with information about our chapter, ANNA, and ANNA membership. The visits were well received, and staff were receptive.

The QIRN Meeting was held October 4 at iPlay America in Freehold, NJ.

The ANNA Garden State Chapter Fall Meeting will be held November 19 at Crowne Plaza in Edison, NJ. There are plans in place for a certification review course at Capital Health in Trenton, NJ, in January. Flyers will be distributed when plans are finalized.

Thank you to our chapter members for their continued support. If you are interested in volunteering in the chapter in some capacity, we welcome you with open arms. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming meetings. Please introduce yourself. We would like to get to know our members better. We hope everyone enjoys the upcoming holidays.

Jersey North #126

In honor of Nephrology Nurses Week, our chapter held a Certification Review Course on September 30. The meeting was very successful with 54 attendees. All attendees were eligible for a free raffle for ANNA lunch bags and ANNA memberships. In addition, each attendee received an ANNA stylus pen. Pictures were posted on our Facebook page. Thank you to speakers and attendees for your commitment to ANNA and your patients.

A call for nominations for chapter officers for 2019-2020 was made. We are seeking candidates for president-elect, treasurer, and health policy representative. We are also looking for a secretary-in-training for the 2020-2021 chapter year. If you are interested, email Kim Proulx at kp1269@yahoo.com.

We ask all our members to save the date for our annual Spring Conference tentatively scheduled for April 4, 2019. Details will follow via ANNA Connected.

New York

Big Apple #102

Thank you to all of you who volunteered for our community events in Brooklyn and Queens during the summer.

Thank you also to Kimberly Dittenhoefer and her team from Amgen for sponsoring our second Nephrology Nurses Week celebration at Morton's Steakhouse in Queens. We had a wonderful time learning, eating, and connecting! Dr. Joel Neugarten from Montefiore Hospital

Big Apple chapter members Karen Johnson-Fairclough, Cecelia Portes, and Tessie Achumbre along with other volunteers, Briana Morrison and Nerene Barrett, provided education on kidney disease at a community event in Queens, NY.

Big Apple chapter members and nephrology nurses celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week. Participants included nurses from Nassau University Medical Center, Long Island Jewish Medical Center, and Queens Dialysis at the Pavilion.
Chapter Update

provided the educational presentation. He also serves as a professor of Medicine at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Medical Director at Riverdale Dialysis.

Thanks to Dr. Cecile Lewis for all your efforts in making our celebration a success!

As we continue to grow and aspire towards excellence, we need support and commitment from everyone.

Northeast Tri-State #120

This fall, our chapter has jumped right into the swim of educational activities. On September 18, we were treated to a look at an emerging therapy, Seamless Peritoneal Dialysis, presented by Dr. Vincent Carsillo, area nephrologist, and Dr. Michael Gallichio, local dialysis access surgeon, via a WebEx format. Several sites and individuals throughout our chapter area were online for the presentation. This promising therapy promotes almost immediate use of the catheter after surgical implantation with full volume exchanges within days vs. weeks. For select candidates, this may be a therapy that bypasses the traditional hemodialysis catheter and may potentially decrease catheter use in immediate start patients. Attendees were enthusiastic to hear about this promising treatment plan.

Our fall CE event, A Salute to the Basics of Dialysis, also honored our nation’s veterans. This full-day conference was held at the historic Queensbury Hotel in Glens Falls, NY, on November 11. Topics included potassium management, the CMS ultrafiltration guidelines, dry weight boot camp, vascular access, the renal diet, water treatment, and the value of professional associations and volunteerism.

North Carolina

Cardinal #201

Hurricane Florence finally decided to move on! Our chapter is thankful for the many agencies, volunteers, and staff that ensured our dialysis patients were safe and received their dialysis treatments. They put the needs of others ahead of their own, and many were still recovering from Matthew when Florence decided to visit.

Due to the multiple road closings, the Nephrology Nurses Week dinner meeting was delayed. The dinner and presentation were sponsored by Otsuka. Dr. Jason Eckel, a nephrologist, presented Polycystic Kidney Disease.

Greater Charlotte chapter members participated in an educational dinner sponsored by Amgen during Nephrology Nurses Week.

Chapter members participated in the Triangle Kidney Walk at the Durham Bulls Athletic Park in Durham, NC, on November 4.

Check your ANNA Connected mail as the chapter will soon be requesting nominations for 2019 officers. Contact President-Elect Yvonne Blake at ykblake@uncg.edu if you have any questions.

Greater Charlotte #202

The chapter enjoyed an educational dinner sponsored by Alexion with our own Rhonda Duggan as speaker in August and another educational dinner sponsored by Amgen in September. During our September dinner, we celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week by distributing bags of candy to area dialysis clinics and door prizes that included a 1-year membership to ANNA. We also offered half-price memberships for new members during the month of September.

The Greater Charlotte Chapter distributed gift bags to area clinics during Nephrology Nurses Week.

Lorraine Belevan, Virginia Bello, Janet Posadas, and other attendees listened attentively to a presentation by Dr. Joel Neugarten during a Nephrology Nurses Week program hosted by the Big Apple Chapter.
Several members attended the Nephrology Nursing Practice, Management, and Leadership Conference in New Orleans in September. Chapter members Rhonda Duggan and Kevin Lowe presented at the meeting.

Chapter members participated in educational dinners on October 25 and November 10. The November program, Nephrology Essentials Update, was held at the CMC/Atrium Transplant Center and featured five speakers and offered 6.25 CE credits.

Our last event of the year will be held on December 6 at the Wine Vault at University Place. We will have a holiday fundraiser with multiple items for raffle. The proceeds will help several families and children with kidney disease.

**Blue Ridge #262**

We hosted a Wine and Cheese Event on October 27 in downtown Asheville, NC. Patti Brooks, our chapter treasurer, is working on a Facebook page for our chapter. President Lucy Todd and Secretary/Health Policy Representative Becki Benfield are serving on the planning committee for the 12th annual North Carolina State Symposium scheduled for May 2019. Becki has sent out “save the date” information to chapter members and also to previous attendees not affiliated with one of the four North Carolina chapters.

**Ohio**

**Tri State Ohio #317**

Our chapter is continuing the “Third Thursday” Lecture Series through 2018. This series includes an interesting lecture and dinner on the third Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at various locations. Visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/annatristateohio or refer to the communications sent via ANNA Connected for more information.

We are looking for new members to step into leadership positions in 2019. If you are interested, please reach out to one of the current officers.

**Black Swamp #323**

During Nephrology Nurses Week, chapter members visited dialysis units in surrounding areas. We gave candy bags to nurses and thanked them for all they do for nephrology patients and their families. Chapter President Theresa Felton and Treasurer Ruth Pudlowski participated in the Nephrology Nurses Week visits.

**Pennsylvania**

**Three Rivers #104**

Our chapter held a meet and greet at the Edgewood Winery and Event Center on...
Chapter Update

September 30. This free educational opportunity featured speaker Dr. Katherine Maringer from Otsuka Pharmaceutical, who gave a very interesting presentation on polycystic kidney disease. The event, which also included free lunch, door prizes, and free wine tasting, was held as a special thank you in honor of Nephrology Nurses Week. The chapter thanks all nephrology nurses in our area and in our chapter who work hard every day to care for patients with kidney disease.

Chapter members participated in the NKF Kidney Walk at PPG Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium on November 4. Chapter officers were present before the walk to share chapter information and ANNA membership applications.

The chapter educational committee is always looking for new members and new ideas. We appreciate and welcome input and new ideas from nephrology nurses, technicians, dieticians, and social workers. Chapter Secretary Sue Ralph is working with President Nina Mazzei-Parrish and interim Treasurer Sue Carter. Nominations are currently being accepted for 2019 chapter officer positions. If you are interested in serving as an officer or joining the educational committee, contact us or reach out via ANNA Connected.

Keystone #110

On September 11, chapter members met with Representative Dwight Evans from Philadelphia. He presented the chapter with a proclamation for Nephrology Nurses Week. Participants enjoyed a rewarding meeting and productive roundtable discussion.

Chapter members met for a dinner meeting at The Bourbon House in New Orleans, LA, during the ANNA fall conference. Attendees included ANNA President-Elect Tamara Kear, Keystone President Paula Richards, Keystone President-Elect Lauren Pepe, Keystone Secretary Colleen Pittman, Linda Wright, and Allison Farrell.

On October 18, Amgen sponsored a dinner meeting at Top Cut Steakhouse in Center Valley, PA. Ashley Lister hosted the event. On October 25, Amgen sponsored a dinner meeting at The Prime Rib in Philadelphia, PA. Matt Brown hosted the event.

Black Swamp Chapter President Theresa Felton (right) visited Fresenius Home Care Unit in Maumee, OH, during Nephrology Nurses Week. She is pictured with Traci Hornyak and Eileen Scott.

The Keystone Chapter received a proclamation for Nephrology Nurses Week from Pennsylvania Representative Dwight Evans (D-PA-02). Pictured (from left) are Tamara Kear, Marcia Goldstein, Paula Richards, Representative Dwight Evans, Nida Quirong-Jones, Colleen Pittman, and Lauren Pepe.

Staff at Memorial Hermann Acute Dialysis celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week with a breakfast and pot luck.
Texas

Gulf Coast #204

Chapter members volunteered to perform kidney health screenings during an American Kidney Fund event in Houston, TX.

On August 29, chapter members enjoyed an educational program on Short Bowel Syndrome. This event was held at the very tasty Brazilian Stake House in Houston, TX.

Alamo City #205

Thirty-one chapter members and guests enjoyed a fun-filled day celebrating Nephrology Nurses Week when they rode a bus to the Lucky Eagle Casino in Eagle Pass, TX. While on the bus, the group watched the video, The American Nurse Project, and earned 1.25 CE credits. Chapter Treasurer Joseph Myers headed up this project. Every participant was a winner, but one lucky person won $160, too!

Our October dinner meeting was held at Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen and was hosted by Debra Gonzalez from Alexion. Dr. Troy Quigg from the Texas Transplant Institute and Methodist Children’s Hospital spoke on Atypical Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome. We had a great turnout and a fun time networking with our San Antonio colleagues.

On November 10, the chapter hosted a Certification Review Course at Texas Diabetes Institute in San Antonio, TX. Mary Schira was the featured speaker along with other chapter members: Jeff Tyer, Mikki Ward, Raymond Cavazos, Cathy Lewis, Anita Saldana, Rosanna

Gulf Coast chapter members participated in an educational program on short bowel syndrome.

Gulf Coast chapter members performed kidney health screenings during an American Kidney Fund event in Houston.

Alamo City chapter members celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week with a bus trip to Kickapoo Lucky Eagle Casino.

Dallas chapter members celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week with an educational dinner sponsored by Amgen. Pictured are Deede Parikh, Mary McGraw, Laura Cato, Donna Painter, Cindy Wright, Naveena Reddy, Dr. Rodolfo Batarse (speaker), Dany Anchia, Nenita Cuellar, Glenda Payne, and John Boyd (Amgen Representative Dallas and surrounding area).
Chapter Update

Escobedo, Amanda Pang-Sheldon, and Gail Dewald, Hazel Tremor and Barbara Patton helped organize the event. Attendees received 7.5 CE credits and an opportunity to prepare for the CNN, CDN, CD-LVN, and CCHT certification exams. It was a great day of learning!

Dallas #208

The chapter’s Nephrology Nurses Week celebration, supported by Amgen, was held at Pappadeaux. Participants enjoyed fabulous food while learning about dosing and administration of Parsabiv™. We had a great time catching up with nephrology nursing friends and raffling several door prizes. Niketa Turner won the $50 gift card.

Our fall educational program, Fresh Alternatives to Old Challenges in Dialysis Management, was held November 15. Glenda Payne presented “Accreditation Standards and Process vs. Conditions for Coverage and Certification Process,” and Nenita Cuellar presented “For the Nurse, By the Nurse: Innovative Dialysis Staffing Models.”

Congratulations to Tina James, who was recently acknowledged by Fresenius Kidney Care for 40 years of service caring for nephrology patients.

Chapter communications to members are sent via ANNA Connected and the Dallas Chapter website: annadallas.nursingnetwork.com. Please make sure your ANNA profile email address is current.

Puerto Rico

Caribbean #210

On June 8, our chapter co-sponsored an educational meeting with Quality Insights Renal Network 3. Approximately 110 nephrology nurses attended this excellent program focused on patient safety. Case presentations facilitated interesting discussions. Participants received 6.75 CE credits.

Nephrology nurses from the renal transplant unit at Auxilio Mutuo Hospital celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week. Maribel Pintado provided a short presentation about our chapter.

We hosted a certification exam in Puerto Rico during the month of October for those interesting in certification. Our next educational offering is scheduled for November 28.

Corporate-Plus Members

Amgen, Inc.
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NxStage Medical, Inc.
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