Alabama

Hazel Taylor #239

Our chapter has been working hard! We hosted a successful 37th Annual Nephrology Update meeting via Zoom on October 15. The program was well attended, and we were able to feature virtual vendors this year. This was a new process for us, and we were excited to offer this opportunity.

In November, we offered a peritoneal dialysis update meeting by Baxter Healthcare via Zoom. We are so thankful for their support.

Chapter elections will be held in December. Watch ANNA Connected for information regarding chapter elections.

Congratulations to Angie Kurosaka, who will become the ANNA National President in May 2022! Welcome to a new member of the program committee, Kimberly Whitt. She joins Tanisha Leonard on that committee.

Please reach out to any chapter officer with comments, suggestions, or ideas for education. Our officers for this year are President Angie Kurosaka, President-Elect Patti Patterson, Secretary Cindy Richards, Treasurer Sara Kennedy, Health Policy Representative Vickie Kanute, and Program Committee Members Tanisha Leonard and Kimberly Whitt.

Arizona

Desert Vista #501

Welcome to new members who joined our chapter in September: Venecieva Bittmanova, Toni Hays, Pritchmat Sasiar, and Jason Young! We are planning an educational meeting for November and hope to see as many of our members as possible. We are also looking for members to consider volunteering as chapter officers. We would like some new ideas for events and opportunities for our chapter.

California

Nephros South #506

After the excitement of our in-person education event in July, we have not been able to schedule another in-person meeting. The surge of COVID-19 cases due to the delta variant has reminded us of the importance of following guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to mitigate the risk for our patients and ourselves. In the meantime, Nephros South plans to use ANNA webinars to provide continuing education for chapter members for the near future.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a silo effect for many of us. We have isolated ourselves for the past year and a half, and while we are cautiously optimistic, we have not fully recovered from the negative impact of the pandemic. It is important to remember and encourage members to take advantage of all the benefits of ANNA membership. Please avail yourselves of the education modules and other offerings in the ANNA Online Library. Stay up to date with policy changes and legislation that affect nephrology nursing and the population with kidney disease. Consider attending the ANNA National Symposium in Fort Worth, TX, in May 2022. Stay connected!

We hope you took time to celebrate Nephrology Nurses Week in September. The dialysis unit at University of California San Diego promoted their week of celebration with a banner at the entrance to their unit, and Wendy Lester, nurse manager, brought baked goodies to treat the nurses and staff. The nephrology nurses at San Diego VA dialysis unit celebrated with daily raffles of Nephrology Nurses Week gifts and prizes. We consumed too much sugar and ended the week with a pizza party. We also gave special recognition to Certified Nephrology Nurses (CNNs) for their professional commitment to excellence in nephrology nursing. Our nephrologists treated all of us with individual boxes of chocolate! Hopefully, every nephrology nurse felt honored and appreciated during Nephrology Nurses Week!

We cannot know what lies ahead, but “still like air, (we) rise!”

South Florida Flamingo #206

The chapter has held at least one educational dinner each month, and participation has been excellent. We celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week at Capital Grille in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, on September 14. The evening was sponsored by Veloxis and Myriam Alfonso. Dr. Lynsey Bowman presented Core Deck and Rapid Metabolizer. Congratulations to Tuyen Nguyen and Loreen Fontil, who won door prizes. All attendees went home with a small gift in celebration of Nephrology Nurses Week.

On October 12, Dr. Cris Gibson from Amgen was recognized for his ongoing support of our chapter and his dedication to the science and research benefiting nephrology patients. The event was held at Arturo’s Ristorante in Boca Raton, FL, and was well attended.

Dr. Manish Patel from Akebia hosted an educational dinner on Anemia and the Nephrology Patient in Dade County in October. Everyone enjoyed Dr. Patel’s presentation, and we welcome him to speak at another meeting in Palm Beach or Broward County soon.

We had fun at the Nephrology Nursing Practice, Management, and Leadership Conference in Hollywood, FL. We enjoyed meeting ANNA members from all over the country, including Washington, Utah, North Dakota, and New Jersey! Thank you to all who visited our flamingo and beach themed table. The exhibit hall was educational and a great way to learn about new products and procedures in nephrology.

The Miami Kidney Walk on October 3 was virtual again this year, but the
Broward Kidney Walk gave people a choice of participating virtually or in person at Plantation Central Park in Plantation, FL, on November 13. Several chapter members volunteered to take temperatures and hand out masks. It was great to see so many participate.

Congratulations to our chapter president, Daniela Chetan, on being featured in the Member Spotlight article in the September/October 2021 issue of the ANNA Update.

Welcome to our new members: May Zar, Tatiana Plekhanova, Annmarie Duggan, Cesar Del Collado Baez, and Marvin Rosete. Please let us know if there is any way we can assist you as you discover the benefits of ANNA membership.

**Suncoast #213**

On September 10-12, we hosted a successful annual meeting offering over 16.0 contact hours at the TradeWinds Grand Island Resort in St. Pete Beach, FL. On Friday, we offered an opportunity for members to attend review courses to prepare for a certification exam. Saturday was very educational with new information on cutting edge medications and technology along with mandatory law requirements.

The chapter offered entrance to a comedy club on Saturday evening for Nephrology Nurses Week. On Sunday, the meeting wrapped up with great topics such as infection control and anemia and a mandatory human trafficking course.

Marcia Alhamedi was the lucky winner of the top prize at the Suncoast Chapter’s annual meeting – a gift basket valued at over $300.
presented by Selah Freedom. We had many new vendors offering their support and educating members on new technology. We hoping even more members join us next year, hopefully at the same location on the beach.

**Illinois**

Windy City #305

Welcome to our new and renewing members: Rosemarie Agapito, Geta Marberry, Dayna Troutman, Cathleen Bates, Elesa Hodges, Melanie Sebby, Darrian Sullivan, Raluca Cupic, Jerryl Anne Hisoler, Kelly Keating, Diane Mensah, Andrea Minson, Katleen Tiongson, and Michelle Tiller. We hope to see you at our next event.

Congratulations to Chapter Secretary Dean Baron for being selected by the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) Council of Nephrology Nurses and Technicians (CNNT) to receive the Outstanding Nurse Award. He will accept the award during the CNNT networking reception on April 8, 2022, in Boston, MA. The award is given yearly to an individual who shows dedication to their patients and profession.

Our chapter hosted an educational event sponsored by Natera on October 14 at Wildfire Steakhouse in Oakbrook, IL. Dr. Gerry Zingraf presented Kidney Transplant: The Pre-transplant Phase.

Our chapter collaborated with the Philippine Nurses Association of America-Illinois Chapter to host a kidney and diabetes screening at St. Domitilla Church in Hillside, IL, on October 27. The screening was in partnership with the NKF of Illinois.

Kentucky

Bluegrass #322

Congratulations to chapter member Ronald Hale for receiving a Quality Improvement Award from the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission for his work, “Reducing Hyperphosphatemia in Hemodialysis Patients Using a Patient Centered Approach.”

The chapter was busy with Nephrology Nurses Week in September. Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear proclaimed September 12-18 Nephrology Nurses Week in Kentucky. Chapter leaders, including Gail Starnes, delivered goodies to support nephrology nurses in in-center hemodialysis and acute units during Nephrology Nurses Week.

Bluegrass chapter officer Gail Starnes (left) delivered goodies to support nephrology nurses in in-center hemodialysis and acute units during Nephrology Nurses Week.
Louisiana

Fleur-de-Lis #263

Our chapter is proud to announce we received two proclamations recognizing Nephrology Nurses Week on September 12-18, 2021. One proclamation was from Baton Rouge Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome, and the second proclamation was from Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards. It is such an honor for nephrology nurses to be recognized for their extraordinary efforts in providing lifesaving care for millions of Americans with kidney disease. Thank you to Amanda Farr, chapter health policy representative, for contacting these legislators regarding the important work of nephrology nurses, which resulted in these prestigious proclamations.

Maryland

Baltimore #101

We are hoping to hold an in-person meeting in the spring. We also are planning for a meeting in the Columbia/Bowie area in the near future. Please contact us if you would like to be part of our chapter or if you have ideas for meeting topics.

Michigan

MichigANNA #312

Our chapter continues to participate and network across the state of Michigan. On September 22, Chapter President Nikeya Davis and ANNA Health Policy Committee Member Marijo Johnson attended Kidney Community Advocacy Day virtual meetings with Michigan senators and representatives.

Several chapter members participated in person at the 2021 Greenfield Health System Renal Symposium on September 23. For some of us, this was our first in-person conference after a long hiatus due to the pandemic. Protocols and safety measures were followed.

Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer made a state proclamation declaring September 12-18 as Nephrology Nurses Week. Thank you to Chapter Health Policy Representative Terrie Colvard for her involvement in this milestone!

Congratulations to Chapter President Nikeya Davis on being selected as an inaugural member of the American Kidney Fund’s Health Equity Coalition.

The chapter has ongoing activities that include kidney pin sales, thanks to our fundraiser committee headed by Treasurer Mary Hansen. Our chapter also offered a discounted group rate for the Nephrology Nursing Practice, Management, and Leadership Conference, and some members gladly jumped on the opportunity to get great education at a great price.

As we near the end of the year, we are getting ready to start chapter elections in December. As we look for volunteers to continue the amazing job our current board has accomplished, we hope for great candidates. Open positions include president-elect, treasurer, and health policy representative.
Future activities include a spring 2022 conference that our education committee is already designing and planning as a collaboration with other professional organizations.

Missouri

St. Louis Metro #307
The chapter celebrated our dedicated members during Nephrology Nurses Week (September 12-18). Sanofi Genzyme helped us celebrate by hosting a dinner education event on September 14 at Bravo in West County Center. Meghan Strenk from Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City presented *Fabry Disease: A General Guide*. Prior to the program, we held a drawing for a 1-year ANNA membership. Congratulations to the winner, Sue Rice, and welcome to our ANNA family! Phyllis Townsend, Cyndi Hart, Judith Arevalo-Orendain, and Susan Fleming won chrysanthemums. Our chapter also offered a choice of Panera, Amazon, and Starbucks gift cards to members as a token of appreciation. Thank you to our chapter members for everything you do to care for patients and for elevating our profession!

Congratulations to Louise Elpers, who is featured in the Member Spotlight article in this issue. Louise embodies ANNA’s mission to improve members’ lives through education, advocacy, networking, and science. Thank you for sharing a lifetime of experience, knowledge, research, and passion. We are proud of you and all you continue to share in your retirement.

As the chapter prepares for our annual election, please consider volunteering your time and talent. If you would like to serve as a chapter officer, email Cheryl, Janelle, or Jacque. Watch for a chapter ballot in December. Together, we rise!

Heart of America #313
We offered scholarships this year and are happy to report a very successful and rewarding process. We awarded two CCHT to RN scholarships worth $1,000 to Alicia Holmes and TeAun Bell. We also awarded $1,000 to Ashley Arrowood, who is in the process of completing her RN to DNP.

Several chapter members participated in the hybrid Nephrology Nursing Practice, Management, and Leadership Conference in person and virtually. It was a good experience figuring out how to navigate
the in-person, mask, social distancing, sessions, and exhibit hall.

On September 22, Molly Cahill participated in Zoom calls with senators and representatives from Kansas and Oklahoma as part of Kidney Community Advocacy Day. Many nephrology organizations partnered to talk about issues that affect people with kidney disease.

We will be celebrating the holidays with a dinner and election of officers. The chapter president-elect position is open each year as this role transitions to president the second year (a 2-year commitment). The chapter secretary role is also a 2-year commitment. If you would like to learn more about the roles, contact Molly Cahill (mlccnn@gmail.com) or Jennifer Branch (jennifer.branch88@gmail.com) with questions or to submit your name for the election.

Watch for details about a gathering for dinner and elections scheduled for December 2. Information will be shared via email, the chapter group in ANNA Connected, and our Facebook group.

New Jersey

Jersey North #126

We hope you had a happy Nephrology Nurses Week. Our chapter hosted a successful educational conference and dinner on September 23. Timothy Nguyen discussed Kidney Disease and COVID-19 Pharmacology. The chapter gave prizes to each of the 19 participants. A 1-day conference is being planned for March 2022.

Welcome to Eileen Giordano, who is our chapter treasurer in training. We also encourage volunteers to plan activities. The chapter continues to recruit volunteers for chapter president, president-elect, secretary, and treasurer for future years.

Congratulations to Sandra Trujillo, who received a scholarship from the chapter.

We hope 2022 brings us chances to gather in person again. If you want to be more involved in the local chapter, please contact us via ANNA connected.

North Carolina

Cardinal #201

The chapter was hard at work networking and encouraging continuing education and support for our nephrology nursing colleagues. The first in-person small group meeting was held at Ruth Chris on August 19. Masking and social distancing guidelines were observed. Members enjoyed networking and sharing COVID experiences. Thank you to Relypsa for sponsoring the dinner and educational program entitled A Clinical Update on CKD-Associated Pruritus. In addition, Lesley Dinwiddie introduced the updated chronic kidney disease educational modules. The chapter introduced current officers, discussed plans to observe Nephrology Nurses Week, and encouraged attendance at the ANNA Nephrology Nursing Practice, Management, and Leadership Conference.

In September, members provided sweets to recognize Nephrology Nurses Week along with antibacterial ANNA “Still like air I rise” ink pens for dialysis staff. In addition, several members attended the ANNA leadership conference via Zoom. The chapter is rising above COVID in 2021!

Greater Charlotte #202

Welcome to our new chapter members. We look forward to in-person opportunities to network and grow over the next couple of months and into 2022. The chapter is excited that chapter member Leah Smith presented on “The Role of the Nephrology APRN and RN in the Management of Proteinuria in Patients with Kidney Disease” at the Nephrology Nursing Practice, Management, and Leadership Conference in Hollywood, FL. This session will increase your knowledge of the most up-to-date management of proteinuria.

We celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week with an educational dinner at The Stanley in Charlotte, NC, sponsored by Michelle Pikel and Jen Fascarella with AstraZeneca. Thank you to Dr. Jessica Coleman for a wonderful presentation on hyperkalemia. The chapter raffled off a 1-year ANNA membership, a copy of the

New York

Northeast Tri-State #120

This year, the chapter provided virtual learning both with and without contact hours. Our in-person full-day fall program in the Lake George Region was canceled as COVID resurged in our region. The educational committee felt it was too risky to hold an in-person program, so a virtual program was planned. On November 7, a 3-hour virtual program was offered entitled New End-Stage Renal Disease Treatment Choices. Topics included acute injury, chronic kidney disease, transplant, transition care units, and barriers to treatment choices.

We are looking forward to an in-person program in March! Watch for more details.

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Chapter Update

Core Curriculum for Nephrology Nursing, and many other prizes in appreciation of everyone’s hard work this past year.

We held a 1-day educational conference on November 13, and ongoing monthly educational dinners are planned. We hope to connect with some local leaders to educate them on the needs of individuals with kidney disease and how the local government can improve the community’s knowledge of kidney disease.

Blue Ridge #262

We are working with two pharma representatives to offer educational dinner meetings. We hope to hold one or both meetings in early 2022. Watch for more information regarding dates and location.

Pennsylvania

Three Rivers #104

Thank you to our patient care technicians. They are the glue that holds us all together. Working together, we serve our patients with pride and excellent care.

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions in Pennsylvania, we rescheduled the fall education program to spring 2022. This was due to the limited sitting capacity we would have had to follow. No date has been set yet.

We were able to hold a dinner program on October 27. Thank you to Dr. Chris Gisler, a nephrologist with Washington Health System, for his knowledgeable presentation on Veltassa® (patiromer) oral suspension. Chapter President Sue Ralph, DCI educator, and Donna Wittebort, Veltassa representative, planned a wonderful event. Good food, door prizes, and a free 1-year ANNA membership were the highlight of the evening.

Please join us for the chapter’s monthly conference calls. All are welcome.

Keystone #110

Over the past 2 months, we welcomed three new members to our local chapter. Welcome to Kelsey Caplinger, Genoveffa Almeida, and Urias Nimely.

During the past 2 months, we hosted a virtual educational event and a dinner to celebrate Nephrology Nurses Week. On September 14, Alexion hosted an educational dinner at Maggiano’s in King of Prussia, PA, where we also celebrated our nephrology nurses. It was nice to see
some friendly faces in person! Additionally, on September 23, we hosted a free webinar offering 1.0 contact hour. Chapter member Paula Richards discussed Healthcare in Crisis and Patient Safety in Pennsylvania.

Texas

Alamo City #205

The chapter celebrated Nephrology Nurse Week with a dinner meeting at Chama Gaucha restaurant. The meeting was hosted by AstraZeneca and Ellen Colman and featured a presentation by Dr. Navid Saigal. Door prizes were given away by random drawing. Congratulations to Anita Saldana, Joe Gomez, and Veronica Gomez, who were the lucky winners!

On October 21, Maya Floyd-Beason from Amgen hosted a dinner meeting. We packed the Prime Steakhouse again! Annette Hood spoke on The Critical Role of the Care Team in Management of Secondary Hyperthyroidism. Jeff Tyer held a business meeting and did some recruiting for chapter officer positions for the 2022 ANNA year.

Chapter President-Elect Jane Wilson has education/dinner meetings booked through January 2022! Our members have the first chance to attend our fabulous meetings.

Be sure to follow our chapter website at annaac.nursingnetwork.com. Also, follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram!
Dallas #208

We celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week with various activities. We received proclamations from three major cities in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Our educational offering that provided free contact hours via an in-person dinner or Zoom presentation had record attendance. Thank you to CEConcepts, especially Ashley Lilly and Ken Ray, their onsite coordinator. The chapter raffled two half memberships at the in-person dinner and recruited new members and future chapter officers during the business meeting. The Zoom component was exciting since we were able to collaborate with the Centennial Chapter #320. Many participants were not current members, and this provided a great opportunity for recruitment with thank you emails and letters inviting them to join ANNA.

A chapter team participated in the 2021 Virtual Dallas Kidney Walk. This was a major community service activity for our chapter.

We are fortunate to have 2022 officers in place, except for the secretary role. Our newly revamped education committee is off and running.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the 2022 ANNA National Symposium in Fort Worth, TX.

Virginia

Tidewater #241

The chapter held an executive board meeting on September 30. Attendees included President Janye McLin.

Pacific Northwest #503

Our chapter offered a registration discount for ANNA’s Nephrology Nursing Practice, Management, and Leadership Conference. A special price of $83, including 6.0 contact hours, was available to members and nonmembers who registered through our chapter for group access to the virtual conference. We had 10 registrants.

Our chapter held our first in-person activity on October 20. Dr. Rose Ayoob, a pediatric nephrologist from Hoops Family Children’s Hospital in West Virginia, talked about Atypical Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome. The event was hosted by Alexion Pharmaceuticals. Thanks to Janine Willhite for supporting ANNA and our chapter.
Chapter Update

Our chapter is working on the details for Renal Updates 2022. Watch for more information. We look forward to seeing you in person!

Puerto Rico

Caribbean #210

We had the opportunity to meet with each other in person in August. It was a unique experience where we could share experiences, collaborate with other professionals in nursing and nephrology, and have a lot of fun together. We recognized Rebeca Rodriguez Nevarez for her years of commitment to our chapter and the profession of nursing and to elevating the standard of care on the island. Thank you to Marien Saade for hosting the meeting in her home. Our new chapter officers attended, including Health Policy Representative Marien Saade, Treasurer Alexandra Brioso, Secretary Emily Martinez; (seated) President Elizabeth Gines, and President-Elect Yaritza Pizarro.

In September, we shared a message of congratulations via social media to the Puerto Rican Renal Foundation on their 50 years of service helping patients thrive and cope with kidney disease. We also celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week in different facilities throughout the island. It was a time to recognize our heroes who serve patients every day. Thank you to our chapter members and all nephrology nurses!