Chapter Update

Alabama

Hazel Taylor #239

The chapter has been hard at work this year. We had three very successful dinner meetings, which were all well attended. In January, Akebia Therapeutics sponsored a dinner meeting at Galley and Garden on *Clinical Considerations for the Treatment of Iron Deficiency Anemia in CKD*. In February, Vifor Pharma sponsored a dinner meeting at Flemings Steakhouse entitled *Clinical Update on CKD-Associated Pruritis*. In March, Amgen sponsored a dinner meeting at Perry’s Steakhouse on *Osteoporosis in CKD*.

We hope to host two more dinner meetings later this year: one in June on CRRT and one in August on the use of the Tablo machine in CRRT.

We have begun planning our 38th Annual Nephrology Update. The program is scheduled for October 14, so mark your calendars! We will determine format (live versus Zoom) closer to the meeting date. Potential topics include home therapies, peritoneal dialysis update, emergency preparedness, vaccine updates (including COVID), and more. Watch for more information!

Our new officers for 2022-2023 are President Patti Patterson, President-Elect Jamie Mauldin, Secretary Cindy Richards, Treasurer Sara Kennedy, and Health Policy Representative Tanisha Leonard. Joining this group will be program committee members Kimberly Whitt and Dr. Angie Kurosaka. All officers plan to attend the virtual Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) sessions for education regarding our roles.

Congratulations to Dr. Angie Kurosaka, who will become the National ANNA President in May. Congratulations also to chapter member Tanisha Leonard, who was selected to serve as the Emerging Nephrology Nurse Professional Fellow on the 2022-2023 ANNA Board of Directors; and to chapter member Sara Kennedy, who is serving the second year of her second term as National Treasurer.

Hazel Taylor welcomes the new chapter members. We have been working on plans to involve you in the chapter.

Please reach out to any chapter officer for suggestions, comments, or concerns. We are here for you!

South Florida Flamingo chapter officers reunited for a holiday dinner sponsored by Amgen at Eddie V's Prime Seafood in Fort Lauderdale on December 16, 2021. Pictured (from left) are incoming President-Elect Jane Sapp Wallace, Secretary Karen Hill, Health Policy Representative Pamela DePlola, Dr. Cris Gibson (meeting sponsor), Treasurer Linda Boucher, and President-Elect Debra Hain.

California

Nephros South #506

Nephros South, like most ANNA chapters, has struggled to remain chartered, but we have done so with the help of ANNA, our officers – Wendy Lester, Gloria Booth, and Kathi Amarillas – and all the members who were able to participate in the educational webinars we offered. We sponsored one in-person educational dinner meeting in 2021, which was very well attended. Clearly, our members enjoy the social interaction and collegial connection we previously took for granted.

We are still working through the COVID haze, just more exhausted than when it began 2 years ago. We have federal and state regulations, mandates, and frequently updated CDC guidelines to decipher and implement. Additionally, the infectious omicron variant has increased staffing deficits, while also increasing the number of patients who need dialysis treatment. In spite of greater availability of testing and immunization and advances in research and therapeutics, we are mired in the COVID gloom. Nephrology nurses, particularly dialysis nurses, have been on the front line of the epidemic from the beginning. Our much-anticipated holiday cheer was indeed brief. It is no wonder we are concerned what the future holds, but we are resilient and hopeful!

Although we have not gotten off to a roaring start in 2022, our chapter has a couple educational events in the queue. Hopefully, both will be in-person events. We still have many new members to welcome to the chapter and existing members to re-engage. We still plan to survey members about their visions, goals, and ideas to increase interest and involvement in ANNA.

Nephros South has a long history of serving the nephrology nurses in San Diego. We have never given up when the road gets rough. Who knows where the curves in the road will take us this year? Keep your seat belts on! We hope it will be an exciting ride!

Florida

South Florida Flamingo #206

On January 15, our chapter joined the Suncoast and Treasure Coast ANNA Chapters to participate in a collaborative event with ANNA and the Florida Society of Nephrology’s 55th Annual Meeting. Our chapter president-elect, Dr. Debra Hain, presented *Palliative Care for Adults with CKD* during the program.

Welcome to our new chapter members: Inessa Cafarella, Angela Luna, Monica Milton, Estella Reyes, Carina Rivas, and Victor Tatis. Please seek out, welcome, and support our newest members as they learn all that ANNA has
Our educational meeting in February was presented by Amgen and Dr. Cris Gibson. The topic was *Ps Relationship to PTH in CKD Patients*. It was nice to see everyone after the holiday break. We had fun catching up with friends and enjoyed the meeting raffle and door prizes.

Along with the education we receive from the topics presented by our sponsors, we would like to encourage attendance at our educational meetings to learn about the ANNA point system. Many of you are doing wonderful things in our community worthy of recognition that also will earn points for your chapter. Look for the upcoming educational meeting announcements on ANNA Connected and our chapter Facebook page.

**Missouri**

**St. Louis Metro #307**

Our chapter has grown to include the Central Missouri area to our west and Heart of Illinois area to our east. Welcome to all our new chapters members, near and far! This is a good time to confirm your email address in the ANNA database is current. Our chapter communicates via ANNA Connected and you do not want to miss the many great events and opportunities we have planned.

Already this year, our chapter has held virtual business meetings via Zoom and an in-person educational dinner event presented by Akebia. Amy Dix helped our attendees better understand HIF pathway physiology through a presentation entitled *Hypoxia-Inducible Factor (HIF) Pathway in CKD*. This event was held at Maggiano’s Little Italy on January 25 and attended by 15 members, who came despite the cold weather. Thank you all for making this education meeting a great success!

In February, Pentec Health hosted an educational dinner with contact hours. The program on *Acute Kidney Injury: Transitioning from ICU to the Dialysis Center* was held at Helen Fitzgerald’s Irish Grill on February 23.

March is World Kidney Month. We will be organizing advocacy events and our chapter will support the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) by participating in the NKF Kidney Walk on March 27.

We are proud of our chapter and all our members! Nephrology nurses are among the hardest working, most caring, and dedicated professionals.

**New Jersey**

**Jersey North #126**

Another year has arrived, and it is time to welcome new chapter officers: President *Alice Hellebrand*, Health Policy Representative *Jamie Bellucci*, Treasurer *Eileen Giordano*, Secretary *Carina Cafarella*, and President-Elect *Madeline Picarelli*. If you would like to join the
team, please contact an officer via ANNA Connected. We will be happy to have your help.

By the time you read this article, our annual educational event will have already taken place on March 24 at Ravello Banquets in East Hanover, NJ. We will report details about the event in the next issue.

We hope to see many of you at the ANNA National Symposium in Fort Worth, TX, in May.

North Carolina

Greater Charlotte #202

Our chapter is off to a busy start in 2022. We would like to start by welcoming a new member, Rebecca Morton. We look forward to having Rebecca join us for chapter activities.

Our chapter was pleased York County Councilman Tom Audette accepted an invitation to meet at DaVita Fort Mill in York County, SC. Staff took him on a tour of the facility and discussed the needs of the dialysis patient population. Councilman Audette chairs the Health and Environmental Protection Committee, which is working to address the transportation needs of some of the neediest in our community. DaVita social worker Jessica Lawing discussed some areas of concern where the county may be able to assist patients. We invited Councilman Audette to visit the other York County dialysis clinic, Fresenius Fort Mill. We anticipate scheduling that meeting in the coming months.

Our educational dinners will be starting soon. We encourage everyone to watch for announcements on ANNA Connected.

We appreciate all the hard work of Hananie Felix and Rhonda Duggan as our chapter representatives for the State Symposium. If you are interested in volunteering for the State Symposium or with our local chapter as an officer (or shadowing), please email anne.thomas@fmc-na.com and lthomas3@carolina.rr.com.

Pennsylvania

Three Rivers #104

Our chapter has been busy planning educational opportunities for 2022. We also continue to conduct business and educational meetings on a regular basis.

The first educational event is planned for March 20 at the Wooden Nickel Restaurant in Irwin, PA. This luncheon sponsored by Vifor Pharma will focus on a new medication, Korsuva®. This will be a non-CE program.

An educational program is planned for May 1 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Monroeville, PA. This all-day event will feature multiple speakers addressing a variety of topics. There will be food, fun, and prizes! Watch for more information regarding this event as soon as the agenda has been confirmed. Check out ANNA Connected for information about chapter events.

We would like to recognize our newest members: Michele McIntire, Carlyn Brody, and Maryellen Och. Thank you for joining our chapter and for your commitment to nephrology nursing.

If you are interested in joining our education committee or participating in our meetings, please contact a chapter officer for further details:

• President Sue Ralph, sue.ralph@dciinc.org
• Secretary Donna Zaccagnini, donna.zaccagnini@dciinc.org
• Treasurer Terry Starrett, terrystarrett@hotmail.com
• Health Policy Representative Nina Mazzei-Parrish, mazzei50@yahoo.com

Keystone #110

We would like to welcome our new members: Jinny Lee, Amy Kwiatkowski, Angela Reeves, Van Tu, Rhonda Washington, and Richard Woodward. In addition, one of our newer members, Jenn Givler, has stepped up to serve as chapter president-elect for the upcoming year. We are so excited she decided to participate at the officer level.

We are currently working on a virtual version of our Day of Learning with contact hours that we used to plan and host in-person pre-pandemic. The program is being planned for June 2022 and will include various topics from both physician and nursing perspectives. We hope to offer 7.0 contact hours for the entire program.
Chapter Update

Texas

Alamo City #205

The Alamo City Chapter is on the move! President-Elect Jane Wilson has booked dinner meetings for March and beyond.

We were thrilled to host the January business meeting and welcome our new officers for the 2022-2023 year: President Jane Wilson, President-Elect Annabel Campbell, Treasurer Dolly Baker, Co-Secretaries Darlene Caruso and Gail Papayanopolus, and Health Policy Representative Roland Garza. The dinner meeting was held at Bob’s Steak and Chop House and was hosted by Dr. Ellen Colman from AstraZeneca. The topic was Women in Nephrology Initiative. Dr. Colman received many comments and questions after the presentation. It was a wonderful meeting with over 30 attendees!

On February 9, the chapter hosted a Zoom webinar with contact hours. Dr. Mary Schira presented Adrenal Issues and Disorders. The program drew 10 attendees and was such a success that we plan to host other webinars in the months ahead.

The chapter officers met to plan the rest of the ANNA year, and we are committed to participating in the PKD, TKF, and Lupus Walks in 2022. We plan to assist in sending at least three officers to the ANNA National Symposium in Ft. Worth, TX. Our officers are attending the Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) sessions. We are always learning and growing. We hope to plan a “full day” seminar in the new 2022 ANNA year.

Thanks to Jeff Tyer and Gail Dewald for serving as chapter officers for so many years!

Dallas #208

Congratulations to Deidre Parikh on her retirement after a nursing career of 41 years. Deede has been a member of ANNA since 1985 and is currently our chapter’s immediate past president. She has served as chapter president and in numerous other officer roles. She was recognized as national chapter champion in 2021 and continues to serve as a chapter board member.

Tran Phung, our health policy representative, attended the Nurse in Washington Internship (NIWI) in Alexandria, VA, on March 21-23.

The chapter is preparing to welcome attendees to Fort Worth for the 2022 ANNA National Symposium. We are putting special focus on recruiting our Fort Worth area members.

Washington

Pacific Northwest #503

Welcome to our new chapter officers: Secretary Kristin McNeil (nickers@uw.edu) and Health Policy Representative DeAnne Dey (ddey77@hotmail.com).

We are pleased to have Inland Northwest Chapter #522 members join us as part of Pacific Northwest Chapter #503. Our chapter now covers Inland Northwest, western Washington, Oregon, and Alaska. Welcome!

Virtual Renal Update 2022 was held on March 4 and offered 5.0 contact hours. Thanks to our speakers: Barbara Breckler, Dr. Yoshio Hall, Dr. Kathleen Doss, and Lynda Ball.

Please contact us via email or ANNA Connected if you are interested in joining our planning committee. We look forward to hearing from you!