Alabama

Hazel Taylor #239

We have been extremely busy preparing for and hosting our 36th Annual Nephrology Update. This year, we offered our first-ever virtual program. The program was held on September 18 and featured a packed agenda, offering 7.0 contact hours for attendees. Topics included “COVID-19,” “Nursing Burnout and How to Prevent It,” “Hypertension in CKD and ESRD,” “CKD Education,” “Vascular Access Update,” “Peritoneal Update,” and “Cardiac Effect in CKD.” The program wrapped up with a special treat when the niece of Hazel Taylor spoke and shared memories of her Aunt Hazel.

We held a chapter officer meeting on October 12 via Zoom to complete planning for end-of-year business.

California

Nephros South #506

Our chapter activities have been on hold for the past few months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If we are to fulfill ANNA’s mission to improve our members’ lives through education, advocacy, networking, and science, it is time to reboot and embrace change. During this transition period, we will explore ways to meet these goals. Chapter officers plan to reach out to members for their ideas and support in determining the future direction of our chapter.

We are grateful to ANNA for reducing the recharter requirements for 2020. This allows us to maintain our charter status while we regroup. With the support of ANNA-sponsored webinars and group access rates for the Virtual Nephrology Nursing Practice, Management and Leadership Conference in November, we have many opportunities for education, growth, and collegiality during the transition. We are thankful for the support of the ANNA Board of Directors. However, successful change will ultimately depend on the engagement of everyone.

2020 is truly the Year of the Nephrology Nurse. While other medical services have had restricted access during this pandemic, dialysis services have been fully operational, remaining committed to providing quality patient care. Dialysis nurses have been on the forefront of the changes, using evidence-based practices and CDC guidelines to provide safe quality care.

We have found ways to acknowledge our successes. The San Diego VA Medical Center dialysis unit celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week with cupcakes and small gifts for all. We also recognized our certified nephrology nurses: Ann Gonzaga, Fe Ranoco, Shanie Saldana, and Kathi Amarillas.

Yes, we are struggling, but we are not defeated. We remain strong and optimistic. We will continue to make an IMPACT because we are nephrology nurses!

Florida

South Florida Flamingo #206

Our chapter organized an educational dinner meeting on September 15. The dinner, hosted by Rockwell Medical, was well attended with 26 people adhering to social distancing. Congratulations to our award recipients: Nurse Practitioner of the Year Sofia Thomas and Nurse of the Year Janice Dunsmore. Four attendees received a free 1-year ANNA membership: Pepperlinn Anunciacion, Ruben Alexander Francois, Sofia Thomas, and Janice Dunsmore.

Another educational dinner meeting was held on October 6 at Capriccio’s Restaurant in Pembroke Pines. This dinner was hosted by Cris Gibson from Amgen. Welcome to our new members and thank you for your support: Ruben Chipi Oses, Trisha Estorino, Doris Melendez, Wendy Morales, Jennifer Binder, and Sandra Lawrence.
We are planning our annual meeting on the beach in Ruskin, FL, in June 2021. If you have questions or concerns, please contact a chapter officer: President Marie Montagna, Fresenius Kidney Care Clearwater; Treasurer Jerri Biernacki, Fresenius Kidney Care St. Petersburg; Secretary Angela McKenna, Novel Renal Care; President-Elect Rachael Cutler, Fresenius Kidney Care; and Health Policy Representative May Midel, Tampa General Hospital.

Sofia Thomas was recognized as the Nephrology Nurse Practitioner of the Year at a meeting hosted by the South Florida Flamingo Chapter during Nephrology Nurses Week.

Suncoast #213

2020 is the Year of the Nurse, and it has been exemplified during this crazy year. We hope our courageous nurses and your families are staying safe and healthy during this year of COVID-19. Thanks to our members for all your hard work during this very difficult time and challenging work environment.

In September, we held a very successful virtual CE dinner to celebrate Nephrology Nurses Week with good attendance by our members. We are excited to be able to offer our members WebEx programs and will send updates via email and ANNA Connected.

Welcome to our newest members Michael Mays, Roynel Martinez, and Lisa Rosensteel. Congratulations to Rachel Cutler, chapter president-elect, on completing her BSN. Congratulations also to Crystal Craig on passing the CNN exam.

Dogwood #224

I am sure many of us are thinking the same thing: “When will 2020 be over?” What began as a year of hope and prosperity shifted to a year of uncertainty, change, loss, and adjustment. As nephrology nurses, we know how to respond under pressure and, while 2020 gave us new challenges, Dogwood members met them head on. Thank you to our chapter members on the clinical front lines who are unrelenting in providing care for patients. For those in management positions, thank you for advocating for your staff and patients. To educators, we honor you for adjusting to online teaching to keep the pipeline going for future nephrology nurses. Thank you to those members who are unsung heroes behind the scenes working to develop tools, trainings, and education materials; those working to influence policy, practice, and payment; and countless others who are working from their nephrology nurse paradigm to improve health care and support the advancement of nurses. As an expression of our gratitude, our chapter will be hosting a holiday program. Watch your email for information on date, time, and location.

In keeping with an almost 20-year tradition, we will be supporting the U.S. Marines’ Toys for Tots Program. We hope you will donate to this worthy cause. Visit our chapter Facebook page at www.facebook.com/annadogwoodchapter for more information. Lastly, thank you to the members who joined the virtual chapter CE webinar, The Impact of Social Capital on the Severity of Second Victim Syndrome in Registered Nurses, on September 24.

Illinois

Windy City #305

Welcome to our new chapter members: Nikka Argier, Annette Colliers, Michelle Crucillo, Mark Cussans, Edwin Del Carmen, Margary Douglas, Jaia Hicks, Aloma Pinto, Peace Ralston, Earl Ramiro, Krystal Reid, Luz Rivera, Clarence Rojo, Zaid Salah, Kristin Sayles, John Snowwhite, Malgorzata Slowek, Angela Williams, and Minviluz Wong.

We are planning an education offering this fall on ADPKD/COVID-19 and the Kidneys. Stay tuned for more details or visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ANNAwindycity.

Thank you to dialysis technicians who play a vital role on the dialysis team. Thanks for your hard work and dedication! Dialysis Technicians Recognition Week was observed October 12-17.

This is your last chance to take your chapter involvement to the next level! A Call for Nominations went out to all chapter members through ANNA Connected. Contact any chapter officer today and get your name on the ballot to become a chapter officer for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Chapter officers will be appointed if enough candidates are not available to fill a ballot. The deadline to submit your name is December 1.

You may contact any chapter officer for further questions and support through our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ANNAwindycity. 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 2021 Virtual ANNA National Symposium to be held May 2-5. Visit the ANNA website (annanurse.org) for details.

We are always looking for assistance in planning chapter programs, events, and activities. If you have any 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. Please share your thoughts.
Kentucky

Bluegrass #322

Chapter members met to stuff bags for Nephrology Nurses Week. Teresa Villaran, Karen Huff, Gail Starnes, and Chrystal Stokes visited different dialysis clinics to deliver goody bags to staff. They visited a total of 13 units in Lexington, KY, and surrounding areas. The event was such a success!

We are gearing up for the upcoming 2021 legislative session and hope all nurses will join the Kentucky Nurses Association in attending Nurses Day at the Capitol. We will keep you updated as the date approaches.

Teresa Villaran attended the National Kidney Foundation Virtual Patient Summit. She talked with Kentucky legislators about legislation affecting our patient community. Representative Yarmuth is already a cosponsor for the Living Donor Protection Act (H.R. 1224) and pledged to sign on to the Comprehensive Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Kidney Transplant Patients Act (H.R. 5534). He also is willing to sign on to the $10 million appropriations we are asking for the Kidney Risk Campaign. You don’t get what you don’t ask for.

We encourage all members to stay engaged. Local elections are coming up. If you are interested in running for a chapter office, we hope you will consider this opportunity this year. We will be posting candidate information and deadlines on ANNA Connected. Please consider supporting your local chapter by running for office. As we wind down the Year of the Nurse, we want to thank you all for everything you do and, remember, every year is our year.

Maryland

Baltimore #101

Our chapter is in a quandary. Would you like us to hold more virtual meetings to “check in” with our members? Or, are you too busy to read this article right now? Please send us your feedback at baltimoreanna@gmail.com and let us know your thoughts.

Michigan

Michiganna #312

2020 has been a year for the history books. Many pre-arranged activities for ANNA required massive reorganization and rethinking for unique approaches to engage members. The Inaugural 2020 Virtual ANNA National Symposium was a tremendous undertaking for the planning committee. Our chapter was well represented with members Marijo Johnson and Sharon Longton serving on the planning committee and Donna Bednarski serving as a speaker for two educational sessions. Despite the symposium being
As for our chapter, we will hold an educational event by virtual format before the year’s end. Due to the circumstances of this unique year, chapter recharter requirements were relaxed. Our chapter will be able to continue in 2021, with anticipation to meet in person or virtually if that is the best alternative.

We sent a request to chapter members to be featured in this article. Barbara Miller replied with her information. She has been a nephrology nurse for over 36 years and says “it’s been the best career!” Barb works for Fresenius Kidney Care in Wyoming, MI, near Grand Rapids. She started her career as an in-center hemodialysis RN. She moved on to home therapy modalities and is the program manager for six home therapy programs in the area. Barb has made a great career in nephrology nursing. Congratulations to Barb on all her achievements over the years!

Missouri

St. Louis Metro #307

Chapter officers are thankful for our wonderful and talented chapter members. Together, we are improving care and outcomes for our very special clients. We are counting our blessings in St. Louis as we enter the holiday season. We are blessed and grateful to have an association that inspires us to maximize our learning, leadership, and professional association. We are blessed to have vendors that support our endeavors as a national organization and at the chapter level. We are feeling particularly blessed to be able to get together as a group again, even if it is virtually.

We held our first virtual educational program for CNE credit on August 27 using Zoom and a free CNE program offered by ANNA. We discussed the session The Gut Microbiome: How the Gut Affects the Kidney. Thank you to those who participated and for helping us to re-charter.

We offered our first in-person dinner educational meeting during Nephrology Nurses Week. The venue was Walnut Grill on the sheltered patio. Dr. Derek Larson presented Managing Hyperkalemia in Patients on Hemodialysis. The dinner and program were sponsored by AstraZeneca. About 10 brave souls attended. It seemed like a masquerade party!

The chapter officers offered electronic gift cards to our members as a token of our appreciation during Nephrology Nurses Week.
Several chapter education and networking opportunities are coming up for our members. Watch for communications via ANNA Connected.

We encourage each member to consider becoming more active in chapter business and leadership activities. A new year will be here before we know it! There are open chapter officer seats, including president-elect, health policy representative, and more. This is a fun way to become involved and to impact the nephrology community.

Heart of America #313
Our chapter worked all spring to put together an all-day conference. We used a credentialling organization that covers four states. We had challenges and ultimately made the decision to change to a virtual program due to COVID-19. We offered the meeting for free as recognition of the amazing work our nurses do on the front lines every day.

We found amazing speakers and put together an awesome program. Dr. Hardinger presented a pharmacology update. Lisa Jennings presented a session packed with information on LVADs and congestive heart failure/cardiorenal. Krist L’Ecuyer provided an update on COVID labs and some insight into new lab data. Kathleen Mallett talked about the transition from pediatrics/adolescence to adult and the challenges. Donna Bednarski provided a great discussion on the Advancing American Kidney Health Initiative and our role in it and a little question and answer session about what we can do to get ready. She also provided another session on vascular access challenges and really helped us understand some challenges and newer options for access. The day ended with Angela Cusimano talking about gastrointestinal, diet, and challenges like gastric bypass and plant-based diets in the CKD population.

Kudos to our amazing vendors. The program schedule included time for them to talk about what they have to offer. Thank you to Amgen, Care Dx, OPKO, Otsuka, Relypsa, AstraZeneca, Sanofi, BD, Tricida, and Akebia for helping our chapter provide an amazing program and extend the offer to the whole country.

Chapter officers worked to handle the day with only a couple minor virtual challenges. The program was recorded to allow us to offer it to our members at a later date.

We continue to offer education almost every month, with some programs providing CNE credit. We have met challenges this year and still provided 7.0 CNE credits and 2.0 pharmacology credits. Follow us on Facebook!

Nebraska
Platte River #324
Our chapter held our 7th Annual Distance Learning Day on September 15, and it was our first all-virtual program held via Zoom. There were a few glitches, but the Nebraska Medical Center technicians were on it, and we made it through the day. Thank you to our attendees who patiently learned to log on to Zoom and attended our education day. Planning committee members include Denise Murcek, Michelle Gilliland, Teresa Aspinall, Peggy Gerlach, Jina Bogle, Angie Craig, Peggy Sue DeLaet, Penny Dennis, and Jen Walker. If you are interested in becoming a planning committee member or have a suggestion for a presentation or presenter, please contact a committee member either through ANNA Connected or email. We value your input and welcome member participation!

It is time to think about our chapter officer elections. If you are interested in serving in a chapter officer role, just a reminder that the chapter will send you to the national volunteer workshop and former officers will be glad to help you assume your new role. If interested, contact a current chapter officer via email or ANNA Connected.

New Jersey
Garden State #125
The chapter hosted a virtual presentation on Major Depression in Chronic Kidney Disease on September 16. The session was sponsored by Otsuka in celebration of Nephrology Nurses Week. Dr. Kelly Reed and Dr. Kaitlin Dehlin were the speakers. Evaluation results were very positive. The chapter, as an approved provider of continuing education through the California Board of Registered Nurses, approved the session for 1.1 contact hours.

We are planning additional virtual presentations sponsored by Otsuka as well as our own virtual presentations in the future, and also exploring ways to do virtual all-day conferences. We welcome your input regarding topics for virtual presentations. If you have any topic ideas, please let us know.

Jersey North #126
Our chapter had an educational program on Palliative Dialysis as an Option for Older Adults in November.
We are continuing to recruit volunteers for chapter president, president-elect, and treasurer for the 2021-2022 year. Plans are also underway for next year’s all-day educational event.

New York
Northeast Tri-State #120
Our chapter held its first virtual educational program on November 1 entitled Pandemic Challenges; 2.0 contact hours were provided free to chapter members and $20 for nonmembers. During this 2-hour educational program, Maarika Sterling presented “Racial Disparity in Health Care” and Melinda Myers presented “The Onslaught of COVID in New York City.” We missed all being together in the beautiful Adirondacks of Northern New York, and we hope that 2021 allows us to gather together again.

Ohio
Tri State Ohio #317
Thank you for your ongoing dedication during these unprecedented times, and welcome to our newest members! Chapter officers continue to plan educational events for the remainder of 2020 and for 2021. Please visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/annatristateohio or email annatristateohio@gmail.com for more information or with any ideas!

Black Swamp #323
We continued to provide education for our members in spite of COVID. On September 17, Glenna Frey, chapter health policy representative, gave two virtual presentations on Living Kidney Donation. The programs were sponsored by NephU, and 64 attendees registered for the events. Kidney Donor Conversations sponsored a virtual run from August 1 to September 30 as a fundraiser. Attendees ran or walked on their own schedule to raise awareness for living kidney donations.
Chapter Update

On September 30, Dr. Moustafa Moustafa, President of South Carolina Nephrology and Hypertension Center, presented a Zoom webinar titled Virtual Renal Roundtable regarding Fresenius Velphoro. This interactive event was very informative.

On October 18, the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) held a Patient Symposium with Senator Sharrod Brown as guest speaker. Attendees included patients, their families, and medical personnel.

On October 27, the NKF of Northern Ohio provided a free Renal Roundtable. Dr. Stephen Potter presented Utilization of the dd-cfDNA Marker in Kidney Transplant Surveillance. It was very informative!

Our chapter added 20 new members this year! In spite of COVID, I think we learned how important we are to each other. We cannot wait to be able to meet you! Have a healthy and happy holiday season. Please stay safe. Thank you for all you do!

Pennsylvania

Three Rivers #104

The chapter has continued to hold regular business meetings via conference calls. We are currently working on finalizing plans for the upcoming Spring Ahead into Nephrology conference scheduled for March 21, 2021, at UPMC East in Monroeville, PA. This educational conference will offer contact hours and feature a variety of speakers and topics. More information will be available once the speakers and agenda are finalized.

The educational committee is also working on recruiting new members and inviting others to participate in conference calls. If anyone is interested in joining these conference calls, contact Nina Mazzei-Parrish, Sue Ralph, Sue Carter, Terry Starrett, or Maureen Keim. We would love to hear from you!

Keystone #110

Our chapter has been busy making plans for our annual Fall Day of Learning, featuring a full day of CE presentations. We have been researching ways to do all the things we usually plan, but on a virtual platform. We also continue to discuss other non-CE opportunities for our members.

Welcome to our new members: Debra Fehnel and Brandy Rumbel.

Texas

Gulf Coast #204

Our chapter continues to inform nephrology nurses in our chapter area regarding free education opportunities via ANNA Connected. The chapter officers created different committees to promote and encourage member involvement. Chapter President Aelyn Abardo collaborates with vendors and other organizations to bring the latest news and education and to provide relevant topics on kidney disease. She also encouraged members to celebrate and acknowledge colleagues during Nephrology Nurses Week.

Chapter officers and Fresenius Medical Care Renal Therapies Group Medical Support Specialists provided a virtual educational meeting on July 9 entitled PD Essentials. The program was presented by Tom Lobit, Medical Support Specialist, and offered 1.0 contact hour.

On October 15, we hosted an educational webinar about Renasight and Prospera presented by Dr. Sreedhar Mandayam, a renowned nephrologist in the Houston area.

Several activities and webinars are lined up for our members in November and December. Stay tuned for more exciting chapter events and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/houston204.

Alamo City #205

Things are certainly tough with COVID-19 hanging around putting a damper on many plans, but we have been innovative and charging forward with business as usual. Several members attended the 2020 Virtual ANNA National Symposium and really enjoyed the program, which included opportunities to communicate and interact with other members online. The virtual meeting has been embraced and is a hit with our
Chapter Update

Virginia

Tidewater #241

Chapter members gathered for a virtual meeting and educational presentation on September 24. Dr. Sherri So, a Senior Medical Science Liaison with Cara Therapeutics, presented *Chronic Kidney Disease-Associated Pruritus*. Every renal caregiver has firsthand experience with this topic. It was enlightening to note that Cara Therapeutics has a great deal of data and updates regarding pruritus. Renal patients continue to suffer from this condition, which to date has only utilized trial and error as a treatment modality. Our chapter is excited for the potential treatment of pruritus in the CKD population.

Chapter President Janyce McLin continues to communicate to the chapter through ANNA Connected. Please join the conversation and share renal related stories that will provide information to others in the ANNA community as we elevate the care of our patients and families!

Chapter elections are underway. Our chapter continues to support our local food bank. This project is very important in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many people are unemployed without means to feed their family.

Virtual meetings and classes have been well attended and supported.

Washington

Pacific Northwest #503

In honor of Nephrology Nurses Week, our chapter held our First Virtual Fall Workshop, which focused on kidney care and COVID 19; 23 members registered and 22 attended. We gave away two 1-year ANNA memberships and two registrations to Renal Update 2021 as door prizes. Thanks to our speakers: Dr. Sarah Struthers and Dr. Kate Butler.

Eleven chapter members took advantage of chapter registration for 1 day of the 2020 ANNA Virtual National Symposium.

Our chapter also participated in the ANNA Virtual Nephrology Nursing Practice, Management & Leadership Conference on November 7. Participants earned 7.0 contact hours.

Keep safe! Remember to follow ANNA 503 Pacific Northwest Chapter on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ANNAchapter503.

Wisconsin

Wisconsin #304

The chapter is offering a series of CE events starting December 3, 2020 titled Winter Nephrology Update: A Virtual Evening CE Series. Topics in the series include: “Professionalism and Resilience in the Workplace,” “ABCs of Vascular Access,” “Goals of Care for All: Not Just for Palliative Care Anymore,” and “Communication between Transplant Centers and Dialysis Facilities.” For more information on the CE series and to register, visit our chapter website at annawi.nursingnetwork.com.

Puerto Rico

Caribbean #210

Chapter members celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week in September.

Caribbean chapter members celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week.