

Chapter Update

Alabama

Hazel Taylor #239

Chapter officers met virtually via Zoom in May to discuss chapter business. We also held a virtual CE meeting for chapter members on June 23. This enabled our chapter to offer some additional CE options for members during the pandemic.

We continue to plan for the Annual Nephrology Update in September. We plan to hold this program virtually as well to reach a larger group of our members. We look forward to seeing all our chapter members on Zoom.

California

Nephros South #506

We want to recognize all nephrology nurses for your commitment and dedication in providing holistic care for renal patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are innovative and creative, resilient and diligent, united and resolved in our purpose. We also are collegial and collaborative, an integral part of the interdisciplinary renal team. Yet, we remain compassionate, caring, and respectful advocates for our patients and ourselves.

Together we are making an IMPACT everyday. We are fulfilling the goals of ANNA at the ground level. We are not isolated in individual chapters, but we are connected through the mission of our organization. We are nephrology nurses and together we will get through these challenging times.

San Joaquin Valley #532

Our chapter held a Lobby Day at Community Medical Center in Fresno, CA, in February 2020. We educated patients coming in for dialysis about vascular access infections, including methods to prevent infections, signs and symptoms of infections, and treatment.

Chapter President-Elect **Karen Echavez** briefed members and staff at Community Medical Center in Fresno, CA, regarding the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 and how to protect themselves when providing care for COVID-19 positive patients. This included appropriate personal protective equipment and following standard precautions per guidelines set by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.



San Joaquin Valley chapter members participated in a lobby day and provided vascular access infection patient education at Community Medical Center in Fresno, CA. Pictured (from left) are Ceciel Asparin, Perlie Cou, and Elwina Yazon.



San Joaquin Valley President-Elect Karen Echavez provided COVID-19 education to staff at Community Medical Center in Fresno, CA. Pictured (from left) are Peter John, Larry Toledo, Melissa Manlimos, Jarnail Gill, Karen Echavez, and Joaquin Rosendo.

Congratulations to our newly elected officers: President **Ceciel Asparin**, President-Elect **Karen Echavez**, Treasurer **Marjorie Carpio**, Health Policy Representative **Julie See**, and Secretary **Jarnail Gill**.

Lastly, a warm welcome to new ANNA members: **Perlie Coua** and **Melissa Manlimos**.

Future chapter meetings are currently pending due to COVID-19.

Florida

South Florida Flamingo #206

Our new chapter officers are President **Debra Hain**, President-Elect

Daniela Chetan Health Policy Representative **Pamela Depiola**, Treasurer **Linda Boucher**, and Secretary **Angie Fuenmayor**.

Our chapter president, **Debra Hain**, served as editor and author of two chapters in the 2020 edition of ANNA's *Core Curriculum for Nephrology Nursing*. The chapters are "Advance Care Planning, Palliative Care, and End-of-Life Care" and "Care of Older Adult with Kidney Disease."

Chapter officers and members got together in June for an Amgen educational dinner.

Remember to register for the Nephrology Nursing Practice, Management, and Leadership Conference.



The South Florida Flamingo Chapter held a Nephrology Day on March 7, 2020. Dr. Moises Roizental, a vascular and interventional radiologist, discussed vascular access, endovascular procedures, and treatment for varicose veins and uterine fibroids.

Get ready to learn and network with your fellow nephrology nurses and have fun, too!

Our chapter needs volunteers. Please reach out to a chapter officer if you are interested in volunteering.

North Central Florida #209

Our chapter was awarded the 2020 Chapter Strategic Collaboration Award along with the Suncoast Chapter. We have been working with the Suncoast Chapter to provide contact hours and meetings for our members.

Our chapter has been working on chapter growth during COVID-19 and recruiting new members. We are also planning a virtual CDN review class for



Congratulations to Quennie Omalay, who was awarded free registration to the 2020 ANNA Virtual National Symposium by the North Central Florida Chapter.

nurses; dates to be announced.

Congratulations to **Quennie Omalay**, who was awarded a full symposium registration. We look forward to the virtual ANNA National Symposium in August.

Thank you to Chapter Treasurer **Sallie Campbell**, member **Linda Kane**, and all others who volunteered to travel to areas and help in hospitals and clinics during the COVID-19 pandemic. We love our heroes!

Suncoast #213

Thank you to our members for all your hard work during this very difficult and challenging work environment with the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope our members and their families are staying safe and healthy during this time.

Unfortunately, due to these changing times, we had to cancel the Annual Meeting. We are planning to hold it on the beach in Ruskin in June 2021. We are planning a free virtual session on the mandatory nursing law requirement.

Welcome to our newest officers. Health Policy Representative **Mae Midel** works at Tampa General Hospital. President-Elect **Rachel Culter** works at Fresenius Kidney Care Lakeland. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact any of our other current officers: President **Marie Montagna**, Fresenius Kidney Care Clearwater; Treasurer **Jerri Biernacki**, Fresenius Kidney Care St. Petersburg; and Secretary **Angela McKenna**, Fresenius Kidney Care Southwest.

Georgia

Dogwood #224

Thank you to Dr. Tazin Aijaz and PKDnetwork for sponsoring our chapter's educational series on COVID-19. Although it has been challenging dealing with COVID-19, your support has not only benefited nephrology nursing practice but patients as well!

Each dialysis center/unit in our chapter was encouraged to celebrate Virtual Learning Day on April 17.

Three cheers to our chapter and chapter members who won ANNA awards this year:

- **Dogwood Chapter** ~ Advocacy STAR Award
- **Deborah Degree** ~ ANNA Board of Directors Award and Research Sharing Award
- **Dr. Loretta Jackson Brown** ~ Nephrology Nurse Educator Award
- **Dr. Rowena Elliott** ~ Outstanding Contribution to ANNA

Check our chapter website for weekly legislative updates and see our posts on Facebook regarding the fall education events. We look forward to hearing about how your unit is planning to celebrate Nephrology Nurses Week (September 13-19). Please contact us via ANNA Connected to share your ideas and achievements.

We hope to connect with everyone virtually at the National Symposium in August. We are making history together!



Nurses, including Dogwood chapter members, celebrated National Nurses Week at the Atlanta VA Medical Center!



ANNA President Lillian Pryor presented Dogwood chapter member Dr. Loretta Jackson Brown (right) with the ANNA Nephrology Nurse Educator Award.



ANNA President Lillian Pryor presented Dogwood chapter member Deborah Degree (right) with the ANNA Research Sharing Award.

Michigan

Michiganna #312

The COVID-19 pandemic prevented many planned activities from occurring this spring. There was no Kidney Sunday or Kidney Walk at the Detroit Zoo, and we had to abruptly cancel the Spring Nephrology Nursing Symposium in March. The health and safety of our healthcare workers is of great importance as we care for the vulnerable kidney patient population. Hopefully, you all took time for self-care during this difficult time.

Along with many states, Michigan is coming out of the “lockdown” with caution, social distancing, and wearing of the newest fashion statement for 2020 – masks. We are planning to reschedule the Spring Nephrology Nursing Symposium for the fall and incorporate a distance learning component. Plans for Nephrology Nurses Week (September 13-19) are forming. How would you as a member like to celebrate our specialty? Send an email to 312.michiganna@gmail.com with ideas and offers of help.

Register for the 2020 ANNA Virtual National Symposium scheduled for August 29-31.

Mississippi

Magnolia #249

We held a chapter meeting via WebEx on June 25. A chapter business meeting

will be held via WebEx on July 23. A WebEx chapter education meeting is tentatively scheduled for 5:00 pm on August 27.

All members are encouraged to participate in the Mississippi Kidney Foundation Annual Walk. Details will be emailed to members. This event is tentative due to COVID-19.

Our chapter Fall Festival is scheduled for October 17. This will be a fundraising event. Chapter items (T-shirts) and food (baked goods) will be available for sale.

Our chapter officers for 2020 are:

- President/President-Elect **Mary Alice Luckett**, mary.luckett@davita.com
- Secretary **Etoile Patrick**, etwalp@gmail.com or epatrick@umc.edu
- Treasurer **Lisa Butler**, lisa.a.butler@davita.com

Missouri

Heart of America #313

Our chapter hopes your summer is going well and you have found something of a new normal. We want to thank all nurses working on the front lines. You are heroes!

Chapter officers – President **Laurie Hippensteel**, President-Elect **Jennifer Branch**, Secretary **Molly Cahill**, Treasurer **Karl Bauder**, and Health Policy Representative **Jane Hafner** – have been meeting via Zoom to stay connected. We are planning an all-day program on October 1, 2020. We decide to offer the

program for free as a thank you to our members for all you have been doing and dealing with since the pandemic started.

In this unprecedented time, we are exploring and moving forward with submitting applications that potentially allow us to conduct the program “live” as we hope, or record for viewing later. We are keeping a close eye on the situation and updates.

We are working with the facility on spacing for social distancing if we are able to hold the “live” event. We are also submitting paperwork to host the program live via videoconference at a few remote locations across the states of Kansas and western Missouri. If you live a distance from Kansas City and would like to host a site, please contact **Jennifer Branch** (jenniferbranch88@gmail.com) or **Molly Cahill** (mlccnn@gmail.com).

We have a lot of contingency plans. Stay tuned! We will update you via ANNA Connected.

We also created a chapter Facebook page. Please like and follow our page at www.facebook.com/ANNA-Heart-of-America-Chapter-313-109206724135737.

Montana

Big Sky #527

Unfortunately, the pandemic has led to many cancellations. During this difficult time, it is unclear if our chapter's annual conference will occur as scheduled in August. If the conference is cancelled, stay



Staff at the Billings Clinic in the Big Sky Chapter danced to cheer up patients while educating them on hand hygiene and personal protective equipment.



Staff at the Big Sky unit in the Big Sky Chapter show off their personal protective equipment.



Shane Christman and Big Sky chapter member Alisia Bradley keep it "exotic" for their patients by dressing as characters from the Tiger King series.

tuned for some virtual education options. The Montana Annual Kidney Walk already has been cancelled for this year. On a positive note, nephrology nurses at the Billings Clinic and Big Sky units both created dance videos to cheer up patients while educating them on hand hygiene and personal protective equipment.

Nebraska

Platte River #324

Please mark your calendars for September 15, 2020, for the *6th Annual Platte River Distance Learning Education Day*. The event will be held again at Nebraska Medicine Werner Center Yanney Auditorium in Omaha, NE. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, the planning committee hopes to have a large number of participants livestreaming. The plan is to use Zoom so anyone can attend from home individually, in a group, or in any

facility by computer. Also, nurses should remember this is a license renewal year so contact hours are important. The planning committee members are: **Denise Murcek, Michelle Gilliland, Teresa Aspinall, Peggy Gerlach, Jina Bogle, Peggy Sue DeLaet, Angie Craig, Penny Dennis, and Jen Walker.**

Chapter member **Angie Craig** and her mother made cloth masks for patients and staff at the dialysis unit in Omaha where she rounds as a nurse practitioner. We are interested in stories from all of our chapter members regarding adjustments or changes and volunteer activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please send stories or information to **Peggy Gerlach**, chapter secretary, at pegg4018@aol.com.

New York

Northeast Tri-State #120

The chapter continues to hold monthly business meetings via conference calls. During these meetings, we are planning ways to provide chapter members with contact hours.

In May, we had a successful non-CE Zoom presentation on home therapies, presented by Paul Jarvis from Nxstage. We continue to plan the fall educational program and hope we can still gather together for this event, but this year we may have to provide this program another way. Stay tuned for updates on ANNA Connected.

We encourage chapter members to reach out to us via ANNA Connected with questions or interest in getting involved with chapter activities.

Great Lakes #128

The past several months have not been easy. Our personal and professional lives have been impacted in ways we could not imagine. Due to the pandemic, we had to cancel our spring educational event and unfortunately, we will not be holding our annual teaching day this fall. With the uncertainty of when areas will reopen in our region, the limitations imposed on gatherings, and the need to plan this conference months in advance, we have decided to postpone the conference until next year. We hope to provide a short spring educational event and our big annual teaching day in the fall. However, we do not know what the future will hold, and these plans also may need to change.

We understand many members look forward to our conference in order to obtain needed contact hours for certification. We encourage you to take advantage of the free monthly continuing education opportunity provided in the ANNA Online Library. Each program provides at least 1.0 contact hour.

Now for some exciting news! Chapter President **Peggy Murray** won the ANNA Clinical Practice Award this year. The award was to be presented at the ANNA National Symposium in Orlando; however, the conference has been changed to a virtual conference. She received this award in May from the ANNA national office. This is a great honor for our chapter and especially for Peggy, who has been involved with the chapter since its inception.

We hope to provide more information about educational meetings for next year in the next couple of updates. We hope we will be able to provide these programs as we have in the past. In the meantime, we hope everyone is doing well and staying safe. Please contact a chapter officer if you have any questions or concerns.

North Carolina

Cardinal #201

Thank you to all of you who have dedicated yourselves to caring for patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Welcome to our new chapter members who joined this year. We hope to have more members enjoy the benefits of getting free contact hours.

Greater Charlotte #202

Congratulations to the new chapter officers for the 2020-2021 year: President **Julie Peterson**, President-Elect **Anne Thomas**, Treasurer **Shannon Lang**, Secretary **Joleen Shelton**, and Health Policy Representatives **Leah Smith** and **Hananie Ellis**. Our chapter is planning to host educational dinners in July and August. Congratulations to **Leah Foster Smith** for serving as a chapter editor for the 2020 edition of the *Core Curriculum for Nephrology Nursing*.

Blue Ridge #262

We have held two virtual business meetings with all four chapter officers present. During the first meeting, chapter officers discussed how we could help out in our communities. We agreed to donate

\$300 each to three area food banks. At the second meeting, we focused on our chapter work plans.

The annual North Carolina State Symposium has been rescheduled to late August.

Ohio

Tri-State Ohio #317

Officers are continuing to plan educational events for 2020. Please visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/annatristateohio or email annatristateohio@gmail.com for more information. Thank you for your continued support and for all you are doing during these challenging times.

Black Swamp #323

We continue to keep nephrology nurses in our chapter area informed about free education opportunities available via ANNA. All the education content offers contact hours. The information is very valuable during the pandemic. Topics include acute kidney injury, continuous renal replacement therapy, hemodialysis, and peritoneal dialysis.

We are making plans for a virtual meeting to be held later this summer. Watch for more information to be available soon. We also are planning live events when allowed for the fall/winter. Please stay safe. We miss seeing all of you!

Pennsylvania

Three Rivers #104

Our chapter continues to hold regular meetings via phone conference. The chapter is still planning to hold an educational activity on October 4 at UPMC East in Monroeville, PA. The educational activity will offer contact hours and will feature a variety of speakers and topics. However, holding this activity will depend on the latest stipulations regarding COVID-19 by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf. More information regarding this educational activity will be sent out closer to the event.

Thank you to all the nurses, patient care technicians (PCTs), doctors, and emergency personnel working during the COVID-19 crisis. Everyone in the medical field faced difficult challenges over the past few months. Our daily lives and routines

were changed in many ways as we all tried to keep ourselves and our patients safe. We applaud your efforts during this very stressful time. Some nurses and PCTs volunteered to travel to "hot spots" to help in areas where the COVID-19 case load was overwhelming. If you know anyone who volunteered in this way, please contact a chapter officers so we can give them special recognition.

Chapter officers – President **Nina Mazzei-Parrish**, President-Elect **Sue Ralph**, Secretary **Sue Carter** and Treasurer **Terry Starrett** would love to hear from you. Keep safe and thank you for all that you do!

Keystone #110

Chapter members met virtually to explore options for holding a virtual educational event as well as a non-CE meeting. We also are exploring the feasibility of hosting our annual *Day of Learning* in October virtually.

Welcome to the nine new members who joined our chapter in the past 2 months: **Lorenc Dori**, **Alexandrea Kier**, **Stefanie Laboranti**, **Janelle Parker**, **Rita Green**, **Dwana Johnson**, **Minal Sachdeva**, **Susan Sewall**, and **Joan Smith-Veterano**. We look forward to meeting in person when it is safe again!

Texas

Gulf Coast #204

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to our vulnerable patient population during this unprecedented time. The chapter officers are constantly brainstorming and sourcing for educational opportunities to meet the needs of our members. With our continued focus on providing diverse educational opportunities, we have transitioned to the utilization of technology to meet your needs. On May 28, 2020, we successfully hosted our first virtual educational webinar on *The Fundamentals of CRRT* presented by Scott Kirsch of NxStage. We had over 30 participants and the attendees received 1.0 contact hour. Stay tuned to our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/houston204) and ANNA Connected for upcoming educational webinars.

Dallas #208

Chapter members have been adjusting to the many changes caused by COVID-19. We are meeting via Zoom or our free conference site.

We are so excited to have received



Chapter officers and committee chairpersons gathered at the last in-person meeting hosted by the Dallas Chapter. Pictured (from left) are Naveena Reddy, Diedre Parikh, Teleshia Coleman, Phung Tran, Vickie Lamb, Laura Cato, and Cynthia Wright.



Planning committee members for the Pacific Northwest Chapter's Renal Update 2020 included Naomi DeVega, Nancy McAfee, Deanne Dey, Lindsay Williamson, Irene Krall, Lulu McManigal, Sarah Lai, Sharon Tugwell, Kristin McNeill, and Nancy Colobong Smith.

the Chapter of the Year Award this year! We also are celebrating the number of chapter members who participated in the production of the latest edition of the *Core Curriculum for Nephrology Nursing*.

Donna Painter, Laura Cato, Nenita Cuellar, and Glenda Payne all served as reviewers. **Dr. Mary Schira and Glenda Payne** were both contributing authors.

We plan to present a virtual CE offering in September.

Washington

Pacific Northwest #503

It is a challenging time for everyone as COVID-19 has certainly changed the norm. Due to shelter in place and social distancing orders, our chapter held a business meeting via Zoom and will continue to do so in the near future. With the uncertainty of how COVID-19 will progress, our chapter has decided to delay

Renal Update 2021. The fall education event is on schedule for now. We will communicate with members via ANNA Connected.

We encourage members to use CongressWeb to communicate with elected representatives. In the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, chapter officers reached out to chapter members to ask them to urge Congress to explore personal protective equipment (PPE) provision options for frontline healthcare workers.

We also invited members to register for a webinar provided by the American Society of Nephrology. The webinar reviewed guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) for dialysis units during COVID-19 and included a briefing on policy issues, a discussion of transportation challenges, and concerns regarding the management of COVID-19 positive patients dialyzing in outpatient facilities.

Please stay safe and well while you

are caring for patients. Be sure to practice self-care.

Watch for future chapter updates via ANNA Connected and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ANNAchapter503.

Wisconsin

Wisconsin #304

Since we postponed our *Nephrology Update* and are looking at a late summer program, we have decided that with the current state of uncertainty we will not have an offering this year. Stay tuned for a chance for a virtual offering or dinner meeting in the future. Thank you for all you do for nephrology and your patients. Remember to take care of yourselves as well!

Puerto Rico

Caribbean #210

To provide up-to-date information on COVID-19 and kidney disease, our chapter sponsored a 2-hour webinar on April 14, 2020, entitled *COVID-19: Clinical and Emotional Implications for Nephrology Nurses*. Dr. Jorge Bertran, an infectologist, provided an overview of COVID-19, and Dr. Amaryllis Munoz, a psychologist, discussed how to manage the emotional burden of nursing professionals. The program drew 35 participants from dialysis facilities and the transplant center in Auxilio Mutuo Hospital.

To support the wellbeing of our colleagues caring for patients with COVID-19, our chapter collaborated with the Psychology Department of the University of Puerto Rico to develop an initiative on *Caring for the Renal Professional in Times of Crisis*. The initiative includes therapeutic group sessions to assist participants with stress management and the use of different strategies. We have received excellent feedback from a number of participants to date. Further evaluation of this activity will be conducted and reported.

Chapter officer **Marlen Saade** was interviewed by a local TV channel on International Nurses Day. She had the opportunity to highlight the work of nephrology nurses in Puerto Rico and their important contributions to the renal community.