Southeast

Cardinal

The chapter has had a busy fall. Following a successful ESRD Education Day in August, we jumped into planning our fall educational meeting. On October 21 we hosted an educational offering on Sensipar™. Deb Siler spoke about Improving the Management of Secondary Hyperparathyroidism in Patients on Dialysis. Also that evening, chapter President Emily Hodgin presented on Fistula First: The National Vascular Access Improvement Initiative.

As we head into the holiday season, our chapter once again will be sponsoring needy families for the holidays. These families are nominated by staff at local dialysis units and are given gift certificates to local stores.

We are looking forward to 2005 and many more educational opportunities next year. If you want to know more about our chapter or how to become more involved, visit our Web site at www.annacardinal.com.

Greater Charlotte

We hope everyone who took the nephrology nursing certification exams in October passed! We are gearing up for our Annual Holiday Raffle to be at the Wine Vault in Charlotte on December 2. We are excited about the prizes and look forward to raising money to give children with kidney failure some great holiday gifts again this year!

Palmetto

The chapter had a very active fall: educational offerings, certification reviews, certification exam administration, and attendance at the Fall Meeting in New Orleans.

ESRD Education Day took a slightly different path this year. Rather than the entire focus being on legislators’ visits to dialysis facilities, members worked to educate patients and families on the importance of voting, how to become registered, and legislation that affects kidney disease patients. This included preparing bulletin boards and educational materials for dialysis facilities and renal clinics.

Chapter President Jennifer Payton led the drive to distribute educational materials about kidney disease to people at risk (such as family members of our patients). The goal is to put materials in every dialysis facility. Efforts include distributing the National Kidney Disease Education Program’s (NKDEP) “You Have the Power” pamphlets, pins, fans, and posters; scheduling school visits to discuss what nurses do; and distributing Johnson & Johnson’s “Discover Nursing,” ANNA’s “Discover Nephrology Nursing,” and coloring books.

Fundraising has occurred through educational activities, the review courses, and raffles. We raffled a hand-beaded tote bag and a pillow quilt. More “goodies” are coming to the raffle block.

Palmetto Chapter President Jennifer Payton stands in front of a bulletin board that she and Chapter Health Policy Representative Kristin Larson put together in an outpatient dialysis clinic to encourage patients to vote.

Members of the Palmetto Chapter enjoy some networking time during a recent chapter dinner meeting.
Membership is strong. The chapter held a drawing for two memberships at the August meeting and held the annual Recruitment/Retention Meeting in September. If you brought a nonmember colleague, both you and your colleague attended for free.

We continue to offer our dinner meetings free to interested students. This has been appreciated, and we hope it will be a recruitment tool for nephrology nursing.

Chapter-sponsored programs are usually held on the fourth Tuesday of the month. For more information, contact President-Elect Glinda Stricklin (843-724-2006, glinda.stricklin@ropersaintfrancis.com) or President Jennifer Payton (jennifer.payton@us.gambro.com).

Gulf Coast

The chapter continues to focus on making educational offerings available at the local level. The chapter hosted the fall audio conference on October 5 and an educational meeting on November 11. Dr. George Nassar, a Houston nephrologist, spoke on Sensipar™. The chapter also hosted the CNN, CDN, CHT, and BONENT exams in Houston on October 16.

If you would like more information about chapter activities, contact Chapter President Debbie Heinrich (dh26rn@hotmail.com).

Alamo City

And the Beat Goes On was the topic for our October seminar and is our philosophy for the remainder of the year. The October seminar on Cardiovascular Disease and ESRD was a success. The meeting featured a combination ‘60s and Halloween theme so attendees wore costumes and had lots of fun. Thanks to speakers, attendees, and vendors for their support.

The November offering focused on CRRT. We also held an autumn rummage sale to assist dialysis patients.

We are now looking forward to our Christmas Party in December. We also are preparing for the Texas chapter collaborative meeting to be held January 21-22 in Corpus Christi, TX. Alamo City is the host chapter this year.

Future chapter offerings include New DOQI Guidelines in February and Fungal Infections and the Dialysis Patient in March. We also are finalizing plans to go to a grade school and a high school to discuss dialysis as a career option.

We continue with our recruitment and retention projects, visiting units and hospitals units that have steadily shown low turnover and low membership in ANNA. Our membership as of July was up to 131, a 12% increase from May. Our goal is to increase our membership by 30%.

We continue to raise funds by selling scrubs, scrub jackets, logo pins, polo shirts, and bracelets. These proceeds go toward our scholarships fund.

South Florida Flamingo

Thank you to Abbott Laboratories for sponsoring an educational dinner meeting at the Sterlingworth Cafe in Plantation. Dr Vieira from the University of Miami spoke about managing bone disease; 1.0 CE credit was awarded. Thirty people attended, and there was time before the lecture to network with colleagues.

Many of our neighbors have been affected by hurricanes. Our chapter has donated to the relief fund, and some colleagues throughout the state pooled resources to assist with relocating dialysis patients and working extra shifts to provide treatment to patients from units that were nonoperational.

Norma Gomez and Cheryl Groenhoff attended the Fall Meeting and had a great time networking during the Enrichment Opportunities Event. This event was planned by the Leadership Development Committee to mentor and encourage ANNA members to join committees or Special Interest Groups or run for regional or national office.

We hope you were able to attend the Network meeting at the Gaylord Hotel in Orlando.

If you want to get involved in our chapter, we welcome your participation. For information on future chapter activities, contact President Norma Gomez (norma.gomez@us.gambro.com) or President-Elect Nury Robert (nuryrn1@aol.com). The chapter plans on hosting two more educational activities that will be announced soon.

Dallas

We accomplished a lot this year and have so much more to do. ESRD Education Day gets better every year. We were honored to have April Mitchell, Director of Constituent Services from Senator Kim Brimer’s office; Bridgette Harris, Special Assistant Outreach from Senator Eddie Bernice Johnson’s office; and Glenda Payne and six other staff members from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) attended ESRD Education Day at FMS Southwestern Dialysis Center in Dallas.

Approximately 130 attendees participated in the Fistula First

Alamo City chapter members participate in an educational program entitled ESRD Update by the Beach – Life Lines. The program included a presentation on Fistula First.
The Fifth Annual Teamwork 2004, co-presented by the Dallas Chapter and NANT North Texas Chapter in Dallas on August 29, was also a success. The Annual Nephrology Review Course was held October 1-2. Thirty individuals representing four states attended.

The certification exams will be offered on November 20. We are planning for the annual Texas chapter collaborative meeting to be held in Corpus Christi on January 21-22.

Thank you to everyone for your hard work and commitment to making these activities successful and for your future involvement. We invite you to become active in our chapter. Please contact Cindy Spear (817-281-3973, 2cindy@charter.net). Watch for flyers and newsletters for information about upcoming events.

Suncoast

Our chapter was pleased to have W.L. Gore & Associates present a dinner program on Vascular Access for Hemodialysis on August 17. Since many units are working to reduce the number of catheters, the presentation was informative and timely.

Presently we are working on a winter program. More information will be available soon. Also mark your calendars for the annual Seminar on the Beach in Longboat Key, FL, on June 10-12. We will keep you posted regarding program highlights. You also may call Donna McDuffie (813-872-0933) for information.

Dogwood

The hurricanes that ravaged the southeast catapulted our chapter into a new and exciting fall and winter season. The Atlanta showcase of nephrology nurses committed to positive change continues to grow even stronger in the Southeast Region. Our dedication to deepening our voice in our community and beyond was felt on September 14 when Congressman John Gingrey visited a local dialysis center in Marietta, GA. He was accompanied by Chapter Health Policy Representative Marlene Currier. Congressman Gingrey learned about the challenges health care providers face in caring for ESRD patients and heard firsthand from patients about their triumphs and struggles with life on dialysis.

In October Karen Finn engaged a spirited group of nephrology nurses on the topic of Peritoneal Dialysis (PD) Adequacy. Attendees gained a new understanding of PD, learning both new and old strategies for teaching and caring for patients in the PD modality.

The chapter has many more events planned for the new year! Stay tuned for more educational opportunities in 2005.

Hazel Taylor

The chapter has been busy this fall. Shannon McClure, the field representative from Senator Jeff Sessions’ office, visited the Birmingham area and toured the Children’s Hospital Dialysis Unit, the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Transplant Dialysis Unit, and the Gambro Healthcare Dialysis Unit.

Access Update 2004 was well attended. The meeting featured sessions on vascular access research being done at UAB, interventional radiology in vascular access, and what nurses need to know.

We hosted the 20th Annual Nephrology Update at the Carraway Davie House on November 19. It was well attended, and many vendors helped support the meeting.

Our annual Christmas party will be held at the Cahaba Pump House on December 9. The party will include dinner and a CE program entitled The Management Strategies of Santa Clause. We are looking for a great turnout.

We are seeking nominations for chapter officers for the upcoming year. If you would like to nominate someone, contact a chapter officer via the ANNA Web site or via www.geocities.com/hazeltayloranna.

Acadiana

The chapter hosted a great educational meeting on Venofer® (3.0 CE credits) at the Isle of Capri on September 9. Prior to the presentation, we enjoyed appetizers and networking with colleagues.

Richard Brown is our new chapter president-elect. He is excited about assuming this role and is willing to work hard to help the chapter continue to grow. You can email Richard at littlerichardrn@yahoo.com. When you email Richard, let him know your name and where you work.

We are looking for volunteers to head the committee for the Network 13 workshop in March. Please contact us if you are interested in helping to organize the workshop and work the registration tables.

Central Virginia

The chapter hosted Fundamentals of Nephrology Nursing in Richmond, VA, on September 25. The day-long seminar, which was a review for the certification exam or a refresher course, featured presentations on transplantation, peritoneal dialysis, vascular access, anatomy and physiology, and principles of hemodialysis in the chronic and acute settings. The certification exam was held on October 16 in Richmond.

Programs are planned for the rest of the year and early next year. We are excited about all the chapter has to offer the nephrology nursing community in central Virginia! Come join in the fun!

Blue Ridge

The fall audio conference was well attended. Thanks to Dr. Ling for giving an inservice on calciphylaxis.

We will be taking a break for the holidays after enjoying a social in December. We will start back up with the winter audio conference and election of officers at the first meeting of the year.

Thanks to all who have given time to the chapter. The educational offerings have been very informative.

Fleur de Lis

ESRD Education Day in August was a success. Legislators, including Congressman David Vitters and Legislative Assistant Emilie Sekine as well as Mayor Mason Foster of Hammond, LA, visited clinics on the north and south shores. We were eager to educate them about the current trends in nephrology and encourage them to sponsor the ESRD Modernization Act of 2004.

The renal collaboration meeting held in September was a huge success with over 200 participants, including nurses, dietitians, and social workers. Thank you to the dietitians who co-chaired this event this year. Six CE credits were awarded.

We were pleased to be the host chapter for the Fall Meeting this year. Our chapter exhibited and provided tourist information along with Mardi Gras cups filled with souvenirs for visitors.

Sigma-Tau Pharmaceuticals sponsored our chapter meeting on November 11. CE credits were offered. The meeting including nominations and elections of new officers for 2005.
**Scenic City**

We began the year with a new concept for education. Two journal clubs have been held. The topic for the first journal club was *Preventing Amputations in Patients with Diabetes and Chronic Kidney Disease*, and it presented an opportunity to discuss what is being done in our local centers to ensure proper foot care for our patients. The topic of the second journal club was *Estimated Dry Weight: Aiming for Accuracy*. We used this opportunity to review the quality of treatments and compare differences in unit protocols. We chose topics from the CE articles available on the ANNA Website so CE credits were available.

On August 24 we co-hosted the Kidney Foundation seminar (7.2 CE credits). Topics included FSG, diabetic nephropathy, pediatric nephrology, transplant ethics, renal bone disease, and hypertension. The meeting was well attended by a broad spectrum of nephrology personnel.

We held a dinner meeting, *An Overview of Fabyr’s Disease*, which was sponsored by Genzyme. We hosted the fall audio conference in October. We are finalizing plans for a river boat ride in November.

We welcome all nephrology personnel to contact us and let us know how this chapter can better serve your needs as we continue to reflect the core values of ANNA: Advocacy, Scholarship, and Leadership. Our current officers are President Maxine Bell, President-Elect Loni Spenser, Treasurer Dennis Foxworth, Secretary Jacqueline Davis, and Health Policy Representative Kristi Brock.

**Heart of Texas**

The chapter has been busy as we’ve entered our second year of existence. We started out the 2004 year by participating in the Texas collaborative meeting in Galveston in January. We had a wonderful turnout.

In February we hosted an evening of education sponsored by Watson Pharma entitled *Case Studies in Anemia and Iron Management*. In March we hosted a program sponsored by Genzyme entitled *A New Understanding of Cardiovascular Disease and Renal Osteodystrophy*. In May, Angen sponsored a presentation by Rorie Arnold on *Targeting Secondary Hyperparathyroidism: Clinical Consequences, New Therapeutic Goals, and the Role of Sensipar in Patients on Dialysis.*

In July we collaborated with the Alamo City Chapter to host the ESRD Network #14 presentation of Fistula First. This meeting was held in Corpus Christi and was a real success.

Heart of Texas was proud to coordinate and host our own Fistula First meeting for the Network in Austin in August. On September 21, Dr. Peter Miller, a local nephrologist presented New Standards for Managing Complications of ESRD.

We have been amazed at the response to our programs and happy to be able to provide quality educational programs to our colleagues. Our membership continues to grow, and we look forward to a long, productive future deep in the heart of Texas.

**Western**

**Desert Vista**

The chapter hosted two ANNA-sponsored audio conferences at three locations on October 12! The topics were *Diabetes: Assessment, Management, and Update of Current Therapies and Hepatitis C: Incidence, Prevalence, and Current Therapies.*

The audio conferences were held at three sites throughout the Phoenix area to ensure that all members had the opportunity to take advantage of this exciting program.

The chapter offered an encore presentation of *Transplant from A to Z* (6.0 CE credits) on November 9.

We are excited about our upcoming holiday meeting to be held December 2. This is the only meeting that is exclusively for members as we meet to celebrate our efforts throughout the year. Pat Weiskittel will present *A History of Transplantation: Myth to Reality*. Fujisawa will sponsor the event, and all proceeds will be donated to the Thomas J. Pappas School for Homeless Children. To attend this program, contact Melinda Martin-Lester (480-970-0924, mmartin-lester@comcast.net). The program will be co-hosted by the Saguaro Chapter.

**High Country**

Chapter Secretary Maggie Quinn, Treasurer Karen Bell, and Health Policy Representative Silvia McKennon volunteered at the annual National Kidney Foundation Family Kidney Camp held at the YMCA of the Rockies on September 10-12. About 40 patients and their families enjoyed activities such as horseback riding, hiking, miniature golf, swimming, arts and crafts, a campfire with singing and s’mores, and the all-time favorite bingo!

Abbott Laboratories again will sponsor the annual *For Members Only Christmas Brunch* in December. A January dinner meeting will fea-
ture a presentation by Erin Myerhoff, diabetes nurse educator, on the new changes in *Diabetes Treatment and Education for Patients*.

Speakers are already lining up for presentations at the *Annual Weekend in the Mountains*, scheduled for May 13-15. Your chapter officers are already looking forward to making this event the best ever!

**Greater Puget Sound**

The Kidney Early Education Program (KEEP) held fall programs in Seattle, WA, throughout the month of September. KEEP focuses on patient education topics like nutrition and coping with kidney disease. The chapter helps fund KEEP. For more information on KEEP, call Annie Tu (206-598-4442 or 206-598-2844).

The fall audio conference was held at Mt. Baker, Lacey, and Yakima dialysis units in Washington in October.

The chapter is in the planning stage for its *Renal Update Conference* to be held in March. The topic will be *Advocacy and Education*. This will be a great educational offering.

For questions and comments, email and/or call a chapter officer. We welcome your comments and suggestions as well as volunteers for future chapter events.

**Northern California**

The first of several dinner/educational meetings planned for this year was held at Kuleto’s on September 30. Dr. Sandy Feng of the University of California at San Francisco presented *Extended Criteria Donor Transplant*. Thanks to our pharmaceutical sponsors for an interesting and delicious evening!

The annual *Tri-Chapter Fall Conference* took place on November 3. The all-day seminar entitled *PD-Trek: The Next Generation* was another worthwhile educational and networking opportunity for members.

Mayor Gavin Newson signed a proclamation making August 13 ESRD Education Day in the city and county of San Francisco. The chapter intends to observe this special day in the years to come.

**Nephros South**

The summer was a busy one. Following the National Symposium we held the *Third Annual Southern California Nephrology Nursing Symposium*, which was well attended by nurses, dietitians, social workers, and one patient.

The chapter board held a planning meeting in June. The officers reviewed the member survey for guidance on directing program planning for the remainder of the 2004-05 year. On August 5, Amgen hosted a wonderful dinner meeting at TERRA in San Diego. The topic was the management of *Secondary Hyperparathyroidism in the Stage 5 CKD Population*.

Chapter Health Policy Representative Anneli Ford and President Gloria Booth were active in bringing ESRD Education Day to the forefront in the San Diego area. Gloria arranged for Representative Bob Filner to tour the Gambro Chula Vista facility. Anneli planned visits for September. The cities of La Mesa and San Diego both issued proclamations for August 13 to be recognized as ESRD Education Day.

We worked with Lori Hartwell and the *Renal Support Network* to provide a San Diego patient education meeting entitled *Be Your Own Expert* at the Mission Valley Hilton on September 12. This 6-hour event included a preconference on *Taking Dialysis Home*, a presentation by Lana Kacherova with ESRD Network 18 on how patients can utilize the Networks to enhance their care and increase their knowledge. Other topics included transplantation and vascular access, which was presented as a game show “Know Your Lifeline.”

Nephros South hosted the fall audio conference at the VA Healthcare Center in La Jolla. President-Elect Kathy Ryan attended the Fall Meeting in New Orleans and returned with many good ideas for our chapter.

Remember to save the dates of March 19-20 for our *Fourth Annual Southern California Nephrology Nursing Symposium*.

**Sacramento Valley**

On September 24 the chapter hosted the annual fall conference, *Nephrology Nursing in 2004*. We were excited to have Dr. Bruce Bartlow speak on *Medical Care of the Soul: Preparing for the Empty Chair, the Full Heart*. Lunch was sponsored by Amgen with Barbara Newell pre-

Cascade Chapter President Jackie Chandler met with Legislative Aides Scott Winkle (from Representative Hooley’s office) and Travis Brouwer (from Senator Wyden’s office) at Samaritan Dialysis Services in Corvallis, OR, on ESRD Education Day.

Members of the Cascade Chapter participated in ESRD Education Day activities at the Tualatin Dialysis Unit. Pictured (from left) are Bill Woolverton, Regional Vice President, RCG; Marilyn Grobe, Cascade Chapter Health Policy Representative; Nancy Lynett, Tualatin Dialysis Unit Manager; and Representative David Wu.
senting Targeting Secondary Hyperparathyroidism and the Role of Sensipar. We had a full day with dynamic speakers presenting informative topics. Everyone had fun trying to win one of four beautiful baskets loaded with goodies. Our goal to advance nephrology nursing practice and positively influence outcomes for patients with kidney disease was certainly met through this educational offering.

Our chapter officers are President Chris Stoeckl, President-Elect Judy Boyce, Secretary Valerie August, Treasurer Sheryl Parks, Health Policy Representative Bobbi Wilson, Membership Chair Bobbi Tweedy, Program Facilitator MaryAnn Barnes, Historian Robert Fuller, and Fundraiser Chair Donna Kistler. Help support your chapter and buy Entertainment Books from ANNA.

Board meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month. Please contact a chapter officer for times and location. The chapter would like your input. We will be planning upcoming educational offerings.

We would like to host the CNN and CDN exams in 2005. Please let a chapter officer know if you are interested in taking review classes and an exam.

Cascades
ESRD Education Day was a success for our chapter. Chapter President Jackie Chandler visited with Legislative Aides Scott Winkle (from Representative Hooley’s office) and Travis Brouwer (from Senator Wyden’s office) at the Samaritan Dialysis Services in Corvallis, OR. Chapter Health Policy Representative Marilyn Grobe visited with Representative David Wu at the Tualatin Dialysis Unit.

On October 12 the chapter hosted the fall audio conference at two sites: Gresham Dialysis and Samaritan Dialysis Services.

Thanks to Steve Rose of Watson Pharma, an educational evening was enjoyed by all who attended a program on The Risks of Anemia at the Big River Restaurant in Corvallis, OR.

On November 23 American Regent will sponsor a dinner meeting in Salem, OR.

February 18 is the date for our annual meeting in Welches, OR. Mark your calendars, and watch for further information.

Inland Northwest
The new chapter officers for 2004-05 are President Deb Clerc, President Elect Mary Reamer, Secretary Jeannette Hurbi, Treasurer Kate Moore and Health Policy Representative Sue Eller.

In September Dr. Mroch gave a talk on Sepsis (1.5 CE credits) at Deaconess Hospital. He plans to continue monthly presentations. For more information, call Deb Clerc at Northpointe Dialysis (509-468-8606).

The treasury report was given and fundraising was discussed at a meeting on September 15. Five- North at Sacred Heart continues to sell candy bars bought from Costco. Nora Jordan has offered to sew a quilt to raffle. We will take pictures of it to post in all the units. Taste of Gourmet pie mixes will be sold at $7-$10 each. These are a great idea for the holidays.

On October 12 the chapter hosted a chapter business meeting and the fall audio conference at the Northpointe conference room. Newsletters are distributed after the chapter meetings to all nephrology/dialysis units so they can stay informed about current issues.

Representative David Wu (right) and Field Representative Ramona Perrault (left) visited the Tualatin Dialysis Unit on ESRD Education Day. They were escorted by Cascades Chapter Health Policy Representative Marilyn Grobe.

We are planning an Annual Christmas party at a restaurant. Watch for more information.

Current and new members are welcome to join us at the next audio conference scheduled for February.

Northern Lights
Alaska Representative Don Young sent his top health advisor to visit the Anchorage dialysis unit on September 20. Senator Ted Stevens health advisor visited in October. We are still working on getting Senator Lisa Murkowski to visit one of the units in Alaska in the near future.

We hosted the fall audio conference on diabetes at Anchorage Hospital and Fairbanks Memorial Hospital.

The Inland Empire Chapter recently hosted a Nephrology Review Class with over 40 participants.

Inland Empire chapter officers participated in the chapter’s Nephrology Review Class. Pictured (from left) are President Patty McKiver, President-Elect Juliet Ouizon, Health Policy Representative Noel Domingo, and Treasurer Florie Chacon.
Inland Empire

Welcome to our new members from the old Las Vegas Chapter, the High Rollers.

The chapter had a busy summer. The Nephrology Review Class was well attended with over 40 participants. We then hosted the NNCC certification exams.

We are planning an even busier fall. Several chapter members attended the Southern California National Kidney Foundation’s 44th Annual Scientific Symposium at Pechanga Resort & Casino on September 18. Everyone came away a winner.

The chapter hosted the fall audio conference at several locations. The conference topic – diabetes – was interesting and timely.

We are in the process of planning our Christmas dinner meeting. Please check your mail for upcoming announcements. The dinner meeting will provide an opportunity to visit old friends, enjoy a great meal, and earn CE credits.

Congratulations to Gerri Lewis on being accepted into the Master’s Program at California State University. Very soon we will have another nephrology nurse practitioner in the Inland Empire. Good luck!

Chumash

The chapter was quiet over the summer. Meetings resumed in September. The chapter hosted the fall audio conference at Kaiser Woodland Hills on October 12. A dinner meeting was held in early November at the Westlake Village Inn. Amgen sponsored the meeting, which focused on the new calcimimetic, Sensipar™.

The chapter hopes our local legislators heard from members regarding the Senate and House bills dealing with dialysis reimbursement.

We are looking forward to a big turnout from Chumash at the National Symposium in Las Vegas.

Northeast

Big Apple

The chapter is developing a Web site that should be online by the time you read this article.

Thanks to Stacey Molinari of Abbott Laboratories for sponsoring a dinner symposium on Secondary Hyperparathyroidism and the Effects of Parathyroid Hormone on October 21.

We welcome suggestions for topics so that we can plan future symposia around your interests and needs.

Northeast Region Hosts Successful Meeting

The Northeast Open Regional Executive Committee Meeting was held October 2-3, 2004, at the Lackawanna Station Radisson Hotel in Scranton, PA. Twenty-four regional and chapter officers representing 9 of the Northeast’s 18 chapters were in attendance. Presentations were given on completing chapter action plans, organizing an educational program, obtaining vendor education grants, and delegating responsibilities with a review of each state’s Nurse Practice Act. One of the highlights of the meeting was a review of ANNA’s new Web site by Karen Burwell, Northeast Vice President.

Evaluations from the meeting were very positive, and those in attendance felt that the presentations were very helpful to their roles as chapter officers. Thank you to our presenters and the Open Regional Executive Committee for making this annual meeting so successful:

- Presenters – Karen Burwell; Jean Pirozzi, Northeast Chapters Coordinator; Nancy Szynanski, Northeast Health Policy Advisor; Caroline Steward; Lauren Webster-Garcia; and Nida Quirong-Jones.
- Committee Members – Geraldine Tis, Debbie Brouwer, and Nina Mazzei-Parrish.

Thank you also to the chapter officers who attended and contributed their thoughts and ideas for making ANNA a better organization for members.

Marilyn Eilert
Northeast Chapters Coordinator-Elect

Spring Ahead

The chapter presented Dialysis Update 2004 at the Danversport Yacht Club in Danvers, MA, on November 7. It was an all-day program. Attendees learned a lot and enjoyed the networking.

Central New York

Plans are underway for the All Day Renal Day to be held in early March along with several other shorter programs throughout the year. Information on each event will be mailed to chapter members. The chapter is also planning to host the NNCC certification exams in late spring. Watch for additional information regarding location, date, and registration requirements.

Mass Bay

The chapter presented Dialysis Update 2004 at the Danversport Yacht Club in Danvers, MA, on November 7. It was an all-day program. Attendees learned a lot and enjoyed the networking.

Northeast Tri-State

The chapter will host the NNCC certification exams at the Stratton VA Medical Center in Albany, NY, on November 20. A review course in preparation for the exams was held in September.

Several chapter officers attended the Open Regional Executive Committee Meeting in Scranton, PA, in October. It was very helpful and informative.

The Acute Adult Dialysis and the Pediatric Dialysis Units at Albany Medical Center have started a Journal Club. We meet monthly, have lunch, and discuss an article that everyone reads before the meeting. It is very educational. For more information, email ldussaul@nycap.rr.com.
**Garden State**

The chapter has been on the move with the ANNA-On-The-Go Mobile, visiting ANNA headquarters in Pitman, NJ, and units throughout the state. Information is provided to those who practice in nephrology to help provide support and education in the specialty. If you are interested in having the bus come to your unit, contact donnabuglisi@hotmail.com.

Our chapter sponsored the fall audio conference at two sites: Everest at St. Clare’s Hospital and Ocean Center Medical Dialysis. This enabled all who were interested to attend a nearby site and gather information on diabetes.

Our fall conference is scheduled to be held in Carteret, NJ, in early December. Look for flyers in the mail.

We look forward to meeting our members at conferences and during our ANNA-On-The-Go-Mobile visits to local dialysis units. We encourage your support and participation in chapter activities. All members need to be involved to make a successful chapter.

**North Central**

**Windy City**

Chapter Health Policy Representative Kathleen Kuchta was busy coordinating the ESRD Education Day activities for the region and our chapter. As of September 10 legislators in Illinois, including two from the Chicago area, made five visits to dialysis units.

The chapter hosted a CNN review course on September 2 at the request of members. Approximately 20 participants attended the course, and comments were positive. Good luck to those members who took a test in October! We hosted the fall audio conference at three sites, including one in Rockford.

**St. Louis**

Missouri was one of the few states that received a proclamation for ESRD Education Day from Governor Bob Holden. Thank you to Susan Blalock, State Health Policy Director, for accomplishing this task!

Fall held beautiful weather for the St. Louis Metro region. We were mindful of others in the U.S. affected by the hurricanes, and the special efforts they made to care for patients. Nephrology nurses always rise to the occasion when our patients need us.

September 11 was the Annual Chili Cook Off, and many ANNA members participated in the day’s events. Karen Fields from AHDC coordinated a booth for her unit. The chili ran out long before the event was over!

Metro members enjoyed the fall audio conference at the Mid America Transplant offices, which generously provided the use of their facilities. On November 2 the chapter enjoyed a dinner meeting at the Chase Park Plaza sponsored by Elise Hart and American Regent.

A holiday meeting will be held at Norwood Hills Country Club. The meeting will be hosted by Amgen and Beth Castaneda, and Dr. Marcos Rothstein will speak on DOPPS.

**Mid Plains**

ESRD Education Day was a success at the DaVita Wichita East Dialysis Unit. Chapter President Joanne Brady and Health Policy Representative Carol Price accompanied Jennifer Swenson, Senator Pat Roberts’s health aide, on a tour of the facility. Ms. Swenson spent 1.5 hours in the unit, reviewing ANNA’s ESRD Briefing Book, meeting patients, and discussing issues with both patients and staff. Joanne Brady requested that Jennifer encourage Senator Roberts to become a co-sponsor of the ESRD Modernization Act.

The chapter held its fall workshop, The Nitty-Gritty of Caring for Renal Patients (7.4 CE credits), on October 23. Topics included therapy changes due to calcimimetics, volunteer opportunities, assessing target weight with crit lines, caring for caregivers, and end-of-life decisions.

We continue to welcome new members and encourage participation from any interested dialysis nurses or technicians.

**MichigANNA**

Our Annual Fall Conference in Frankenmuth was a success. The weather was terrific, and the presentations on calcium and phosphorous were even better. Many thanks for the hard work our presenters did to provide us with such interesting sessions.

Welcome to new chapter members: Laura Bartnik-Walton, Donna
Buggs, Jacqueline Collins, Pamela McNeil, Nancy Nelson, Donna Reesman, Heather Shafer, and Wendy Sopel-Tetrault. We look forward to seeing all of you in the near future.

Don’t forget to return your ballots for the new chapter officers, and watch for further information about our Spring Conference.

Heart of America

The chapter is very excited about the success of our day-long seminar, Heart of Nephrology Care, which was held in September. The meeting featured six presenters with great expertise in different areas of nephrology. We learned about mineral metabolism in secondary hyperthyroidism, access in the new millennium, iron management, lipids, organ donation, and difficult patient-provider relationships. There were over 50 attendees, including nurses, dietitians, and managers. We had a tremendous amount of support from vendors with a large number of vendor exhibits. Chapter officers learned a lot from this experience and hope to host another successful seminar next year.

Our recent focus has been the fall audio conference and the officer election/educational meeting planned for December.

Buckeye

Chapter members have found plenty to keep us busy in spite of fewer meetings during the summer months. The ESRD education program at the Mid Ohio Dialysis Unit on August 13 was well planned and executed with city, state, and national political figures as well as candidates currently running for office in attendance. We received a state proclamation from Ohio Governor Taft for August to be ESRD education month, as well as ones from Columbus Mayor Coleman and Congressman Tiberi.

On August 14 we converged on the Ohio State Fair Ground to man the booth for the Ohio Nurses Association to represent and recruit nurses and educate fellow Ohioans about ESRD and organ donation. The chapter hosted a Nephrology Nursing Review Course at the Riverside Health Center in Columbus on September 18-19.

We are excited and pleased to see Buckeye coming back to life. We are also pleased to announce our new Health Policy Representative Helen Whatley.

Southeast Minnesota

The chapter held its fall membership drive at Soldier’s Field Park in Rochester, MN, on August 31. The theme was “Camp Wanna Bee ANNA Member.” Lisa Carter was the camp counselor and June Buck-Tipton was the craft queen; 17 members attended along with a few guests. It was enjoyed by all.

Chapter members participated in the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation’s Walk to Cure Diabetes on September 11. Michelle Lochner coordinated this fundraiser. Connie Hatch walked with her, and they raised $245. Our chapter matched this amount to make the total contribution to this worthy cause $490.

The chapter participated in the ANNA audio conference at four sites in October. Ramona Fisher helped organize this event with the national office.

Planning for our spring meeting to be held May 5-6 is well underway. Ramona Fisher is the chair of this organizing committee. Most of the speakers are committed, and details are being considered.

Central Missouri

The chapter is planning the Third Annual Nephrology Update to be held March 15 in Columbia, MO. Please save the date, and watch for more information.

Black Swamp

Representative Marcy Kaptur from Toledo and Mayor Tim Wagener of Maumee attended a dinner meeting at the Maumee Chop House on August 31. Dr. Rumberger, a cardiologist from Ohio State, presented information on Coronary and Arterial Calciumification, and Cardiovascular Disease. Eric Schomer from Genzyme sponsored the meeting. Representative Kaptur spoke to the group after the meeting and praised those who work in the dialysis community for their hard work and dedication. Prior to the meeting Mayor Wagener toured Arrowhead Dialysis at the invitation of Debbie Mills, chapter treasurer.

In recognition of ESRD Education Day, President-Elect Trish Carter was featured in an article in the MCO Monitor in August. She discussed the importance of making government officials aware of ESRD patients’ needs and asking for their support with upcoming bills and federal funding.

Donna Nazfizer from American Renal presented an educational program on Anemia: Iron Management and the CQI Process (3.0 CE credits). The dinner meeting was held September 14 at Mancy’s Italian in Toledo.

The Kidney Foundation of NWO held their Kidney Walk fundraiser at Owens Community College in Toledo on September 26. All of our chapter officers participated.

The chapter hosted the fall audio conference on diabetes at Gambro on October 5. The Kidney Foundation Symposium, which focused on vascular access, was held on October 21 at the UAW Hall Arrowhead in Maumee. ANNA President Leslie Dinwiddie attended and chapter officers had the honor of dining with Leslie the evening prior to the symposium.

Watson Pharma sponsored a presentation on Identifying and Solving Problems in the Hemodialysis Clinic on October 26.

Platte River

The chapter held a well-attended educational dinner program entitled Making Sense of Sensipar on July 29. The program was sponsored by Amgen.

ESRD Education Day was a success. The governor of Nebraska declared August 13 ESRD Education Day across the state. On August 20 Dana Zeiss, chapter member and North Central Regional Health Policy Advisor, and Eileen Heitman, chapter health policy representative, hosted state legislators as well as the mayor of Omaha and National Kidney Foundation members during a tour of a dialysis unit and roundtable discussion about the ESRD Modernization Act.

The chapter held an educational conference titled The Latest and the Greatest in Lincoln, NE, on September 22-23. Nine people sat for the NNCC certification exams as well. We were very excited to have Lori Hartwell, nationally known speaker, patient, and author, give presentations both Wednesday evening and Thursday morning.

On October 5 the chapter sponsored two sites for the fall audio conference on diabetes. Chapter members Sheila O’Day, who is also Distance Learning Committee Chair, and Mary Churchill, an Audio Conference Committee member, were partly responsible for bringing this quality educational program to us.

We are proud that the article “Hemodialysis Vascular Access: How Do Practice Patterns Affect Outcomes?” by chapter member Cindy Pile was published in the May/June issue of Nephrology Nursing Journal.

Our last educational offering of 2004, Daily Home Hemodialysis, was
Announce that cational programs. We are happy to National Symposium and other edu-

gift baskets we raffled off at the Eileen Heitman National Symposium as possible.

Send as many members to the our scholarship fund. We intend to

mation. The proceeds will go toward

dheitman5@cox.net for more information. The proceeds will go toward our scholarship fund. We intend to send as many members to the National Symposium as possible.

Thank you to Roni Schmidt and Eileen Heitman for the creation of gift baskets we raffled off at the National Symposium and other educational programs. We are happy to announce that Rose Wickey has offered her love of scrapbooking to use for our chapter to compile the history of the Platte River Chapter.

The chapter is grateful to our officers for their hard work: President Denise Murcek, President-Elect Karen Melcher, Secretary Rae Lynne Reddish, and Treasurer Terry Munsinger. We are in the process of recruiting members to run for chapter offices and sit on committees for 2005-06.

Twin Cities

The past few months have been busy. Chapter officers have been meeting regularly. We are committed to increasing involvement in our chapter and with our members. We are planning and organizing events to get members together in hopes of getting them to realize the satisfaction of participating in nephrology-specific events and caring for patients with kidney disease.

The transplant games were awesome. Jacqueline Rust coordinated coverage for 28 shifts for the first aid and medical teams on the campus of the University of Minnesota and the off-site bowling events.

ESRD Education Day was August 13. Chapter Health Policy Representative Martha Simms did a fabulous job of spreading the word about ESRD. She contacted staff from the offices of Senator Coleman, Senator Dayton, Congressman John Kline, Congressman Ramstad, Congresswoman McCollum, and Representative Sabo. She arranged dialysis unit visits with staff members from Senator Dayton’s office, Jim Ramstad’s office, and Congress-

woman McCollum’s office. Kathy Weese, Martha Simms, and Jacqueline Rust met with Congressman Sabo at his office, and Martha visited Congressman Kline’s office. We distributed ESRD information booklets and discussed the need for legislators to support the ESRD Modernization Act of 2004. Thank you to Martha for doing an awesome job.

The Renal Network 11 Annual Meeting was held October 8 at the Marriott City Center. ANNA President Lesley Dinwiddie recently spoke on vascular access. CE credits were available.

The chapter hosted the fall audio conference at the St. Louis Park DaVita facility on October 5. Dinner was also provided. After the audio conference the chapter officers held a meeting to discuss upcoming events and chapter activities.

The Kidney Early Education Program (KEEP) is a free health screening program offered by the National Kidney Foundation for individuals at increased risk of developing kidney disease. ANNA strongly supports these events. This is a great opportunity to meet other renal caregivers, educate individuals on kidney disease, hypertension, and diabetes, and make a huge difference in your community. If you are interested in volunteering at the next KEEP program, contact Betty Bergerson (bergersonw@aol.com).

Martha Simms, health policy representative, is planning to retire from her position after the first of the year. We need a replacement for her. This is a great opportunity for anyone who enjoys politics and is interested in legislative issues to get involved and make a difference for the renal community.

Finally, we are in the planning stages of additional evening dinner education conferences. Topics that are being discussed are infection control in the dialysis units and vascular access care and cannulation. If you have an educational need or have identified an educational need in your unit, please contact Chapter Secretary Jacqueline Rust.

Hoosier Hills

Chapter President Dawn Williams, Secretary Kim Freeman, Treasurer Ali Kreinhop, and Past President Holly Branaman met recently to finalize plans for the remainder of the year.

In October the chapter hosted a site for the fall audio conference in Columbus, IN. In conjunction with the audio conference, a short business meeting was held to begin the nomination process for 2005-06 chapter officers. Once nominations were received, ballots were mailed to chapter members.

The chapter will host the winter audio conference on February 1. The new chapter officers will be introduced, and ideas for 2005-06 programs will be discussed. Please plan to attend.