Three ANNA members attended the annual Nurse In Washington Internship (NIWI) event held February 6-9, 2005, in Washington, DC. JoAnne Gilmore, ANNA’s National Treasurer, Jennifer Payton, and Sheila Brockway joined over 80 other nurses to learn more about influencing health care through the legislative and regulatory processes. Sponsored by the Nursing Organizations Alliance (The Alliance), the NIWI program provides participants the opportunity to learn from health policy experts and government officials, network with other nurses, and visit members of Congress.

The 2005 program featured timely topics and speakers.

- Lisa Maatz, director of public policy and government relations for the American Association of University Women, examined the issues surrounding Social Security reform.
- Michael Hash, principal at Health Policy Alternatives and former deputy HCFA administrator at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, described the historical and current forces surrounding health care financing.
- Judith K. Leavitt, MEd, RN, FAAN, and Mary W. Chaffee, DSc(h), MS, RN, CNAAN, FAAN, co-editors of *Policy and Politics in Nursing and Health Care*, discussed the political clout that nurses have to influence and the political arenas where nurses have traditionally been active.
- Sally Phillips, PhD, RN, director of the bioterrorism preparedness research program for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and former staff aide to Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), presented an overview for a successful Hill visit.

The conference concluded with individual meetings with members of Congress.

Jennifer Payton, president of the Palmetto Chapter of ANNA and incoming Southeast Regional Health Policy Advisor, and Sheila Brockway, a member of the Northeast Tri-State Chapter and incoming Northeast Regional Health Policy Advisor, attended NIWI on scholarships they received through the ANNA awards and scholarship program.

All three ANNA members who participated in NIWI were impressed by the program and the knowledge they gained. Jennifer Payton explained, “The Nurse in Washington Internship was a very enlightening experience for me. I have come out of this internship with a new excitement and appreciation for the legislative process.”