2007 National Symposium Will Focus on Advocacy Through Leadership

The program committee has completed planning for the 2007 National Symposium to be held April 22-25 at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas. The meeting, planned around the theme of Advocacy Through Leadership, will feature an exciting and education-packed program.

Program Highlights

Preconferences
A choice of full-day preconference workshops will be offered on Sunday, April 22, prior to the official start of the symposium. Topics include:
- Cardiovascular Disease Across the Lifespan: Enhancing Survival by Treating the Risks
- Diabesity: The 21st Century Epidemic
- Legal Concerns in a Dynamic Health Care Climate
- Certification Review Course

General Session Speakers
Most nurses didn’t choose their careers because of the great hours, pay, and working conditions! Opening speaker LeAnn Thieman, CSP, co-author of bestseller Chicken Soup for the Nurse’s Soul, will remind you why you entered the profession – and why you stay. By sharing Chicken Soup stories and those from her 30 years in nursing, LeAnn encourages, uplifts, and honors nurses and champions their daily contributions and sacrifices. She will offer you a “care plan” to care for yourself as you care for others. LeAnn will re-energize you with hope, health, and healing during these challenging times, inspiring you to continue your compassionate service.

Connie Curran, MEd, RN, FAAN, a renowned nursing leader and nursing advocate as well as editor of Nursing Economics$, The Journal for Health Care Leaders, will deliver the Janel Parker Memorial Keynote Address: Advocacy Through Leadership. Leaders in any profession are advocates – for what they believe, for their business, for their constituents. Leaders in nursing must learn to become better advocates for their profession, for their patients, and for themselves. Come hear Connie describe why nurses need to be increasingly aware of our roles as leaders and advocates – and the consequences of choosing to “let others do it!”

Concurrent Sessions
ANNA’s Special Interest Groups (SIGs) have planned networking sessions that will provide opportunities to discuss today’s practice challenges. Concurrent sessions will feature expert practitioners addressing a wide array of topics. Sessions will address Medicare Part D; malpractice; living donation and accessibility to transplantation; protein malnutrition; sleep apnea in kidney disease; continuous versus daily dialysis for acute renal failure; immunization; cardiovascular disease; fluid management in dialysis; documentation, coding, and billing for CKD; pediatrics; peritoneal dialysis issues; pharmacology; and much more.

In addition, the meeting will include plenty of time for networking and fun. Special events include the First Night Mixer, the exhibit hall grand opening, the Big Event Party, regional receptions, and the Nephrology Nurse Day Recognition Luncheon.

Postconference
An optional postconference session will be offered on Wednesday, April 25, entitled From Head to Toe: Neurology You Need to Know When Caring for CKD Patients. Judith Ann Stilker, BSN, RN, CNRN, Professor of Research in the Department of Research Medicine at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, will tie the pathophysiology and cellular processes of stroke and peripheral neurologic disease to the practice issues in managing these disorders, especially for nurses caring for patients with CKD. She also will focus on the challenges of treatment and prevention for patients with renal failure. This workshop will be important for all nurses caring for patients who deal with the many complications of CKD.

Registration Information
Symposium registration materials will be available soon. Registration discounts are available to those individuals who submit their registrations by March 2, 2007. Watch the ANNA Web site (www.annanurse.org) and your mailbox for registration materials.
Spotline on Current Leaders in ANNA

Karen Robbins, MS, RN, CNN, is the third person chosen this year by the Leadership Development Committee to introduce to members through this column, which spotlights various ways that you can find your niche in ANNA.

Karen Robbins is the Nurse Educator for Dialysis Services, Transplant, and Advanced Organ Support at Hartford Hospital in Hartford, CT. She has held numerous positions within the ANNA, including National President (1998), President-Elect (1997), National Treasurer (1993-1995), and Northeast Region Vice President (1991-1993). Karen frequently offers her time and talents to the organization to ensure the future of the profession and ANNA. Karen is currently the Associate Editor of the Nephrology Nursing Journal and has been a past author for numerous health care publications such as the Nephrology Nursing Journal, ANNA Journal, Nephrology News & Issues, and Plastic Surgical Nursing Journal. In addition, she has authored/co-authored chapters in several nursing textbooks, including the first and second editions of Contemporary Nephrology Nursing and Critical Care Nursing and has offered assistance to many authors over the years.

Karen was recognized for her contributions to ANNA in 2003 when she was awarded the Outstanding Contribution to ANNA Award. She also speaks with passion as she describes “the quiet leadership of past Executive Director Ron Brady, the excellence for which he stood, and how he inspired past and current leaders in the organization.”

Karen credits many past National Presidents as her mentors as she moved through various roles in ANNA: Patty Jordan, Janel Parker, Karen Schardin, Terran Sims, and Gail Wick. She is quick to say that her mentors encouraged her toward roles she had not considered could be hers. She finds herself often trying to give that back to the future of the profession and the Association through mentoring future leaders and writers.

Over the past several months many of my spotlight articles have focused on leaders in the organization. Each of these leaders has given credit to others for mentoring them in their leadership and professional development. Karen is no exception. She credits her mentors, and many credit Karen as their mentor in articles for the journal, leadership in the Association, or in professional practice. What a great lead into the ANNA's new online mentoring program!

Mentoring is a wonderful way to give back to the future leadership of the ANNA and the specialty. Over the next several months you will be reading more about the online program coming soon. ANNAConnections will use current technology to facilitate online mentoring to both grow leaders in our organization and pass along knowledge, skills, and attitudes critical to maintaining an expert nephrology nursing workforce. We believe mentoring will range from providing instruction in a single specific skill, to providing guidance, support, and knowledge in nephrology nursing to a nurse new to the field, to providing coaching in specific skills needed for leadership positions within our organization. Our membership includes experts with many and varied clinical skills, in the gestalt of nephrology nursing, and with powerful leadership attributes; these seasoned veterans will be recruited as mentors. Their work will be made easy by the use of Web-based systems to allow a mentee to determine his/her own learning needs and identify mentors with matching skills/expertise. We anticipate the relationships will occur via threaded discussion, e-mail, and phone.

I continue to be inspired as I interview our leaders for these “Spotlight” articles. I hope they are continuing to provide you with ideas about where you could fit in as a volunteer within our Association. Maybe you are holding out sharing your knowledge and skills, maybe you are a writer who could share your talent with a colleague who has never published: consider a role as a mentor, like Karen. I hope the Spotlight articles are helping you to see something that inspires you to “connect.” You will be proud of your accomplishments! Thanks, Karen, for all that you do for ANNA!

Molly Lillis Cahill
Leadership Development Chair
Heart of America Chapter

Save the Dates for ANNA’s Winter Audio Conference

February 6, 2007
Northeast, Southeast, and North Central Regions

February 13, 2007
Western Region

Invitations to participate will be distributed to ANNA chapters in November. The deadline for chapters to register to participate is January 5, 2007.
So many exciting things are happening with the Leadership Development Committee (LDC). Here are some the highlights.

You might have picked up some M&Ms at the Fall Meeting and enjoyed the candy treat. But M&M – “M”entors and “M”entees – is also the new buzz within the Association. ANNA Mentoring Champion Glenda Payne and I spent time in Boston at the Fall Meeting telling members about the "Coming Soon" Online Mentoring Program "ANNA Connections." We have completed early steps and are currently working on customizing the site. We plan to complete some testing and have the program up and running before the end of the year. Our first goal once the site is up will be to recruit mentors. We will be sending notices about ANNA Connections via the ANNA E-News and the Nephrology Nursing Journal. Watch for more information.

The 2007 Enrichment Opportunity Event (EOE) is set to take place in Dallas in conjunction with the National Symposium. We are planning a spectacular event! The purpose of the EOE is to give members an opportunity to see the work of ANNA’s Special Interest Groups (SIGs), Committees, Nephrology Nursing Journal, and Regional and National Officers and to identify an opportunity for them to volunteer their time and talents within the Association and grow professionally. We want every member to know that anyone can volunteer, make significant contributions, as well as receive significant benefits from committee or SIG involvement. The National Symposium theme is Leadership Through Advocacy, and the EOE is a great place to start on a leadership pathway.

We have big plans for the 2007 Volunteer Leaders Orientation Workshop (VLOW). Once again, when you let us know what you need to be successful within your chapter, we listen and try to make it available. This year we will be offering several concurrent sessions on multiple topics, including panel discussions. If several officers from your chapter are attending VLOW, we encourage you to split up and attend different sessions. If only one officer is attending, plan to attend the session that best suits the needs of your chapter.

Nephrology Nurses Week was a huge success thanks to Advisor Lesley Dinwiddie and all the nephrology nurses who took time to celebrate our specialty. If you have not done so already, complete the Nephrology Nurses Week Report & Evaluation Form available on the ANNA Web site to provide feedback for potential changes next year. To access the form online, go to www.annanurse.org, click on Events, and select Nephrology Nurses Week.

Molly Cahill
Leadership Development Chair
Heart of America Chapter