ANNA's Strategic Plan is a template for the committees that provide and approve the myriad educational activities that are available to members and colleagues. These activities continually provide access to current, informative, and cost-effective education. ANNA’s mission of “advancing nephrology nursing and positively influencing outcomes for patients with kidney disease” is lived out through all the volunteers involved in ANNA’s education work. The quality and the value of the education that nephrology nurses receive from ANNA has again increased this year, as this has been another year of growth for many programs.

There are several ways ANNA makes education available to nephrology nurses. The Conferences Committee is responsible for planning and implementing the National Symposium and the Fall Meeting. The Distance Learning Committee plans, implements, and evaluates the fall and winter audio conferences. The *Nephrology Nursing Journal* Editorial Board ensures that the continuing nursing education activities provided in the journal meet the learning needs of those who use the journal for their education. The Approver Unit reviews applications submitted by constituents of ANNA and ensures that those programs meet the criteria necessary to receive contact hours. Educational programs planned and produced by ANNA Special Interest Group members are also available via the ANNA Web site. Education is available to chapters through programs funded by unrestricted educational grants from corporate sponsors.

**ANNA's Business of Education**

The computerized course entry system implemented for all continuing education (CE) activities provided by ANNA or approved by CEAB has been working well for ANNA members. This system allows ANNA to better serve its members as processing duplicate certificates has been much quicker than it was in the past.

This report, particularly the numbers in Table 1 enumerating the number of people receiving certificates, reflect an entire year's worth of data about the people, the certificates, and the actual number of CEUs that ANNA has provided and approved. It is an astounding number and again demonstrates the level of commitment our members and staff have to assuring accessible education!

**Conferences**

The Conferences Committee, chaired by Carol Headley, plans the Fall Meeting and the National Symposium. Committee members work together to plan, implement, and then evaluate the sessions offered. Both general and concurrent sessions are thoughtfully considered. The members spend time polling colleagues both inside and outside of ANNA to determine topics and speakers that will enhance the practice of all nephrology nurses. The evaluations received from those attending education activities have been extremely positive, indicating that the objectives and goals were achieved by the learners.

### Table 1

**Participation in Educational Programs**

A total of 2,047 activities provided continuing nursing education contact hours, either because ANNA provided the activity or the Continuing Education Approval Board approved the activity. In addition, certificates were received from individuals who accessed independent studies via several different avenues. The number of people who received certificates with contact hours appears below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Program</th>
<th>Number of People Awarded CE Certificates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provided by ANNA</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live activities - National Symposium, Fall Meeting,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Leaders Orientation Workshop, and Health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Workshop</td>
<td>3,339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nephrology Nursing Journal independent studies</td>
<td>4,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audio conferences</td>
<td>1,329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANNA chapter education programs (provided by ANNA national)</td>
<td>1,352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent studies (CD-ROM and online)</td>
<td>544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total provided by ANNA</strong></td>
<td>10,706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Approved by CEAB</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of certificates provided (chapter activities and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other live activities)</td>
<td>12,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEAB postests (corporate-sponsored programs)</td>
<td>465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total approved by CEAB</strong></td>
<td>13,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total certificates awarded</strong></td>
<td>24,131</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The 2006 Fall Meeting for Nephrology Nurse Managers, Advanced Practice Nurses, and Clinicians was held in Boston in September. This meeting again set new attendance records with a total number of 768 attendees who gave extremely positive evaluations. It has been an exciting journey for the committees involved in this venture.

Planning for the 2007 Fall Meeting to be held in San Francisco already has begun. Committee members have been meeting weekly on phone conferences and met in person in February with the goal of planning another relevant set of sessions that will enhance the practice of nephrology nurses.

The 2006 National Symposium, which occurred following submission of the annual report last year, was held in Nashville, TN. A total of 1,345 people attended the symposium, 504 attended preconferences, and 67 attended the postconference, with all of these events receiving very positive evaluations. Evaluations from this activity were used by the planning committee for the 2007 National Symposium as well as the audio conferences. 218 also attended the Volunteer Leaders Orientation Workshop, which awarded contact hours, increasing the number of CEs available in Nashville.

The 2007 National Symposium to be held in April in Dallas is quickly approaching, and the planning committee is putting the finishing touches on their planning and work. The entire symposium promises to continue the tradition of timely and exciting topics and sessions, wonderful networking opportunities, and great fun.

The 2006-07 committee members Carol Headley, Sharon Longton, Laurie Carlson, Gail Dewald, Claudia Douglas, Jean Kammerer, Carol Kinzner, Lori Mahaffey, Peggy Nusser-Gerlach, and Patricia Weiskittel deserve much praise for their work this year. The success of these activities is due to the work and effort put into choosing the best topics and obtaining the most qualified speakers.

Distance Learning

This committee, chaired by Sheila O’Day, has once again provided excellent education to ANNA chapters and members this year.

Audio Conference. The 2006 winter conference, which occurred after last year’s annual report had been written, provided outstanding, relevant information and received great evaluations from 1,362 participants at 133 sites (a record breaking number of attendees!). Deborah Brouwer spoke about the Fistula First Breakthrough Initiative: Focus on Cannulation. The fall 2006 audio conference highlighted the New Vascular Access Guidelines from K/DOQI, which Lesley Dinwiddie brought to life for participants. There were 1,170 participants at 149 sites, again a record for this event.

Suggestions for future audio conferences have been received, and those comments and suggestions will be considered in the planning for next year. The 2007 winter audio conference, which occurred following the submission of this report, is entitled The Heart of the Matter: Cardiovascular Disease and Chronic Kidney Disease and was presented by Dr. Mary Schira.

Audience polling questions were again incorporated into these presentations to encourage interaction with participants. Online registration continues as the method of registering and providing handouts to participating chapters. Refinement to the directions is ongoing, all in an effort to make this a user-friendly and successful venue for education.

Many thanks go to the members of this committee — Sheila O’Day, Susan Bridger, Kirsten Jensen, Robert MacKinnon, and Kathryn Weese — who have worked so diligently to plan this excellent set of audio conferences.

CE Support Materials. In the past year, 4,686 people took advantage of the independent study activities made available by ANNA. These activities include CE articles and educational monographs in the Nephrology Nursing Journal as well as those offerings made available through ANNA’s partnership with Hypertension, Dialysis and Clinical Nephrology (HDCN), which posts selected sessions from the National Symposium and Nephrology Nursing Journal CE articles on its Web site. These independent study offerings have been the most popular method for ANNA members to access education and earn contact hours. Thanks to Patricia McCarley, who is responsible for generating, or re-writing, posttest questions for every Journal article that is published.

Provided Continuing Education. ANNA continues to provide continuing nursing education produced by committees and task forces of ANNA. The series on chronic kidney disease continues to evolve as does the end-of-life series modules. These are available for free download to individuals who want to use them for independent study as well as for education in their facilities.

ANNA chapter programs provided by Genentech, Amgen, and Shire have been a tremendously popular venue for continuing nursing education. During the 2006 calendar year 1,180 individuals attended and received certificates for the programs supported by unrestricted educational grants from these companies.

Two initiatives begun in 2006 that will continue into 2007 have been exciting ventures for ANNA. Roche provided an unrestricted educational grant with which ANNA provided an exciting symposium that premiered at the Fall Meeting in Boston. Sally Burrows-Hudson, Sally Campoy, and Carol Headley presented a session entitled Standards: The Basis of Care to Manage the Patient with Complications of Chronic Kidney Disease Leading to Cardiovascular Disease. Articles from this activity are in the final stages of being published in the Nephrology Nursing Journal, a second presentation will be offered at the National Symposium in Dallas, and a CD-ROM will then be made available. Another initiative that is in the early stages is a series of modules on depression being authored by Mark Meier and reviewed by members of ANNA.
The Continuing Education Approval Board (CEAB) is ANNA's accredited approver of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses' Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation (ANCC-COA). As an approver unit, CEAB accepts applications for CE credit from chapters, affiliated organizations such as the ESRD Networks and National Kidney Foundation, as well as corporate sponsors and other organizations providing education to nephrology nurses.

In the past 12 months CEAB has received and approved 158 individual applications for CE credit. One hundred percent of these were approved for presentation because of the efforts of CEAB members, particularly the Chair and Chair Designate, who work with applicants to fix problems that are identified during the review process. The 12,960 participants who received certificates from these programs were positively influenced by the education they received.

CEAB’s application, review, and approval process is based on the criteria of the ANCC-COA. The committee spent time this year reviewing, editing, and revising their policies and procedures in response to ANCC criteria changes and in preparation for the ANCC self-study and site visit. There have been some revisions to the guidelines, which are now available on the ANNA Web site.

CEAB continues to work to remain fiscally responsible to ANNA, attempting to measure the true costs to ANNA of providing approver unit services to its members while at the same time remaining within our constituents’ budgets. We continue to review and approve applications as well as store materials for chapters at much less than actual costs as a service to them, remaining comparable to the fee structure of other association approver units.

Sonya Peterson (chairperson), Karen Braun (chair designate), Hazel Dennison, Susan Fallone, Elaine Go, Pat Juarez, Betsy King, Tammi Lee, Sharon Swofford, R. Anne Webber, Phyllis Wille, and Linda Wright have spent countless hours reviewing applications. They do an astounding amount of work for ANNA and deserve thanks from all us for all they accomplish as volunteers for CEAB.

Accredited Status. ANNA is accredited as both a provider and an approver by ANCC-COA. Every 4-6 years a self-study is required along with a 2-day site visit by ANCC accreditation volunteers to amplify, verify, and clarify the information in the self-study. The self-studies for CEAB and for ANNA’s Provider Unit were submitted at the end of the year, and a site visit will occur in late spring of 2007. Information about the results of that self-study will be published on the ANNA Web site and in the newsletter once it has been completed by ANNA in the fall.

Sally Russell
Director of Education Services

The Nephrology Nursing Journal, in 2006, provided articles and department content ranging from information on basic clinical techniques to cutting edge research, including 41.0 hours of nephrology-specific continuing nursing education (CNE). The journal is the result of the combined efforts of a lot of individuals – our editors, Editorial Board members (Deborah Brooks, Paula Dutka, Trish McCarley, Holly McFarland, Chris Mudge, Christy Price Rabetoy, Mary Schira, and Charlotte Szromba), the Manuscript Review Panel, the Jannetti staff who work with us, writers who contribute content, and many others. We thank them all for their contributions to expand and disseminate information that helps nephrology nurses and others improve their practice and ultimately improve the care of our patients.

We are always trying to make the Nephrology Nursing Journal better. To that end, we often try new departments, new formats, etc. This past year, we added a Vascular Access department, coordinated by Lynda Ball, to provide information on access techniques and practices. We also have begun to offer an alternative CNE format that asks you to tell us how the information in the article has or will change your nursing practice rather than using the traditional multiple choice questions. The alternative format has provided us with wonderful feedback, and we will be increasing the use of the new format in 2007.

The journal receives many excellent manuscript submissions, but we always need and want more. We are looking for articles and department contributions that share clinical observations and techniques, describe the pathophysiology and nursing interventions for disease processes associated with chronic kidney disease, improve treatment and care for nephrology patients, and improve the practice of nephrology nurses. While we only have a finite amount of pages in the journal, our desire is to always offer as wide a range of information as possible. We want submissions from all practice modalities, from the most basic to the most advanced information, for all types of nephrology patients, and for all nephrology nursing subspecialties.

Our Editorial Board members, Associate Editor Karen Robbins, and I are committed to working with potential contributors. Whether you are a novice author or an expert, we are always available to work with you. We will be presenting a writing workshop at the National Symposium in April and encourage anyone who is thinking about writing to attend. The workshop will provide information on how to write for publication and will offer attendees the opportunity to ask questions about writing in general and the topics they are interested in writing about. You are all invited to attend and to contribute your knowledge and expertise to the Nephrology Nursing Journal.

Beth Ulrich
Editor, Nephrology Nursing Journal

The Journal Report