Northeast

Colonial #103
Save these dates! The chapter will host the Winter Audio Conference on February 3 at sites to be determined. Check with your charge nurse; free coupons for this meeting were sent with the Nephrology Nurses Week cards.

A $1,000 scholarship is available to chapter members to help defray the cost of advancing their nursing careers in nephrology. Details, including criteria and deadlines, will be posted on the chapter Web site this December. The information also will be faxed to all units. March 2009 will be the deadline to apply for scholarships. The scholarships will be presented on May 19, 2009, during our Annual Meeting at Mohegan Sun Casino.

Three Rivers #104
Our chapter, along with the Renal Roundtable Committee headed by Mary Hrinya, cosponsored the 29th Horizons in Dialysis Conference at Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Champion, PA, on September 20-21. It’s hard to believe this was the 29th time that this fine day of nephrology nursing information and education has been offered to our regional nursing community. Our collective thanks for this very worthwhile tradition that brings us back to this beautiful mountain resort setting to learn, network, and have good times with our friends and colleagues. Let’s keep it going for another 30 years at least!

We got “charged and tuned up” for transplant by participating in the Fall Audio Conference on October 7. This excellent subject matter was taken in by our chapter members at West Penn Hospital in the Bloomfield area in Pittsburgh. Thanks to Ron Brown, who facilitated this event, along with help from the West Penn Hospital nephrology nursing staff. Attendees were professionally satisfied and enriched by participating in this event.

Chapter members participated in the local annual National Kidney Foundation (NKF) Kidney Walk at the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium on November 2. This fun event helps raise funds for the ongoing effort to spread the word and educate the greater Pittsburgh renal community about all aspects of early detection, treatment, and support for those affected by kidney disease.

Keep checking our Web site at www.anna3rivers.org to stay up to date on chapter events and activities. We hope to see some new faces at one of our next meetings, which are held the first Thursday of each month.

Keystone #110
The chapter celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week with a dinner at Maggianos in King of Prussia. The event, generously sponsored by Genzyme, featured Dr. Joseph Brezin who spoke on Vascular Calcification: Here Today . . . Here Tomorrow. The chapter presented each member with a wine glass imprinted with the Keystone logo as a thank you for their dedicated work.

The annual NKF Kidney Walk at the Philadelphia Zoo on September 28 was a great success. Hundreds of walkers raised thousands of dollars for this cause so close to our hearts.

On October 23 Christine Chui of the American Access Center hosted a 2.4 contact hour program on Access Adequacy and Cannulation Techniques at their south Philadelphia facility.

On November 6 the Annual Fall Symposium was presented at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Trevose, PA. The all-day educational session enabled attendees to earn several needed contact hours for license renewal.

We are very proud of Treasurer Marie Scutt-Mohamed who was chosen as a volunteer participant for a 2008 Global Health Ministry medical team to Haiti. The volunteers provide health care to remote villages where people have little or no access to doctors or medical services. The chapter was privileged to donate to her effort.

Keystone chapter members celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week with a dinner at Maggianos in King of Prussia. Pictured (from left) are Juliann Rostelli-Kent, Jean Caola, Todd Greco, and Charmain Singh.

Mountain State #124
We had a wonderful turnout for the Fall Audio Conference on October 7. It was held at CAMC Health and Research Institute with catering provided by Caring Hearts Catering. Participants included nephrology and transplant nurses, chronic dialysis nurses, and technicians as well as social workers and dieticians.

Our November meeting focused on Vitamin D and PTH Levels in CKD Patients. The guest lecturer was Dr. Andrew Thorpe with Abbott. Dr. Thorpe provided an interesting and up-to-date discussion on bone and mineral metabolism. Our meeting was held at The Bistro, a very popular restaurant in the area. Attendees expressed how pleased they were with the entire experience.

No meetings will be held in December so our members can have time off to prepare for the holidays and attend family events.

On January 10, 2009, another business meeting is scheduled.
We also plan to arrange an educational meeting to start off the New Year. More information will be forthcoming and may be requested from President Tammie Mitchell at tmitch100@gmail.com.

The Winter Audio Conference will be held at the CAMC Health and Research Institute on February 3. It will feature a contest with prizes to be awarded during the business meeting as a way to increase our chapter membership. Information may be obtained from Tammie Mitchell.

**Jersey North #126**

The chapter held an educational/dinner chapter awards meeting sponsored by Watson Pharmaceuticals at the Valley Regency in Clifton, NJ. The program offered 1.0 contact hour and featured Karen Robbins, who spoke on *The Challenges of Anemia*. Congratulations to Alice Campanelli, who was awarded a scholarship to assist in the pursuit of her MSN at Ramapo College.

On September 20-21 a certification review course was held at Holy Name Hospital in Teaneck, NJ. There were 87 participants who were preparing for the certification exams or earning contact hours. On October 12 the certification exams were offered at Holy Name Hospital. The chapter is proud of the dedication shown by our members in their pursuit of certification.

ANNA’s Fall Meeting in Chicago was great. President Marilyn Eilert, Chapters Coordinator-Elect Alice Campanelli, and Secretary Edith Lee attended the meeting. It was a great experience to see members from across the country gathering together for fun and learning.

Welcome to our new chapter members, including Kimberly Davis, Susan Prieto, Maria Navida, and Ananda Williams-Gray. There are a total of 26 new members for this quarter! As ANNA grows, so does our ability to improve nursing practice and quality patient care. Each member has a voice in achieving ANNA’s mission every day at work, in education, and political activism. We can do together what we cannot do alone. For anyone interested in getting involved as a member with our chapter, please attend our monthly meetings at Que Pasta in Saddle Brook, NJ, on the third Wednesday of every month at 5:30 pm. Check out our Web site at www.annajerseynorth126.com for information, forms, and updates; or contact Marilyn Eilert at marilyneilert@aol.com.

**Northern New England #131**

Imagine walking into your break room on September 15 and seeing “Happy Nephrology Nurses Week” all over. The posters showing “Carry the Torch” were particularly impressive. That is what the staff of Eastern Maine Dialysis in Ellsworth, ME, saw, compliments of Carol F., a former dialysis nurse who is re-entering the field and has since joined ANNA and is seeking certification. She is also co-chairing a weekend seminar on *Imaging and Nephrology* at Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor, ME, in March 2009. She is quite an inspiration!

The chapter hosted the Fall Audio Conference at several sites: Maine Medical Center, Portland, ME; Eastern Maine Medical Center, Bangor, ME; and several areas in Vermont sponsored by Fletcher Allen Medical Center. The *Fall Renal Update* was held November 9 at the Frank Jones Center in Portsmouth, NH.

Congratulations to Dorothy Danforth and Linda Curren from Eastern Maine Medical Center for passing the CDN exam. The CNN, CDN, and CCHT exams will be offered at Eastern Maine Medical Center on December 7.

**South Jersey #133**

Our chapter sponsored the Fall Audio Conference at several locations on October 7. We enjoyed a successful dinner program at Bucca DiPepe in Cherry Hill, NJ, on November 13. Thanks to Colleen Fosset of Abbott Renal Care for sponsoring the program entitled *Creative Approaches to Improve Patient Adherence*. A program will be held at American Access Care in Cherry Hill, NJ, in early December.

We continue to encourage members to send e-mail updates to officers to keep our list updated and allow us to maintain communication with you. We look forward to another successful year in 2009.

**Southeast**

**Cardinal #201**

The chapter participated in the Fall Audio Conference on October 7. Chapter member Clara Neyhart along with Patricia Weiskittel presented *Getting Patients Charged Up and Tuned Up for Transplant*. The meeting was held at WakeMed Raleigh’s Andrews Conference Center. A delicious dinner was provided by Novartis.

The Cardinal and Dogwood Chapters collaborated with the Southeastern Kidney Council to co-host a meeting on November 19 on the new CMS Conditions for Coverage. There was a big turnout at the meeting held in Columbia, SC.

The chapter once again will be providing Christmas gift cards to dialysis and transplant patients in the area. In December members will be asked to nominate dialysis and transplant patients with the greatest need. For more information, contact Chapter President Lesley Dinwiddie at 919-859-0994.

Our next chapter meeting will be held in January. Details will be posted on our Web site at www.annacardinal.com.

**Greater Charlotte #202**

In the midst of soccer games, football games, pumpkin patches, Thanksgiving turkey, and Christmas bells, the chapter met to learn about the *Non-classical Effects of Vitamin D*. Dr. Mona Tewari with Abbott was the presenter.

The annual holiday raffle was a huge success, and we appreciate all the donated gifts from many local patrons. We were able to help five local children and their families.

Chapter officers wish mem-
bers a joyful holiday season. We hope you are able to spend time with family and friends and enjoy many blessings.

Officer elections are coming in January. Please consider holding a position. If you are interested, call 704-355-6649 and ask for Diane Derkowski.

Palmetto #203

On August 14 chapter member Jennifer Payton guided a dialysis clinic tour for two of Senator Lindsey Graham’s legislative aides. Colin Allen and Denise Bauld were able to see the inner workings of a dialysis clinic and learn many of the challenges faced by kidney disease patients and their providers.

On August 26 we held an educational dinner meeting at McCrady’s Restaurant in Charleston, SC. The program was hosted by Genzyme Clinical Science Specialist, Sean Galbally. John Williams led the presentation on How to Improve Patient Compliance.

On September 15 the chapter held another educational dinner at RET’s Hall in Ravenel, SC. Cardian BCT, Inc., sponsored this meeting. Dr. John Orak, a pediatric nephrologist from the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), presented Taking the Mystery Out of Plasmapheresis in the Pediatric Renal Population.

On September 17 several chapter members visited the MUSC School of Nursing. In honor of Nephrology Nurses Week, members spoke to the students about the many opportunities in nursing within the nephrology specialty. The chapter also presented the Caroline S. Counts Nephrology Nursing Scholarship to MUSC nursing student Jared Carter.

In October the chapter participated in the Fall Audio Conference. Once again Deborah Brooks graciously offered to host this event at her home. We thank her for her hospitality.

On October 5 the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) hosted a fundraiser called An Evening Under the Oaks to benefit the Low Country area by providing money to help patients with kidney disease. The event was held at Charleston Landing in Charleston, SC, and featured food prepared by chefs from local restaurants as well as silent and live auctions. Our chapter assisted by serving as volunteers for this function. Everyone had a great time and helped to raise thousands of dollars, which will help provide important services to the patients we care for each day!

We are busy planning several offerings for the winter. Members should watch their e-mail for information on upcoming offerings. Anyone wishing to receive information on meetings, membership, or volunteer opportunities should contact Michele Root at michele.root@dcinc.org.

South Florida Flamingo #206

The chapter has been actively planning meetings for members. In August we held two meetings. Lissette Rivera-Jorge from Genzyme reviewed the needs of patients concerning hyperphosphatemia at a meeting in the Ft. Lauderdale area. Also in August Watson sponsored a meeting in the Miami area. Dr. Jorge Busse, a local nephrologist, offered an excellent presentation on the importance of correctly assessing iron status in patients.

In September American Access Care graciously sponsored a celebration for Nephrology Nurses Week. At the meeting Dr. Gohel reviewed vascular access interventions. The chapter was proud to celebrate the exceptional care that is provided to patients by our nurses. Congratulations nephrology nurses, and thank you for your hard work and dedication!

In October and November Watson again assisted in providing information to our members.

Upcoming events include a Christmas dinner meeting that will be sponsored by Amgen; watch for more information. Also in December the chapter will host the certification exams for nurses and patient care technicians (PCTs) who are interested in becoming certified. The chapter will hold elections in December; anyone interested in serving as a chapter officer should contact President-Elect Janie Sapp at janesw@baptisthealth.net.

Suncoast #213

The reception our chapter held to celebrate Nephrology Nurses Week was a great success. This was our third annual event at the Castaways Restaurant, which is convenient to members on both sides of the bay. Once again we had a drawing for a membership as well as ANNA T-shirts. In addition, ANNA key chains were given to each nurse.

Our chapter hosted a nephrology review class. This was a collaborative effort with Network 7. There were over 50 attendees who were preparing to take the exams offered at the annual Network 7 meeting at the end of October. Our chapter also hosted the exams.

The annual Network 7 meeting gave us an opportunity to set up a booth to display and talk about ANNA as well as upcoming chapter activities and meetings. Our chapter provided a basket of goodies for a drawing. We had many visitors at our booth, pro-

South Florida Flamingo chapter members celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week.
Providing us with a wonderful opportunity to meet and greet our nephrology colleagues.

Upcoming events include a holiday event, elections, and our 2009 offerings. For more information regarding our chapter, contact President Stephanie Hull at 813-872-0933 or Secretary Donna McDuffie at 813-265-9733.

Dogwood #224

On September 20 the chapter celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week with an Effective Communication Educational Workshop in collaboration with the Southeastern Kidney Council (SKC). The titles for the event were The Road to Nurse and Patient Success: Driven toward a Team Approach and Decreasing Dialysis Patient-Provider Conflict (DPC) Toolbox: Conflict Management for Nephrology Professionals. The workshop was held at Emory Crawford Long Hospital. Thank you to speaker Sammy Bailey and Amy Williams from SKC for participating in our event. Thank you also to speakers Loretta Jackson Brown, Marina Villano, Lindsey Pedley, and Becky Mckee Waddle. Thank you to our sponsors Fresenius Medical Care, Teleflex, Atlanta Access Care, and National Renal Alliance and to volunteers Shelitta Mentore and Sheila Waltrip. Joan Wokpara and Juanita Connor provided participants with keep-sake gifts in celebration of Nephrology Nurses Week.

On October 7 the chapter hosted the Fall Audio Conference at two locations. This is the chapter’s first audio conference as part of our “Expand to your Area” project. We had a good turnout at both locations. Our hosts for each site, Norma Heard and Gwen Taylor, invited participants out for a night of fun, pizza, networking, and learning.

Dogwood officers and members raised funds and participated in the NKF Kidney Walk at Lullwater Park on October 25. On November 1 a technician review course was held at Northside Hospital. Thank you to speakers: Stacey Lane, Lisa Keith, Norma Heard, Alicia Carson, Marlene Currier, and Bruce Farrow.

The chapter hosted the CDN, CNN, CNN-NP, and CCHT exams at Gwinnett Medical Center on November 15. Thank you to Michelle Johnson for volunteering to proctor the exams and to Sandy Gandee and Deborah Briese for assisting the chapter with finding a facility. Thank you to Northside Hospital and Gwinnett Medical Center for providing meeting space at their facilities.

Dogwood officers attended the SKC 2008 Annual Meeting in Columbia, SC, on November 19. The chapter collaborated with SKC and the ANNA Cardinal Chapter on the preparation for this successful event.

The chapter will arrange for an educational event in December and also will collect toys for the Toys for Tots program in collaboration with the U.S. Marine Corps. Next year we are planning another certification test site and all-day workshop.

News about upcoming events can be found on our Web site at www.annadogwoodchapter224.com. E-mail us at annadogwood@annadogwoodchapter224.com for more information or to request a brochure.

The chapter would like to thank Angela Taylor-Smith, chapter president, for joining the Peritoneal Dialysis Special Interest Group. Congratulations to Elpidia Reason and Moriam Oketade on obtaining CDN certification. Congratulations to Michelle Johnson and Beth Taylor for obtaining CNN certification. Congratulations to Sheila Waltrip for recruiting three new members and winning a free 1-year ANNA membership. Congratulations to Debbie Trudell for creating an award-winning program at Harbin Dialysis Clinic. The clinic participated in the Baxter Healthcare Education Pursuit of Excellence Program and is the first Georgia dialysis clinic to receive the Star Award. We are sad to see Sandra Hutcherson, state surveyor and longtime ANNA member, leave our chapter.

El Paso #232

The chapter is involved in the planning stages of the 11th ANNA Texas Collaborative Meeting – A World of Changes: Keys to Surviving – to be held at the Marriott Riverwalk Hotel in San Antonio, TX, on January 9-10. We are inviting all to attend.

The chapter hosted the Fall Audio Conference at Sierra Medical Center on October 7. Our chapter also hosted the CNN, CDN, CCHT exams in El Paso, TX, on November 16.

Masters City #233

Kidney Disease Awareness and Education (KDAE) Week was a huge success for our chapter. We were able to get a mayoral and gubernatorial (Georgia) proclamation! We held a presentation, tour, and interviews with patients and staff for federal, state, and local legislators and hospital board members. Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle also visited in June. Both events were covered by the local television networks and newspapers.

On September 16 the chapter hosted our second educational event, Effective Patient Communication, at Shogun’s. Nephrology Nurses Week was also a success. We gave away baskets, cards, penlights, a free ANNA membership, and a certification scholarship. Our nurses went to Walmart and provided free blood pressure screenings and patient education.

Tidewater #241

The chapter had good attendance at the Fall Audio Conference that was held at Sentara Norfolk General on October 7. A chapter meeting was held before the commencement of the audio conference. President Beverly Grier-Smith, Secretary/Treasurer Andrea Grantum, Health Policy Representative Charlotte Collins, and other chapter members were present. Sentara Norfolk General Hospital Renal Transplant/Renal Dialysis Center has been named one of America’s best hospitals in the exclusive rankings of kidney disease in the U.S. News and World Report for 2008.
A dinner meeting and educational session on Cath Care was presented by Kendall in November. The program was well received.

Plans are underway for the annual Christmas outing and final educational program for the calendar year. The chapter has expanded its membership this year and welcomes each new member.

Acadiana #252
The July 2008 International Nursing Research Conference in Jerusalem, Israel, had 32 countries represented: 600 papers were submitted for the meeting with 190 papers accepted for presentation. Acadiana President-Elect Kandace Landreneau was selected to present her research study on Perception of Choice of Renal Replacement Therapies in Adult Patients Undergoing Hemodialysis.

Secretary Mary Michael Bogues was invited to join the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission in Chicago August 16-19 to review and rewrite questions for the CDN certification exam. Charla Litton, chapter health policy representative, was elected to the Board of Directors for the NKF of Louisiana. Charla also will continue to serve on the ESRD Network 13 Grievance Subcommittee and Medical Review Board for the next 2 years.

President Linda Bethea has put in hundreds of hours writing, calling, and meeting with state representatives, senators, legislators, and the governor to educate and encourage their support for the renal community, patients, nurses, and technicians. Linda addressed concerns over the nursing shortage, the need for increasing funds for treatment and educating patients, professionals, and the public on chronic kidney disease (CKD). In addi-
tion, she wrote articles on CKD that were published in the Shreveport Times. Linda was featured on local television channel KTAL during the 5:00 pm news broadcast, during which she spoke about CKD and home dialysis.

During KDAE Week Linda opened her clinic’s door to several government representatives: Linda Wright; Federal Louisiana 4th District Representative Jim McCrery; Louisiana State Senator Buddy Shaw; Leslie Quinn, Senator David Vitter’s assistant; Louisiana State Senator Roy Burrell; Louisiana State Representative Patrick Williams; and Jeff Everson, assistant to Senator Mary Landrieu. Through e-mails and phone calls, the chapter was able to obtain proclamations for KDAE Week from the state of Louisiana as well as the cities of Shreveport, Bossier City, and Greenwood. In addition, a letter of greeting was received from President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush commemorating KDAE Week.

All of these accomplishments on the political scene demonstrate why Linda Bethea was chosen to be the Louisiana State Health Policy Director. We are very proud of Linda and her tenacity to move and shake the powers and policies that be.

The chapter celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week by sending each member a card both by e-mail and snail mail. The snail mail cards included a Starbucks gift card.

Charla Litton, Kathy Ballard, and Mary Zapatnyczki attended the Fall Meeting in Chicago in September. Each spoke highly about the excellent speakers and the variety of presentations available for them to attend.

On October 1 forms were sent to all members to elicit nominations for chapter officers. Return nominations were plentiful and provided a good list of candidates for the elections.

On October 3-4 we held our annual CNN/CDN Review Course and Vendor Fair at the Willis Knighton Education Center in Shreveport, LA, for the nephrology nurses in the tri-state area. During the same weekend we offered our first CCHT Review Course. Linda Bethea and Mary Michael Boguees presented the workshop for the technicians on October 4 with 6 PCTs in attendance. Acadiana then hosted the CNN, CDN, and CCHT exams at Willis Knighton Medical Center on October 18.

The Shreveport/Bossier Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) Walk scheduled for September 13 was postponed due to Hurricane Ike and rescheduled for October 18. Several Acadiana members joined the walk. Besides personal member donations, our chapter made a $500 donation.

Acadiana members are not new to emergency preparedness and disasters, especially during hurricane season. Several members volunteered to work evacuee shelters for Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Acadiana members and area dialysis managers reported a much smoother transition from dialysis units in South Louisiana to North Louisiana since the Katrina disaster a few years ago. Thanks to all the volunteers for their time and donations.

On November 13 Mike Fidler with Amgen hosted an educational opportunity at Mabry House; the program provided 1 contact hour.

The chapter will host a Christmas Party and Awards Banquet in the Arkansas Room at Sam’s Town Hotel and Casino in Shreveport, LA, at 6:00 pm on December 5. Plans include festive decorations, door prizes, great food, and wonderful people to help you celebrate the holiday season. Newly elected chapter officers will be announced at that time. For more information, contact Linda Bethea at lbeth68@hotmail.com, Kandace Landreneau at kandaceL@msn.com, or Mary Michael Boguees at Mary.Boguees@fmcna.com.

Central Virginia #258

The chapter hosted visits by several legislative aides during KDAE Week. Beth McAdam (Delegate for Jennifer McClellan) and Linda Gross (Delegate for Manoli Loupas) toured Virginia Commonwealth University Health System (VCUHS) on August 14. They began their tour with a breakfast hosted by Donna George, Director of Transplant Service, and Avis Allen, Nurse Manager of the Acute Hemodialysis Unit. Linda Thomas, Nurse Clinician, welcomed the group to the Acute Hemodialysis Unit. Ann Compton, Nephrology Nurse Practitioner, educated the group on adult kidney disease, and
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Diane Kraynak. Pediatric Nephrology Nurse Practitioner and Chapter Health Policy Representative, educated the group on pediatric nephrology and kidney disease. After touring the dialysis unit, the group toured the VCUHS Transplant Clinic. Karen Huber, Kidney Transplant Coordinator, educated the legislators on transplant services and also shared concerns and needs for transplant patients regarding anti-rejection medication. The group concluded their tour at the Pediatric Children’s Pavilion at VCUHS. Diane Kraynak led the tour of the children’s facility. She also did an awesome job sending out over 30 invitations to legislators. She coordinated the events of the day, and ensured that the legislative aides were informed of the agenda for the tour. Thank you, Diane!

Chapter officers got busy planning the next special activity. The chapter surprised over 30 dialysis centers in the Richmond area with candy-filled pumpkins and a card stating: “This is NOT a TRICK but a TREAT . . . wishing you a Happy Nephrology Nurses Week!”

On September 18 the chapter and the Mid-Atlantic Renal Coalition (MARC) collaborated on a program entitled ESRD Conditions for Coverage Review. Nancy Gregory and Renee Bova-Collins did an outstanding job presenting and identifying the basic changes in the new Conditions for Coverage. The program was well attended, and participants found the information relevant to practice. Thank you, Nancy and Renee!

On October 7 the chapter hosted the Fall Audio Conference. Thank you to Clara Neyhart and Patricia Weiskittel. Our group really enjoyed the program.

Keep informed of upcoming programs and events by visiting the chapter’s Web site at www.annacentralva.org.

Blue Ridge #262

Election of officers needs to be completed by the end of December. Let a current officer know if you are interested in getting more involved and serving in this capacity.

Plans are underway for a holiday get-together. Watch for flyers or e-mails regarding details. Mark your calendars for a statewide symposium, which is tentatively set for May 20 (certification review) and May 21 (symposium) at Grandover Resort.

Fleur-de-Lis #263

During Hurricane Gustav many of our nurses worked tirelessly to care for their patients as well as an influx of transient patients. Patients, some without orders or medications, literally showed up at the doors at some clinics. Many nurses worked at clinics other than their own due to building damages, power outages, and changes in treatment schedules, while their own homes were without power. The theme for Nephrology Nurses Week – “We Carry the Torch” – took on special meaning for us! Chapter officers applauded the teamwork and professional dedication shown during the storm.

Chapter members attended several educational events: the ANNA Fall Meeting in Chicago; the Fall Audio Conference on October 7, which was hosted at the regional sites of Covington, New Orleans, and Baton Rouge; and a Certification Review on October 11 in New Orleans. On November 13 at Ochsner Medical Center in Baton Rouge, Hiko Miyagi, a lawyer who is also an associate member of ANNA, spoke on How to Avoid Legal Issues in Nephrology Nursing Care.

More educational activities are being planned. February 3 is the Winter Audio Conference. Watch your e-mail for further information. March 5 will be the renal collaborative meeting with the theme of Carry the Torch . . . Lighting the Way into the Future. For more information on upcoming events, contact President-Elect Janice Johnson at jjohnson@ochsner.org.

National and chapter activities are shared with members regularly via e-mail. If you are not receiving these e-mails, contact Secretary Cathy Groeger at cgroeger@cox.net to update your contact information.

Treasure Coast #266

The chapter hosted two educational events this fall. A dinner meeting sponsored by Fresenius Medical Care was held September 18 at FMC of Port St. Lucie. Kimberlee Tolle presented PD 101: The Basics. We hosted the Fall Audio Conference at two sites on October 7: FMC WPB 45th Street as well as Holmes Regional in Melbourne.

Members once again participated as a team to help raise money and awareness for patients with PKD by joining the Annual PKD Walk held at Abacoa Town Center in Jupiter, FL, on September 20. It was a great event and always wonderful to see so many of our fellow nurses, families, patients, and friends.

Chapter members also attended the Fall Meeting in Chicago in September. They enjoyed a time of learning, connection, and fun.

The above events are listed on our chapter Web site as well as other important updates and information. Visit us online at http://communitylink.palmbeachpost.com/groups/ANNA. If you can’t find the Web site, need to update your e-mail address, or just want to become involved, contact President Diane Hubertz Hauge at dhubertz@aol.com or Secretary Robin Tupper at jetplumb@bellsouth.net.
Palm Valley #271

Amgen sponsored a terrific dinner/presentation on August 7. Dr. Salil Mangi presented *Epogen Dynamic Anemia Management* at the Renaissance Casa de Palmas Hotel in McAllen, TX. There was an excellent turnout of acute and chronic nephrology nurses who traveled from all locations of the Valley. Thank you to Noemi Sandoval-Bagstad, our Amgen representative, for making this possible!

The Fall Audio Conference was held at the McAllen Unit of US Renal Care on October 7. We enjoyed the presentation, food, and networking opportunity. We are looking forward to the Winter Audio Conference in February.

Plans are being made for the CNN-NP, CNN, CDN, and CCHT examinations to be offered at Mission Regional Medical Center in Mission, TX, on December 7. Flyers with details will be distributed throughout the Valley. Remember, all PCTs will need to be state certified, so take advantage of this opportunity; no one needs to travel long distances.

Save the dates: January 9–10, 2009. The 10 ANNA Texas chapters will be holding their annual collaborative meeting at the Marriott Riverwalk Hotel in San Antonio, TX. Don’t miss this exciting event entitled *A World of Change: Keys to Surviving*. Flyers with meeting details will be sent to all members. Represent the Palm Valley Chapter at the collaborative meeting! For more information and registration details, go to www.annatexasmeeting.org. We need your support in order to have more events in the future.

Welcome to our most recent chapter members: Samuel Ostrea and Lorellei Vergara both from Valley Baptist Medical Center in Harlingen, TX.

North Central

Windy City #305

We served as host chapter for ANNA’s 2008 Fall Meeting at the Hyatt Regency Chicago in September. Chapter President Susan Kuester welcomed participants to the Windy City and introduced ANNA President Sue Cary at the opening general session. The chapter had a display table and held a raffle throughout the meeting. It was great to see over 70 chapter members in attendance. Thank you to the chapter members who assisted us with our chapter activities at the meeting.

The chapter continues to have success hosting two sites for the ANNA audio conferences. The Fall Audio Conference was held October 7 at Sherman Hospital in Elgin, IL (our northern site) and the Loyola Center for Health on Roosevelt (our western site). While attendance was down slightly at both sites (most likely due to the fact that the ANNA Fall Meeting was in Chicago less than 2 weeks prior), we are still planning to host two sites for the Winter Audio Conference in February 2009. Watch our Web site for details.

Chapter officers will be meeting in December to wrap up 2008 business and plan for the 2009 year. Chapter members may submit suggestions for future activities, events, and meeting locations via our Web site at http://home.comcast.net/~annawindycitychapter305/annawindy city.html. The Web site is also a great way to keep informed on chapter activities as well as the individual accomplishments of your colleagues. If you have not received an e-mail from the chapter within the last few months, we may not have your correct e-mail address (or any e-mail address at all). Please go to the Web site, click on “Contact Us,” and send us your e-mail address.

We are always looking for new ideas, new members, and new officers. Remember, our chapter is only as educational, informative, and fun as our most active members. So “Contact Us” today and help keep our chapter thriving into the New Year!

Heart of America #313

We changed the date for our CNN/CDN review course to October 5 and had a good turnout as we had several members preparing for the certification exams on October 11 here in Kansas City.

With a large geographic area in our chapter, we like to offer educational opportunities in different areas so we hosted five sites for the Fall Audio Conference on October 7. Each site had a good turnout.

Members participated in several walks this fall to raise money for PKD, diabetes, and NKF. Members also participated in Abby’s Run in honor of the daughter of Dr. Max Glaser, a local nephrologist.

We were thrilled to have the opportunity to host a dinner and CNE opportunity at Plaza III Steakhouse on November 6. Suzann Van Buskirk presented *A CQI Approach to IV Iron and Anemia Management*. Thank you to Watson Pharma for the generous grant.

We will be having a social meeting the first week of December, and once again Molly Cahill has invited us to her house. We will be electing officers, and we plan to adopt several families for Christmas. Watch your e-mail for more information on this event.

If you haven’t heard from us lately, send your e-mail address to Sharon Bunnell at sbunnell5@comcast.net.

Southeast Minnesota #316

This summer chapter members participated in and sponsored the Gift of Life Golf Tournament and Kidney Walk. The money raised during the Kidney Walk provided support for the Kidney Early Evaluation Program (KEEP) screening held on November 13 in Rochester, MN. This program coordinated by the NKF provides free kidney health screening for people with risk factors for kidney disease. The screening process allows volunteers to meet community members and provide a service that promotes education, awareness, and intervention as well as demonstrates the vital role nurses play in the care of nephrology patients.

The chapter conducted its 2008 membership drive on September 23 in Rochester, MN. In addition to promoting the orga-
nization, the event provided the spring conference planning committee an opportunity to exchange ideas. President-Elect Tina Olan has begun coordinating the 2009 conference.

**Tri-State #317**

Our spring business meeting was held in March. Current chapter officers met with incoming officers to collaborate on upcoming events. The Fall Audio Conference was held, and there are plans to hold a mixer at a local restaurant to draw inactive members to future events.

The chapter would like to introduce the new officers for the upcoming year: President Louann Elliott, Secretary Karen Washbaugh, and Treasurer Gail Buscher. These individuals are experienced nephrology nurses and will bring many new and interesting ideas to the chapter.

**Central Missouri #318**

Chapter members participated in the Fall Audio Conference on October 7. A certification review course was offered on October 9. The chapter also offering the CCHT, CDN, and CNN exams on November 1.

**Centennial #320**

The fall brought a flurry of activity for our chapter. We began with our celebration of Nephrology Nurses Week by drawing for two free ANNA memberships. Congratulations to Sue Ackerman for her ANNA membership renewal and Jodi Richter for her new membership to ANNA. A letter of appreciation was sent to all members along with an invitation to attend our upcoming events.

Many chapter members attended the Nephrology, Dialysis, and Transplant Symposium, which was held in Fargo, ND, on September 17-18 and hosted by Merit Care Kidney Services. It was exciting to meet and socialize with other chapter members from distant units.

The Fall Audio Conference was held at the Medcenter One Francis Leach Dialysis Center in Bismarck, ND, on October 7. The conference was a success with great attendance. Chapter officers met after the presentation to plan future events.

It is hard to believe that the holidays are fast approaching. We hope to get together to celebrate and to plan ahead for another exciting and productive year.

**Black Swamp #323**

We celebrated National Nephrology Nurses Week on September 16 with a CNE presentation by Dr. Shobha Ratnam at UTMC. The topic was The History of Dialysis. The evening included a pasta buffet and prizes for all attendees.

On October 7 we hosted the Fall Audio Conference at two sites: Toledo, OH, and Fremont, OH. On October 9 Dr. Deepak Malhotra gave a CNE presentation on chronic renal failure at the Maumee Bay Brewing Company. The Fall Kidney Foundation Symposium was held at the Holiday Inn in Perrysburg, OH, on October 23. This day-long conference was very well attended by nurses, technicians, dieticians, and social workers. On November 4 Teleflex Medical sponsored a CE presentation on Catheter Use for Dialysis.

**Platte River #324**

The chapter hosted a few sites for the Fall Audio Conference and was pleased with participation. It is time to start thinking about the election of new officers for next year and planning to attend the spring Volunteer Leaders Workshop. Serving as a chapter officer does not involve too much time, and we welcome any new help on committees.

We are continuing to work on planning a nephrology nursing certification review program.

We also would like to apologize to those who are having difficulty accessing our Web site. It is currently down for service, but we hope to be back up soon.

Remember to visit the ANNA Web site at www.annanurse.org for educational opportunities. Contact Sheila O’Day at soday@unmc.edu or any chapter officer with questions.

**Greater Minnesota #329**

On September 20 chapter members participated in the NKF Kidney Walk in St. Cloud, MN. Volunteers from our chapter helped with blood pressure screenings.

**Anthony Wayne #335**

Chapter members met at the Oyster Bar in Fort Wayne on August 21 for a dinner meeting sponsored by Amgen. They enjoyed dinner while learning about Sensipar and Improved Management of Secondary Hyperparathyroidism in Dialysis Patients.

On October 16 the chapter was proud to present a Back to Basics Day of Learning. Participants were educated on various topics and are looking forward to incorporating the program’s content into their practice.

The Anthony Wayne Chapter hosted an educational dinner meeting in August. Pictured are the 2008-2009 chapter officers along with Amgen Representative Jason Eaton, who sponsored the event. Pictured (from left) are Cheryl Williams, Margie Read, Marie Shook, Phil Gill, Jason Eaton, Renee Nicholson, and Gretchen Whitham.
**Western**

**Desert Vista #501**
Successful *Transplant from A to Z* programs were held in Tucson and Phoenix on November 6-7. Both classes were filled to capacity. We are planning to hold classes in Tucson and Phoenix in March.

**Northern California Chapter**
President-Elect Lauretta Williams coordinated a Congressional visit by Representative Lynn Woolsey to FMC Petaluma in August.

**Northern California #504**
On August 21 Chapter President-Elect Lauretta Williams coordinated a Congressional visit to FMC Petaluma with Representative Lynn Woolsey and her staff in attendance. The event was a success with the special surprise of Representative Woolsey connecting with a patient she knew from prior engagements.

Chapter President Ann Levy sent chapter members special e-cards thanking and honoring their achievements as nephrology nurses during Nephrology Nurses Week.

Our NorthBay and Peninsula/San Jose nurses attended the Fall Audio Conference held at WellBound Santa Rosa and Satellite Healthcare's Corporate Offices in Mountain View.

Four new members joined ANNA and our chapter since April. Please help us promote the benefits of belonging to our professional organization and in tripling this number by the end of the year. Members who sign up 3 new members are eligible for a 1-year free ANNA membership.

**Nephros South #506**
Chapter officers met at Humphrey's By the Bay for a business meeting on September 7. Over a champagne brunch we reviewed our successful meetings this past year, renewed our commitment to each other and the chapter, and planned the celebration for the 30th anniversary of Nephros South.


Nephros South hosted the Fall Audio Conference at the San Diego VA Healthcare Center in La Jolla on October 14. We also are planning a November educational dinner event in a local restaurant.

On December 4 Nephros South will host a very special holiday dinner for our 30th anniversary. We have much to celebrate as we honor past and present officers and members. Besides an educational offering, we will celebrate with dinner, gifts, and a silent auction. There will be poster displays depicting the history of Nephros South and a pictorial story on DVD, not to mention stories and tales of the past and best wishes for the future of Nephros South and nephrology nursing.

**Pacific Island #507**
The chapter finished up the year with a CNN/CDN review session which technicians were invited to attend to help them pass the certification exams. We wish them luck! Diana Hlebovy of Hemametrics provided an outstanding overview of fluid management; this educational presentation offered 4.8 CNE credits. The use of a hematocrit and O2 saturation monitoring device to help stabilize patients while maximizing fluid removal was very informative.

Elections will be held in December. We are always looking for new volunteer officers. The major requirement of living in Hawaii is being rethought at this point.

**Sacramento Valley #509**
State Senator Jeff Denham (R-Merced) held a news conference at DaVita University in Sacramento on September 1 to challenge Senate Democrats to vote for AB 207, which would allow the state to make payments to nursing homes, health clinics, and other vital facilities during this record-breaking budget impasse. Two local channels aired the news conference, during which he interviewed Rich Turner, Western Vice President for DaVita, a patient, and a transportation company driver. State Senator Denham stated that 41,000 Californians have ESRD and depend on lifesaving dialysis treatments and that 85% are primary Medicare/Medi-Cal patients who rely on government programs for their health care coverage. Let's hope that knowledge of ESRD was gained in our community and the longest delayed California budget passes!

We have enjoyed dynamic educational offerings this year. On August 14 we were privileged to have Anne Harty present *I'm Just a Bill*. We celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week by sending ANNA Celebrate cards to each chapter member and gave ANNA lapel pins to each nurse who attended our educational offering on September 17. The offering featured a presentation on *Dialysis Access* by Dr. Naveen Atray, interventional nephrologist with Capital Nephrology at Piati's Restaurant, which we decorated with ANNA balloons. We also sponsored the Fall Audio Conference on October 14.

Please e-mail the chapter with any ideas, suggestions, comments or questions at anna509@comcast.net. Visit our Web site at www.anna509.org for information on our chapter.
Cascades #518

We had a fun and educational meeting in Salem, OR. Jackie Chandler of Gambro presented Therapeutic Plasma Exchange. Thank you to Paul Johnson of Gambro for offering this dinner meeting at Kwan’s Restaurant.

The Fall Audio Conference was offered at Peace Health and GSRMC. The CNN, CDN, and CCHT exams were held at PPMC on November 1. Anne Rasmussen spoke on Clinical Management of Secondary Hyperparathyroidism in Portland, OR, on November 13. Thank you to Nori Bates of Genzyme for offering this program to our chapter.

On December 10 Svetlana Shubina will present Home Hemodialysis in Salem, OR. Keep March 13, 2009, open for our Annual Conference at the Shiloh Inn in Newport, OR. We will have three sites for the Winter Audio Conference in February. Watch for flyers in your units.

Northern Lights #523

American Regent, Inc., sponsored an educational program on September 9. The dinner program at ORSO featured a presentation by Donna Nafziger on Anemia and Iron Balance. This program was approved for 2.5 contact hours.

Niki Kobes was our representative for the People to People Citizen Ambassador Nephrology Delegation to China in October.

Inland Empire #526

A successful Kidney Disease Awareness and Education (KDAE) event was held at Loma Linda University Medical Center (LLUMC) on August 8. Press releases regarding KDAE Week were sent to many local newspapers prior to the event. Four local politicians attended: Larry Grable, Director, Riverside Office of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, and his wife Anna Grable; Mike Trujillo, Public Relations Director for Congressman Joe Baca; Alton Garrett, Jr., Senior Advisor for Senator Barbara Boxer’s San Bernardino Office; and Tim Prince, 41st District Congressional Democratic nominee. Reporters from the Sun...
Newspaper and the Press Enterprise observed the event. The politicians were welcomed by the LLUMC administrator, physicians, and nursing management team, led by Ruthita Fike, Chief Executive Officer/Administrator; Liz Dickinson, Senior Vice President Patient Care Services; Jeanne Messinger, Executive Director, Patient Care Services and ANNA member; Margie Tessner, Director, Dialysis Apheresis Resource Team (DART) and ANNA member; Jan Anderson, Director, Outpatient Dialysis; Robert Villa, Assistant Manager, Outpatient Dialysis; Leo Castillo, Supervisor, Dialysis Equipment & Supplies; Laronda Abraham, Clinical Manager, Transplant Unit; and Heather Valentine, Marketing Department. Other LLUMC employees and ANNA members who participated in the event included Nitaya Soeprono, Chapter President-Elect; Cathy Troia, Chapter Health Policy Representative; Judy Foose, Dialysis Clinical Educator; Marian Wells, Nurse Practitioner, Pediatric Nephrology; Debbie Stitzinger, Outpatient Dialysis Clinical Supervisor; Laurie Gold, Staff Nurse PD; and Chiung-O Kao, Pediatric Hemodialysis Charge Nurse.

Six physicians participated in the event, including Dr. Siegmund Teichman, Chief of Nephrology and Medical Director Adult Dialysis; Dr. H. Roger Hadley, Dean, School of Medicine and Director of Transplant Unit; Dr. Shoba Sahney, Pediatric Nephrologist; Dr. Drew Cutler, Pediatric Nephrologist; Dr. Thanh Hoang, Adult Nephrologist; and Dr. Eduardo Nam, Adult Nephrologist.

The tour included the outpatient dialysis unit, adult/pediatric PD and hemodialysis, the transplant unit, and then a luncheon at Coleman Pavilion. During the tour the politicians met with patients and nurses. They learned about dialysis, dialysis access, the Fistula First Project, water treatment, Medicare reimbursement, nursing shortage issues, and the importance of the technology used to improve patient outcomes.

Sierra Bogini was one of the patient guest speakers during the luncheon. She spoke about how dialysis and kidney transplant has affected her life. Now she is in school pursuing a nursing career. She urged the politicians to support increased funding for the Nursing Workforce Development Program. Dr. Teichman, Jan Anderson, and Dr. Hadley also were guest speakers and urged the legislators to support the increased payment for Medicare reimbursement, specifically the education and prevention program for kidney disease.

Other chapter events included a free dinner conference, Do You Recognize Fabry Disease, offering 1.25 contact hours on September 18. This event was sponsored by Genzyme and held at Mario’s Place Restaurant. 48 ANNA members attended the dinner conference and celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week.

A Certification Review Class was held at LLUMC on September 28. The CNN, CDN, and CCHT exams were held at
LLUMC on October 5. The Fall Audio Conference was held at Loma Linda Kidney Center and Magnolia West Home Dialysis in Riverside on October 14. On October 26 the Dialysis Apheresis Resource Team at LLUMC set up the booth Keep your Kidney Healthy and Happy at the Annual Family Health Fair at LLUMC. ANNA chapter members volunteered at this event, which was led by Nitaya Soeprono, DART Charge Nurse, LLUMC, and Chapter President-Elect.

Future events include the Winter Audio Conference to be held at Loma Linda Kidney Center in February 2009. If you are interested in hosting the Winter Audio Conference, contact Nitaya Soeprono at nitaya@mac.com.

Chapter officer election flyers were e-mailed to members in August. If you are interested in applying for a chapter officer position for the coming year, send your curriculum vitae to nitaya@mac.com.

Save the Dates for ANNA’s Winter Audio Conference

February 3, 2009
6:30 pm ET
Available to ANNA chapters in any region*

February 10, 2009
6:30 pm PT
Available to ANNA chapters in any region*

The topic for the Winter Audio Conference is Facing the Challenge: Making Sense of the New CMS Regulations. The presenters for the audio conference will be Glenda Payne, MS, RN, CNN, and Judith Kari, LMSW, ESRD Technical Advisors for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Invitations to participate will be distributed to ANNA chapters in November. The deadline for chapters to register to participate is January 5, 2009.

*Please note that each ANNA audio conference is offered on two separate dates to allow chapters to select the date that best meets the needs of their members; however, the time set for the audio conference on each date is not adjustable.

Hot off the Press!

Attention Chapter Leaders...

You asked for it... You got it...

The ANNA Board of Directors approved a motion in September 2008 to revise how we evaluate the number of contact hours that each chapter must host for its members. The new recharter criteria now states:

Each chapter must provide a minimum of one (1) business meeting and two (2) educational meetings that provide contact hours.*

*View the complete policy at www.annanurse.org. Go to Members Only, select Policy & Procedure Manual, then select policy 6.05.

Thank you, chapter officers, for providing us with your feedback via surveys, e-mails and conference calls. You are making a difference in your local nephrology community!

All-Region Executive Committee & Board of Directors