Time Is Running Out to Recruit 3 New Members and Receive a 1-Year ANNA Membership FREE!

ANNA’s “Free for 3” membership campaign will wrap up in December 2008. Every ANNA member who recruits 3 new members between January 1 and December 31, 2008, will receive a 1-year ANNA membership free! A flyer outlining the three-step process of how to participate in the “Free for 3” campaign is available on the ANNA Web site. Membership applications also are available online for your recruiting convenience. Go to www.annanurse.org for more details.

Congratulations to the following members who have already recruited 3 new members and earned a free ANNA membership!

Remedios Ash
Holly Lynn Beamer
John Beres
Linda Bethea
Dianne Boleyn
Ronald Brown
Sharon Bunnell
Alice Campanelli
Lisa Carter
Susan Carter
Trish Carter
Myung Cho
Marion Coit
Charlotte Collins
Karen Cui
Kathay Day
Angela Ferguson
Anneli Ford
Andra Grantum
Beverly Grier-Smith
Mary Gruel
Inez Harrington
Deborah Heinrich
Claire Hockley
Mariza Jayme
Kate Kern
Connie Kramer
Christie Krapp
Kenneth Looi
Editha Martinez
Saramma Mathew
Nancy McAfee
Laureen McClure
Tonja McCoy
Lesley Jean Meyers
Maryanna Moseby
Sophia Muncy
Michiyo Oka
Virginia Okupinski
Catherine Reydel
Paula Richards
Linda Roberto
Karen Robertson
Mary Anne Rocks
Charlene Rolwes
Karen Russell
Maria Sanchez
Marie Scutt-Mohamed
Hesri Soeprono
Nita Nita Soeprono
Melanie Stutzman-Ricci
Vanessa Unglaub
Diana Wade
Susan Wagner
Jane Sapp Wallace
Sheila Waltrip
April Wiggins
Cynthia Zielke

Candidate Profiles for National and Regional Offices Appear in This Issue

The profiles of all ANNA national and regional candidates for elected office in 2009-2010 appear on pages 9-16 of this issue of the ANNA Update. Please read the information to familiarize yourself with each candidate. Candidates are running for the following positions in this year’s election:

• National President-Elect
• National Treasurer
• Northeast Vice President
• North Central Vice President
• Chapters Coordinator-Elect in each of ANNA’s four regions

Candidates for Board of Directors’ positions were given the opportunity to answer the following question: What do you want ANNA to look like in 3 to 5 years and how will you, as a member of the Board of Directors, make this happen? Responses were recorded and are accessible on the ANNA Web site. To listen to the candidates’ responses to this question, go to www.annanurse.org and click on “Candidates Identified for 2009-2010 ANNA Elections.” Click on individual candidates to read their profile and hear their projections about ANNA’s future.

Watch your mail for the ANNA election ballot, which will be mailed to all ANNA members in early December. Ballots must be returned in the envelope provided by January 2, 2009. Voting is one of the many privileges of ANNA membership. Take this opportunity to make your voice heard – VOTE!

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National President-Elect

Sally Campoy, MS, APRN, BC, CNN

Job Position and Professional Responsibilities
Nurse Practitioner, Renal Section, Department of Veterans Affairs Eastern Colorado Health Care System ~ Responsible for health care management of persons with chronic kidney disease (CKD) and end-stage kidney disease. Conducts nurse-managed CKD clinics and a primary care clinic. Manages care for patients in the chronic hemodialysis unit. Provides renal transplant coordination services. Represents advanced practice nurses (APNs) on the hospital’s Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee. Clinical preceptor for the University of Colorado Denver School of Nursing.

Role Qualifications
- **Local ANNA leadership positions:** High Country Chapter #502: President-Elect, 2003-2004, 2005-2006; President, 2004-2005
- **Extensive professional experience in nephrology nursing** as a staff nurse, nurse manager, nurse educator, and nurse practitioner in chronic and acute dialysis, peritoneal dialysis, home dialysis, renal transplant, and chronic kidney disease.

Role in ANNA projects/activities illustrating support of ANNA’s mission, goals, and objectives:
- **Scholarship:** Provides education to nephrology nurses. Lecturer at numerous local, regional, and national ANNA programs. Participated in education planning committees at the local and national levels. Developed self-learning modules on CKD.
- **Scholarship:** Develop evidence base for nephrology APN practice. Conducted research on clinical outcomes of patients starting dialysis who were followed in the Renal NP clinic vs. Renal Fellow clinics, which was published in *Nephrology, Dialysis & Transplant*.
- **Advocacy:** Promote advocacy activities related to the

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Donna Painter, MS, RN, CNN

Job Position and Professional Responsibilities
I am currently the Regional Vice President East Texas for Fresenius Medical Care. My role includes operational responsibility for 31 outpatient clinics and three acute programs. I participate in ongoing quality improvement processes and programs, develop organizational policy and oversee implementation, coordinate educational activities, and evaluate processes and outcomes at all levels. I participate in organizational strategic planning and financial management of the facilities. I have over 25 years of nephrology nursing experience, including hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, acute care, and management.

Role Qualifications
- Founding member of Dallas Chapter.
- Have held all chapter offices.
- Treasurer for the Texas ANNA Collaborative Meeting, managing financial responsibilities for the meeting of 10 chapters.
- Have work experience of operational responsibility for 34 facilities that complements the multi-tiered levels of association leadership.

Role in ANNA projects/activities illustrating support of ANNA’s mission, goals, and objectives:
- **Business Goal:** ANNA will have long-term financial success.
  As National Treasurer for 2007-2008, ANNA saw a net increase in assets of $421,424. I actively participated in budget planning and management of the association with fiscal responsibility and management to ensure our long-term financial success. Because of this membership dues remain low and products are extremely valuable.
- **Recruitment and Retention Goal:** ANNA will strive to ensure the future of the specialty of nephrology nursing.
  As a member of the Membership Task Force in 2007-2008, developed the current recruitment tool “Free for 3” as well as recommended free continuing education on the ANNA Web site. Additionally, I believe in the involvement in our professional asso-
Kim Alleman, MS, RN, FNP-BC, APRN, CNN

Job Position and Professional Responsibilities
I am a Nurse Practitioner with the Hartford Hospital Transplant Program, Hartford, CT. I care for patients who have undergone kidney, kidney/pancreas, and liver transplantation. I manage their care, including coordination of care, immunosuppression, side effects of medications, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, anemia, wound care, and provide patient and professional education. I care for patients in all stages of chronic kidney disease (CKD). I am a preceptor for nurse practitioner students from universities in the area and region. Numerous high school and middle school students have shadowed me who have an interest in nursing or medicine.

Role Qualifications
- 23 years of nursing experience, 15 of those years as a nephrology nurse.
- Current Chairperson and member of ANNA Awards & Scholarships Committee from 2005 until present.
- SIG Liaison, 2003-2004, coordinated activity of all SIG leaders.
- President of ANNA Colonial Chapter, 1995-1996, and numerous other chapter leadership positions.
- Board member of Connecticut Chapter of American Liver Foundation.
- Nursing Spectrum “Advancing and Leading the Profession of Nursing Award for Northeast Region 2005.”
- Doris Armstrong Leadership Award 2005, Hartford Hospital, Hartford, CT.

My leadership style is participative. I strongly believe that the members of the group or the committee that I am working with are integral to moving forward. My role is to facilitate our movement depending on the goals of the group.

Role in ANNA projects/activities illustrating support of ANNA’s mission, goals, and objectives:

Recruitment and Retention. 2007-2008 liaison to the Membership Task Force that developed the current membership recruitment effort, "Free for 3," as well as proposed the idea that members have the opportunity to obtain free contact hours, now available on the ANNA Web site.

Advocacy. June and July 2008, participated in efforts to increase regional, chapter, and local member participation in the recently approved H.R. 6331. Our efforts were successful in the passage of landmark kidney legislation.

Leadership. 2007-2008 Board of Director liaison to the development of ANNA Resource Corps (ARC) database to increase the involvement of members at all levels of the Association. Chair of the Leadership Development Committee during expansion of the Volunteer Leaders Orientation Workshop, increased orientation of regional officers for their roles, increased volunteer participation through the Enrichment Opportunity Event in 2006 and 2007.

I would be honored to serve the membership as ANNA National Treasurer.

continued on page 14
**Robert MacKinnon, RN, CNN**

**Job Position and Professional Responsibilities**

Clinical Research Coordinator – Division of Nephrology ~ Oversee all research activities in the division of nephrology. Focus is primarily on biomarkers for acute kidney injury – cytokine gene polymorphisms as novel predictors of acute kidney injury, kidney injury associated with cardiopulmonary bypass, resistance training for dialysis patients, industry sponsored drug trials, CRRT safety and staffing issues. Oversee all regulatory requirements, IRB requirements, and compliance with HIPAA requirements. Maintain all study records and databases, responsible for patient recruitment, enrollment, biological sampling, processing, and analysis.

**Role Qualifications**

I have been active in the nephrology nursing community for years and have a genuine love for what I do. I have been involved with ANNA as a member of the Leadership Development Committee (LDC), the Distance Learning Committee, and am the State Health Policy Director for Massachusetts. I have been a speaker for the National Kidney Foundation and have organized lectures and patient panels to help educate the public. I was honored to receive the ANNA Board of Directors Award and the ANNA Nurse Researcher Award in 2008. I have worked in every role in dialysis from staff nurse to center director, in-center to acute, hospital to freestanding clinic and understand the challenges of each.

**Role in ANNA projects/activities illustrating support of ANNA's mission, goals, and objectives:**

I have worked with the LDC to plan the Volunteer Leaders Orientation Workshop (VLOW) for the last 3 years, and worked on the Enrichment Opportunity Event (EOE) planning subcommittee.

I served as the point person for ANNA at the NBC Health Expo in Boston, partnering with the NKF and Amgen, where I organized a team of ANNA nurses to staff a CKD risk assessment booth, and gave feedback back to the ANNA Board of Directors so that this important project could be done in other markets as well.

I worked on developing the volunteer experience assessment tool to better understand and improve upon the volunteer experience in the organization.

**Paula Richards, MSN, RN, CNN**

**Job Position and Professional Responsibilities**

Clinical Manager, Fresenius Medical Care (FMC) In-patient Services ~ Coordinate schedules for patients and staff in 10 hospitals in Philadelphia area. Responsibilities include budgets, staffing, hiring, firing, QA, working with hospital administration concerning dialysis issues, in-service education for staff, knowledge of state and federal regulations.

**Role Qualifications**


**Role in ANNA projects/activities illustrating support of ANNA's mission, goals, and objectives:**

Professional Development. Chairperson for ANNA Keystone Chapter annual educational Day of Learning and committee member. Garden State educational program presentation on “Mentoring.” Active AREC committee member. CNN active since 1994. ANNA Online Mentoring mentor.

Recruitment and Retention. Active member of ANNA Keystone Chapter. Actively recruit new members for ANNA through “Free for 3” program and Keystone Chapter’s new membership 50% off membership price program. Attend local chapter and national events and meet with nurses to encourage membership in ANNA.

Advocacy. Participated in legislative workshops in Washington, DC, met with state senators and representatives, wrote to state senators and representatives concerning Medicare issues for patients and to promote nursing issues (education, funding, etc). Recently received letter from Senator Specter (R-PA) concerning letter sent about support of Medicare funding.
Sylvia Moe, BSN, RN, CNN

Job Position and Professional Responsibilities
Home Dialysis Training Coordinator for Peritoneal Dialysis and Home Hemodialysis
~ Utilize knowledge and clinical expertise to coordinate training and successful transition to dialysis at home. Coordinate return follow up appointments and monthly lab reviews. Communicate with a multidisciplinary team of nephrologists, nurse practitioner, dietician, and social workers to provide safe and adequate home therapy. Review and develop policy and procedures for home dialysis training manual.

Role Qualifications
My 25 years of nephrology nursing, effective organization, computer/speaking/writing skills, as well as working well in a team qualify me for this role. I have a strong commitment to serving the members of ANNA. I have served as ANNA North Central Chapters Coordinator-Elect (CCE) and Chapters Coordinator (CC) for two terms, Southeast Minnesota ANNA chapter secretary, treasurer, president-elect, and president, and as member for the National Symposium Planning Committee and the national Nominations Committee.

Role in ANNA projects/activities illustrating support of ANNA's mission, goals, and objectives:

Leadership. I strongly believe in mentoring and role modeling for the development of future leaders. As North Central CCE and CC, I promoted the communication of information and resources to facilitate chapter officer knowledge for success in their role.

Membership. I recognize the value of ANNA lies in the knowledge of its membership and served as the leader of the Membership Task Force, bringing members of the diverse nephrology specialties together to formulate plans to increase ANNA membership. One result from this task force was the “Free for 3” membership campaign.

Scholarship. I recognize the continued need for quality educational programs that promote the evidence-based practice for nephrology nursing. I serve as a member on the National Symposium Planning Committee and develop goals and objectives to meet this need.

I value the resources and network of knowledge of ANNA’s membership and recognize the influence ANNA has on nephrology nursing. It would be an honor and privilege to continue to serve as a leader for ANNA.

Sharon Bunnell, BSN, RN, CNN

Job Position and Professional Responsibilities
Staff Nurse/Anemia Manager
~ Monitor and coordinate all immunizations for 144 patient capacity hemodialysis unit.

Role Qualifications
I have served in my local ANNA chapter as treasurer from 2003 to the present. During this time our chapter has met and exceeded recharter requirements each year. The chapter received Chapter of the Year (COTY) Award in 2006. I am currently serving as the North Central Chapters Coordinator (CC), allowing me to be directly involved in advising and directing chapter officers in meeting the ANNA objectives. Served on subcommittee to help plan leadership program in Dallas. Presenter at the 2006 and 2007 Volunteer Leaders Orientation Workshop (VLOW) in the treasurer role orientation. Worked with local American Diabetes Educators to increase awareness of risk factors of chronic kidney (CKD). Developed and presented a PowerPoint presentation to various groups to increase awareness of CKD.

Role in ANNA projects/activities illustrating support of ANNA's mission, goals, and objectives:

Leadership. As CCE/CC I have assisted a struggling chapter to identify new chapter officers and continue to mentor those officers to meet recharter requirements. I continue to serve as the local chapter treasurer for the past 6 years. Chaired several fundraising projects increasing chapters treasury.

Advocacy. Created and continue to present a PowerPoint presentation on risk factors and CKD to diabetic and community support groups. Nurse in Washington Internship (NIWI) grant recipient. I have advocated on Capitol Hill. Notified regional officers and chapter members this past summer to contact their legislators in support of the Medicare bill. Assisted local chapter board members with visits during Kidney Disease Awareness and Education (KDAE) Week. Obtained proclamation from Kansas City Mayor in recognition of KDAE Week.

Recruitment and Retention. Encouraged student nurses to attend meetings. Helped to establish chapter funds for scholarship for technicians pursuing nursing career. As CC/CCE facilitated networking among chapter officers to share success stories and develop strategies to improve member participation.
Maria Gonzales, RN, CNN

**Job Position and Professional Responsibilities**

RN, care of acute and peritoneal dialysis patients. Staff education of CAPD, CCPD, and CRRT. Project Coordinator on development of home hemodialysis program.

**Role Qualifications**

- Member of ANNA since 1998.
- Instrumental in organizing and starting new chapter, San Joaquin Valley Chapter became a reality in October 2003.
- Chapter Treasurer, 2004-2006, submitting all financial reports.
- President-Elect, 2006-2007, our chapter won Western Region Chapter of the Year (COTY) Award in 2007.
- 2007-2008, leading our chapter to win Western Region COTY Award in 2008.
- I have gained a wealth of knowledge and respect with my volunteer involvement with ANNA. This experience has helped me professionally to grow. Through this acquired knowledge I have a strong commitment to ANNA and will help advise and lead chapters to follow the mission, vision, goals and objectives of ANNA.

**Role in ANNA projects/activities illustrating support of ANNA’s mission, goals, and objectives:**

**Advocacy / Recruitment and Retention / Leadership**

- Instrumental in organizing two ESRD Education Days 2006 and 2007. Invited legislators and their representatives to tour our dialysis units and learn about renal disease and how it impacts the lives of patients and families.
- Visited dialysis units to promote ANNA membership. Served on planning committee for our local chapter fall seminars providing educational CE and encouraging excellence in nephrology nursing and importance of utilizing the *Nephrology Nursing Standards*.
- Collaborated with the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) in two Kidney Early Evaluation Program (KEEP) screenings.
- Presented at the National Symposium in Dallas Volunteer Leaders Orientation Workshop (VLOW), president-elect role orientation.

Niki Kobes, BSN, RN, CNN

**Job Position and Professional Responsibilities**

Clinical Manager ~ Manage 35 station outpatient hemodialysis unit. Oversee direct patient care. Responsible to maintain quality standards, fiscal responsibilities, safety standards, and regulatory compliance for facility. Oversee 42 staff members.

**Role Qualifications**


**Role in ANNA projects/activities illustrating support of ANNA’s mission, goals, and objectives:**

**Membership Goal.** I have organized membership meetings locally to promote membership. Meeting was attended by 6 nurses from other institutions with 3 new members joining. Started active dialogue with managers at local hospitals to promote ANNA locally and as a professional organization for dialysis professionals.

**Scholarship Goal.** Provided copies of ANNA Nephrology Nursing Standards of Practice and Guidelines for Care for the chronic dialysis unit. Included copies for prizes at local chapter education meetings.

**Leadership Goal.** Developed questionnaire for use at chapter meeting to ask for interest in serving as volunteer leaders for local chapter. I have enrolled in the ANNA Resource Corps for mentoring.

**Advocacy Goal.** Assured chapter provision for hosting certification exams for nurses and patient care technicians. Scheduled for October 12, 2008 this year.
Charla Litton, BSN, RN, CCRN, CNRN, CDN, CNN

Job Position and Professional Responsibilities

RN Manager ~ I am responsible for the day-to-day operations of an acute hemodialysis unit and two interventional nephrology suites. As part of my duties, I manage personnel, supplies, and operational budgets, as well as staffing, quality improvement, and patient satisfaction. I am responsible for staff and patient education, utilization reviews, and monthly vascular access conferences. I serve on numerous committees, including the Infection Control Quality Council, the Patient Care Services Council, the Special Care Committee, the Magnet Committee, the Joint Commission Readiness Committee, the Professional/Paraprofessional Nursing Organizations Committee, etc. I also am responsible for maintaining and reviewing unit specific policies and procedures as well as reviewing any hospital policies affecting nephrology nursing or patients. I serve as a lead participant in Joint Commission and other regulatory agency surveys.

Role Qualifications

As a member of ANNA, I served with the first officers in the Acadiana Chapter after its move to Shreveport, including Treasurer, President-Elect, and President. As President, our chapter won the Chapter of the Year (COTY) and Strategic Alliances Awards. I am currently serving as Southeast Special Assistant. Additionally, I am serving my second year on the Administration SIG. I am completing my masters in nursing and will graduate in May 2009. I have served on the Grievance Committee with ESRD Network 13 for 2 years and was recently elected to the board of directors of the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) in Louisiana. I have organized and moderated certification reviews and participated in educational presentations locally and nationally. I am involved in committees such as the Magnet, Critical Care Excellence, and Strategic Planning Committees in my role as RN Manager.

Role in ANNA projects/activities illustrating support of ANNA’s mission, goals, and objectives:

Advocacy Goal. As a member of the ESRD Network 13 Grievance Committee, I feel that I have been instrumental in advocating for quality care for patients affected by kidney disease. I have also been instrumental in organizing a 3-day Fistula First training session for healthcare workers in our community.

Scholarship Goal. I have facilitated and moderated certification reviews for the past 3 years locally. I also have presented a poster at the ANNA National Symposium on research carried out by myself and my fellow nurses.

Business Goal. As an officer of ANNA locally, I have been on the front line in increasing chapter assets by 350%, from the initial seed money through fundraisers and corporate solicitation.

Campoy Candidate Profile

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roles, functions, and responsibilities of the nephrology nurse.

Organized the first CKD SIG. Participated in development of the ANNA CKD position statement. Participated in development and revision of the ANNA APN position statement and Scope and Standards of Advanced Practice in Nephrology Nursing.

Painter Candidate Profile

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ciation and will work to actively recruit more of the thousands of nephrology nurses in dialysis facilities to the association.

Advocacy Goal: ANNA will be the leading advocate for nephrology nurses, and will advocate for quality care for individuals, families, and communities affected by real or potential kidney disease.

Over 20,000 nurses work in hemodialysis. As a member of the Board of Directors, I currently represent 70% of the employers of nephrology nurses.

Alleman Candidate Profile

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Advanced Practice in Nephrology Nursing; Chair, National Symposium Planning Committee.

Advocacy. Provided comments on CMS proposed Conditions for Coverage for transplant centers, collated responses of the ANNA Special Interest Groups.

Leadership. Served in a leadership capacity in multiple roles throughout ANNA, at my workplace, and other organizations. Provided input to ANNA task force on evaluation of current leaders and committee members.
Proposed Amendments to ANNA’s Constitution and Bylaws

The ANNA Board of Directors recommends that ANNA’s Constitution and Bylaws be amended as follows:

1. Proposed Amendment to Article II.

Current Bylaw:
Article II. Philosophy, Purpose and Objectives
Section A. Mission Statement
ANNA’s Mission: ANNA will advance nephrology nursing practice and positively influence outcomes for patients with kidney disease through advocacy, scholarship, and excellence.

Proposed Amendment:
ANNA’s Mission: ANNA will advance nephrology nursing practice and positively influence outcomes for individuals with kidney disease through advocacy, scholarship, and excellence.

Rationale:
ANNA’s mission currently refers to “patients” with kidney disease. The proposed change to “individuals” will eliminate biased language when referring to persons with illness.

2. Proposed Amendments to Article III

Current Bylaws:
Article III. Membership
Section C. Senior Members
Full members for the 5-year period prior to attaining the age of 65 are eligible to become senior members. Full membership privileges apply but no dues are assessed.

Section J. Dues
The Association is a non-profit organization. The annual assessment on members shall be determined by the Board of Directors and shall be due no later than thirty days after membership expires. Membership must be current for members to maintain the right to vote on the executive ballot. Dues will not be assessed on senior, lifetime, or honorary members.

Proposed Amendments:
Section C. Senior Members
Full members for the 5-year period prior to attaining the age of 65 are eligible to become senior members. Full membership privileges apply.

Section J. Dues
The Association is a non-profit organization. The annual dues for members shall be determined by the Board of Directors and shall be due no later than thirty days after membership expires. Membership must be current for members to maintain the right to vote on the executive ballot. Dues are not assessed on lifetime or honorary members. Reduced dues are assessed for senior and student members.

Rationale:
ANNA’s dues are the lowest among all specialty nursing associations (currently $60 per year, the same rate since 1989). In addition, research conducted among other nursing associations shows that ANNA is the only nursing association that assesses no dues on its senior members. Given the costs of providing high quality membership services, including the Nephrology Nursing Journal, ANNA Update, E-News, and various publications, and the expected rising costs of these services in the future, the Board of Directors recommends that the term within Section C. Senior Members “no dues are assessed” be replaced with “reduced dues are assessed” in Section J. Dues. This change will enable the Board of Directors to assess dues fairly within the various membership categories, while ensuring that Senior Members will receive membership services at a reduced rate.

3. Proposed Amendment to Article IV

Current Bylaw:
Article IV. Officers
Section B. Election of Officers
The Nominations Committee will submit a slate of candidates for each office. At least 30 days prior to the closing date established by the Board of Directors, each member in good standing at that time will receive a mail ballot. A Vice President and Chapters Coordinator-Elect will be elected for each region by the respective membership of that region. Each ballot must be returned and counted according to policy. The plurality of those voting will decide the election. In case of a tie, the election will be decided by lot as determined by the Board of Directors. The CPA will officially certify the results and notify the appropriate person or persons of the results, in accordance with established policy and procedure.

The general membership will be notified of the election results at the annual national business meeting and/or by publication in the newsletter.

Proposed Amendment:
The Nominations Committee will submit a slate of candidates for each office annually. At least 30 days prior to the closing date established by the Board of Directors, each member in good standing at that time will receive a mail ballot. A Vice President and Chapters Coordinator-Elect will be elected for each region by the respective membership of that region. Each ballot must be returned and counted according to policy. The plurality of those voting will decide the election. In case of a tie, the election will be decided by lot as determined by the Board of Directors. An independent agent designated by the Board of Directors will officially oversee the results of the election and notify the appropriate person or persons of the results, in accordance with established policy and procedure.
The general membership will be notified of the election results at the annual national business meeting and by publication in the newsletter and on the Web site.

Rationale:
Currently ANNA’s ballots are distributed by US Postal mail. When the original bylaws were written, options to distribute and collect ballots via e-mail and/or Web site sign-ons were not available. The changes to remove the word “mail” and references to returning ballots to ANNA’s CPA will enable the association to consider electronic voting while still ensuring that an independent agent oversees the election process. Many associations have successfully implemented electronic voting and we recommend that ANNA change its bylaws to allow for this method of voting. If the membership accepts this change in the bylaws, the Board of Directors would be responsible for reviewing options and deciding upon which method of voting (mail, electronic, or some combination of both) is best suited for ANNA and in the association’s best interests.

4. Proposed Amendment to Article XI.

Current Bylaw:
Article XI. Amendment of the Constitution/Bylaws
The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended on a 2/3 return vote of the membership. The voting process will follow the same rules as for the election of officers (ARTICLE IV, Section B) except that amendments to the Bylaws may be proposed independently of the election as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.

Proposed Amendment:
The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 affirmative vote of ballots returned by the membership. The voting process will follow the same rules for the election of officers (ARTICLE IV, Section B) except that amendments to the Bylaws may be proposed independently of the election as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.

Rationale:
Currently ANNA’s bylaws are not clearly written about how the membership may amend the Constitution and Bylaws. The current wording may be interpreted that 2/3 of all ballots must be returned by the membership for an amendment to be approved. However, ANNA has never had a 67% return vote by the membership. The Board of Directors recommends that this change in wording be made so that it is very clear that the intention of this bylaw is that amendments may be made by a 2/3 affirmative vote of ballots returned by the membership, and not that 2/3 of members must return their ballots.

The full text of ANNA's current Constitution and Bylaws is available on the ANNA Web site. Go to www.annanurse.org, click on About ANNA, and select The Association.

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about health care and other important issues and get involved. Try to identify local health care legislation that affects your practice or your patients in order to engage more people in the cause.

Look at the voter registration deadlines in your state. A state-by-state chart is available online at www.declareyourself.com/voting_faq/state_by_state_info_2.html.

Set a time frame for ANNA chapter activities. You may want to designate some time to deliver the message that We Can Make the Difference! Encourage your Chapter Health Policy Representatives and State Directors to send messages to your members.

Review federal and state election laws. Any efforts should encourage participation but remain nonpartisan. Do not promote specific candidates, parties, or positions on issues. State, city, and county election laws vary and must be checked with your local board of elections. Or visit the Federal Election Commission at www.fec.gov.

Tell your colleagues about ANNA making a difference in the recent legislation and that voting is not only a right, but an obligation. Take an opportunity to remind members at work and at chapter meetings to vote. Emphasize how important the voting process is to our families, to the future, to our patients, and to health care.

Talk about the problem of voter apathy in the United States. Remind colleagues that in the 2000 Presidential election, for example, the outcome was decided by 309 votes. Finally, stress that your process is totally nonpartisan. Your goal is to encourage involvement, not to promote a particular political philosophy.

You Can Make a Difference
Given a cause for our patients, nurses turned out in record numbers this summer to make our voices heard. We would like to encourage you to continue this participation. If we can build on the momentum from the summer success with the passage of H.R. 6331, we can continue to make a difference.

Start by participating in the upcoming ANNA elections. Candidate profiles for the 2008-2009 national and regional ANNA offices are included in this issue. Review the profiles for each office, select a candidate, and return your ballot when it arrives in the mail this December.

Molly Cahill
North Central Vice President
Heart of America Chapter #313

Loretta Jackson Brown
Southeast Vice President
Dogwood Chapter #224

Nancy Pierce
Western Vice President
Big Sky Chapter #527

Debra Castner
Northeast Vice President
Jersey South Chapter #133