San Joaquin Valley #532

Our chapter was well represented at the National Symposium. All of our officers attended the VLW and are charged up and ready to go. Chapter members from Stockton to Bakersfield attended the National Symposium, and it was a wonderful opportunity to network. President Robyn Camper is bursting with energy and ideas, and we are looking forward to a very exciting and educational year.

Our chapter hosted the certification exam at Kaweah Delta Medical Center on June 6. Cathy Gage-Ivers, health policy representative and renal educator, worked very hard mentoring the PCTs so that all would pass.

Robyn Camper updated us on the Health Policy Workshop held in Washington, DC, in June. She has lots of information and ideas for KDAE Week in August.

We are planning an exciting educational program for Nephrology Nurses Week.

Our officers are looking forward to hearing from you and getting your input and ideas. We are always looking to meet the needs of you, our members. You can reach us by e-mail: President Robyn Camper, robyn.camper@davita.com; President-Elect Anita Hall, ahall@kdchd.org; Treasurer Kelly Yeary, yearyk@surgery.ucsf.edu; Secretary Maria Gonzales, mgonzales@comcast.net, and Health Policy Representative Cathy Gage-Ivers, cgage@kdchd.org. Visit our Web site at www.sjvanna.org for information on chapter meetings and updates.

San Joaquin Valley chapter members received recognition and cash award during National Nurses Week at Kaweah Delta Medical Center. Pictured are Cindy Shafer, Maria Gonzales, Gloria Vicenti, and Cathy Gage-Ivers.

ANNA Endorses Campaign to Improve Survival Among First-Year Dialysis Patients

ANNA is pleased to announce its endorsement of Kidney Care Partners’ campaign to reduce mortality among first-year dialysis patients by 20% by the end of 2012. As a member of Kidney Care Partners (KCP), ANNA was a leader in efforts to introduce the recently launched Performance Excellence and Accountability in Kidney Care (PEAK) Campaign.

“ANNA and the kidney community have put a great deal of energy and resources into this quality improvement campaign and we support this community-wide effort that will improve patient education and outcomes,” said ANNA President Donna Bednarski. “ANNA has made consistent efforts at improving the quality of patient care and this campaign will provide additional tools for our nurses to help patients make the transition to dialysis.”

Kidney disease affects more than 26 million people nationwide. Approximately 400,000 Americans suffer from kidney failure, which requires them to undergo dialysis or kidney transplantation to survive. Transplants are limited due to the shortage of donor organs, so most patients undergo dialysis for three to four hours, three times a week. The number of Americans with kidney disease is rising steadily due to risk factors including diabetes, hypertension, obesity and high blood pressure.

All too often, the onset of chronic kidney disease (CKD) is gradual and undetected, leaving patients especially vulnerable when the disease is recognized. Helping patients to understand their disease and to manage it appropriately is an essential ingredient to high quality care for newly diagnosed patients and a central component of the PEAK Campaign.

PEAK was launched by KCP, a broad-based coalition of kidney patient advocacy groups, health care professional organizations, dialysis service providers and manufacturers who seek to improve quality of care available to patients diagnosed with CKD and kidney failure.

Led by KCP, with support from research partners at Brown University and Quality Partners of Rhode Island as well as experts in the kidney community, the PEAK Campaign will equip health care providers and professionals with tools to help first-year dialysis patients better understand their disease and manage the effects of dialysis on themselves and their families. Campaign participants believe that in addition to improving and extending the lives of people with kidney failure, PEAK will result in reduced patient hospitalizations, which in turn will help lower Medicare costs.

The PEAK Campaign is expected to have the beneficial effect of improving the overall health of dialysis patients in the first year including nutrition, infection prevention and anemia management. Research shows that a focus on improved survival will also likely reduce hospitalizations and lower Medicare costs overall.