Nephrology Nurses Celebrate!

Nephrology Nurses Week 2010 was celebrated September 12–18. The theme for this annual event was Nephrology Nurses: Guiding you Through. ANNA chapter officers were surveyed and asked to share how they celebrated this very special week. We received 23 responses, and I would like to share them with you.

The Dialysis Unit at Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System gave personalized gift bags to each staff member. The staff enjoyed a daily breakfast bar and wore ANNA T-shirts on Monday and Friday and ANNA buttons daily. A “mystery potluck” was held along with a “guess who” contest of baby pictures. Thank you cards from patients, families, and medical staff were displayed during the week.

Heart of America #313 e-mailed Happy Nephrology Nurses Week good wishes to all members. Chapter officers visited 23 dialysis units to give them a card, a goody bag of treats and pens, and flyers for upcoming programs.

Northern California #504 celebrated by offering a free 1.0 CNE program for members. Raffles were held, and an award was presented to the Nephrology Nurse of the Year.

Scottsdale Healthcare and Desert Vista #501 celebrated with a week of mini-lectures given during lunch. Daily prizes were awarded, and edible treats were catered daily.

A Nephrology Nurses Recognition Dinner was given by Kentuckiana #336. The dinner included an educational presentation by a local nephrologist. Gifts were presented to nephrology nurses who had served 30 years.

At the Mayo Clinic Hospital each dialysis nurse received a Nephrology Nurses Week pin. An open house was held in the dialysis unit during the week with snacks being offered.

Jersey North #126 sponsored a CNN/CDN Review Course with 61 attendees. Chapter pens and sticky pads were delivered to several dialysis units in the chapter area.

Rochester General Hospital of Great Lakes #128 gave each nurse a gift and a thank you note from their leader. Nominations for the “best of the best” from each team were held and prizes were presented to the winners.

The officers of San Joaquin #532 visited 22 units and presented treats, ANNA pens, chapter magnets, membership brochures, flyers, and balloons.

Greater Puget Sound #503 held an all-day educational workshop and presented Nephrology Nurses Week pins to 160 attendees. A letter was sent via ANNA Connected to all chapter members wishing them a Happy Nephrology Nurses Week and notifying them that the chapter donated $500 to the local Kidney Early Education Program (KEEP).

Sawtooth #521 delivered bagels and cream cheese to outlying clinics in rural areas, thanked the staff, and encouraged them to join ANNA. A “meet and greet” was held during the week with food and a discussion of the year’s events.

Platte River #324 presented ANNA mugs filled with candy to nurses and held their annual fall workshop.

Dogwood #224 visited several units and brought them doughnuts and a framed “Thank You.” Each clinical manager received an ANNA button. A Countdown to Nephrology Nurses Week was held, during which members were asked to submit the name of someone they wished to honor. The names and pictures of the honorees were added to the chapter Web site. A Chapter Kick-Off of Nephrology Nurses Week with an all-day educational program was held on September 11. The guest speaker was ANNA President-Elect Rowena Elliott who discussed joining a professional organization.

The officers and committee members of Acadiana #252 took food and other treats to several of the acute and outpatient facilities. Two of the facilities won admittance of up to 10 ANNA members to attend the next educational meeting free of charge.

The officers of Bluegrass #322 took goody bags to 12 hospitals and outpatient clinics along with flyers for the Fall Audio Conference on November 2.

The doctors at the University of Kentucky Medical Center brought in food, and a display was put on the main bulletin board.

Scenic City #269 held a Vascular Access Seminar awarding 4.75 CNE credits to 75 attendees. The registration fee of only $5 covered refreshments, a box lunch, door prizes, and ANNA pins.

Caribbean #210 had a week-long exhibition on the history of the beginning and evolution of nephrology nurses in their hospital since 1966, including their chapter origins.

Garden State #125 hosted a brunch cruise aboard a tour ship in central New Jersey. The cruise included an educational program, a business meeting, brunch, dancing, and networking. Half of the registration fee was refunded to the chapter members who attended.

Greater Minnesota #329 posted flyers and held a potluck breakfast in their clinic.

I hope you have enjoyed reading the various ways chapters celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week and that you have discovered some new ideas for celebrating in your chapter this year. Nephrology Nurses Week will be celebrated September 11–17 this year. The theme will be Nephrology Nurses: Soaring to New Heights.

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