Partner with ANNA in the New Year: Renew Your Membership!

As the New Year begins, it is a good time to renew your commitment to yourself and to achieving your professional goals. We hope that includes continued membership in your professional organization – ANNA.

ANNA recognizes that the scope of nephrology nursing is expanding and we strive to meet the needs of our members who practice in a wide array of clinical settings. We seek to uphold the highest standards of patient care. ANNA membership provides you with countless opportunities to advance your education, improve your practice, and enhance your career development. FREE continuing nursing education opportunities, discounts on professional and practice resources, discounts on registration fees for educational meetings, and access to a professional network of over 10,000 nephrology nurses are just a few of these opportunities! (See page 2 for a comprehensive list of ANNA member benefits.)

Thank you to all the ANNA members who have spread the word to peers and colleagues and invited them to join ANNA! A complete list of individuals who recruited members to the Association in 2011 appears on page 10. Thanks to you, more nurses have united in our mission to positively influence outcomes for individuals with kidney disease.

Renewal Information & Instructions

Many of you will receive your ANNA membership renewal information via e-mail in January. To renew online, visit www.annanurse.org and click on the "Renew Now" button on the red sidebar. (Remember to login to the Web site first. Use your e-mail address and the password you selected when you created your online account.) If you have any questions, please contact the National Office at 888-600-2662 and a representative will be happy to assist you.

If you do not have an e-mail address associated with your ANNA membership profile, you will receive your renewal materials via mail. And if you do not receive renewal information this month, please watch for the information to arrive a few months in advance of your anniversary join date.

Please renew your ANNA membership promptly and help ANNA attract new members this year by sharing the benefits of membership with your colleagues. Thank you for your shared commitment to advancing nephrology nursing practice and improving patient outcomes!

Nephrology Nurses Celebrate!

ANNA celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week during the week of September 11-17, 2011. Inspired by the theme, Nephrology Nurses: Soaring to New Heights, ANNA chapters and members celebrated with special events and activities. In October we surveyed chapter officers, asking them to describe how they celebrated this special week and requesting suggestions for how to improve this annual celebration in future years. Below is a brief summary of the many activities sponsored by ANNA chapters and members and celebrated by nephrology nurses.

The Big Sky Chapter #527 sent gift baskets to each of the Montana dialysis units. In addition, Nancy Pierce, department manager, bought each one of her staff nurses an ANNA lunch bag filled with goodies and ANNA pins. The Hazel Taylor Chapter #239 provided a free CNE activity with a meal and a gift to both members and nonmembers on September 15. A local nephrologist presented a review of the history of nephrology.

The Bluegrass Chapter #322 visited multiple dialysis clinics as well as hospital dialysis and transplant units throughout Kentucky to distribute goody bags containing candy, popcorn, pens, “Celebrate Nephrology Nurses Week” posters, ANNA membership applications, and registration information for their all-day educational event, Nephrology Nursing: A River of Caring for Vulnerable Lives, which was held September 15 at the Newport Kentucky

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tion and biomedical research funding levels, is available online at: www.annanurse.org/download/reference/health/fundingChart.pdf.

CMS Proposed Rule on ESRD Life Safety Codes

In 2009, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) updated the ESRD Conditions for Coverage (CFC) to include Federal Life Safety Code (LSC) provisions. The provisions called for additional structural requirements in dialysis facilities. CMS has found that many of the LSC provisions duplicate existing local and state fire safety codes covering dialysis facilities and that the actual costs of these additional requirements far exceed their estimates. CMS concluded that the added costs of these regulations are “out of proportion to any added protection that they may afford in dialysis facilities which are not at higher risk of fire penetration from adjacent industrial ‘high hazard’ occupancies and where swift, unencumbered evacuation to outside is not available.”

As a result, CMS is proposing to ease these fire safety regulations. Mandatory compliance with the LSC regulations is proposed to be restricted to “those ESRD facilities located adjacent to ‘high hazardous’ occupancies and those facilities whose patient treatment areas are not located at grade level with direct access to the outside.”

ANNA submitted a comment letter to CMS on this issue, which is available on the Health Policy section of the ANNA Web site.

Marilyn Tavenner Nominated as CMS Administrator

In July 2010, President Obama nominated Dr. Donald Berwick to serve as CMS Administrator. Dr. Berwick resigned on December 2, 2011, as Congress made it clear that they would not confirm his nomination.

On November 23, 2011, President Obama announced his intent to nominate Marilyn B. Tavenner to be Administrator of CMS. Ms. Tavenner has served as Principal Deputy Administrator for CMS since February 2010 and served as Acting Administrator of CMS from February to July 2010. Her nomination awaits Congressional confirmation.

Prior to her time at CMS, Ms. Tavenner served as the Secretary of Health and Human Resources for the Commonwealth of Virginia under former Governor Tim Kaine. She has also spent nearly 35 years working in the health care field, including almost 20 years as a nurse, 3 years as a hospital CEO, and 10 years in various senior executive level positions for the Hospital Corporation of America. Ms. Tavenner has a BS in nursing and an MA in health administration from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Stay Connected

Please continue to stay informed and involved during this important time for nephrology nursing. The Health Policy section of the ANNA Web site (www.annanurse.org) is an excellent resource for information on policy issues.

Jim Twaddell and Amy Walker
ANNA Federal Health Policy Consultants

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Aquarium. The program featured ANNA President Rowena Elliott as the keynote speaker and was a collaborative event among the Bluegrass #322, Tri-State Ohio #317, and Kentuckiana #336 chapters.

Alma Jose from Texas reported that her Satellite Healthcare employer provided nephrology nurses with a wonderful acknowledgement. Each nurse was given her choice of an ANNA membership or a copy of the Core Curriculum for Nephrology Nursing. The Dogwood Chapter #224 provided dialysis facilities in Loganville, Lawrenceville, and Atlanta with fruit baskets, nephrology nurse pins, and pens. The nurses were recognized in their units and thanked for the care they provide to CKD patients and families.

The Central Virginia Chapter #258 celebrated the week with different themes each day and games for prizes. Tuesday’s theme was “Healthy Nurses,” which included posters on the History of Dialysis, Dialysis and End Stage Renal Disease, and Fluid Management in the dialysis patient. Each nurse brought a healthy food dish, and a daughter of one of the nurses led exercise workouts. Wednesday’s theme was “Patriotic” with all staff wearing red, white, and blue uniforms. The fun activity was a hula hoop contest, and the food was sub sandwiches and soda. Thursday was “Sports Day” with everyone wearing his/her favorite sports team uniforms and enjoying all-American hot dogs and chips. A group picture was taken and mounted in the unit.

The Jersey North Chapter #126 capped Nephrology Nurses Week with an all-day conference, The ABCs of Nephrology, on September 17. The 85 attendees received Nephrology Nurses Week pens and earned 8.5 continuing nursing education (CNE) credits. San Joaquin Valley Chapter #532 presented candy bars with buttons and pins. Kern Nephrology took nurses out for lunch, and treats were passed out in Visalia and Bakersfield. Posters were made with RNs pictured in various units.

The Northern California Chapter #504 celebrated with a 2011 Nephrology Nurses Week Gala. Chapter members were invited for a 1-hour presentation and were then treated to a reception of food and drinks compliments of the chapter. The Nephrology Nurse of the Year was announced and certificates were presented. Three 1-year ANNA memberships were raffled, including the grand prize of a Core Curriculum for Nephrology Nursing. Proclamations recognizing Nephrology Nurses Week were received from the Mayor of San Francisco and State Representative Barbara Lee.

As you can see, nephrology nurses enjoyed celebrating this special week. Plans for the 2012 Nephrology Nurses Week are already underway with the theme of Nephrology Nurses: You Make the Difference. Watch for more information via ANNA Connected and the ANNA Web site.

Marilyn Eilert
Nephrology Nurses Week Advisor
Jersey North Chapter #126