

between our chapter and the committee. Special thanks to our education committee members for completing the CNE application and submission process.

Visit our chapter Web site at anna3rivers.org to keep updated on upcoming chapter events. We hope to see many of you at our upcoming events.

Keystone #110

As summer ends and autumn begins, the chapter is gearing up for a busy season. We celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week in September with a special event just for ANNA members.

September 28 is the annual NKF Kidney Walk at the Philadelphia Zoo. This fundraiser is proven family fun as participants walk past the lions, tigers, and bears while raising money for a great cause.

Save the dates! The Fall Audio Conference will be held at several Philadelphia area and Lehigh Valley locations on October 7. The *21st Annual Fall Symposium* will be held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Trevoese, PA, on November 6. Remember we will all need CNE credits to renew licenses in the near future.

Chapter officers are happy to announce that **Colleen Pittman** of DCI Sellersville was awarded the \$500 PCT Scholarship. Colleen is a senior in the nursing program at Montgomery County Community College. The \$1,000 RN Scholarship went to **Joleen Pavelka**, a transplant coordinator at Lehigh Valley Hospital who is enrolled in the MSN program at DeSales University. For details on these scholarships, contact a chapter officer or, better yet, come to a meeting!

Remember the ANNA National Office is sponsoring a "3 for Free" campaign. Any current member who recruits 3 new members will receive a 1-year ANNA membership FREE. Those new first-time members will have half their first year's dues paid by the chapter. What a win-win situation!

We hope to see all members at our exciting and educational events this fall.

Northeast Tri-State #120

Chapter members are working on a major fundraiser to start this fall. On September 18 **Judy Lucas** presented the second module on end-of-life issues. The event was well attended.

Glens Falls will be hosting an all-day program sometime this fall. Date to be announced.

Long Island #122

This summer we took a respite from presenting educational forums, but we are planning plenty of events for this autumn. On October 7 we will host the Fall Audio Conference at South Nassau Hospital in Oceanside. On October 19 the NKF Walkathon will be held at the South Street Seaport in New York City. Last year was a terrific day and we were blessed with remarkable weather.

On October 26 the Kidney and Urology Foundation "Walk the Walk" will be held in Central Park, New York City. Last but not least our annual Fall Conference, which promises to have informative speakers, will be held at the Chateau Briand in Carle Place. These are huge opportunities for us to communicate on a professional level, share information concerning our practice, and have fun in a relaxed atmosphere.

We are proud to announce that the chapter will be initiating a Scholarship Fund for our members. Further details will be announced at our Fall Conference. The chapter wants to be of help to its members by defraying some of the college costs that can be prohibitive while encouraging educational development.

If you have questions or suggestions, contact **Nancy Daye** (nandy4@optonline.net, 516-680-0120) or **Anne McKenna** (amcken01@yahoo.com, 631-981-4375).

Mountain State #124

The chapter got off to a slow start this year, but enjoyed great attendance at our July meeting. Approximately 20 people attended the meeting at the Chop House in Charleston, WV. The educational offering *Challenges in Anemia Management: Identifying and Treating Poor Responders to Erythropoiesis Stimulating Agents*

was sponsored by **Watson Nephrology**. **Andrea Easom** was an excellent speaker. She shared information regarding how to identify the most common patient characteristics and clinical practice issues that affect anemia and response to the ESA therapy and the role of IV iron.

Our chapter will also host the Fall Audio Conference on October 14 at Charleston Area Medical Center in Charleston, WV. Contact **Tammie Mitchell**, chapter president, at tmitch100@gmail.com or 304-549-0735 to register.

Jersey North #126

In an effort to help people in need within the dialysis community, the chapter sponsored three campers at the Frost Valley YMCA, New York. Children with ESRD who require dialysis get their treatments at this summer camp. What a great way for the kids to have some fun! Also, monetary donations were made to two chapters in the North Central Region affected by the flood in order to help them meet their goals.

The annual chapter awards dinner was held September 17 at the Valley Regency in Clifton, NJ. The event, sponsored by **Watson Pharmaceuticals**, was a huge success. The educational program titled *Challenges in Anemia Management* was presented by **Karen Robbins** and offered 1.0 contact hours. The chapter presented two scholarships to members who were advancing their education in nursing. Congratulations!

The CNN, CDN, and PCT review course was held at Holy Name Hospital in Teaneck, NJ, on September 20-21. The certification exams will be offered October 12 at Holy Name Hospital. Best of luck to everyone pursuing certification.

The chapter holds monthly meet-



NYPEN chapter members participated in the Second Annual Kidney Walk at Eldridge Park in Elmira, NY.

ings at Que Pasta in Saddle Brook at 5:30 pm, and we encourage all members to attend. Check our Web site at www.annajerseynorth126.com for more information concerning upcoming events. For more chapter information, you also can contact **Marilyn Eilert** at marilynailert@aol.com.

NYPEN #127

The chapter took part in the Second Annual Kidney Walk at Eldridge Park in Elmira, NY. Over 200 walkers participated, including patients, staff, and families. Arnot Ogden Medical Center formed a team, "Kidney Crusaders," that raised over \$4,000. Total money raised for the walk was over \$20,000. This doubled our first year total! All money raised was donated to the NKF.

Our chapter is currently planning a fall dinner program. Watch for details.

We welcomed a new member to our chapter: **Connie Kraft**. Connie works for Arnot Ogden Medical Center and recently became an ANNA member. Congratulations to Connie on passing the CDN exam!

If you would like information about our events, send an e-mail to rscheepsma@aomc.org so that you can receive updates.

Great Lakes #128

Following in the footsteps of our down-state counterparts, our chapter was excited to be able to team up with the ESRD Network to provide their *Access Adequacy and Cannulation Techniques* program in September.

We are pleased to offer the Fall Audio Conference once again. This year's topic, *Getting Patients Charged Up and Tuned Up for Transplant*, should prove to be interesting for all.

Susquehanna Valley #130

The chapter has scheduled the following educational programs for the upcoming months. A half-day program is tentatively scheduled for September 28 at Geisinger Medical Center. The chapter will offer the Fall Audio Conference on October 7. If your unit is interested in hosting the audio conference for our region, contact President-Elect **Arlene Smith**. We are hoping to offer the audio conference in at least two locations.

Please share stories of how your unit celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week (September 14-20) so that we can include them in an upcoming chapter newsletter. Submit stories to lmahaffey@ncpdc.com.

Northern New England #131

We continue to plan for our *Fall Update 2008* and are looking forward to another great conference. The meeting is scheduled for November 9 at the Frank Jones Center in Portsmouth, NH.

Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor, ME, will host the certification exams (CNN, CDN, CCHT) on December 7. Contact **Mary Dyson** at medyson@roadrunner.com or visit the NNCC Web site (www.nncc-exam.org) for further information.

Welcome to two new chapter members: **Nancy Filteau** from Quebec and **Linda Foshier** from South Burlington, VT. Apologies to anyone we missed. We will update as we receive notification of new members.

Southeast

Cardinal #201

The chapter met at Maggiano's Restaurant in Durham on August 26. **Dr. Kevin Lee** of Capital Nephrology and Associates presented *Kidney Transplant Overview* over a delicious dinner sponsored by **Astellas** and **Roche**.

Our next chapter meeting will be October 7 as we participate in ANNA's Fall Audio Conference featuring Cardinal Chapter member **Clara Neyhart** and **Patricia Weiskittel** as presenters. We are in the process of planning our last dinner meeting for 2008, which will be held in December.

Our Web site is back up, so please check annacardinal.com for the latest information on chapter events or call **Amy Woodard** at 919-843-0861.

Greater Charlotte #202

Summer is over and we're back to the usual hectic schedule. The officers met over the summer to plan upcoming fall events. The chapter sponsored the Charlotte NANT meeting on August 5. In a joint effort with the NANT chapter a certification review course is being planned for dialysis nurses and technicians. We also are planning to host the certification exam this fall.

The next audio conference will be October 7; stay tuned for details. We are trying to expand our membership to be able to offer multiple sites for educational events. We want to encourage all members to participate and offer feedback to officers. We will be communicating via e-mail and hope this will be a benefit to our members.

Palmetto #203

On June 2 the chapter hosted certification exams at Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital. That same day the chapter held an executive board meeting to make plans for the 2008-2009 membership year. In order to participate in KDAE Week in August, several chapter members sent invitations to local and state officials to encourage visits to their workplace so the officials could learn more about kidney disease.

In September the chapter proudly presented the Fifth Annual Caroline S. Counts Nephrology Nursing Scholarship to a student enrolled in the BSN program at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). The chapter held a "Lunch and Learn" program for the nursing students at MUSC to educate them on the many facets of nephrology nursing and to present the scholarship.

As we enter into fall the chapter is busy finalizing plans for the remainder of 2008. On October 5 several chapter members will be volunteering to help the NKF of South Carolina with a fundraising event, "An Evening Under the Oaks," to be held at Charlestown Landing's Legare Waring House in Charleston, SC. On October 7 our chapter will host the Fall Audio Conference. **Deborah Brooks** has again graciously offered to have this meeting at her home in Charleston, SC.

On October 12 the chapter will hold a review class for the CCHT exam, which will be offered at Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital as well as Webcast in Myrtle Beach for our members in the PeeDee area. This class will be led by **Jennifer Payton** and **Kelly Scott**. On November 2 our chapter will host the CNN-NP, CNN, CDN, and CCHT exams at sites in Charleston and Myrtle Beach.

Members should watch their inbox for flyers for upcoming educational offerings and volunteer opportunities. For more information on upcoming events, membership, and/or volunteer opportunities, please contact **Kelly Scott** at nephrologynurse@hotmail.com.

South Florida Flamingo #206

Visit our chapter Web site at www.southfloridaflamingochapter.com.

The certification review in July was very well attended by both nurses and technicians in the community. Vendor support was greatly appreciated. We were able to sell chapter T-shirts to help increase our membership.

Our August dinner meeting was



Following a busy day of brainstorming and planning for the year ahead, board members for the Dallas Chapter enjoyed a boat ride on Cedar Creek Lake.

sponsored by **Genzyme** and included a discussion of team building between nurses and physicians.

In September **American Regent** presented on anemia management. The information was very well received.

The end of the year is fast approaching, and we are planning more events: one in October with **Shire**, another in November with **Abbott**, and December will bring a holiday celebration.

We are asking members to submit applications for a \$500 scholarship to go toward the education of a deserving technician, LPN, or RN.

Dallas #208

Chapter board members met at the lake house of President-Elect **Ron Tamplin** for the annual board retreat. The group got right down to business by introducing the newest board members. The board of 11 members agreed to focus on three action plans for the upcoming year: recruitment and retention, membership, and business. The members brainstormed and developed concrete ideas and goals to meet the objectives of the action plans. For the newest members this provided an excellent opportunity to learn and be mentored by seasoned chapter members. Much work was accomplished. The group reviewed expenses for the past year, budgeted for the next year, and planned educational events and opportunities with a focus on patient care technician certification within the mandated time frame of 18 months and review of the upcoming state regulations. We also set dates for audio conferences and reviewed chapter membership with a plan to actively recruit

expired members and bring in new members as well.

At the end of a long afternoon, the board found themselves ready for some relaxation. The group went for a lovely boat ride on Cedar Creek Lake, watched a beautiful Texan sun-

set, and then enjoyed a delicious and relaxing dinner. The rest of the evening was spent getting to know one another. The next morning found everyone relaxed and excited about upcoming events with a renewed commitment to our chapter.

Caribbean #210

Chapter members attended the National Symposium in Philadelphia in April. They enjoyed the educational program as well as all the networking activities.

Chapter officers were excited to participate in the annual educational activity sponsored by the Puerto Rico Kidney Foundation. **Jeannette Dominguez** organized a Summer Fashion Show where dialysis and transplant patients with physical disabilities modeled various colorful styles provided by a well-known store on the island.

The chapter is planning its 20th Anniversary Celebration. This special occasion will be held at El Conquistador Hotel in Fajardo with an educational activity and special lunch to celebrate and recognize our members.



The Caribbean Chapter was well represented at the 2008 National Symposium in Philadelphia.



Members of the Caribbean Chapter participated in the annual educational activity sponsored by the Puerto Rico Kidney Foundation.

Suncoast #213

Our chapter held a reception to celebrate and recognize the specialty of nephrology nursing and our chapter members during Nephrology Nurses Week. We had a drawing for several ANNA products and a 1-year ANNA membership. This was our third annual reception, and participation continues to grow each year.

Also in September in conjunction with the Florida ESRD Network, our chapter offered a certification review class for dialysis nurses and patient care technicians. The exams will be offered in conjunction with the Network Annual Forum on October 29 at the Renaissance Tampa Hotel at International Plaza in Tampa, FL.

Our chapter also will participate in the Network Annual Forum, displaying the chapter's and ANNA's upcoming meetings and events. We will have membership applications available as well.

For more information regarding the chapter, contact **Stephanie Hull** (813-872-0933) or **Donna McDuffie** (813-265-9733).

Dogwood #224

On August 5 an educational dinner was held at Relish Good Food in Roswell, GA. **Dr. Barry Jeffries** discussed *Maintaining the Lifeline: Ultrasound and Early Intervention in Preserving Vascular Access Site*. The chapter thanks our sponsor **Access First** for supporting this event.

On September 19-20 the chapter celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week with a 2-day workshop held in collaboration with the Southeastern Kidney Council (SKC). Topics included *Road to Nurse and Client Success and Decreasing Dialysis Provider Conflict*. Thank you to **SKC, Abbott, National Renal Alliance** and **Fresenius Medical Care** for sponsoring the event. Thank you also to the event speakers: **Sammy Bailey**, Southeast Vice President **Loretta Jackson-Brown, Rebecca McKee-Waddle, Mariana Villano, and Lindsey Pedley**.

On September 27 chapter members and officers plan to attend the Fall Meeting in Chicago. New information received will be shared with Dogwood members.

On October 7 and 14 the chapter will sponsor the Fall Audio Conference as part of expanding our chapter to your area project. If you are interested in hosting a site in your area, e-mail us at annadogwood@annadogwoodchapter224.com.

On October 17-18 the chapter is planning to collaborate with the

National Association of Nephrology Technicians (NANT) to host a 2-day workshop for nephrology professionals and a review course for technicians.

The chapter will host the certification exams at Gwinnett Medical Center in October or November. The specific date and venue will be announced. Certification testing also will be scheduled at Emory Crawford Long Hospital next year.

Congratulations to **Elipidia Reason** on passing the CDN examination. Congratulations to **Michelle Johnson, Rebecca McKee-Waddle, and Betty Taylor** on passing the CNN exam when our chapter hosted the exams in May.

Chapter officers are raising funds and participating in the National Kidney Walk on October 25 at Lullwater Park. Join us or show your support by visiting our team site at walk.kidney.org and enter our chapter name.

The chapter will collaborate with SKC at the annual SKC meeting in Columbia, SC, on November 19.

In December our chapter will host an end-of-the-year educational dinner. Venue to be announced. We will participate in our annual event to support the Toys for Tots program. Please bring a toy.

The chapter would like to host an educational offering in your area. Please contact us via e-mail.

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

Music City #228

We have been busy rebuilding the chapter and strengthening our leadership. On September 20 the chapter hosted a certification review course. Review material was geared towards CCHT, CDN, and CNN candidates utilizing the ANNA Certification Review Course. Instructors for the event included **Randee White, Fabiola "Bing" Canaman, Kathy Brisendine, Julie Diloreto, Cheryl Conquest, Rose Smith, Anita Tipton, and Melissa Foster**. The all-day course was held at the Nashville VA and included breakfast, lunch, and all the review materials. Attendees appreciated the opportunity to participate in a local review course and prepare for the certification exam.

The chapter will host the CCHT, CDN, CNN, and CNN-NP examinations on October 18 at the Nashville VA from 8:00 am until 12:30 pm.

Individuals can register through NNCC (www.nncc-exam.org).

Music City and **Amgen** partnered for a dinner event at Maggiano's in Nashville on August 21. **Dr. Dinesh Chatoth** presented *Sensipar and Improved Management of Secondary Hyperparathyroidism in Dialysis Patients*. The event was well attended and offered an opportunity for learning and networking. Thanks to **Amgen and Julie Gillis** for hosting this gathering!

Future events include the Fall Audio Conference and our "Pre-turkey Day" dinner. The chapter is taking a road trip on October 7 to Crossville, TN, to "outskirt members" in our large chapter. The audio conference hosts for the evening will be **Brenda Lee** and **National Renal Alliance**. Look for mailings and e-mails on this event. "Pre-turkey Day" dinner is scheduled for November. Our partnering sponsor for the evening is **Watson**, and the featured speaker is **Gail Wick**. Stay tuned to your e-mail for details.

Finally, as we look ahead to 2009 the chapter is eager to involve all members interested in holding a chapter office or participating in future event planning. Contact **Melissa Foster** at sarah.foster@fmc-na.com to find out how you can become involved in your chapter's leadership.

Western Carolina #229

The chapter is on the move to help our dialysis patients. With the recent increase in food costs a local charity that normally supplies one of the dialysis units with food boxes for the patients has been unable to meet the demand. ANNA members and **Carolina Nephrology** held a raffle with each canned good that was brought by members equaling one raffle ticket. The prizes for the raffle were provided by **Amgen**.

El Paso #232

The chapter is participating in planning for the 2009 Texas Collaborative Meeting, which will be held January 9-10 at the Marriott Riverwalk Hotel in San Antonio. The topic is *Keys to Surviving*.

The chapter will host the nephrology nursing certification exams on the November 16 from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm at Western Technical College. The application postmark deadline for the CNN- NP, CNN, and CDN exam was September 18; the CCHT application deadline is September 22. For more information, contact **Victor Tapia**, chapter president, or **Beatrice Middleton**, secretary.



Staff from the dialysis unit at the Medical Center for Central Georgia met with Georgia Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle during a Kidney Disease Awareness and Education tour on June 26.



Casey Cagle, the Lieutenant Governor of Georgia (center), interviewed Althea Collier (dialysis nurse and transplant spouse) and Sandra Copeland during a Kidney Disease Awareness and Education tour at the Medical Center for Central Georgia Dialysis Unit on June 26.

Masters City #233

On June 26 the chapter hosted a visit by Georgia Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle at the Medical Center for Central Georgia (MCCG) for KDAE Week. We also hosted visits by other local, state, and federal legislators on August 11 at MCCG for KDAE presentations and tours.

Masters City offered an educational session entitled *Understanding Active Vitamin D* followed by a great business meeting. Another chapter meeting in August featured an educational offering and business meeting.

For more information about chapter activities, contact copeland.sandra@mccg.org or freant.sarah@mccg.org.

Tidewater #241

The chapter presented the *15th Annual Issues in Nephrology Nursing Conference* at the Omni Hotel in Newport News, VA. Attendees found the conference to be extremely informative. The planning committee con-

sisted of **Andra Grantum** and **Beverly Grier-Smith**. Thanks to **Andra Grantum** for the many hours she spent perfecting the application submitted to CEAB!

Our chapter was well represented at the National Symposium in Philadelphia. Our newest member, **Tanya Banks**, really enjoyed networking and learning about the latest in technology as it relates to dialysis. In addition, the following members attended: **Millie Morris** (charter member), **Donna Whitford**, **Beverly Grier-Smith**, and **Janelle Almquist**. The chapter held a business meeting at the convention and created the action plan for the year.

Chapter President **Beverly Grier-Smith** presented the president's role at the local chapter level during the Volunteer Leaders Orientation Workshop. **Beverly Grier-Smith** also presented a poster presentation on Continuous Survey Readiness at four Sentara Health Care Hospitals in Norfolk and Virginia Beach, VA. The

abstract portion of Beverly's presentation was published in the March/April edition of the *Nephrology Nursing Journal*.

Acadiana #252

The year is almost over, and there is still so much to do. Our chapter had a very successful summer with many members volunteering to assist with various community events. These included a Health Fair hosted by the chapter at Greater New Zion/St. Elizabeth Baptist Churches in Benton, LA on August 31 and the PKD Walk at the Teague Parkway in Bossier City, LA, on September 13. Both events had amazing turnouts and provided great opportunities to raise the community's awareness of CKD.

The chapter provided two opportunities for area nurses to earn contact hours. On July 31 **Abbott Laboratories, Inc.**, sponsored an educational meeting at Chianti's Restaurant in Shreveport, LA. **Laurel Valentino** presented *Healthier Habits, Healthier Lives: Principles to Enhance Dialysis Patient Education*. On August 28 **Mike Fidler**, Senior Biopharmaceutical Representative, from **Amgen** hosted an educational meeting at Mabry House in Shreveport; 1.0 contact hours were available.

October events include the Fall Audio Conference, which will be held at Shreveport Home Dialysis on October 7.

Members of the Acadiana and Fleur-de-Lis Chapters, DaVita representatives, and members of the Department of Health and Hospitals ESRD and Diabetes Programs met in Baton Rouge on July 9 in a collaborative effort to promote awareness of CKD throughout the state and to prepare a state proclamation to be issued during KDAE Week. Efforts focused on plans to promote public education and screening of patients at risk for developing CKD. ANNA made a request to Governor Bobby Jindal and Shreveport Mayor Cedric Glover to proclaim August 11-15 KDAE Week.

Chapter President **Linda Bethea**, Health Policy Representative **Charla Litton**, and members **Mary Zapczynski** and **Marci Smith** will attend the Fall Meeting in Chicago in September.

Plans are in the works for a CNN/CDN/CCHT review for October 3-4 with the exams to be held October 18 at Willis Knighton Medical Center in Shreveport. Contact **Linda Bethea** (lbeth68@hotmail.com) for more information.

Watch for information on our

2008 Christmas Party and Awards Banquet to be held at Sam's Town Hotel and Casino on December 5.

We are proud to announce that **Charla Litton**, immediate past chapter president and current health policy representative, was elected to the NKF of Louisiana's Board of Directors. Congratulations also to **Linda Bethea**, chapter president, who was named Louisiana State Health Policy Director. We would like to thank our members for their support in helping H.R. 6331 pass!

East Texas #255

We have a great year planned! **Alice Thomas** represented the chapter at the Texas collaborative retreat in San Antonio in June.

Our chapter is collaborating with the Acadiana Chapter out of Shreveport on a CNN/CDN/CCHT workshop scheduled for October 3-4. Exams are scheduled for October 18 and February 28. Sites will be announced later.

We have had two business meetings in this quarter and are planning some educational events for the fall. We are looking for poster applicants for the upcoming collaborative meeting in January. Applications can be obtained from the chapter officers or from the Texas Collaborative Meeting Web site.

Northeastern Oklahoma #256

In June we enjoyed a presentation on *Anemia Management CQI* provided by **Watson Pharma** and held at Fleming's restaurant. In July **Watson Pharma** provided a meeting entitled *Challenges in Anemia Management: Identifying and Treating Poor Responders* at The Wild Fork restaurant. Thank you to **Watson** for all their support.

In August **Amgen** provided a meeting at Bodeans restaurant on *Anemia Management*. Thank you to **Amgen** for assisting the chapter with educational offerings.

We plan to host the Fall Audio Conference on October 7 at two sites: St. John Medical Center in Tulsa and Jane Phillips Dialysis Unit in Bartlesville. Please plan to attend.

In April 2009 our chapter plans to host the CNN, CDN, and CCHT certification exams. As certification for technicians becomes mandatory, please encourage your staff to become certified and take the opportunity to take the exam locally.

For more information, contact **Katie Colpitts** at 918-744-3536 or kcolpitts@sjmc.org.

Central Virginia #258

Our chapter officers planned activities for the upcoming year during a meeting at PF Chang Restaurant in Richmond in May.

Health Policy Representative **Diane Kraynak** stayed busy planning for KDAE Week in August. Our chapter was excited to participate in educating legislators along with touring dialysis facilities in Richmond. Thank you, Diane!

On September 18 **Nancy Gregory** and **Renee Bova-Collis** presented a dinner program offering 1.5 contact hours entitled *ESRD Conditions for Coverage Review* at Health Informatics International (HII).

During the week of September 14-20 surrounding Richmond area dialysis centers received a "sweet" surprise from our chapter as we wished everyone a happy Nephrology Nurses Week. Thank you for all you do in caring for ESRD patients and their families.

On October 7 we will host the Fall Audio Conference and a dinner program at HII at 6:00 pm. Please join us!

Visit the chapter's Web site at www.annacentralva.org for upcoming programs, details, and pictures. As always, we welcome your involvement!

Sand Dollar #260

Chapter President **Jeanene Trochesset** attended the Texas Collaborative Meeting planning retreat in San Antonio on June 7. The proposed meeting title is *A World of Change: Keys to Surviving*. The meeting is planned for January 9-10 at the Marriott River Walk Hotel in San Antonio. Sand Dollar will be responsible for the continuing nursing education (CNE) packet for the conference.

This year's hurricane preparedness fundraiser, which was chaired by Secretary **Joyce Schells**, was a success. **Dr. Shwu-Fang Lin**, a pediatric nephrologist at the University of Texas Medical Branch, was the winner. This fundraiser designates money to send ESRD children and their siblings to Camp Shining Stars, a summer camp in Brenham, TX.

Health Policy Representative



Wendy Short, Kate Thongtrangan, and Jackie Richards enjoy a networking opportunity at an event hosted by the Central Virginia Chapter.



Officers for the Central Virginia Chapter were busy planning events for the upcoming year during a meeting at PF Chang Restaurant in Richmond. Pictured are Theresa Kitts, treasurer; Lyn Tubbs, past treasurer; Diane Kraynak, health policy representative; Toni Sperandeo, president-elect; Jayne Davey, president; Cathy Bishop, past president, and Robyn Jones, secretary.

MaryAnn Armendariz has been busy buying fans for some of the dialysis patients around the community. It was brought to her attention that some patients did not have air conditioning. Sand Dollar decided to buy five fans for patients and their families.

President-Elect **Barbara Greb** is working on the Fall Audio Conference Webinar. She also put together the CNE packet for the Nephrology Nurses Week dinner speaker.

Treasurer **Nicki Stateresa** does a wonderful job keeping up with our bank account and managing the funds that came in for the raffle. She sent the children going to camp spending money so they could buy new clothes and supplies.

Blue Ridge #262

Our chapter had a great turnout at the first all state conference, and plans are already in the works for the second one. In August we had a business meeting with a Journal Club at the home of **Lucy Todd**, chapter president. We planned out the year; be on the look out for a tentative calendar either via e-mail or mail. Don't forget the audio conference in October. For further information contact Sue Caldwell, secretary.

Fleur-de-Lis #263

The chapter officers met via conference call in June to map out our Chapter Action Plan. One of our focus areas for the year will be membership. Secretary **Cathy Groeger** has begun a membership drive campaign. Any current members are urged to "bring a friend" to all ANNA functions. Nonmembers will receive a let-

ter at their workplace from President **Kathy Ellis** that outlines the professional and personal benefits of ANNA membership. All new members are contacted upon joining and are urged to get involved.

Health Policy Representative **Bernadine Milton** did a great job organizing chapter plans for KDAE Week in August. Chapter members are reminded to complete an evaluation form (on the ANNA Web site, under the Health Policy tab) to document contacts made this week with either state or federal legislators.

Linda Bethea, Charla Litton, Bernadine Milton, and others are continuing their work with the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) to increase awareness of the link between diabetes and the risk for CKD. The fall media blitz promotions featured news coverage of the educational and screenings activities conducted around the state. Fleur-de-Lis and Acadiana chapter representatives met with DHH representatives for a diabetes and CKD awareness project for Louisiana.

Our chapter and the Louisiana NANT sponsored testing for the CNN, CDN and CCHT exams on July 27 with 18 dialysis technicians and nurses sitting for the exam. The chapter will host a certification review on October 11 at Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans with additional testing on October 26. A big thank you to Fleur-de-Lis President-Elect **Janice Johnson**, Acadiana President **Linda Bethea**, as well as all the organizers who contributed to the success of this venture.

In celebration of Nephrology Nurses Week, President **Kathy Ellis** gave members mementos to acknowl-

edge their hard work and expertise in the practice of nephrology. We continue to "Carry the Torch!"

Treasure Coast #266

The chapter began this year by welcoming new officers: President **Diane Hubertz Hauge**, Treasurer **Angie Rimi**, and Secretary **Robin Tupper**. The chapter held an educational dinner meeting at Morton's Steak House in West Palm Beach, FL, in June. Guest lecturer **Barbara Ciano** presented *Understanding Iron Metabolism in Hemodialysis and Anemia*. We thank our corporate sponsor **Watson** and good friend/sales representative **Jim Brady** for their continued support.

Our chapter celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week by planning something special for our nurses.

Chapter officers and other members have registered to attend the Fall Meeting in Chicago. Look for us, and enjoy the learning and the fun!

Treasure Coast members, it has come to our attention that several of your e-mail addresses may have changed as notifications to you are being rejected. Please update your e-mail addresses so that you will not miss upcoming events and activities. We also encourage you to visit our chapter Web site for new information. To update e-mail addresses or obtain the chapter Web site, please e-mail **Diane Hubertz Hauge** at dhubertz@aol.com.

Please reach out to your colleagues and encourage participation in our local chapter. More involvement equals more events, activities, opportunities, and camaraderie!

Peach #267

The chapter will host the certification exams (CNN, CDN, CNN-NP, and CCHT) in the Williams Education Building at Archbold Memorial Hospital from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm on November 9.



Representatives from the Fleur-de-Lis and Acadiana Chapters met with DHH representatives for a diabetes and CKD awareness project for Louisiana. Pictured (from left) are Charla Litton, Acadiana Health Policy Representative and Southeast Special Assistant; Margaret Spillman, DHH ESRD Program; Debbie Allen, Patient Advocate, DaVita; Linda Bethea, Acadiana President and State Health Policy Director; Natasha McCoy, DHH Louisiana Diabetes Program Manager; Bernadine Milton, DaVita Risk Management and ANNA Southeast Regional Health Policy Advisor; and Camille Turner, DHH Louisiana Diabetes Program.

Palm Valley #271

The chapter keeps earning Chapter of the Year (COTY) points! Good job to all who have participated in earning the points that put us back on the map during the 2008 National Symposium in Philadelphia. We are very proud of each of you who have contributed to our chapter's "rebirth."

All our 2008 officers – **Charlotte Vescova, Rosie Olivares, Irma Davila and Audrey Saldana** – participated in the ANNA conference calls during the spring in order to learn their new responsibilities and guide our chapter through another fruitful year.

We were excited to have **Amgen** sponsor an educational dinner with **Dr. Mangi** as presenter on August 7. We gained valuable knowledge on *Anemia Management* from **Dr. Mangi** and would like to thank **Noemi Sandoval-Bagstad**, our **Amgen** representative, for sponsoring this event.

Rosie Olivares is working steadily with the 10 other Texas chapters to coordinate the 11th reunion of the chapters in San Antonio in January 2009. In order for our chapter members to attend the conference, we need to put on our "thinking caps" so we can raise monies for membership participation. It takes a lot of work to organize this annual event, so let's all get together at the next business meeting and put our resources together so more members can attend than last year and experience the Texas Collaborative Meeting.

In attempts to support our dialysis technicians who will be required to be certified by next year (per state regulations), we will begin to plan for testing sites throughout the Valley. Many of our technicians are unable to travel to the major cities throughout Texas, and we need to plan for testing sites that are more accessible. We appreciate any donated hospital classrooms and CNN volunteers who would like to serve as proctors. Many thanks to **Terri Bieting** for being the first to sign up as a volunteer proctor!

Chapter members enjoyed receiving the first Palm Valley newsletter of the year. It highlighted the main events that have occurred since January 2008. We hope it will unite our chapter so we have another successful year.

First Coast #276

The chapter had an overwhelming turnout for the educational offering *Fresh Perspectives*, which was hosted by **Ron Carr** and presented by **Gayle Hall** of **Abbott Renal Care** at The Wine Cellar in Jacksonville, FL. Everyone was filled with new food for thought as well as a great dinner!

Thank you for the opportunity.

During KDAE Week in August Senator Bill Nelson visited DaVita's Regency Dialysis Unit. Senator Mel Martinez also shared in this educational opportunity.

Plans are underway to participate in the Fall Audio Conference and to present information to area dialysis units about buttonhole access.

North Central

Wisconsin #304

The chapter had a successful dinner meeting on September 18 in the Green Bay area. The event was sponsored by **Genzyme**, and the topic was *Bone and Mineral Metabolism*.

The chapter is busy planning for *Nephrology Update 2009: The Experts Speak*. The 2.5 day meeting will be held March 18-20 at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake, WI. Topics to be covered include anemia, bone and mineral metabolism, cardiovascular complications, vascular access, infection control, and the new Conditions for Coverage. Speakers already lined up for the meeting include **Drs. Gerald Bethard** and **Peter McCullough**. The chapter will host certification exams for nurses and technicians on March 18 prior to the start of the meeting. The Osthoff Resort is located about 50 miles north of Milwaukee and is a five star resort.

Windy City #305

The *Nephrology Nursing: Back to Basics* program offered on July 17 at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, IL, was a huge success with nearly 60 nurses in attendance. While we did get down to the business of preparing for nephrology nursing certification exams, we also found time to enjoy a continental breakfast, a refreshing lunch, raffles, give-a-ways, and networking with colleagues.

The chapter will be the host chapter for the Fall Meeting at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago, IL, September 27-29. Thank you to the many chapter members who plan to attend and make this a very productive meeting.

We will be hosting two sites for the Fall Audio Conference on October 7. Registration will start at 5:00 pm, and the audio conference will begin at 5:30 pm, lasting approximately 90 minutes and offering 1.5 contact hours. Watch our Web site for the locations, registrations forms, fees, and directions.

Stay current with your award

winning chapter by visiting our Web site at <http://home.comcast.net/~anna-windycitychapter305/annawindycity.html>. Or find us by visiting the ANNA Web site at **www.annanurse.org**, click on the Chapters tab, then Chapter Links, and scroll down until you find the Windy City Chapter #305. Our Web site is updated monthly. Contact us to increase your chapter involvement, become an officer, keep your e-mail address current with us, or tell us about your professional nephrology accomplishments for our "Accolades" page. Remember, our chapter is only as educational, informative, and fun, as our most active members. So get involved and "Contact Us!"

St. Louis Metro #307

Our chapter would like to thank the Jersey North Chapter for their generous monetary donation to help the flood victims in our area. The money was donated to the volunteer fire department of Winfield, MO, to help with their disaster clean up.

Watson Pharmaceuticals sponsored an evening conference on September 16. We held a nephrology nurses social hour prior to the conference to celebrate Nephrology Nurses Week. A planning committee has been formed to develop a half-day patient care technician conference in December.

Heart of America #313

With the passage of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act in July, it became very apparent that we can make a difference through grassroots efforts. Our health policy representative and other chapter members made many contacts with members of the legislature and political candidates at the federal, state, and local areas to schedule visits for KDAE Week. We had many visitors, including a representative from the office of Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS), as well as Brian Baker, Missouri House of Representatives, Jacob Turk, candidate for U.S. House of Representatives, and Chris Molendorp, Missouri House of Representatives. Additional members of Congress asked to schedule visits at other times. We were able to get proclamations for KDAE Week from Missouri Governor Matt Blunt and Kansas City Mayor Funkhouser.

Our annual fall conference was held September 11 at the Sheraton Hotel and Sports Complex in Kansas City. Topics and speakers included: *Fluid Removal Practices* by **Diana Hlebovy**, *Wegener's Disease: A Renal*



The Heart of America Chapter hosted a Kidney Disease Awareness and Education event at a local dialysis facility. Pictured are Dr. Kirk Duncan; Jennifer Branch, chapter president-elect; Kay Sharpe, a representative from Senator Pat Roberts' office; Molly Cahill, North Central Vice President; Margaret DeSantis, Facility Administrator; and Virgil Bourne, Regional Director for DaVita.

Perspective by **Dr. Mark Box**, *Cardiovascular Calcification in ESRD and CKD* by **Dr. Peter McCullough**, *Legislative Issues: Why and How Nurses Should Get Involved* by Missouri Representative **Rebecca McClanahan**, and *Brush up on Oral Health* by **Cheryl Thomas**. An annual silent auction was held at the conference and was once again very successful with items donated by many theaters, restaurants, and businesses throughout the Kansas City area as well as our chapter members.

We will be hosting a CNN/CDN review course on September 21. Watch your e-mail for more information. We are planning to host at least five sites for the audio conference in October. They will be different dates at different sites. The dates are October 7 at 5:30 and October 14 at 4:30. Pay close attention to the date and time on the flyer.

We are encouraging members to support various walks in the area this fall. They include the Walk for PKD on September 20 at Theis Park, Step Out for Diabetes on September 27 at Theis Park, and the NKF Walk on October 4 at the new Bass Pro in Independence.

We recently updated our e-mail list. If you have not received an e-mail from the chapter lately, e-mail sbunnell5@comcast.net and update your information.

Central Missouri #318

The chapter offered an educational offering entitled *Coaching Patients for Success: Strategies to Enhance Dialysis Patient Education Through Motivational Interviewing* in July. This excellent program was presented by **Jo Berlinger** and sponsored by **Abbott Renal Care**. Thank you to Jo and Abbott.

In September our chapter offered a certification review course for the CNN, CDN, and CCHT exams. On November 1 we will host the exams in Columbia, MO.

Centennial #320

On June 17 a chapter officer meeting was held to discuss strategic goals and establish action plans. One of our goals is to expand our membership through a membership drive. So far this year we have added three new members. We welcome them and invite others to join.

The chapter hosted an educational session on July 15 entitled *Creative Strategies to Improve Patient Compliance*. The event was sponsored by **Genzyme**. The session was highly successful and well attended. On behalf of Nephrology Nurses Week, two ANNA memberships were awarded: one to a current member for renewal and one to a new member. Thanks to the planning and hosting committee for a fun and successful evening.

We hosted a business meeting during KDAE Week in August. We discussed ways to raise awareness and make a difference in our community.

In September the chapter celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week. *The Nephrology, Dialysis, and Transplant Symposium* was held September 17-18 in Fargo, ND. Several members attended.

Congratulations to **Karen Prussing**, our chapter health policy representative. She was awarded the Gold Medal from the Advocacy Press Box at their regional reception for her continuing work in the legislative arena. We thank Karen for her willingness to serve as State Health Policy Director for North Dakota and

South Dakota.

The chapter looks forward to participating in the October audio conference as well as other upcoming events.

Black Swamp #323

On June 3 we gathered at LaScola courtesy of **Abbott** and Coordinator **Sue Dickey** for a presentation on *Understanding Vitamin D*. Participants earned 2.0 contact hours.

On June 18 we were fortunate enough to be a part of the Kidney Foundation of Ohio's summer symposium with our very own secretary, **Julia Clark**, presenting on home hemodialysis. Special thanks to **Trish Carter** for the accommodations.

On July 15 **Dr. Joshua Augustine** presented a lecture on *Immunosuppressants in Kidney Transplant* at the Toledo clinic. Special thanks to **Rosie Kirkbride** for the accommodations. The event was sponsored by **Deb Damas**, transplant specialist from **Roche**.

On August 5 chapter members enjoyed a lecture on *Challenges in Anemia Management* presented by **Edmund Doherty** at Mancy's Italian Grill. Participants received 1.5 contact hours.

Platte River #324

We hosted a very successful fall educational program entitled *The Mystery of the Silent Killer Chronic Kidney Disease* at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Lincoln, NE, on September 17-18. Topics and speakers included: *Cardiovascular Calcification* by **Dr. Peter McCullough**, *Vitamin D Issues for Health* by **Dr. Whitney Goldner**, *Sleep Disorders and Restless Legs* by **Dr. M. Summer**, and *Management of CKD in the Long-Term Care Setting* by **Sheila O'Day** and **Peggy Gerlach**. The program offered 9.25 contact hours. Special thanks to **Peggy Delaet** and the other planning committee members for their valuable assistance in making the program a huge success. We celebrated Nephrology Nurses Week at the meeting.

Dana Zeiss worked to obtain a Proclamation for KDAE Week for the Governor of Nebraska to sign. We invited legislators to visit dialysis facilities when they are available. For more information, contact Dana at danazeiss@creighton.edu or dana.zeiss@dciinc.org.

We are still in the planning stages for the certification review that we hope to offer this fall.

Chapter officers request that members visit the ANNA Web page and sign up for the ANNA Resource Corps. The sign-up process is simple,

and the rewards are great. There are also links to free CNE offerings on the ANNA home page for those of you who may need a few more. Contact any officer for additional information.

The Fall Audio Conference is scheduled for 5:00 to 7:00 pm on October 7. We invite off-site participation of dialysis facilities. Please contact President-Elect **Dana Zeiss** for more information.

Badger #326

This has been a busy time for the chapter, with opportunities for members to attend functions and hopefully renew interest in membership and recruit new members. **Nancy Kaufman** from **Amgen** hosted a dinner talk about anemia on July 10 at the Great Dane in Fitchburg; 15 members attended. **Jan Schuh** presented a certification review course at St. Mary's in Madison in August. The certification exams were offered the next week at the same location.

We held a chapter meeting on September 9 at the Great Dane in Fitchburg. On September 16 we collaborated with NKF and the Wisconsin Chapter to present a 1-day allied health professionals conference at Madison's Concourse Hotel. Last year's conference was a success, and we wanted to offer another great day of education and networking for our members and guests.

Some members will be attending the Fall Meeting in September and the American Kidney Fund Meeting in October, both in Chicago.

The chapter will host the Fall Audio Conferences in October at two locations for member convenience.

Greater Minnesota #329

On September 25 our chapter held the *Fifteenth Annual Renal Symposium* at St. John's University in Collegeville, MN. Topics included holistic practices for patients and caregivers, ABCs of chronic kidney disease, a historical look at dialysis and the ESRD network, vascular access, and Fistula First. The event was a great success!

We will host the CNN, CDN, CCHT, and CNN-NP exams at the CentraCare Health Plaza in St. Cloud, MN, on September 24.

Anthony Wayne #335

The chapter invited members and staff of the Indiana House of Representatives to tour local dialysis clinics in order to increase their awareness of kidney disease.

Nephrology nurses and dialysis unit staff in our area were treated to

visits by the chapter board members who brought cookies and small tokens of appreciation in honor of Nephrology Nurses Week in September.

Our chapter is busy planning for an all-day symposium, *Back To Basics*, to be held on October 16 at Don Hall's Guest House, 1313 W. Washington Road, Fort Wayne, IN. Registration and sign in run 7:30 am until 8:00 am. Contact **Margie Read** at mread346@msn.com for more information. Save the date and make plans to enjoy the many educational opportunities offered.

Western

Desert Vista #501

In July our chapter distributed our first newsletter for the 2008 year. It included a profile of our chapter officers and a call for contributions to the newsletter. We also sent a group e-mail to the 30 members of the former Tucson Chapter, inviting them to join our chapter and/or attend our activities.

In August our chapter observed KDAE Week with a multidisciplinary (nutrition, transplant, social services, etc.) informational table in the lobby of the Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center and a banner stretched across the nephrology floor of the hospital. Our chapter also sponsored the very popular class, *Transplant from A to Z*, in Phoenix, Las Vegas, and Tucson.

In addition, we are increasing our membership every quarter.

Nephros South #506

After a summer hiatus Nephros South members gathered in August for a dinner program on vascular access presented by San Diego Access Center. The chapter will meet at the San Diego VA Healthcare Center on October 14 for the Fall Audio Conference. We also are looking forward to an educational dinner meeting in November and a holiday gathering in December; both events are in the planning stages.

Pacific Island #507

We scheduled three educational events during the summer months. Our first event, *Health Care Professionals CKD Education*, provided 4.0 contact hours and was well received. This was initially provided to certified diabetic educators in Hawaii. **Dr. Ramona Wong, Angie Graf, and Shirley Seeger** were the key presenters on CKD topics.

Other events included an excel-

lent presentation on new findings regarding iron administration and anemia sponsored by **Watson Pharmaceuticals**. Thanks to **Watson** and **Jo Sclafani** for providing this opportunity to the Hawaii Islands. In August **Sigma Tau** presented a luncheon lecture on Carnitor®. **Rebecca Moore** updated and entertained us on many important aspects of Carnitor and reimbursement. The beautiful Moana Surfriider Hotel's Roof Garden was a spectacular location for this event.

In September the chapter sponsored CNN/CDN review sessions, which were well attended. Previous review sessions have resulted in 100% pass rates for the RNs and technicians who attended. We will be sponsoring an exam site in early December in conjunction with FMC to begin the journey to 100% CCHT certification for the nation. These will be open to all individuals seeking certification, technicians and RNs alike.

Los Angeles #508

On September 20 our chapter sponsored a half-day educational program entitled *Topics in Renal Dialysis 2008*. Several speakers were invited to speak on topics such as *Fabry Disease and Dialysis, Sepsis and Renal Failure, CRRT/PD/HD – When to Start and What Therapy to Use, NxStage in Acute Dialysis* (a new machine that has been utilized for home and night time dialysis), and the *History of Dialysis*. Today, with the new advances in dialysis, it is good to look back and see where and when it all began.

The room had limited space for only 50 participants. We were concerned that the room was too small, especially since we raffled five new copies of the *Core Curriculum for Nephrology Nursing* to participants; 5.0 contact hours were provided by Playa Healthcare and Education Consultants. Thanks to **NxStage**, our corporate sponsor, who provided refreshments for all participants.

Sacramento Valley #509

Regina Luiz has stepped down as our chapter president; she accepted a job promotion as an administrator in southern California. Chapter board members and committee chairs wish her the best and want to thank her for her contributions to our chapter and educational programs. Program Advisor **Judy Boyce** volunteered to take over as president and **Christine Douglas** will serve as president-elect. The chapter extends a big thank you to both Judy and Christine!



The Sacramento Valley Chapter hosted an educational offering on Disaster Preparedness on April 10. Participants included Kathy Garcia and Suzette Quinlay.



Janice Baker and Dwight Cinder enjoy a networking opportunity during an educational offering on Disaster Preparedness that was hosted by the Sacramento Valley Chapter.

We are proud to have two dedicated, experienced, and hard-working nephrology nurses on our team.

A transitional chapter board meeting was held June 18. The board planned the 2008-2009 educational calendar. Be sure to visit our Web site at www.anna509.org for details on upcoming events and more information about our chapter. Feel free to e-mail our chapter any ideas, comments, or questions at anna509@comcast.net.

Intermountain #516

The chapter held our annual all-day meeting, *Nephrology Update 2008*, at Intermountain Medical Center on September 14 to kick off Nephrology Nurses Week. Speakers included **Dr. John Kriesel, Dr. Dev Abrahams, Kristin Larson, Dr. Heather Nyman, Brett Heikens, and Sandy Moody**. Presentations covered infectious diseases (MRSA and HIV), hungry bone disease, heparin-induced thrombocytopenia, water systems, and stress relief for the professional caregiver. A chapter business meeting also was included.

Chapter officers **Joan Simard** and **Kristin Larson** along with past officer **Debby English** will attend the Fall Meeting in Chicago.

The chapter is looking forward to several dinner meetings tentatively scheduled for November 2008 and March 2009 with audio conferences in October 2008 and February 2009.

Congratulations to **Janet Mueller** for achieving the highest score on the recent CNN-NP exam. Besides Janet, as of February 1, 2008, the state of Utah had 24 CNNs, 1 CDN, and 20 CCHTs.

Cascades #518

The chapter enjoyed an educational meeting at Bentley's in Salem, OR, on July 10. Thank you to **Richard Lowe** of **Abbott Renal Care** for sponsoring a fun and interactive presentation.

Dr. Neil Kumar presented *New Clinical Applications for Treating CKD* at McCormick and Schmicks in Tigard, OR, on August 11. Thank you to **Genzyme** for sponsoring this educational dinner and to **Dr. Kumar** for an informative presentation.

Thank you to **Jackie Chandler** of **Gambro** who gave an interesting presentation on TPE on at Kwan's in Salem, OR, on September 11.

Display tables were available in the cafeterias in Corvallis and Lebanon Hospitals and PPMC during KDAE Week.

We will host the CNN, CDN, and CCHT exams at PPMC on November 1. Flyers have been distributed to units.

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2009, in Newport, OR. Mark your calendar, and plan a weekend at the beach!

Northern Lights #523

The chapter will offer the CNN, CDN, and CCHT certification exams at the University of Alaska in Anchorage on October 12. For more information, contact **Carol Garvin** at 907-334-0706 or carol.garvin@fmc-na.com. We also will host the Fall Audio Conference on October 14.

Inland Empire #526

Chapter officers have been busy developing, organizing, and planning all of our exciting events. The chapter participated in a KDAE Week event at Loma Linda University Medical Center on August 8. The event was sponsored by Loma Linda University Medical Center (LLUMC).

A Nephrology Nurses Week event will be held for chapter members at Mario's Restaurant on September 18. Sponsored by **Genzyme Therapeutics**, *Do You Recognize Fabry Disease?* will offer 1.25 contact hours. Space is limited, and early registration is required.

A Nephrology Nursing Review Course offering 6.2 contact hours will be held at LLUMC Nursing Staff Development (NSD) on September 28. The CNN, CDN, CNN-NP, and CCHT certification exams will be offered at LLUMC NSD on October 5.

The Fall Audio Conference will be held on October 14 at Loma Linda Kidney Center, and the Winter Audio Conference will be held on February 3 at the same location. If any dialysis

center or other members would like to host an audio conference site, contact **Cintia Perez**, chapter president, at cintiaperez@stjoe.com or **Nitaya Soeprono** at nsoeprono@llu.edu.

Big Sky #527

The Big Sky state was the site of ANNA's National Board of Directors business meeting on July 27-29. The meeting was held at Big Sky Resort, near Bozeman, MT. Chapter Treasurer **Rich Plona** and Western Regional Health Policy Advisor **Alice Luehr** audited the meeting.

On Sunday evening the hard-working team found time to kick back, relax, and enjoy some entertainment by the Ringling 5 band, a local group known for their humor. The chapter helped sponsor the event.

Candy bouquets were sent to all dialysis facilities in the state to celebrate Nephrology Nurses Week in September. Our devoted and highly skilled staff go above and beyond, and we celebrate their commitment and dedication.

The certification exams will be offered on October 11 at Benefis Healthcare in Great Falls, MT. Anyone interested should register as soon as possible at www.nncc-exam.org.

Clara Neyhart and **Patricia Weiskittel** will present the Fall Audio Conference entitled *Getting Patients Charged Up and Tuned Up for Transplant* on October 14. It will be offered at four sites throughout the state, and we encourage all to participate!

The Big Sky Chapter and Denver's High Country Chapter are planning a joint venture focusing on the new CMS guidelines for dialysis centers. Watch for more information.

The annual State Peritoneal Dialysis (PD) Conference will be held October 16 in Helena, MT. All PD nurses are welcome to attend.

San Joaquin Valley #532

The chapter was kept busy during our 110 degree summer. We invited elected officials to our units for KDAE Week. Thank you to all who helped and to the National Office for the booklets that we downloaded. Several members assisted the NKF in another KEEP screening in Fresno. On August 28 we held another Certification Review Class. Thank you to members **Cathy Gage-Ivers**, **Cindy Shaver**, **Elizabeth Samoylenko**, and **Gloria Vicenti** for teaching the class.

September was full with our Fall Seminar during Nephrology Nurses Week. The week's activities were well received by participating members, and informational brochures were made available for all those nurses and technicians who were invited to join the chapter. Posters were displayed in several units and hospitals.

We will again host several sites for the Fall Audio Conference on October 14. Locations will be announced on our Web site at www.sjvanna.org.

Nurses have already signed up for the upcoming certification exams to be hosted by our chapter at Kaweah Delta Medical Center in Visalia, CA, on October 19. Good luck to all who are taking an exam.

In November the nomination process will get underway for next year's officers. Members who are thinking about getting more involved will have an opportunity to talk with the current officers to learn more about the duties. We will vote for new officers in December.

Remember to visit our Web site often. Meetings and events are posted regularly, and you can contact the officers easily from there. You can find us online at www.sjvanna.org.