



Western Region Newsletter

July 2009



Greetings from your VP, Nancy Pierce

The 2009 ANNA year is out to a great start! Welcome to all the new and returning chapter officers and members! The VLW and National Symposium in San Diego were great successes, despite a somewhat smaller turnout due to the economy. The meeting received great comments from the new electronic evaluation forms. Our Western Region reception was also lots of fun with fiesta decorations and a wonderful showing of our cultural diversity. Many members dressed in beautiful international cultural outfits, and it was great having them share their culture with us all.

The nurse's day luncheon is always my favorite event at the national symposium. I just love giving out awards! Congratulations to the winners from our Western Region:

- **Western Region COTY Winner—Desert Vista #501**
- **Rising Star Award—Inland Empire #526**
- **Regional Chapter Health Policy Advocacy Award--Northern California #504**
- **Regional Chapter Recruitment & Retention Award—Northern Lights #523**

We also had Western Region winners for 3 big Awards:



Representation Award

Award: \$500

**Nitaya Soeprono, RN, BC, CNN
Loma Linda University Medical Center
Loma Linda, CA**



Kelly McManus Memorial Award

Sponsored by NxStage

Award: \$2,000 and plaque

**Sheila Doss, RN, CNN
Satellite Healthcare
Mountain View, CA**

Nephrology Nursing Journal Writing Contest Awards

Award: \$500



Clinical Practice:

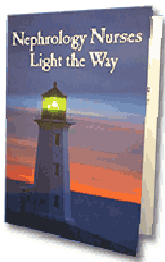
**Laurie Carlson MSN, RN
University of California - San Francisco
San Francisco, CA**

Congratulations to these very deserving people and chapters! Thanks also to the chapter officers who work so hard at the local level. Earlier in the year we sent ANNA insulated lunch bags to the 2008-2009 officers to thank them for all their hard work. We hope that everyone is enjoying them!



I invite everyone to try out the new ANNA Connected website, which is a Social and Professional Networking Resource for Members. This new resource is designed to make your experience as an ANNA member more valuable while providing you the opportunity to network and collaborate with your peers in an easy and exciting new way. This site is similar to Face book, LinkedIn, or MySpace, but it has been customized for use by ANNA members only. If you go to “e-groups” on the site, you’ll find a link to your own chapter. In order to be a part of the group, you must accept the request and designate how you want emails (once daily, real time, or none at all). This is a great way to communicate with all your members. Please go on the site, and try it out!

For those of you nearby **Vail Colorado**, I’d like to personally invite you audit the **ANNA Board meeting July 13-15, 2009**. Just let me know ASAP so we can save you a place and get a big enough room. E-mail me at npierce@stpetes.org. We really enjoy having ANNA chapter members see how hard we work at these meetings to make ANNA the organization of choice for nephrology nurses. This one will be a big strategic planning session.



Message from your Chapters Coordinator! Sheila Doss



Nephrology Nurse Week is September 13-19th 2009

The purpose of Nephrology Nurse Week is to honor the dedicated nephrology nurses who care for patients with kidney disease. ANNA has designated the second full week in September each year as Nephrology Nurses Week. ANNA launched Nephrology Nurses Week to give employers, patients, and others the opportunity to thank nephrology nurses for their life-saving work. In addition, ANNA also hopes to spark interest in other nurses about the multifaceted career opportunities available in nephrology. One of the most diverse nursing specialties practiced today, nephrology nurses care for patients of all ages who have, or are at risk for, kidney disease. ANNA has chosen the theme "*Nephrology Nurses Light the Way*" for Nephrology Nurses Week. The theme highlights the way nephrology nurses light the way in kidney patient care. Caring for kidney patients requires nurses to be highly skilled, well educated, and motivated, and nephrology nurses cite the variety and challenges of the specialty as fueling their ongoing passion. ANNA is proud to honor nephrology nurses throughout the year, but especially during Nephrology Nurses Week.

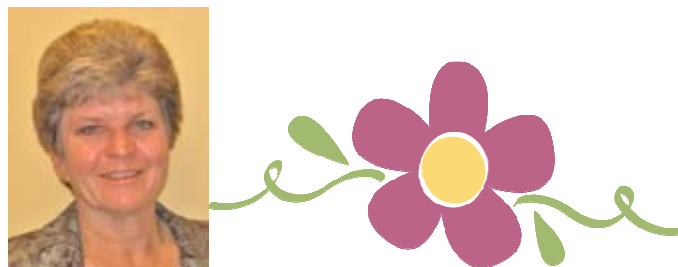
We want to make sure that you help us celebrate by getting your chapter involved. ANNA has made this easy by creating many resources such as a toolkit, posters, and templates for press releases, newsletters, proclamations and sample letters. All of these are available online on the ANNA website. Simply click the tab labeled ABOUT ANNA and then click Nephrology Nurse Week. Also available are products which can be purchased for your members or the nurses you work with. Past celebrations which have been held by chapters and members are also highlighted.

Here are some suggestions for nurses and employers:

- Hold a special celebration or reception to recognize a nurse or several nurses.
- Promote a positive, realistic image of nephrology nurses in the work place.
- Place an article in your local newspaper about Nephrology Nurses Week and the value of nephrology nurses. If your facility/hospital has a newsletter or if you work for a large dialysis organization, place an article in the issue that comes out right before Nephrology Nurses Week.

- Invite a policymaker, member of Congress, Senator, state legislator, etc. to accompany a nurse or several nurses in your place of employment for a day or part of the day.
 - Ask every nurse to wear an RN pin during Nephrology Nurses Week.
 - Work cooperatively with your facilities, hospitals, schools, and libraries to set up a special display for Nephrology Nurses Week.
 - Host a press conference and discuss important health care issues.
 - Request a proclamation from your mayor/governor declaring the second full week in September as Nephrology Nurses Week.
 - Suggest that your administrators or local newspapers solicit stories from patients who would like to pay tribute to a nephrology nurse who has provided exemplary care.
 - Invite nursing students from nearby schools of nursing to visit your workplace and learn about nephrology nursing.
 - Create a long-term link between local schools of nursing and newly graduated nurses by establishing nephrology nurse externship and internship programs. [Read ANNA's Education Task Force recommendations](#) and use the program templates to set up your program.
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- Place congratulatory messages in the workplace.
 - Offer congratulatory items to nephrology nurses.
 - Offer a special nephrology nursing recognition event in their honor.
 - Inform patients of the special week and suggest they thank their nurses for providing quality care.
 - Show your appreciation to nephrology nurses in other meaningful ways.

Please remember to take photos of your celebrations and let us know how you celebrate and honor nephrology nurses.



Message from your Chapters Coordinator-elect! Niki Kobes

Start your ANNA year out right with ACTION PLANS!

Action plans help support the goal for the organization that can achieve the mission and vision for the organization. The goals of ADVOCACY, RECRUITMENT & RETENTION, MEMBERSHIP, SCHOLARSHIP, LEADERSHIP, BUSINESS are the center of that mission.

Remember the preflight checklist in our flying lesson at VLW? That's the action plan. They are easy to do with the Volunteer Leaders CD. They are already populated with suggestions on how to achieve the goal. Officers can review them at a business planning meeting to decide what you are already doing well and what areas need some work. You can save the forms to your laptops/work computers and have open at you meeting. Click, save and send. It's as easy as that. Remember you don't have to do everything. Pick one or two if you are able and work on that.

For those of you who submitted by the JULY 1 deadline. DON'T FORGET TO DOCUMENT COTY. At that same officer's meeting, get a volunteer (a competitive person is good) to collect and document all the points. Submit to your chapter liaison and you could WIN not only money, but recognition at the National symposium. APPLY APPLY, APPLY. The number 1 way to win Chapter of the Year (COTY) is to keep track and turn them in!!! Ask your liaison for the spreadsheet if you can't find it on your CD. Look forward to seeing all those points accumulate.

Health Policy Update

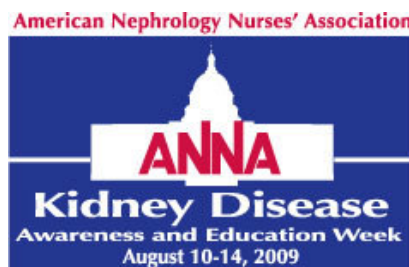


Alice Luehr

Western Region Health Policy Advisor



On June 7th through the 9th approximately 70 ANNA members from 26 states met in Washington, DC for the ANNA Health Policy Workshop. The western region had representatives from California, Arizona, Washington and Montana. The goal of the ANNA's Health Policy Workshop is to increase members' participation in advocacy at the local, state, and federal levels. Each member of the conference had the chance to meet with his/her elected officials. Chapter Health Policy Representatives, State Health Policy Directors, Regional Officers and National officers attended this conference.



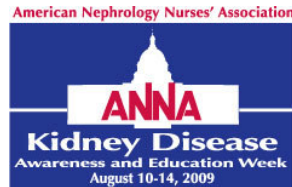
Have you started your plans for KDAE yet? ANNA encourages members of the renal services community to participate in ANNA's annual national kidney disease education initiative – Kidney Disease Awareness and Education (KDAE). The objective of this initiative is to educate state and federal lawmakers about kidney disease, treatment options, and the legislative issues facing the renal community. This year the Kidney Disease Awareness and Education Week will be August 10th through the 14th. The ANNA web site has all the resource tools you need to have a successful visit or you can contact me – your friendly Western Region Health Policy Advisor.

Plan Ahead:

Prepare now for the following Deadlines:

July 15—ANNA Update articles for July/Aug deadline

August 10-14 – Kidney Disease and Awareness Week



August 15—Nominations Deadline for Regional and National Officer positions

September 25—Fall Audio-conference deadline for Nov. 17th CE

September 15—ANNA Update articles for Sept./Aug deadline

September 14-18—National Nephrology Nurses Week



October 9-11—ANNA Fall Meeting in Lake Buena Vista, FL—register now!



November 17th—Fall Audio-conference for Western Region at 6:30 PT

October 15—Awards nominations & Scholarship applications due to Awards Chairperson

Contact Information for your WR Officers:

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