



# The Pulse Of ASNC



## From The Desk of:

***Donna Kosiorowski***

**Interim President**

***“Goodbye always makes my throat hurt” - Charlie Brown***

As I leave from the position as Interim President, I want to thank the Executive Board of ASNC for their faith and support over the last few years. I want to thank all of Connecticut's school nurses for the work you do and the kindness you displayed for me and the entire ASNC Board. A leader is only as strong as those who follow. I know I could not have done it without all of you.

Over the last two years, ASNC has made progress in keeping school nursing visible in the media and in legislation. ASNC achieved conversations with legislators and stakeholders with the goal of articulating the value school nurses bring to academic achievement. Most recently ASNC made the New England School Nurse Conference in Mystic one of the most successful conferences ever.

As we welcome your new ASNC Board for 2023-24, I urge every school nurse to join. When school nurses unite their voices, they can help to ensure policies that impact the health and well-being of students. One voice is magnified by many. The cost of membership is 38 cents per day, less than a cup of coffee. Join your new Board\*. Together we are stronger.

## Officers

President- Paula Feyerharm  
 President-elect- Open  
 Recording Secretary- Pending  
 Corresponding Secretary- Open  
 Treasurer- Open  
 NASN Director- Verna Bernard-Jones

## Committees

Education- Pam Neleber/Nancy Roberts  
 Program- Open  
 Membership- Marion Avitable  
 Newsletter- Annette Sauerbrunn

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Technology- Lauren Young  
Government Relations- Donna Kosiorowski

NOTE: \*The Executive Board of ASNC waived election due to lack of candidates. We thank the nurses who volunteered to lead, and for their commitment. Transition support from past officers and Committee members to volunteers for open positions is provided.

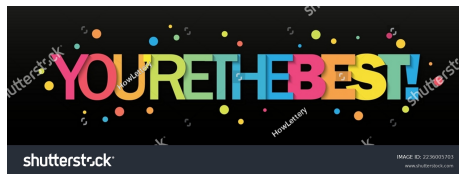
As I end my term as Interim President, I wish you all a restful and healthy summer. In the words of Charlie Brown, my throat hurts!

Sincerely, Donna

## A Special Thank You

Goes out to our Interim President Donna Kosiorowski, who had kindly agreed to assume the role of ASNC Interim President two years ago when our then President- Elect had accepted another job. She has led us through the difficult years of Covid, along with then- President Kathy Neelon, and guided us through the planning

process for the NESNC. Our Association, like so many other all-volunteer organizations, needed to fill some vacant Board positions. Without hesitation, Donna, who is retired and is already a Past-President of ASNC, agreed to step in at Kathy's request and has done an outstanding job leading us! If her name sounds familiar it is because she currently chairs our Government Relations Committee, which has been her passion for many years. She is the lady who has gone to bat for school nurses throughout CT by tirelessly advocating for us through our state legislators and legal advisors, the CT Department of Public Health, and the CT Department of Education. Thank you, Donna, for never giving up on us and establishing the framework for the future of school nursing in CT. We look forward to welcoming our new president- Elect, Paula Feyerharm, from Tolland. More information about Paula is to come.....



## ASNC Contacts:

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<b>NBCSN Liaison (SN Cert.)</b>	Donna Kosiorowski MS, RN, NCSN	<a href="mailto:donnak.ncsn@gmail.com">donnak.ncsn@gmail.com</a>

## **ASNC HOSTS 2023 NEW ENGLAND SCHOOL NURSE CONFERENCE**

This year the NESNC was held at the Mystic Hilton in picturesque Mystic CT, a charming waterfront community. It began on Friday evening, May 5, with a lively “meet and greet” in the Hospitality Suite with plenty of refreshments and beverages, mostly provided by School Health, which were enjoyed by many. The keynote speakers and breakout sessions were presented on May 6 & 7 with breakfast and/or lunch provided. The planning for this event had begun at least 18 months in advance, which was a bit of a challenge during an ongoing pandemic. There were several unknown factors such as whether nurses would be comfortable traveling to CT, and if sponsors and speakers would be able to make a commitment to us. In the end, it was very well attended with about 188 nurses traveling from all 6 New England states, and a couple from New York too! Many timely, relevant breakout sessions were offered (see next page) and the Keynote speakers were equally excellent. The traditional Basket Raffle was also a great success with a wide variety of interesting offerings. Thank you to all who attended and to those who contributed their time and talents to help make this one of our most successful regional conferences ever!

A special thanks goes out to our sponsors (vendors) whose generous donations and support helped to make this event the success that it was. They are as follows:

School Health Corporation with Doug Zybrands  
CT SDE/ McKinney Vento Awareness  
Chamberlin University (various locations)  
McKesson Med - Surg Supplies, Henrico, VA  
PSNI/ SNAP Software for EHRs  
MacGill/Welcomb Medical Supply, Lombard, FL  
Delta T Staffing, Middletown, CT  
School Nurse Supply, St. Charles, IL  
Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical Company  
Merck Pharmaceutical Company

Neurelis Biotechnology Corporation  
Children’s Hospital, Hartford, CT  
Egal Pad, Inc. (feminine products)  
Scrub Warehouse, Rocky Hill, CT  
Northeastern University School Health Academy, Boston, MA  
Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT  
The Epilepsy Foundation of CT, Middletown, CT  
In A Heartbeat Foundation, Wallingford, CT  
CT Clearinghouse/ A Wheeler Clinic Program, Plainville, CT  
The Get In Touch Foundation, Milford, CT  
Purple Umbrella Jewelry, an online boutique  
College of Our Lady of the Elms, Chicopee, MA  
Nat’l Board of Certified School Nurses with Pat Krin  
Comfort Zone Camp (non- profit bereavement organization), Richmond, VA  
Camp Rising Sun (non- profit organization for children with cancer), Colebrook, CT  
Solutions in Low Vision (assistive technology, mobility, ADLs, color deficiency)  
Children’s Hospital for Mental Health, Hartford, CT  
Let’s Learn About Lice (free educational website)  
Code 1 Triaging Solutions (CPR, AED training)  
Shriners Hospital for Children, Boston, MA



thank you!

## New England School Nurse Conference - Hilton Mystic, CT

<b>Friday May 5th, 2023 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm</b>		
Registration and Cocktail Reception		
<b>Saturday May 6th 2023 7:30 am – 4:00 pm</b>		
Join us for Breakfast & Registration 7:30 am – 8:15 am		
<b>Welcome</b> 8:15 am – 8:30 am	Donna Kosirowski, MS, NCSN, RN President Association of School Nurses of Connecticut and Legislator	
<b>Keynote Speaker</b> 8:30 am – 9:30 am	Sandra Escalera, MD Pediatric Gastroenterology Pediatric Transplant Hepatology Yale New Haven Health	Chronic and Acute Abdominal Conditions in Children
<b>Exhibits: 9:30 am – 10:15 am</b>		
<b>Breakout 1</b> 10:15 am – 11:45 am	Taylor Hooton Foundation Steroid Use in The School Setting	Performance Enhancing Substances in High School and Middle School. Taylor Hooton committed suicide after using performance enhancing steroids. This presentation will discuss the incidence, signs and symptoms and risks associated with steroid use in school.
	Patty Shafer, APRN NEURELIS	Best Practices for Seizure Management in Schools
	Trends in Asthma Care in School Nursing Mike Corjulo, APRN, CPNP	This session will discuss New asthma SMART guidelines and utilize case studies to learn the most effective ways for improving a student's asthma control
<b>Lunch Provided 11:45 am – 1pm</b>		
<b>Keynote Speaker</b> 1:00 – 2:00 pm	Richard Kamin MD, FACEP, FAEMS EMS Program Director Assoc Professor of Emergency Medicine University of CT Health Center	Preparing for Emergencies in the School Health Office
<b>Exhibits: 2:00 pm - 2:30 pm</b>		
<b>Breakout 2</b> 2:30 pm – 4 pm	Katherine Hinderer, Ph.D, RN, CNE Nurse scientist	School Nurse Perspectives Managing COVID Related Behavioral and Mental Health Issues in School
	Christie Gemme, RN Diabetes Life Center Hartford Hospital	Management of Diabetes in the School Setting, including a Review of Insulin Pump Delivery Systems
	Mike Corjulo, APRN, CPNP Sue Levasseur, APRN, CPNP	Otoscope camera workshop: Hands-on video technology and evaluation of the Ears, Nose and throat

<b>Sunday, May 7, 2023 8:15 am – 12:00 pm</b>		
Join us for Breakfast: 8:15 am – 9:15 am		
<b>Keynote Speaker</b> 9:15 am – 10:30 am	Andy Bellach & Natalia Sielra Millan Shipman & Goodwin LLP	Legal Hot Topics in School Health
<b>Breakout 3</b> 10:30 am – 12:00 pm	Connecticut Nurses Association	Government Relations and Nursing Advocacy
	Amanda Pickett, MSW Associate Consultant, CT State Department of Education	Building an Inclusive and Affirming School Climate. School Nurse and Partners Responses to Climate and Bullying
	Kristen Stadalnik, Social Worker Survivor Care Training and Outreach Specialist	LOVE 146-Ending Human Trafficking and Exploitation of Children

## Help Wanted

And speaking of open Board positions, we are still in need of a few key people who are willing to share their time and talents within our organization to chair the following positions:

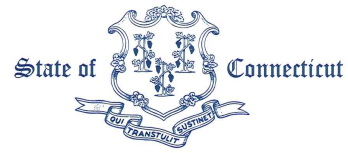
President- Elect  
Corresponding Secretary  
Treasurer  
Program Director

We are here to help with your transition! We meet once a month on the second Thursday of the month at 4:30 pm during the academic year and are currently utilizing the Zoom or Google Meet platform to conduct business. We are a friendly, welcoming and dedicated group of school nurses who would be happy to assist you and answer any questions. If you'd like more information about becoming a member and/or joining our Board, please contact Donna Kosiorowski at: [donna.ncsn@gmail.com](mailto:donna.ncsn@gmail.com) or Kathy Neelon at: [kneelon@wallingfordschools.org](mailto:kneelon@wallingfordschools.org)



## Celebrating School Nurse Day

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 was proclaimed to be School Nurse Day in the State of Connecticut by Governor Ned Lamont, “...in honor of the many outstanding contributions made by school nurses to our shared community...” Please take a few moments to read the Governor’s proclamation. It really does touch on the heart of what school nursing is all about. Congratulations to all of you- you truly are valued and appreciated!



By His Excellency Ned Lamont, Governor: an

### Official Statement

WHEREAS, students are the future leaders of our state – parents or guardians deserve to feel confident that their children will be cared for at school, and all students have a right to have their physical and mental health needs met while at school; and

WHEREAS, school nurses have played a critical role in improving public health and ensuring student success for over 100 years, and are aware of the home and community factors that impact students’ health; and

WHEREAS, school nurses act as a bridge between the school, families, and health care providers on behalf of children’s health by promoting wellness and improving health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, school nurses support the health and educational success of children by providing accessible care when children’s cognitive development is at its peak; and

WHEREAS, school nurses are members of the school health teams – which include school health services, MTSS/504/IEP plans, mental health support services, and disaster or emergency planning – to address the school population; and

WHEREAS, school nurses understand the link between health and learning, making a positive difference for children everyday; and

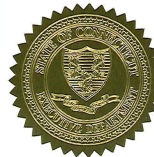
WHEREAS, by recognizing school nurses and their importance contributions to our school communities, there is greater hope that more people consider a career in school nursing to help address the shortage of these caring and compassionate individuals working in Connecticut schools; and

WHEREAS, on this day we recognize school nurses across Connecticut and their efforts to meet the needs of today’s students by improving the delivery of healthcare in our schools, contributing to communities by helping students stay healthy, and ensuring parents and guardians can know their children are safe and cared for; now

THEREFORE, I, Ned Lamont, Governor of the State of Connecticut – in honor of the many outstanding contributions made by school nurses to our shared community – do hereby officially proclaim the day of Wednesday, May 10, 2023, to be

### SCHOOL NURSE DAY

In the State of Connecticut.



Ned Lamont  
GOVERNOR



## And Look Who Was On TV!



ASNC's very own Paula Feyerharm MA, RN, who is our President- Elect, was interviewed by Eric Parker from WFSB during Nurses Appreciation Week last month. Paula is the School Nurse Coordinator for Tolland Public Schools, and is also the School Nurse at Tolland Middle School. The interview began with Paula discussing the myriad responsibilities that school nurses have, and outlined the acuity level of skilled nursing care required to enable some students with medical needs to attend public school. For example, they manage students with Diabetes, Epilepsy, G-Tube feedings, catheterization needs, Asthma, fractures, other injuries, concussions, significant mental and emotional health needs, and even ventilator care in a typical school day, to name a few. Although using bandaids, ice packs and a whole lot of TLC are still one of the many tools a school nurse uses, there is so much more to the job!

When asked what she enjoys most about being a school nurse, Paula replied, without hesitation, that she truly enjoys her daily interactions with the students, their families, and the staff. Nurses need to be knowledgeable about so many different aspects of school health, and attend continuing education offerings to keep up with current trends and practices. It should be noted that school nurses interact with every student in the building at one time or another, whether it be by chart review,

immunization requirements, mandated screenings, clinic visits, medication administration, or necessary treatments. She emphasized that nurses always work in partnership with parents and guardians, and encouraged families to reach out to her to keep the lines of communication open.

One of the largest concerns in this post-Covid era is the management and treatment of students' mental and emotional health. One strategy that she often uses is to talk to her students about the positive aspects of where we, as a school community, are now. It's time to look ahead and move forward and learn from past experiences. School nurses also work closely with the other members of the Student Support Team, such as the administrators, counselors, therapists, social workers and psychologists. As you can see, school nursing has evolved into a subspecialty requiring professional skills, compassion, a genuine concern for our children, and a willingness to be a team player. We are all very appreciative of Paula's efforts to promote what we do on an everyday basis.

**ALL OF US AT ASNC HOPE YOU HAVE A  
HAPPY, HEALTHY AND RELAXING SUMMER!**



