



The Pulse of ASNC



From the Desk of:

Paula Feyerharm, MA, RN

ASNC President 2023-2026

A Letter from the President:

Advocacy, leadership, and action.

Why do I advocate for you? What inspires me to be the best leader I can be? What drives you to be the best school nurse or best school nurse leader?

I learned not to prioritize myself last. If I do not advocate for myself and take care of myself, there is no way I can properly take care of others. Part of that self-advocacy was to become involved with ASNC. Being a nurse is very important to me and choosing the specialty of school nursing meant entering an arena that is not understood well by nursing colleagues, educational colleagues, or the community we serve. The only people who really seem to understand the awesome role of the school nurse and how busy we are is the students we serve and see time and time again. They often are our biggest champions and do not have a voice. We advocate for them- it will be years before they are the voting public who can advocate for us. Where does that leave us? We must advocate for ourselves.

One of the best ways to advocate for school nurses is to join your professional organization and be a part of a larger whole. Our voice is louder and stronger in numbers. Now more than ever our local boards of education, town councils and local legislators need to hear from us. They need to know the incredible work we do each day to take care of the youngest citizens in our state. They need to hear what we need to not only do our jobs, but to be healthy citizens as we do our jobs. That health needs to be mental health, physical health, and financial health.

I will continue to lead with a passion to represent and advocate for Connecticut's school nurses and I ask you to do your part to advocate for yourself and other nurses. Introduce work colleagues to ASNC, share your data with your school boards to maintain and increase nurse positions, write your legislators, vote for your own interests and the interests of your community.

In your day-to-day life, advocate for yourself. Set times for your office hours, take your lunch break, close your health room at the end of the day for 15 minutes to catch up on your parent contacts and last bits of charting. We are amazing at the work we do, but we are not irreplaceable except to those who we love the most. Take care of yourself, so you may give to those who love you the most, and you may be present in your life.

Now more than ever is the time to advocate for nurses. For me the focus is to advocate for Connecticut's school nurses. You need to focus on your individual needs within your district. Advocate, lead, and take action to promote school nurses. I am leading ASNC to do that for YOU and to help your voices be heard. Thank you for allowing me that opportunity. Together we are stronger and our collective voice will be heard.

In health,

Paula M. Feyerharm, MA, RN

In this Edition

From the Desk of	1
ASNC Contacts	2
New members	3
CNA 2025 Awards	4
ASNC Fall Dinner	5-9
Thank you to Vendors	10-11
Inaugural Skills Fair	12-13
Save the Date	14-15
ASNC Scholarship	16-17



ASNC Executive Board Contacts :

President:	Paula Feyerharm MA, RN	pfeyerharm@ewct.org
Past President:	Donna Kosiorowski MS, RN, NCSN (retired)	
President Elect:	Currently Vacant	
Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair:	Melanie Griffin RN	MKelleyn@sbcglobal.net
Technology Chair:	Lauren Young BSN, RN	Lyoung@wallingfordschools.org
Recording Secretary:	Janene Batten EdD, MLS	janene.batten@yale.edu
Corresponding Secretary:	Christine Thibodeau BSN, RN NCSN	cthibodeau@berlinschools.org
NESNC Liaison	Pamela Neleber MSN, RN, NCSN	pneleber@branfordschools.org
NASN Director:	Verna Bernard-Jones MS, RN, NCSN	vbjones3@gmail.com
Newsletter:	Shreeja Baidya BSN, RN	shreejabaidya@gmail.com
Education Chair:	Pamela Neleber MSN, RN, NCSN	pneleber@branfordschools.org
Program Chair:	Megan Hodge ADN, RN	hodgem@region-12.org
Government Relations:	Christin Kondash BSN, RN, NCSN	ckondash@learn.k12.ct.us
Membership:	Maria Martinez MPH, BSN, RN	mariav.martinez@yahoo.com



ASNC Meetings

When: Meetings are generally held on the 2nd Thursday of every month, September-June at 4:30 pm.

Where: Monthly meetings are being held virtually via Zoom. If you are interested in joining us, please email asnc01ne@gmail.com OR pfeyerharm@ewct.org for a link.

Please contact us to assure the meeting is being held and let us know you are coming.

MEET OUR ASNC NEW BOARD MEMBERS**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:**

Hello, I'm Maria V. Martinez (RN, MPH, BSN), a highly experienced Registered Nurse with a Master's in Public Health.

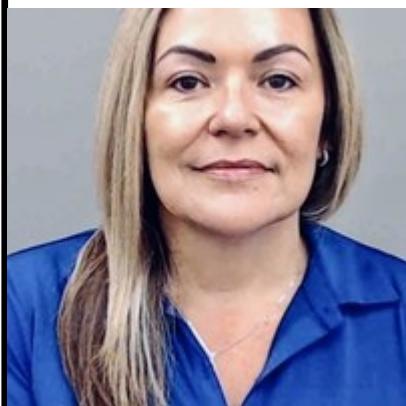
I offer over 30 years of experience as a School Nurse and over a decade in home healthcare case management. My career has been marked by dedication and leadership:

- I am the Second Vice President of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Hartford Board of Education and The Hartford Federation of School Health Professionals.
- I was recognized as School Nurse of the Year on May 8, 2019.

I am also committed to education, providing Basic Life Support and First Aid Training for over 25 years, and mentoring future nursing students. A dedicated member of the Association of School Nurse of Connecticut (ASNC) for over 20 years. And when I'm not focused on public health, you can find me passionately baking various desserts! I look forward to applying my passion for service as the new Membership Point Person.

Corresponding Secretary :

I am Christine Thibodeau, originally from New Jersey and have been residing in Connecticut for the past 14 years with my husband. I am blessed to have my five children and five grandchildren close by.



I have been a nurse for 25 years, with experience spanning acute care specializing in neurology, long-term care, sub-acute care, and doctors' offices, before ultimately finding my home in school nursing. I am deeply passionate about my career, take my responsibilities seriously, and am always seeking opportunities to learn, grow, and strengthen my practice. I most recently earned my National Certification for School Nursing.

I have served the Berlin district for nine years, the last two as the School Nurse Supervisor, where I oversee five public schools, one parochial school, and contribute to training at the Central Connecticut Transition Academy.

While I sometimes miss the bedside, I truly value being a familiar and trusted presence for our students and consider it a privilege to care of other people's children.

ASNC SPOTLIGHT

ASNC will be introducing a new segment called ASNC Spotlight in each newsletter, highlighting a school nurse who is currently excelling in their nursing role.

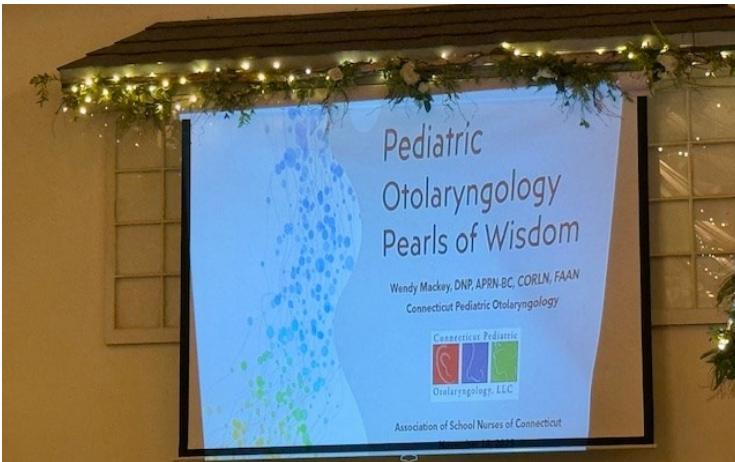
The Connecticut Nurses Association (CNA) held it's **2025 Awards ceremony** on November 13, 2025 at Amante's Sea Cliff. Association of School Nurses of Connecticut (ASNC) was a Bronze Sponsor for the event with members of the executive board members attending the award ceremony honoring the contributions of Exemplary nurses.



The 2025 CNA Award winners were:

- Mary Jane Award lifetime achievement: Terry Quell, PhD, MSN, RN
- Vera Keane Award : Anne Hulick RN, MS, JD
- Florence Wald Award : Holly Ann Defeo, MSN, RN, OCN, NPD-BC
- Josephine Dolan Award : Mary Helming, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC, AHN-BC
- Doris Armstrong Award: Ena M. Williams PhD, MBA, RN, CENP, FAAN, FADLN
- Peter Donato DNP, RN
- Agnes Ohlson Award : Martha Marx, State Senator, RN, BSN
State Representative Kaitlyn Shake, BSN, RN
- Virginia Henderson Award: Katherine Hinderer Ph.D., RN, CNE, NEA-BC
- President's Award: Sasa Harriott, MSN, APRN, PMH, NP-BC
- Public Service Award: Sylvia Darina Woolfolk-Martin RN
- Media Award: Jacqueline Seales, MSN, RN, CEN, NPD-BC
- Joyce Grayson Award : State Representative Rebecca Martinez, LPN
- Excellence in Workplace Award: YNHH Medical Intensive Care Unit/Step-Down Unit (MICU/SDU) End-of-Life (EOL)
Families are first Birthing Center, Bristol Hospital





On November 18th, 2025, ASNC hosted ASNC Fall Dinner Meeting– Educational Series at The Pond House in West Hartford. Wendy Mackey, DNP, APRN-BC, MSN, CORLN, FAAN presented Pediatric ENT Pearls of Wisdom for the School Nurse : Otoscope review, seasonal allergies, sore throats, nosebleeds & more.



Wendy educated the nurses in attendance on how to do an ear exam with otoscope and what we should look for during assessment. Some of the topics she covered during the presentation were common ear ailments, hearing loss , hearing tests and how to read and evaluate the hearing test results, amplification, etc.

She also showed everyone how to examine the nose, what we should look for during nasal exam, epistaxis and nasal fractures, etc. Everyone was excited to learn about tonsils, adenoids and commons pediatric ailments.

She ended the presentation with common cold, symptoms and how to treat the symptoms and keep it simple. After the very interactive and informative presentation, the nurses in attendance received 1 CEU.



ASNC President **Paula Feyerharm MA, RN** welcomed everyone at the ASNC Fall Dinner and also gave out amazing door prizes during the event.



During the ASNC dinner, **Past ASNC President Chlo-Anne Bobrowski, MSN, RN** serves the role of Manager for School Nursing and Family Support Services at the Connecticut State Department of Education talked about how she and the state department of education is there to help school nurses through various school health initiatives for students and Nurses.

Contact:

Chlo-Anne Bobrowski, MSN, RN

chlo-anne.bobrowski@ct.gov

860-713-6915

Connecticut State Department of Education, Office of Educational Supports and Wellness, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841

At the ASNC dinner 2025

Agnes Ohlson Award winner at CNA Award for political action

State Representative Kaitlyn Shake BSN, RN encouraged nurses to be politically active and to run for office to have our nursing voices heard. Only by being a part of political action we can we are able to make legislative and advocate for health professions. She also talked about various legislative bills in the house and senate and to reach out to our house and state representatives and be politically active.

Contact:

State Representative Kaitlyn Shake BSN, RN

Legislative Office Building,

Room 4024

Hartford, CT 06106-1591

860-240-8585, 1-800-842-8267

Kaitlyn.Shake@cga.ct.gov



Everyone in attendance were very captivated by the Christmas Winter Wonderland decoration at Pond house and gave rave reviews of the wonderful and interactive presentation, great location and delicious food. The Pond House being centrally located in the Connecticut also increased the attendance for the dinner meeting.







ASNC would like to express gratitude to Cerave, Delta T, Change the Script, American Heart Association, Ct Connecting to Care, CT Dental Health Partnership, Code One, MacGill and Pharming for sponsoring 2025 Fall Dinner Meeting and making it a success.



Nurses attending the dinner meeting were very excited to interact with the vendors and get free samples and learn about new medications, new equipments, and tools, treatments, etc.



Inaugural Skills Fair and Simulation Experience

By P. Feyerharm, RN

The inaugural skills fair and simulation experience hosted by Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) was December 6, 2025. It was well attended by school nurses from across the state.

In a state-of-the-art lab environment and simulation rooms school nurses refreshed their skill set on many commonly seen school scenarios. Don Corne, RN from Somers was able to report he learned the most from the simulated ears. Being able to examine many abnormalities that can be seen within the ear better prepared him for future encounters.



School nurses were able to select four areas of skills to focus on for review and hands-on practice, and then each had a simulation experience in the lab. In this scenario they had information presented and were able to respond in real time to an event that can easily occur on any campus. It was a great environment to practice skills that may not be used daily in school nursing, but need to be maintained.



The Association of School Nurses Connecticut (ASNC) is thankful and proud to collaborate with SCSU to offer school nurses this opportunity. Please look forward for future dates to experience first-hand this amazing opportunity. Four CEUs are awarded for participation and ASNC members received a discounted rate.



Save the Date :

- ASNC Monthly Meeting: "Meet with a Representative" : January 8th, 2026 from 4:30 PM
- CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S PEDIATRIC HEALTH SYMPOSIUM : Feb 5th, 2026 virtual PD from 8:00a-3:30p
- ASNC Winter Webinar-In A Heartbeat w/ Mike Papale - Feb 5th, 2025: webinar at 6:30p
- CT-AAP School Health Conference March 19th - Full Day, details to be TBA
- May 6, 2026 - National School Nurse Day: ASNC Spring Dinner Meeting Speaker & Venue TBD
- Ongoing-Skills Lab and Simulation Experience: Southern CT State University from 12-4pm :Saturdays January 17, March 28 , May 2
- New England School Nurse Conference (NESCN) - May 1-3, 2026 — Hosted by Vermont School Nurse Organ-

CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S PEDIATRIC HEALTH SYMPOSIUM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026 | 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM (EASTERN)

Join us virtually for the Connecticut Children's Pediatric Health Symposium.

This comprehensive symposium offers a deep dive into crucial pediatric specialties, allowing participants to apply skills and knowledge to improve patient care.

Hear from leading specialists from Connecticut Children's on topics including:

- Orthopedics (with a focus on the child athlete)
- Cardiology
- Neurology
- Sleep Medicine
- Emergency Medicine
- Plastic Surgery
- Pediatric Surgery
- ...and more!

Physicians are eligible to claim a maximum of **5.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™** for this live activity.

Register Here!

[HTTPS://WWW.EEDS.COM/LIVE/526404](https://www.eeds.com/live/526404)



Connecticut Children's Office of Continuing Medical Education

Connecticut Children's is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians. Connecticut Children's awards this live activity for a maximum of 5.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. • Conflict of Interest Policy: All faculty participating in Continuing Medical Education activities sponsored by Connecticut Children's are required to disclose to the program audience any actual or perceived conflict of interest related to the content of their presentation. Program planners have an obligation to resolve any actual conflicts of interest and share with the audience any mitigation steps in place to prevent commercial bias from influencing the content. The planners, activity director and speaker(s) do not have a financial interest/arrangement or affiliation with any organizations that could be perceived as a real or apparent conflict of interest in the context of the subject of this presentation. The speaker(s) will not be discussing the use of any off-label product. This activity is not commercially supported.





New
England
School Nurse
Conference

“School Nurses: Caring for our Future”

Join colleagues from across New England
for a FUN and exciting conference!

Presenters/Topics:

- NASN President, Dr. Kate King
- Rashes
- AI in the Health Office
- Environmental Health in Schools
- Legal Issues for School Nurses
- National School Nurse Certification
- Review Course Pre-Conference OPTION
- MORE!

Exciting
Speakers,
CNPDs, Food,
Fellowship, and
Entertainment
included!

A Relaxation
Room, Poster
Sessions,
Raffles, and
Vendors!

May 2-4, 2025

Devens Commons Center, Devens, Massachusetts
Special Room Rates at SpringHill Suites and Hilton Hotel

Registration Deadline APRIL 5, 2025	Friday DAY ONLY NBCSN Review Course Pre-Conference OPTION (Separate Registration Link)	Friday EVENING ONLY	Saturday ONLY	Friday Evening, Saturday, and Sunday
EARLY BIRD Until March 1, 2025	\$219 pp	\$50 pp	\$225 pp	\$295 pp
After March 1, 2025	\$219 pp	\$50 pp	\$245 pp	\$345 pp
Friday Evening Guest ONLY	N/A	\$50 pp	N/A	N/A

Register HERE

If you are using a Purchase Order from your District, please email Kathy Hassey at k.hassey@northeastern.edu and indicate your name, district and what option you want to be registered for. Then email the PO when it is generated.

New England School Nurse Conference Cancellation Refund Policy

Northeastern University will refund you your registration fee minus \$50 cancellation fee. This applies to registration payments made by credit card, check or Purchase Order. NO refunds after April 15, 2025, but you can send a substitute.

Contact hours provided by Northeastern University School of Nursing, accredited as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

N Northeastern University
Bouvé College of Health Sciences
School of Nursing, School Health Academy



MSNO
Massachusetts
School Nurse Organization, Inc.

 **NBCSN™**

Click HERE to Register for
the National School Nurse Certification
Review Course Pre-Conference OPTION

ASNC Now Accepting Scholarship Applications

ASNC is proud to offer four \$500 school nurse scholarships this year! The financial awards will be granted to four active ASNC members who are committed to continuing their education and/or pursuing research in school nursing. The applications are due by April 1st and will be awarded in person on May 7th at the ASNC Spring Dinner Meeting. Please submit your completed application to asnc01ne@gmail.com Good luck!

ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL NURSES OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

APPENDIX F ASNC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION p. 1 of 2



Congratulations on applying for this scholarship! By doing so, you exhibit the desire to further your professional growth as a school nurse. Please fill out the questions on this application. Your responses will be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee, and you will receive an email regarding the award if chosen.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Current Position: School, District, and Educational Level _____

Please answer each of the questions below in 250 words or less:

1). Tell us about yourself.

2). What are your greatest strengths and weaknesses?

ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL NURSES OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

**APPENDIX F
ASNC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION p. 2 of 2**

3). Why do you deserve this scholarship? Please indicate what you plan to use the funds toward (Ex. Specific academic goal, national certification etc.).

4). What are your career goals?

5). What activities are you involved in?

6). Is there anything else you would like to add?

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this application. We look forward to reviewing it and letting you know our response within a month of receiving it.

Best Regards,

The ASNC Scholarship Committee
CTschoolnurses.nursingnetwork.com