



The Pulse Of ASNC



From The Desk of:

Donna Kosiorowski

Interim President

“Be the change you want to see” (Mahatma Ghandi)

For over 30 years ASNC, Connecticut Nurses Association (CNA), and School Nurses worked to bring equality to our profession with no success. Barriers to success are varied. For the first time there is an opportunity to finally make change become a reality. However, nothing will change without your help.

The only path to the goal of placing school nurses in the same category as other support personnel (social workers, speech and language, counselors, psychologists) is through legislation. The State Department of Education (SDE) can't make that change; The Department of Public Health (DPH) can't make that change. Only legislators can make long overdue change for us. We need your help in creating a collective voice! We need your help in letting your legislators know that you are a professional deserving of a place equal to other support personnel to be recognized by SDE, School Administrators and Educational Colleagues.

There is a great deal of confusion about school nurses and our role in school. Many in schools and the larger community believe we are the same as others in school. Many believe we benefit from the same professional recognition. We know that is untrue!

We provide health care to an entire student population and, at times, to other school staff. We know that we are more than stomachaches and band-aids. We work in an educational setting. Beyond health services, we must understand school. We must understand educational law and regulations, 504 and special education, and how our contributions support student academic success. We keep students in school, in class, ready to learn. We help the school team to insure that students are supported physically, mentally and socially.

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Right now ASNC is working toward a common goal- equality for school nurses. Now, more than ever, school nurses are on the radar as champions, before, during and since Covid.

ASNC and CNA have been working on raising the standards for school nurses to the level of every school professional for over 30 years.

Understand that, if school nurses want to become equal with equal benefits, you must meet the standards for certification in Connecticut.

It is very important for you to know that every attempt to achieve equality **always included grandfathering** for nurses already in the field as mentioned by some of you. So, no one needs to worry about that. The requirements for a Bachelors Degree with subsequent Masters are exactly what is required for every other school

professional. However, the requirements, if we ever get there, will be for new entrants only.

Should you contact your legislators, identify your self as a school nurse and offer to help with any issues they may need.

It is more than time to end 1982 Regulations. It is 40 years and no one gave any thought to us. Now is the time to work together to create change through a loud and collective voice to Hartford. This may be our last chance. Your input is needed to help guide ASNC in a direction that benefits all Connecticut school nurses. We ask that you complete the email survey you will receive soon to light the way to change for school nurses. Your survey responses are important and are your chance to share your thoughts.

ASNC Contacts:

Interim President:	Donna Kosiorowski MS, RN, NCSN-E	donnak.ncsn@gmail.com
Past President:	Kathy Neelon MS, RN	kneelon@wallingfordschools.org
President Elect:	Currently Vacant	
Treasurer:	Kathleen Maffuid BSN, RN, NCSN	kmaffuid@wethersfield.me
Technology Chair:	Tracy Cella-Tyler RN	cellat Tyler.tracy@northhavenschools.org
Recording Secretary:	Joan Campbell MSN, RN	jcampbell@milfordct.gov
Corresponding Secretary:	Caitlin Bruni, BS, RN	caitlinbruni@hotmail.com
NASN Director:	Suzanne Levasseur MS, APRN, CPNP	slevasseur@westportps.org
Membership:	Verna Bernard-Jones MS, RN, NCSN	vbjones3@gmail.com
Newsletter:	Annette Sauerbrunn MPH, RN	bsauerbrunn@snet.net
Education Chair:	Pamela Nebeler BSN, RN NCSN	pnebler@branfordschools.org
Program Chair:	Lauren Young BSN, RN	Lyoung@wallingfordschools.org
Government Relations :	Donna Kosiorowski MS, RN, NCSN	donnak.ncsn@gmail.com
NESNC Liaison (NE SN Conf.)	Currently Vacant	
NBCSN Liaison (SN Cert.)	Donna Kosiorowski MS, RN, NCSN	donnak.ncsn@gmail.com

Survey Coming Soon



An email will soon be sent from ASNC to Nursing Supervisors throughout the state, requesting them to forward it to their nursing staff. It explains our rationale concerning possible certification, and it includes a brief survey about how you feel about having ASNC advocate for the certification of school nurses, possibly under a Special Services endorsement. Your voice really matters to us, and we hope to hear from school nurses from all areas of Connecticut.

Special Services Endorsements

The following endorsements are classified as special services:

- Speech and Language Pathologist (#061)
- School Counselor (#068)
- School Psychologist (#070)
- School Social Worker (#071)
- School Nurse-Teacher (#072)
- School Dental Hygienist-Teacher (#073)

COMING SOON- January Dinner Meeting!

ASNC is pleased to announce our plans for an in-person dinner meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2023 at the lovely Seasons Restaurant at 990 Foxon Rd. in East Haven, beginning at 4:30 pm. This venue was formerly known as the Foxon Country House, and it has been completely remodeled. There will be a speaker on a timely issue of interest to school nurses, and the cost is \$60.00 for ASNC members and \$65.00 for non-members, and there will be a cash bar. Further details to follow and will be announced on our website. Hope to see you all there!



Recruiting New Board Members

Annette Sauerbrunn RN, MPH

ASNC has a few open positions on our Board. Please consider joining a very friendly, talented and dedicated group of members whose mission is to “support, assist and enhance the practice of professional school nurses in their development and implementation of comprehensive school health services that promotes students’ health and academic success” (ASNC Mission Statement, Jan. 15, 2021).

We meet monthly during the academic year, and hope to eventually return to doing so in person when feasible. The following positions are/will soon be available. A brief description of responsibilities follows each title.

President: Donna Kosiorowski is currently our Interim President. Responsible for ensuring that activities and business follows ASNC's Bylaws and Operating Guidelines; presides and develops the agenda for meetings, represents ASNC at related professional events, and works closely with the treasurer and other Board members

President Elect: Performs the duties of the President in his or her absence; chairs the Recognition (Awards) Committee, serves as a member of the Finance Committee, oversees the committee for review and revision every 2 years for the Bylaws and Operating Guidelines committee, and succeeds to the President of ASNC.

NASN Director: Provides a written report to the Board of Directors meetings and the ASNC Executive Board; represents ASNC at the Endowment Event at the NASN Annual Conference, funded by ASNC.

Technology Chairperson: Manages and provides the technologic options necessary to maintain communication and resources for the Executive Board and the general membership. Collaborates with the Program and Finance Chair to organize and promote ASNC sponsored events.

Please take note that a full description of duties and responsibilities of all committees is contained in the ASNC Bylaws and Operating Guidelines on page 8-14.

RAFFLE BASKETS NEEDED!

ASNC is once again soliciting raffle baskets from all school nurses throughout Connecticut. They will be displayed and raffled off at the New England School Nurse Conference in May, 2023. This has traditionally been a very popular event for school nurses from all over New England. Each basket should have a theme, and be cellophane wrapped once completed. Some examples of themes from previous years are:

- Specialty foods made in CT (jams, baked goods, etc.)
- Assorted candy baskets
- Antipasto baskets (olive oil, marinated mushrooms, artichokes, red peppers, etc.)
- Gardening baskets (small hand tools, seeds, plant ties, etc.)
- Wine baskets w/wine glasses, small bagged snacks
- Chocolate lovers assortment
- Flowering spring bush, medium sized such as azalea, rhododendron etc. from a CT nursery

You get the idea.....



It's not too early to start planning with the nurses in your district, so gather your creative thoughts and talents and let us know ASAP if you are willing to donate a basket that is uniquely yours! If you are unable to deliver it to one of our nearby Board members, we will gladly make arrangements with you to pick it up. Please contact Donna Kosiorowski at: donnakncsn@gmail.com or Annette Sauerbrunn at bsauerbrunn@snet.net if you and your staff are willing to donate a basket, which we must receive by April 21, 2023. Thank you in advance for your support!

Save The Date:

New England School Nurse Conference (NESNC) May 5-7, 2023

Attention ALL School Nurses! The annual NESNC, hosted by the Association of CT (ASNC), will be held at the Mystic Hilton, 20 Coogan Boulevard, Mystic, CT 06355. Arrival: Friday May 5, 2023, Conference: Saturday May 6, 2023 and May 7, 2023. Contact hours will be available.

For those coming on Friday night, join ASNC and nurses from around New England for a welcome to the conference. Meet your New England colleagues and relax with complimentary refreshments.

Come celebrate our specialty as school nurses from all over New England join together for a weekend of networking, multiple professional development offerings, and a great time in the lovely southeast shoreline town of Mystic, CT. Information on registration and room reservations will be posted soon on our website.

The motel offers free self parking and WIFI, an indoor pool and fitness center. Located right off I-95, it is filled with the historic charm of maritime New England, and is across the street from attractions such as the Mystic Aquarium, and the Olde Mystic Village shops. It is within 10 minutes of the downtown harbor and Mystic Pizza, and Foxwoods Casino is about 20 minutes away.

