Greetings fellow ASNC members,

It has been a very fulfilling two years as President of ASNC and I’m thrilled to be able to pass the torch to Sue Levasseur who, I have no doubt, will continue to lead us through our vision of strengthening the role and profession of school nursing. I am also very excited to announce that Karen Owen has been elected President-Elect, helping to secure our Board leadership structure for the foreseeable future. Karen has a wealth of school nurse and nurse educator experience, having served on the Education and Technology Committees for a number of years. I would also like to congratulate two of our long-serving Board members who retired this year: Faine Gauthier from Wethersfield and Trish Vayda from Enfield. Their passion and commitment has been an inspiration for us all, and we wish them all the best as they embark on this well-deserved next phase in their lives.

Earlier this year I wrote about our “1 Is Not Enough” campaign, aimed at raising the legal minimal number of school nurses per district in CT from 1 to a ratio of 1 nurse:750 students. This bill has passed, along with the requirement for new nurses to attend the SDE New School Nurse Orientation Program, and is awaiting signature by the Governor. I firmly believe that this is a vital strategic step toward securing appropriate and safe staffing levels for CT schools – we have raised the minimal standard and will continue to work with superintendents, legislators, and all stakeholders to highlight the value and importance of achieving and maintaining school nurse staffing necessary to meet the physical and mental health needs of the student populations in our schools. I want to again thank everyone who contributed to the ratio data collection this spring – it made a huge impact, and, as promised, I will share the final report after the bill is signed.

I cannot be more pleased to also report that the bill containing the language that to revise the vision, hearing, and postural screenings has also passed and is awaiting the Governor’s signature. This will have an immediate positive impact on the use of your time as we align with AAP guidelines and help promote student’s connections and care with their medical homes. This bill also contains language about delegating emergency epilepsy medication, which we will be sending out additional information once it is signed. I would like to highlight that in the context of complex chronic health conditions, such as epilepsy, food allergies, and diabetes, we have made tremendous strides partnering with parent advocates and legislators to include language, guidelines, and training that helps promote student inclusion and safety, while maintaining the integrity of our delegation process and responsibilities – this has been a very challenging balance, and I’m proud to say that I believe our efforts have helped improve our credibility and public perception, on a state and national level.

I’m looking forward to my pending role as Past President, and whatever I can do to help our ASNC Board, and anyone of you. I’m very excited about hosting the New England School Nurse Conference next spring, and hope to see all of you there and at all of our professional events throughout the next school year. Have a safe and fun summer everyone!
Nursing Recognitions at the ASNC Dinner Meeting

MAY 6, 2015 - CT SCHOOL NURSE DAY

By Annette Sauerbrunn

ASNC hosted another delightful afternoon of celebration and networking at the Riverview Bistro in Stratford. In lieu of a speaker, the focus was on our award-winning nurse, retirees, and Advocate of School Nursing. The following are summaries of their nominations, submitted by their peers.

Margaret Sullivan RN
2015 CT School Nurse of the Year

Margaret has been a school nurse at Madison Middle School in Trumbull since 2009, managing over 800 students as well as those attending the alternate and REACH programs. She expertly manages the unique needs of this population with her outstanding nursing assessments, commitment to being a team player, and a keen understanding of the social, emotional, and academic needs of her students. Using evidence-based practice, she is able to strike the right balance between compassion and encouraging independence. She also developed the framework for a program to orient substitute school nurses new to her district.

Margaret, a mother of three, also volunteers in her community with a local soccer program, United TOP Soccer, which provides children who have special needs the opportunity to learn and play soccer while having fun in a structured environment. Congratulations on an outstanding job, Margaret!

A proud moment for Margaret Sullivan BSN, RN (on the right) as she receives the 2015 ASNC School Nurse of the Year Award from President-Elect, Suzanne Levasseur.

Dr. Norman Weinberger
2015 Advocate of School Nursing

For the past 25 years, Dr. Weinberger has served as the Medical Advisor for both the Norwalk and Westport Public School Districts. The nursing administrators who nominated him began their description by saying, “If a person is measured by the good that he does and the lives that he has touched, Norman Weinberger is a giant among men.” He has been a practicing physician for almost 50 years, and a renowned Pediatrician in Norwalk for over three decades. He also shares his time and expertise at a community health clinic in Bridgeport, and has been a major life influence for multiple generations of children.

As a School Medical Advisor, he has always been willing to collaborate with school administrators, health departments, and other professionals who have bene-
fitted from his expertise. He has always been a great supporter of all school nurses, never missing an opportunity to recognize and promote the vital role that school nurses have. Congratulations, Dr. Weinberger. You received this award after being nominated with great pride and affection.

Trisha Vayda has worked for the past 28 years in the Enfield School District- six of them as an elementary school nurse, followed by another 22 years as the Nursing Supervisor. Prior to becoming a school nurse, she worked in the Emergency Department for 17 years. Trisha fondly recalls that when she first began working in a school, she continued to work at the hospital because so many were concerned that she would be bored. Twenty-eight years later, she’s still waiting for that boring day! She has been a member of ASNC since becoming a school nurse, serving as the Government Relations Chair, and as the Representative to the CT EMSc Committee. She is also a valued member of the CT SDE Cadre, passing on her expertise to hundreds of other school nurses. And finally, Trisha also co-teaches the School Nurse Emergency Services for Children course at UCONN.

Retirees Trisha Vayda (left) and Faine Gauthier (center) networking with Nancy Netherwood (right)

Thank you all for so many years of kindness, compassion, and true dedication to Connecticut’s schoolchildren. Every one of you are leaving some very big shoes to fill! Best wishes on whatever the next chapter holds.

Dr. Norman Weinberger is surrounded by some of his best supporters.

School Nurse Retirees

Faine Gauthier BSN, RN, NCSN
Arlene Painter MS, BSN, RN, NCSN
Trisha Vayda BSN, RN, NCSN

Congratulations to Faine, Arlene, and Trisha on their well-deserved retirement. These remarkable women have about 87 combined years of experience working as school nurses, which does not include the years they worked in other health care facilities prior to joining the school staff.

Faine Gauthier came to the Wethersfield Public School District in 1982, where she started at the High School. Seven years later she became the Nursing Supervisor, and was transferred to the Webb Kindergarten Center. During her time there, she was named the CT School Nurse of the Year by ASNC in 1992. Faine was also the President of ASNC in 1994-95, and served as the President-Elect and Past President for two years before and after being President. under Faine’s leadership, her district added full-time nurses to all the elementary schools. She also spent time working at Emerson Williams School, and then the Charles Wright School in Wethersfield.

Arlene Painter has been a school nurse for 26 years. Prior to that, she worked as a Med-Surg nurse at Yale New Haven Hospital. She earned her Masters Degree in secondary education through the School Nurse-Teacher Program at SCSU, graduating in 1981. She continued her nursing career working as a private-duty nurse, occupational nurse, convalescent home nurse, visiting nurse, and home care supervisor before coming to the Moser School in Rocky Hill. She also worked at the Elizabeth Greene School in Newington for 14 years, and the Bailey Middle School in West Haven for the past 2 years. Arlene plans to enjoy the upcoming summer before contemplating her next position.

Retirees Trisha Vayda (left) and Faine Gauthier (center) networking with Nancy Netherwood (right)

Thank you all for so many years of kindness, compassion, and true dedication to Connecticut’s schoolchildren. Every one of you are leaving some very big shoes to fill! Best wishes on whatever the next chapter holds.
Mike Corjulo enjoys a lighthearted moment with Donna Kosiorowski (right) and Miss Chloe

Nurses from Wesport enjoying a lovely afternoon on the shore in Stratford at the River Bistro.
Bottom row, left to right: Maureen Kiernan, Patti Falvey, Kathy Raby
Top row: Sussanne Bookbinder, Deb Findley, Suzanne Levasseur (soon to be President of ASNC), and Jean Lane

…And The Votes Are In!!!

The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) has announced on its webpage the list of Designees for office, following their recent election:

**President-Elect:** Nina Fekaris (Oregon)
**Secretary-Treasurer:** Catherine Davis (Alabama)
**Nominating Committee:** Chris Tuck (Kansas)

ASNC would like to extend our congratulations to these nursing leaders. We wish you all the best in your new roles as you help move the Association’s mission forward.

Seeking Our Award Winning Nurses...

In an attempt to update our listings of awards on our website, please send us your information on any nursing or community awards that you may have received, and the year you received them. We need to update our archives, support one another, and recognize our accomplishments! Feel free to include any additional information that you’d like to share with us.

Kindly send your information via e-mail, to
map_rn@yahoo.com.

Mary Anne Porto, RN, BS, NCSN
Member at Large
School Nurse Emergency Medical Services for Children Program Summer 2015

This 3-day Certificate Program is open to school nurses (full, part-time or substitutes) who are registered nurses. *Registration is limited and will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, so register today!*

**When:** July 28th - July 30th  
**Where:** UConn School of Nursing, 231 Glenbrook Road, Storrs, CT

**Fee:** $525 includes: continental breakfast, refreshments, lunch, and an electronic manual on emergency care in schools (dinner and accommodations are not included).

For additional information or to register online go to: nursing.uconn.edu/snems