Dear Colleagues,

“Don’t be afraid to speak up for yourself. Keep fighting for your dreams!” ~ Gabby Douglas

“Speaking up for yourself is a learned habit, no one is just born with it, they had to develop the skill. It's an important skill, and one that will benefit you all the days of your life and help you become the best woman you can be. This dovetails nicely with fighting for your dreams, because when you pursue a dream you’re going to have to do a lot of speaking up for yourself. There are those that will try to dissuade you from reaching your dreams and goals and you will have to find your voice.” ([www.Brightspots.com](http://www.Brightspots.com))

Does this quote remind you of anything and everything about school nursing? As RNs, we underwent a tremendously rigorous curriculum and our education prepared us for taking care of people. We play an important role in society and we save lives and are healers. We are all proud of our honorable profession. As we work in the school setting we may occasionally get the feeling that our role is not quite as valued as it is in other working environments. Does it sometimes feel like you aren’t noticed until you aren’t in your office? Perhaps you stepped out of your office to perform an AED check but that won’t stop the secretary from paging your name overhead! However, you all are valuable members of your school communities and play an important role by creating and maintaining a safe and healthy environment for children to continue as active learners. We sometimes need to speak up for ourselves but that is why ASNC will always be behind you to appreciate your art and practice, and to provide assistance in any way.

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut is to support, assist, and enhance the practice of professional school nurses in their development and implementation of comprehensive school health services that promote students’ health and academic success.
The Board members of ASNC have worked very hard to provide the support and leadership and professional development opportunities to support your school nurse practice and ultimately impact the health and education of the children that you work with. This year our Government Relations Committee continues to fight for the updating of the school nurse credentialing which has not been revised since 1982. I want to explain that as School Nurses we fall under the direction of pupil services which includes PT, OT, ST, Psychology and Social Workers. All of these roles are certified positions except for school nurses. This impacts our place at the bargaining table and ultimately our level of compensation. How many of you Supervisors have attempted to hire a great nurse only to be let down when the compensation is less than desirable for their qualifications? Do any of your districts’ administrators think that nurses should come to work in the summer to review sports physicals and new registrants, go on field trips at night and over the week-ends, and stay for after school programs, all without compensation? We all know that this happens and will continue to happen until we advocate for and successfully achieve updated requirements for school nursing and certification. How can you all help with this process? Talk to your legislators, your house representatives, and your senators! Follow any and all legislation that involves school nursing. Here is an example of how being active in politics can impact the practice of school nursing. Last year, Governor Malloy signed into the law that all bus drivers should be trained to administer an epinephrine auto-injector if a known student with anaphylaxis reactions rode their bus. The original bill contained language that would have the districts’ school nurses training the bus drivers. This bill was definitely on ASNC’s Government Relations Chairperson’s radar! Donna Kosiorowski, Sue Levasseur, Joan Cagginnello and I wrote testimony for the public hearing, and, with the assistance of our lobbyist Brendan Findley, was able to change the legal language thereby ensuring that the transportation companies were held responsible for the training of their own drivers. This is one of many examples demonstrating the important function of Government representation that ASNC takes very seriously! (con’t. p. 3)
We are almost crossing the finish line for the 2018-19 school year! Some of you will continue to work as Camp Nurses or Summer School nurses. Some of you will attend the NASN’s National Conference in Denver, Colorado. Some of you may be taking NBCSN’s School Nursing Certification exam. Whatever you do, consider sharing your experiences (both negative and positive) with your colleagues, because we can all learn from each other. Hopefully you will build time into your summer to rest and recharge. It is important that you all make it a priority to take care of yourselves as well, so you can come back to school refreshed and ready to take care of others.

As President of ASNC it has been my honor and privilege to represent school nurses and the profession of nursing! Please welcome Kathy Neelon, Supervisor of Wallingford Public Schools, as your incoming President for 2019-2021!

Have a great summer! I look forward to seeing you all again in the fall.

Sincerely,

Chlo-Anne

SCHOOL NURSE DAY MAY 8TH 2019

Editor’s Note: The following are nominations submitted for the winners of ASNC’s End of Year Recipients of The School Nurse Peer Award, Nurse of the Year Award, and School Nurse Advocate of the Year.

Kathleen Maffuid

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my great pleasure to nominate Kathleen Maffuid for the 2018-19 ASNC School Nurse Peer Award. I am currently Kathleen’s co-worker, peer, and supervisor. Kathleen is a Registered Nurse at Wethersfield High School and is a model example of professionalism, dependability, kindness, and a lifelong learner. Here are some examples of why I wish to nominate Kathleen:

Kathleen was a preceptor to another school nurse new to our district and since Kathleen is very organized, the experience went quite well. I am very grateful as a Nursing Supervisor that the incoming nurse had all of the tools that she needed to be successful.

Kathleen is a dependable team player. She is gentle but assertive, approachable but thoughtful with her responses to students, parents, staff, and administration. She is a respected health professional in every building that she is in or meeting that she attends. Kathleen assisted the Dietician in her previous school to obtain a Fuel Up to Play 60 grant for $3,000. This grant enabled the school to buy a volleyball net, a blender, and breakfast cart. The school gave her a going-away assembly on her last day!!!

Kathleen is a Nationally Certified School Nurse and her practice and responses to the complex issues of school health are founded on evidenced based practice, readings of current literature, and attending conferences (local, regional, and National). She is a reliable and trustworthy source of information and I approach her often for her feedback on school health issues.

Kathleen has a kind spirit and a positive attitude toward life and work. She is a balanced person who takes care of herself and her family. I really admire that about her!
Please accept this nomination for Kathleen Maffuid for the 2018-19 recipient of the ASNC Peer award. I am very proud to call her my co-worker and my friend.

Respectfully submitted,

Chlo-Anne Bobrowski
Supervisor of School Nurses
Wethersfield Public School

Maria Martinez

To Whom It May concern:

Maria Martinez is a true gem among school nurses. She is a highly experienced school nurse having worked for Hartford Public Schools for over 23 years. Maria is a kind and caring professional who effectively juggles the many responsibilities of her busy office at Moylan while continuously prioritizing the immediate needs of her students throughout the school day. Maria has developed strong and positive relationships with many parents in her school community and works closely with them. She serves as a strong nurse mentor for nursing students from a variety of nursing programs in the state; many nursing instructors ask for students to be placed at Moylan so they have an opportunity to observe Maria in action!

Maria manages all medication administration and nursing procedures for her most medically fragile students and stays in constant communication with medical providers as nursing orders are changed or updated. Maria consistently goes above and beyond for her students and families. She is an outstanding example of what it means to be a committed and compassionate school nurse. Many of our school nurses call on Maria for guidance and respect her judgement.

On a personal level, having supervised Maria for the last seven years. I know that she is always ready and willing to help within the department whenever possible and she is a pleasure to work with. She always manages to find a solution when confronted with challenges. As a certified CPR instructor, Maria graciously and voluntarily offers her CPR skills when our staff members need to be re-certified. This is just one example of Maria’s initiative and leadership within the department.

I cannot think of a more qualified and worthy candidate for the ASNC School Nurse of the Year Award than Maria Martinez.

Deborah Chameides, RN, MSN
Health Services Coordinator, HPS

Maria Martinez (left) sharing a moment during the awards dinner
Dr. Cheryl Resha

I would like to nominate Dr. Cheryl Resha for the School Nurse Advocate of the Year, 2019.

I have known Cheryl since 1997 when she was a school nurse supervisor in the Hartford area. She then became our Health Promotion Consultant for the Department of Education where she kept us informed, was our staunch advocate, and was always available, approachable, and interested in our concerns or questions, no matter how seemingly insignificant. She worked diligently to advance our profession, and also made a concerted effort to attend most of our Board meetings during her tenure at the State level. Her work during this period was so valued that she was appointed a NASN Fellow. She has published and served as an editor in our professional nursing journals. Though she eventually left her position and became a professor of nursing at SCSU, her heart always remained in support of school nursing.

During her tenure as our Director to NASN, Cheryl always led us on the proper path with her wisdom, vast knowledge, and quiet, diplomatic approach to any given situation.

For all these reasons, I would like you to seriously consider Dr. Cheryl Resha as our School Nurse Advocate of the year.

Mary Anne Porto, RN, BS, NCSN
Member at Large, ASNC

Donna Kosiorowski is Retiring!

Donna Kosiorowski, being congratulated by President Chlo Bobrowski, and President Elect Kathleen Neelon

President Chlo Bobrowski and President Elect Kathleen Neelon congratulating Dr. Cheryl Resha

Congratulations!
Editor’s Note: The Following is a brief bio of Donna Kosiorowski RN MS NCSN, who is retiring after many years dedicated to school nursing. We wish her well and thank her for all the valued contributions to ASNC over the years.

Donna Kosiorowski spent 34 years practicing in School Nursing. From 1995 to the present, Donna serves the as the Supervisor of School Health Services and District 504 Coordinator for the West Haven Board of Education in West Haven, Connecticut.

As a Graduate of Saint Vincent’s Hospital, School of Nursing, Bridgeport, Connecticut, Donna started her career at St. John’s McNamara Hospital, Rapid City, South Dakota. From there she moved on to St. Elizabeth’s Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts. She ended her hospital career as Assistant Head Nurse in the Emergency Department at Griffin Hospital Derby, Connecticut prior to entering school nursing.

Advanced education includes a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing for RN’s, Master of Science in Health Education, and Sixth Year Certification in Educational Leadership, all from Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, Connecticut.

Donna has been a School Nurse Supervisor of the Year for the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut and Nursing Spectrum’s “New England School Nurse of the Year.” Donna attributes her success to all the school nurse role models and colleagues she has had the privilege to know.

Professional activities include Past President of the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut, Past Connecticut Director to the Board of the National Association of School Nurses and currently a member of NASN’s Editorial Review Board.

Awarded the Agnes Ohlson Award for Political Advocacy from the Connecticut Nurses’ Association, she is the current Government Relations Chair for the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut and Connecticut Liaison to the National Board for Certification of School Nurses (NBCSN).

All of us at ASNC wish you a very happy and healthy summer!
A DAY IN THE LIFE

20 MINUTES saved per day
for the Teacher by the School Nurse

45 MINUTES saved per day for the
School Clerical Staff by the School Nurse

60 MINUTES saved per day for the
Principal by the School Nurse

32% of time is spent by the School Nurse providing
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES!

10% of students lack HEALTH INSURANCE

10 Million Students with Asthma

STUDENTS who can’t afford health care
9.7%

FOOD Allergies 19% OF STUDENTS

18% OF STUDENTS have chronic health conditions

OBES or Overweight 32% OF STUDENTS

20% Students have a Mental Health Disorder

23% Students with pre-diabetes & diabetes

There are so MANY REASONS every child deserves a School Nurse!

References: Baisch, Lundeen & Murphy, 2011; Cohen et al., 2011; Perrin, Bloom & Gortmaker; 2007; Van Cleave Gortmaker & Perrin 2010; Ferson, Fitzsimmons