

SCASN Newsletter

South Carolina
Association of School
Nurses

Spring 2009

Letter from the president

Spring has finally arrived and time has come to forget about the flu and turn our thoughts to more exciting things like the SCASN elections and our annual conference at Myrtle Beach. Time and time again we have requested that our members volunteer to become active in a committee or be placed on the ballot to serve as an officer but we are still seeing the same wonderful but tired faces. In order for SCASN to grow, we need new ideas and energy. ***Please consider volunteering to serve on a committee.***

Our conference dates are June 10 and 11 with our SCASN annual meeting on the 10th. Start planning now to attend and I know that you will not be disappointed. You will not have to worry about getting a sub for the health room and you will have an excellent opportunity to network with school nurses from all over our state. We can all share our budget woes!

At our SCASN board meeting on February 26th much of our discussion revolved around budget issues and how it could affect our organization. Let's make it a priority to continue to provide appropriate and knowledgeable health care to all students in South Carolina. The students need us and that should be the heart of the message that we give to the public. Our main concern is not about money but about the wellbeing of every student so that all students may obtain their educational goals that will enable them to become an independent, well- educated adult.

As always, my thoughts and prayers are with you as we struggle to survive these difficult times,

Sharon Lothridge, RN
SCASN President

Spring is the time when we start looking to next year. The nominating committee is already at work. Our treasurer position is the only one this year that comes up for election. If you would be interested in having your name placed on the ballot, please let me know by April 10th. My email address is Joy. McGaha@spart5.net. Thanks for all you do for SCASN. Joy McGaha, Nominations Committee Chair



Calendar

- **May 6, 2009** School Nurses Day
- **May 31** Applications for NASN exam due
- **June 10** SCASN Annual meeting, Myrtle Beach, SC
- **June 11** SCASN Summer Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC
- **June 25-29** NASN National Conference, Boston, Massachusetts



Register Now for the SCASN Ninth Annual Conference

Please plan to attend the SCASN Annual conference in Myrtle Beach on June 10 and 11, 2009. We have moved to a larger facility this year to allow for more nurses. The conference will be held at the Academy of Arts, Science, and Technology located right across the street from where we were last summer. It is a very beautiful facility.

Even though brochures will not be mailed until after Spring Break, you can print the registration form from the SCASN website (www.scasn.org) and mail it in right now to reserve your place. There is a total of 8.45 nursing contact hours for the two days.

The conference begins in the afternoon of June 10 with the SCASN Annual Meeting. The first presentation, *Gang Activity in Schools*, follows the meeting. There is no fee for the Annual Meeting, but there is a registration fee for the presentation for 2.0 nursing contact hours.

On the second day, June 11, we have a packed agenda. Registration and continental breakfast begin at 8:00. Exhibitors will be waiting for your visits. A box lunch is included, and the day wraps up at 4:30.

The conference hotels, Fairfield Inn and Holiday Inn Express, offer very reasonable rates for both the weekdays of the conference (\$107.00/night plus tax) and for the weekend (\$124.00/night plus tax). Consider bringing your family for a long weekend at the beach. See you at the beach!

*SCASN would like to thank **Barbara Ramsbottom** for her service to our organization as Communications chair and newsletter editor for the last several years. Barbara has developed the SCASN newsletter into an attractive and informative publication that we can all be proud of. Please let Barbara know how much we appreciate her service.*

Mary Bebensee of Charleston County School District has agreed to serve as our new Communications Committee chair and newsletter editor. Please let Mary know if you have any journalistic leanings and would consider helping to write some short articles for the newsletter. You can contact Mary Bebensee MARY.BEBENSEE@charleston.k12.sc.us.

Joy McGaha of Spartanburg School District Five has agreed to serve as our new Nominations Committee chair. Joy is a past president of SCASN and her jewelry sales have supported the work of SCASN for many years. You can contact Joy at mcgahajh@spart5.k12.sc.us.

Is this your year to pursue National Certification?



If you have thought about pursuing National Certification in School Nursing, now is the time to start studying for the next exam cycle.

You can start by visiting the NCSN website at www.nbcsn.com. Check the requirements for certification. On that site you will also see that the deadline for applications for the 7/25/2009 - 8/8/2009 test cycle is May 31, 2009.

Your next step is to contact currently certified school nurses in your area to get study tips. Many certified nurses studied as a group – it's more fun and a great motivator. You can find out who is certified in your region on the NCSN site or by contacting SCASN at scasn@scasn.org.

You can now order Barbara Selekmán's excellent [School Nursing Certification Review](#) at the NASN bookstore. You will want to gather other study resources like NASN position papers and NCSN practice questions but this small review book will keep you busy for the next few months.



State Director— Cindy Poole

It's beginning to look a lot like spring and we all know how excited school nurses get to hear these two words...Spring Break! It's just right around the corner and before you know it another school year will be complete and it will be time for everyone's favorite time of year...summer break!

In early February, I traveled to Washington, DC to represent SCASN and to attend my first NASN Board meeting. I also participated in Leadership/Advocacy training. My time in DC ended with a day spent on Capitol Hill where I had the opportunity to meet with several SC legislators to discuss NASN's legislative priorities for 2009. The entire experience was extremely educational and left me with a greater awareness and respect for the strength of our national organization and its leadership.

Thank you again for this opportunity to serve as South Carolina's Director.

A discussion held during one of our sessions on strategic planning centered on the question, "Who does NASN serve?" A fairly simple question, however there were many different thoughts and ideas on the matter and the answers included school nurses, children/students, families and the education community. After much discussion the group consensus was that NASN's primary customer is the school nurse. I believe the organization's mission statement puts it all in perspective by stating that the mission of NASN is to support the health and educational success of children and youth by developing and providing leadership to advance school nursing practice.

As I listened to the representatives from state school nurse organizations across our nation share ideas and challenges, one thing was abundantly clear – the economic crisis is significantly impacting the education systems of basically every state and also impacting school nurse funding. Now more than ever it is imperative that school nurses be able to verbalize to their administrators and or legislators the numerous ways that they make a difference in their student's lives and to articulate why the nurse is an essential member of the education team. Be prepared to educate anyone that asks about what your role is – prevention of illness, injury, provision of direct care and treatment of chronic conditions, regular care for students with special needs. Etc... Talk about the importance of your role in screening students for potential health conditions and about the steps that you take to assure student and adult safety in the school setting.

The director for Pennsylvania made a statement in DC that really stuck with me. She said that every child deserves a school nurse and on that we can all agree. But she took it one step further by saying that every teacher deserves a school nurse so that they can focus on teaching; every administrator deserves a school nurse so that they can focus on and take care of their multiple duties and responsibilities in overseeing a student population; and also that secretaries and support personnel deserve a school nurse so that they are not asked (forced) to perform tasks that they are not prepared for and face potential legal action.

By now you should have received your ballots for the election of NASN officers for 2009. I urge you to read and review carefully the candidates' biographical & professional experience information and to make an informed choice. Ballots are to be postmarked by April 15th, 2009. Please make every effort to VOTE...every vote counts!!

Since 1972, *National School Nurse Day* has been set aside to recognize school nurses. *National School Nurse Day* was established to foster a better understanding of the role of school nurses in the educational setting. *National School Nurse Day* is celebrated on the Wednesday within National Nurse Week. National Nurse Week is May 6th through May 12th. We will celebrate our profession on May 6, 2009. Take a moment to reflect on all you do and know that we appreciate all your efforts! More information visit www.nasn.org

**South Carolina Association
of School Nurses**

SCASN Newsletter Spring 2009
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Visit our new,
updated website
at www.scasn.org



SCASN is proud to be a nonprofit organization dedicated to the health of South Carolina students. Previously, the scasn.org site belonged to another nonprofit. Just recently the site became available and we have changed over to .org. Come visit our site today. Send any site feedback to scasn@scasn.org.



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**SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOL NURSES**

OUR MISSION

The Mission of South Carolina Association of School Nurses is to promote the delivery of quality health programs to the school population and school community by strengthening the growth of professional school health nurses and advancing the practice of school nursing.



OUR GOALS