

# SCASN NEWSLETTER



**South Carolina Association of School Nurses  
Summer 2008**

## **Message from the President- A New Year**

Sharon Lothridge, SCASN President

It is such a privilege to once again bring you greetings as the President of SCASN! You are probably experiencing some of the same mixed feelings that I have, sad that summer break is ending but excited about another school year. With the new school year come many opportunities to do great things in the field of school nursing. One thing that I would like for you to consider (if you have not done so) is taking ownership of your professional organization, SCASN, by volunteering to be a committee member. The committees are a vital component of our organization but require only a small amount of time.

Our standing committees are as follows: Communications, Continuing Education, Finance, Legislation/Professional Standards, Nominations, Ways and Means, and Bylaws. I will need to appoint other committees as new business is conducted and would love to include many of you in these appointments. One of our goals in SCASN is to mentor new leadership for our organization but this cannot happen without member ownership and involvement.

Several SCASN members were present for the NASN Annual Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico this summer and presented Cathy Young-Jones with a token of our appreciation for the support and leadership she gives to all South Carolina school nurses as she was recognized as the National State School Nurse Consultant of the Year. Once again, CONGRATULATIONS Cathy!

As your president, I look forward to working for and with you. Remember to get your applications for the *School Health Services Award* in soon so that those that support you in your mission to provide quality nursing care for the students in South Carolina's schools do not go unnoticed! The information regarding this award can be found on our webs site.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank one of our members that has always gone above and beyond the call of duty! She is Joy Magaha of Spartanburg. From the beginning of SCASN, she has provided a major avenue to finance our commitments and efforts by providing beautiful jewelry for sale at SCASN and NASN conferences. What

most members do not know is that she often donates her own share of the profits and merchandise to support SCASN. THANK-YOU Joy.

My email address is [slothrid@greenville.k12.sc.us](mailto:slothrid@greenville.k12.sc.us) . Please let me hear any concerns or suggestions for your organization. Hope you have a great new year.

## **SCASN Officers 2008**

President, Sharon Lothridge

[slothrid@greenville.k12.sc.us](mailto:slothrid@greenville.k12.sc.us)

President-elect, Cathy Storey [cstorey@greenville.k12.sc.us](mailto:cstorey@greenville.k12.sc.us)

Secretary, Teresa Hayden [thayden@aiken.k12.sc.us](mailto:thayden@aiken.k12.sc.us)

Treasurer, Marsha Moorhead

[mmoorhead@oconee.k12.sc.us](mailto:mmoorhead@oconee.k12.sc.us)

State Director, Cindy Poole

[Cindy.poole@healthylearners.com](mailto:Cindy.poole@healthylearners.com)

### **Calendar**

***September 1, 2008***

*Deadline for Mary Ellen Hatfield Scholarship applications*

***October 9, 2008***

*School Nurse of the Year nominations due*

***November 20-21, 2008***

*28<sup>th</sup> Annual School Nurse Conference, North Charleston, SC*

***May 6, 2009***

*National School Nurses Day*

# **WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL - 2008-2009**

## **SCASA Leadership Institute**

SC Association of School Administrators (SCASA) held its' Annual Leadership Institute at Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach, SC in June. As part of the SCASN strategic plan to have a presence at the Summer Leadership Institute to educate administrators about the role of the school nurse and the value of SCASN membership, Kim McPherson and Cindy Poole attended the conference. Kim, recently appointed Chairperson of the Legislative and Professional Standards Committee and Cindy Poole, State Director, represented SCASN and manned the exhibit booth where information about school nursing practice and our professional organization was shared with a large number of school administrators. It was a beneficial and overwhelmingly positive experience. Most of the conversations with school administrators centered on how "wonderful" their school nurse was and how they couldn't do without her. Kim and Cindy encouraged each administrator to tell their school nurse frequently how valuable she is to their school and to support their nurses' effort to maintain her own professional growth and development through continuing education and by joining SCASN and NASN. Cindy is very excited about the opportunity to serve SCASN as State Director for the next four years and is looking forward to being involved with the National Board of Directors for NASN and to taking an active role in the advancement of the practice of school nursing. Please contact her at [crpoole@sc.rr.com](mailto:crpoole@sc.rr.com) with your ideas, suggestions or questions.

## **EASTERN SOUTH CAROLINA 2008 "WALK FROM OBESITY"**

Advanced Surgical Associates, The American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) Foundation and the Obesity Action Coalition (OAC) are set to host the Eastern South Carolina "Walk from Obesity" in Myrtle Beach at Grand Park, across from The Market Common, on Saturday, September 27th. Registration will begin at 9 AM and the event will kick off at 11:00 AM. A group warm up program will be provided by exercise instructors from Conway Medical Center's Wellness and Fitness Center. This is the first time the event has been held in eastern South Carolina.

The Obesity Action Coalition and ASMBS Foundation's "Walk from Obesity" was established to raise awareness of the obesity epidemic and to support initiatives focusing on prevention, education, research, treatment and advocacy. Funds raised through this event will support the ASMBS Foundation and the OAC in their efforts to increase research funding for obesity, improve awareness of the negative stigma associated with obesity and provide educational resources for all those affected by this disease.

The cost to participate in the Walk and show your support for all those affected by obesity and morbid obesity is \$25. To register for the 2008 "Walk from Obesity," please visit [www.walkfromobesity.com](http://www.walkfromobesity.com) and click on join a walk/Eastern South Carolina or contact Marcia Hansen, Bariatric Coordinator at Advanced Surgical Associates at 347-3900 or Julie Rajotte at 843-347-8070.

The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual School Nurse Conference will be held on November 20-21, 2008. NOW is the time to access the nomination packets for your school district's nominees for this year's awards:

SC SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES AWARD

SC SCHOOL NURSE (LPN) OF THE YEAR AWARD

SC SCHOOL NURSE (RN) OF THE YEAR AWARD

The awards are presented annually by the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control and the SC Department of Education to publicly recognize and honor those individuals who have made a positive impact in their school setting. Please visit the following website to download the documents:

<http://www.scdhec.gov/health/mch/wcs/school/noyaward.htm>.

NOMINATION PACKETS are due **by October 9, 2008**. Contact Cathy Young-Jones for any questions, [youngjcm@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:youngjcm@dhec.sc.gov)

## ***BASKET MANIA***

We are very excited as we begin planning for another day of "Basket Mania" fun at the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual School Nurse Conference, November 20-21.

Basket Mania is a fund-raising event for the Mary Ellen Hatfield School of Nursing Scholarship Fund. It is held each year in conjunction with the Annual School Nurse Conference. Last year, we had over 50 awesome baskets and raised over \$3,000 for the scholarship fund. We anticipate another great year!

To ensure the success of this fundraiser, we ask that each school district consider donating a basket. The baskets are to be theme related, i.e. sports, breakfast, holiday. Ideas for different basket themes can be found on the website: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/1309/474-Gift-Basket-Ideas>.

Contact Cathie Storey, fund-raising chairperson, if you have any questions about how you can support the Basket Mania Event, [CSTOREY@greenville.k12.sc.us](mailto:CSTOREY@greenville.k12.sc.us) or (864) 355-3171.

Thanks for the many ways that you support school nursing!

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SCASN would like to thank the sponsors and participants at the Eighth Annual South Carolina Association of School Nurse Conference in Myrtle Beach. This year a preconference program, H.A.N.D.S. provided an extensive review of diabetes as well as a multitude of resources to improve the standard of care for students with diabetes in the school setting. The agenda of the summer conference- Advancing School Nurse Practice incorporated speakers from various settings to update the school nurses' knowledge base. It was a wonderful two day event with lots of information, networking opportunities and good food. If you missed this year's conference, plan ahead for the summer of 2009. The conference is well worth your time (and money)!

# Mary Ellen Hatfield School Nursing Scholarship

We are excited to be able to offer two \$500 scholarships for nurses practicing in a school setting while pursuing higher educational degrees. One award will be given to a licensed practical nurse and the other to a registered nurse.

The deadline for scholarship applications is September 1, 2008. To find out more about the Mary Ellen Hatfield School Nursing Scholarship and to download an application, please visit the following website:

<http://www.scdhec.gov/health/mch/wcs/school/mehaward.htm>

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact Cathy Young-Jones - [youngjcm@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:youngjcm@dhec.sc.gov).

## **South Carolina Association of School Nurses**

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