



SCASN Newsletter

South Carolina Association of
School Nurses

SCASN NEWSLETTER
Fall 2008

Letter from the President

It was good to see many of you at the School Nurse Conference in Charleston. It was an excellent conference and we all left newly inspired to continue on by the last speaker, Linda Wolfe, former president of NASN. Her message of "Remind Me Why I Took This Job" really hit home with me as I am sure it did with many of you. Try to remember all of the faces of students you have assisted through the years and the message is clear, they need a caring school nurse!

Near the end of the conference, Cathy Young-Jones told us that due to budget issues, the conference for 2009 would have to change. We were asked to complete a short survey of how we wished the conference to be held. One of the choices was to work with the SCASN summer conference. This option would enlarge our attendance but would also add a lot of responsibility and work for our organization. We have always tried to keep participant cost to a minimal fee and will try to continue to do so, especially in this tight budget year.

We need many willing workers to fill committee positions and chairs. If we are going to build a strong organization, we need for all members to be "active members". This is your organization and it will be as good as you make it.

I hope that all of you have a great holiday season and return to work refreshed for the new year.

Sharon Lothridge, RN



HAPPY HOLIDAYS !



CALENDAR

May 6, 2009 School Nurse day

June 25-29, 2009 NASN National Conference, Boston, Massachusetts

June 2009 SCASN Summer Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC

SCASN Officers

President,

Sharon Lothridge, RN

President-Elect,

Cathy Storey

Secretary,

Teresa Hayden, RN

Treasurer,

Marcia Moorhead, RN,
BS, Med

State Director,

Cindy Poole

Intermediate Past President,

Jessica Porter, RN,
NASN

STATE DIRECTOR

As I write my “first” State Director’s Report for our SCASN newsletter, I am eagerly anticipating traveling to Washington, DC in late January to attend my first NASN Board Meeting and to be sworn in as State Director. I will be in DC from January 31st 2009 through February 4th for orientation, legislative visits to Capitol Hill and the Board meeting. The schedule and agenda for those days is absolutely packed and I know that I have much to learn about how the board operates and does business. I have begun receiving “multiple” emails from NASN and have been assigned to the “Advocacy Task Force” so as the old saying goes I am truly “hitting the ground running.”

In the history of our state organization, we have had 3 very strong local leaders to fill this position before me and all three have made South Carolina’s mark on the NASN board by their commitment, dedication and exceptional work ethic. I am humbled to follow in Dee Dee Chewning, Sharon Lothridge and Carolyn Duff’s footsteps as SC’s State Director and will do my very best to represent our state and each of one of you in the excellent manner of my predecessors. Thank you for giving me this wonderful opportunity!

Cindy Poole

SCASN State Director

Your partners at SC DHEC are making available free resources to assist school nurses and teachers with getting the word out about ways to prevent the spread of colds and the flu.

*The web page below has many great resources in English and Spanish
<http://www.scdhec.gov/flu/resources.htm>*

National Board Certification-Where? When? How much?

The deadline for registration for the next exam is May 31st, 2009. The testing window for that exam will be July 25, 2009 – August 8, 2009. After registering, you will receive notification of eligibility and will be given a code number to schedule your exam location and date. You can choose from different testing centers in the state and different dates. You can also download an electronic copy of the requirements, fees, and content from <http://www.nbcsn.com/examdefault.htm>.

One of the hot topics of discussion about certification is the expense. You may want to consider making a proposal to your School District Leadership about reimbursing the cost of the exam upon successful completion. A very important comparison is the manner in which the teachers in your district are rewarded for National Board Certification. In Lexington School District One, we made a formal budget request to our Senior Leadership Team for reimbursement of certification fees. We hoped that the request would at least educate Senior Leadership about school nurse certification, even if the request was turned down. We were very pleasantly surprised when the Senior Leadership Team approved reimbursement for exam fees after candidates received an official notification of passing. The district also recognized the nationally certified nurses at the school board meeting and in the local newspaper. It never hurts to ask.

Katrina Haynes RN BSN NCSN

SC Healthy Connections Kids is a health insurance program for uninsured children. Your children would be in a health plan and they would have their own doctor. The doctor would get to know them and their health care needs. This program is not the traditional Medicaid coverage, it is for those who are slightly above the qualifying level of the traditional Medicaid program and have no private health/dental insurance (Please read the eligibility info on the website).

http://www.scchoices.com/SCSelfService/en_US/kidsApply.html



Legislative Highlights – by Kim McPherson, Legislative Chair

The upcoming legislative session will be an interesting one to follow. Everyday we are hearing the dismal reports of the economy and state budget cuts. The first question that comes to my mind, and I am sure to many of yours, is: “What impact will this have on funding for school nurses and in turn on the services that we provide for our students?” The short answer is that while we could speculate, no one knows what next year’s budget will bring. Schools are still trying to sort through what all of the cuts mean for our current school year. I encourage you to follow the activities of the General Assembly this year as they prepare and adopt a state budget for 2008-09 fiscal year. The web site www.scstatehouse.net is the best place to start. On this site you can follow the progress of the budget and other bills that have been introduced. You can even contact your representative from this site to voice your concerns or opinion. Do not just depend on the evening news or the “work room” discussions for information.

A couple of bills of interest to school nurses expected to be introduced this year include:

Community Oral Health Coordinator Bill – Calls for funding to provide a Community Oral Health Coordinator in *targeted* counties of need to assist schools with dental health education, screening and follow up of children in grades K, 3, 7, 10, and or upon entry into SC schools in the *targeted* counties of need – contingent upon funding.

HIV Reporting Bill – Recommendation to remove the notification statement in the current law that requires notification of school superintendents and the school nurse of students that test HIV positive in SC.

Watch your emails for information from SCASN once the proposed bills are introduced and assigned numbers so that you may monitor their progress.

Inspiring the Inspirational

New Collection of Short Stories and Quotations by Nurses for Nurses

TAMPA, Fla. – In her new compilation of short stories by professional nurses around the United States, ***Inspiring the Inspirational: Words of Hope from Nurses to Nurses*** ([published by AuthorHouse](#)), Sue Heacock shares the hopes and joys of nursing in her collected stories, including the humorous adventures from school nurses to the poignant tales from the emergency room and intensive care.

Inspiring the Inspirational is a heartwarming compilation of funny and inspirational stories full of advice and includes captivating quotes to accompany each touching memory.

One of the more delightful stories in ***Inspiring the Inspirational*** comes from JT Hayes in Palm Springs, Calif., titled “Suddenly Stricken”:

I am not your typical school nurse. I am male, six feet-two inches tall, and weigh 200 pounds. Frequently parents, school visitors, and new teachers mistake me for a campus security officer or an administrator. One day several years ago, I looked up to see a small girl walking down the hall toward the health office. What was unusual was that she had her head tipped back, eyes closed; and was erratically waving both extended arms in front of her. She was accompanied by two other girls from her class.

What was the reason for the second grader’s visit to the health office? She had been suddenly stricken blind when the teacher handed out an arithmetic test. Her two companions were all atwitter in their concern, right up until the “blind” girl’s eyes popped wide open and she blurted out, “You can’t be the nurse, you’re a BOY!”

Inspiring the Inspirational reminds us that nurses are caring, selfless people who give much of themselves every day for the benefit of others, and it’s about time they were given some inspiration as well. Heacock hopes that by sharing these stories, she will lead and inspire other nurses in their noble endeavor.

Sue Heacock was a military police officer in the U.S. Army and worked in human resources and equal employment opportunity before becoming a nurse. Heacock has over 12 years of nursing experience, including work in research, pediatrics and occupational health. A certified occupational health nurse specialist, she currently resides in Florida and is a mother to a 15-year-old daughter and a 19-year-old son in the Marines.

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Visit us online
at
www.scasn.com

CONGRATULATIONS

SCASN School Health Services Award winner-

Nathan White, Principal, Olympia Learning Center

School Nurse (RN) of the Year Award winner-

Jessica Porter, RN, BSN, NCSN

Lexington County School District I

School Nurse (LPN) of the Year winner-

Jackie Dickert, LPN

Greenville County School District

