



The Pulse of ASNC

From the Desk of Chlo-Anne Bobrowski President 2017-2019

In This Edition



Dear Colleagues,

What a magnificent year it has been for ASNC. I would like to take this time to thank our members and say how grateful I am for your participation and support of your professional organization and extend a hearty welcome to all of our new members of ASNC. It is ASNC's mission 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. We work hard to make you successful in your practice!

Here is a recap highlighting some of the 2017-18 accomplishments and proud moments of ASNC. This year, we offered professional development opportunities during the fall and winter dinner meetings, and multiple webinars on topics focused on the specialized field of school nursing. These programs were interactive and research based that promote best practices within the context of school nursing. Special thanks to all of our presenters. Speaking of presenters...ASNC is making a strong push to hire more educators for our Nurses Educator Group. Ideally, we would like to hire a nurse leader from each COUNTY so that we have local presence and reduce traveling. The Education Committee extends an invitation to school nurse leaders who may be interested in providing professional development designed to increase skills and raise awareness about physical and mental health in our student population. If you are interested and for further information, please visit our website at www.ctschoolnurses.org or contact Sue Levasseur (Westport) who facilitates the School Nurse Educators.

This summer, more education is scheduled and designed to target our newest school nurses and those interested in the examination to become Nationally Certified. We are offering a very exciting 2 day **ASNC Summer Clinical Institute** on Wed. July 11th and Thurs. 12th at ACES in Hamden, CT. Wednesday's offerings include hands-on skill training for school nurses with 5 contact hours provided. On Thursday, The National School Nurses Certification Review Course will be offered just in time for the fall exam window which begins in August. This course is back by popular demand and was highly praised by those who attended last year. You do not need to sign up for both days. Space is limited and breakfast and lunch will be served. We hope to see you there! Please visit our website at www.ctschoolnurse.org for registration information.

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The ASNC Government Relations Committee, chaired by Donna Kosiorowski (West Haven), had a very strong presence during the 2018 General Assembly Session. ASNC kicked the session off by actively participating and partnering with the CT Nurses Association (CNA) in their 2nd annual ***Nurses at the Capital*** event starting with a Legislative breakfast that segwayed into a strong presence in the Legislative Building Concourse. We look forward to making this an annual event. ASNC is greatly appreciative of the Lobbying Services provided by Brendan Finley of Graff Public Solutions who met regularly with Donna Kosiorowski, Sue Levasseur, Joan Cogeniello, Kathy Neelon and myself to strategize our responses to proposed bills that were of priority to ASNC and assisted with necessary action steps and lobbying strategies. ASNC encourages all members to identify their Governmental representatives and offer expert opinion on matters of professional and personal importance whenever possible. This year resulted in the passage of **HB 5452 “An Concerning the Recommendations of the Task force on Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Schools”** which extends the protection of the “Good Samaritan “ law to cover school bus drivers rendering certain first aid in response to a student’s allergic reaction.

I would like to thank everyone who attended our 50th Anniversary celebration at Birchwoods Restaurant in Woodbridge on May 9th School Nurse Day. Now who didn’t have a good time dancing to that wonderful

band??? I am so happy that ASNC was able to offer such a grand event. Thank you to all of the members who assisted in the planning of this event and provided items as prizes. Special thanks to Karen Mundorf from School Health who sponsored the band, champagne toast, and cake. The food was delicious, the venue was festive, and the networking was incredible. I don’t think many professional organizations end their meetings in a Congo Line either!

Congratulations and best wishes for a wonderful retirement to Carol Ott and ...

Congratulations to the deserving winners of our annual awards.

School Nurse of the Year- Joanne Sloan from the Jan Ryan School in Trumbull CT.

Peer Recognition Award- Dashana Kyttle from Madison Public schools.

School Nurse Administrator of the Year- Elizabeth Borenstein from the West-Hartford Non- Public Schools

School Nurse Advocate- Dr. Martin Sklaire.

Special thanks to Jillian Wood and Yvette Moretti of Graff-Wood Association Management Solutions. They are truly the polishers of our Association and make us shine.

In closing, I strongly encourage all members to consider attending a monthly board meeting and joining a committee. The work is committed but the personal and professional rewards are great!

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Connecticut School Nurse of the Year 2018

**Joanne Sloan
Jan Ryan School, Trumbull, CT**

Nominated by a co-worker Ileana San Pietro

Joanne has been a Trumbull school nurse for the past 22 years and an active member of ASNC since 1997. Joanne, or "Nurse Sloan" is a wonderful nurse who exudes fun and good humor while providing the highest level of nursing care. Her office is organized and her documentation thorough. She keeps her medical knowledge current by seeking online courses, webinars and nursing journals as well as attending ASNC meetings and conferences. Her communication skills are an asset,



especially with families of students with complex medical issues.

Joanne is a recognized, respected and active member of the Jan Ryan School community. Whether it's being doused with ice water for the Ice Bucket Challenge or getting hit in the face with a cream pie for the Walk-a-Thon fundraiser she volunteers for she will do just about anything for the love of her students. She also recently shaved her head for a St. Baldrick's fundraiser for childhood cancer in memory of a student.

An Original Poem by Joanne Sloan

Read aloud by Joanne after accepting her award during our 50th celebration gala on May 9th.

I feel like an actress on Oscar Night
standing alone in the spotlight.
Thanking the people who helped me get here,
especially Ileana my nominator.

I am proud to be her as School Nurse of the Year
with all of you present to give me a cheer!
My family, my Principal all my friends too
the support is tremendous from all of you!

School nursing is fun, the variety vast,
and the day goes by extremely fast!
I have been school nursing over twenty years
there has been laughter, plus a few tears.

Each morning I smile into my tea cup,
as I know what I'll be when I grow up!
Thank you for recognizing me on this special day
I really appreciate it in every way!

Enough of me just prattling on
I've said my piece, and I am done.
This celebration is A-one,
so carry on and have some fun!

Joanne Sloan RN
May 9th 2018

Peer Recognition Award: Dashana Kytte

Town Campus Learning Center, Madison

Nominated by her peer: Karen Owen

Dashana joined the Madison Public Schools as the Town Campus learning Center School Nurse in 2015.

Dashana is constantly involved with improving school nursing practice by offering suggestions, sharing important health concerns that may affect the rest of the team. She is involved in the wellness challenge in her school. She volunteers her children for the Middle Schools babysitting course which entails real life diaper changing, baby care, education on inhalers, epipen administration as well as how to use measuring cups for medications. In addition, she meets with the town Women's Club to cover these issues with them. She organizes the EMS Touch a Truck for all her preschoolers. Yearly she organizes a provides Christmas Cheer for a family of 7 in New Haven.

Dashana works every day to improve students and family health and well-being by staying engaged in all the resources that support them.

School Nurse Administrator of the Year:

Lori Flaherty Hoover

School Nurse Leader, West Hartford Non Public Schools

Nominated by staff member: Elizabeth Borenstein

Lori possesses over 7 years of supervisory and leadership experience in the towns of Granby and West Hartford. Since 2014 she has been the nurse leader for the West Hartford Non-Public Schools.

Her vision and professional leadership has made a positive impact upon her nursing staff. Lori creates a climate of mutual respect, embraces a team philosophy and continually strives to improve and standardize nursing operations based on science and best practice.

Over the past four years, Lori has undertaken many projects which have resulted in increased staff satisfaction, operational and fiscal efficiency, and improved community relations.

Lori is a strong advocate for continuing education and inspires her staff to pursue professional growth through advanced certification and post baccalaureate degrees. She frequently invites firefighters, paramedics, law enforcement and medical experts to share knowledge and

field questions at monthly nurse staff meetings. Lori has challenged each nurse to become a CPR instructor and because of her encouragement, two nurses recently earned their National School Nurse Certification.

School Nurse Advocate Award: Dr. Martin

Sklaire: Nominated by ASNC Executive Board

Dr. Martin Sklaire is a long time pediatrician who practiced in Madison, CT. One of his many accomplishments was to create the CT Academy of Pediatrics School Health Committee. Through this venue pediatricians, school medical advisors, school nurses, and state agency personnel worked together to solve issues in school health, and created a solid working relationship. He also founded the Critical Issues In School Health Conference, which many of you have attended. This year was the 40th conference, and has been instrumental in updating and educating many school medical personnel for decades. He is currently retired and living with his wife Barbara in Madison. ASNC would like to recognize Dr. Sklaire for his dedication, persistence, and his deep regard for the school nurses who care for the children of the state for over 50 years.



A Big Thank You to the Past Presidents of ASNC

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|-----------|--|
| 1982 - 86 | Lynne Gustafson |
| 1987 - 90 | Celene Bakkala (deceased) |
| 1990 - 91 | Candace Wood |
| 1991 - 93 | Edna Smith (acting) Sandy Steward (acting) |
| 1993 - 94 | Sandy Steward |
| 1994 - 95 | Faine Gauthier |
| 1995 - 97 | Jean Pappajohn |
| 1997 - 99 | Pat Krin |
| 1999 - 01 | Donna Kosioroski |
| 2001 - 03 | Pat Piatek |
| 2003 - 05 | Nancy Turner |
| 2005 - 07 | Joan Cagginello |
| 2007 - 09 | Nancy Netherwood |
| 2009 - 11 | Lisa Nowak |
| 2011 - 13 | Verna Bernard-Jones |
| 2013 - 15 | Michael Corjulo |
| 2015 - 17 | Sue Lévasseur |
| 2017 - 19 | Chlo-Anne Bobrowski |

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Two key items of legislation were passed during the 2018 session. The first is an oral health bill that requires an oral health assessment as part of the entry physical for school. Read the information carefully as it simply states that an "oral health assessment" should be done, however, if it is not students **may still enter school**. If your district provides a clinic or arranges for dental care to come into school, we only need to notify parents of the opportunity to have their child participate. Legislation is often placed in an obscure bill which is the case for the oral health piece. Check pg. 53.

The second bill is related to bus drivers and epinephrine administration for children with food allergies riding the bus. You need to be aware that "immunity for bus drivers who provide emergency care during an allergic reaction" is now in place. Sec. 3 of the Allergy Bill addresses that and goes into effect 7/1/18.

Section 4 (b)(1) and 2- The second part of the bill requires "transportation companies to train bus drivers on identification of allergic reactions and the administration of epinephrine" to a student on the bus. The training is the responsibility of the companies, **and becomes effective as of 7/1/19**. Parents may be confused, as **the immunity requirement begins 7/1/18**. Training requirement will not be completed until 7/1/19.

Donna Kosiorowski MS RN NCSN

Editor's Note: The following are the references for the above mentioned items of legislation:

Section 44 of Public Act 18-169 (*Effective July 1, 2018*) addresses the oral health bill.

The following are under the Substitute House Bill No. 5452/ Public Act No. 18-185:

Sec. 7. Section 52-557b of the general statutes (*Effective July 1, 2018*) addresses the bus drivers' immunity.

Sec. 3. Section 10-212c (*Effective July 1, 2018*) addresses the training requirement for the bus drivers.

Congratulations To Our ASNC Members Who Are Retiring (the ones we are aware of)

Submitted by: Mary Anne Porto, BS,RN,NCSN

A generous donation was made to the Channel 3 Kids Camp in honor of the retirees.

RETIREMENT OF CAROL OTT,

Health Services Coordinator, Guilford

Carol Ott has been a school nurse for 23 years, the past 21 in Guilford. Starting in two of the elementary schools, she then moved to the high school to become supervisor. Totally immersing herself into Guilford High School life, she served as math Team Coach and Yearbook Advisor for 10 years, and this year as co-advisor for the Class of 2018. She was the Health Services Coordinator for 14 years. She served on the executive board of CASH (Connecticut Association for School Health) where she was honored as Outstanding School Nurse of the Year in 1998. She also served, for several years, on the ASNC executive board as our treasurer. She was a member of the CT Concussion Task Force and was a speaker at the annual conference of the Brain Injury Alliance of CT. She is currently on the board of Guilford Youth & Family, serving the past two years as Chairperson.

Carol stated that she cannot imagine her life without all of the amazing people she has met through her years as a school nurse. She feels very blessed and will leave with a full, but heavy heart. She will be relocating to the Gulf Coast of Florida.

RETIREMENT OF DENISE GILBANE,

Fairfield Public Health Nurses/School Nurse

Denise has worked as a registered nurse for the past 42 years in many rewarding positions. She has worked in the hospital setting in oncology, NICU, pediatrics, a walk-in clinic and a family physician's office while living in North Carolina. For the past 25 years she has worked as a school nurse, the past 21 of which, she has spent at Roger Sherman Elementary School in Fairfield. She has been a member of NASN/ASNC since October, 1995, and has attended many ASNC meetings and dinners. She has also attended several Advances in School Nursing summer conferences in various locations throughout the northeast.

She was the recipient of the Award for Excellence in School Nursing for the Town of Fairfield, 1999-2000 and has been the president of the Fairfield Public Health Nurses Union for the past 12 years.

Pictures from Gala 50th Celebration













All of us at ASNC wish you a happy, healthy and relaxing Summer. See you in the Fall!