



Karen S. Elliott, ADN, RN

Nominating Committee Candidate

Current NASN Affiliate: Kentucky School Nurse Association (KSNA)

Major Clinical, Teaching, or Practice Area: School Nurse, Elementary & Secondary

Education: Southern Illinois Common Collegiate Market, Registered Nurse, ADN, 1988; Rend Lake College, Licensed Practical Nurse, LPN, 1986

Awards, Achievements, and Honors: Kentucky School Nurse of the Year, 2015

Number of Years in School Nursing: 16 years

Employment: Carlisle County Schools, District RN, 2004 - Present: I'm the only school nurse for our district of approx. 900 students, preschool- high school. I train the staff in CPR/1st Aid, emergency, and daily medications. Manage student health records to comply with regulations. Set up annual health screens for students and staff as well as health and wellness policies and grants for our district.

Other Significant Positions Held: Pediatric Hospice Nurse - In-Home, Allen Home Care, 2000 - 2014; Instructor Certified Medication Aides, Draughn's Junior College, 2002-2004; RN, Pediatric Group of Paducah, 1999 -2002

Present NASN Offices/Appointments: Strategic Goal Committee - Education and School Nurse Practice, 2019 - 2021

Past NASN Offices/Appointments: Advocacy and Membership Committee, 2019 - 2020

Present NASN Affiliate Offices/Appointments: Director for Kentucky, 2019

Past NASN Affiliate Offices/Appointments: NA

Present Offices/Appointments in Other Associations: NA

Past Offices/Appointments in Other Associations: NA

Publications Significant to School Nursing:

- National Association of School Nurses. (2021). Student access to healthcare - A right and not a privilege (Position brief). Silver Spring, MD: Author.
- National Association of School Nurses. (2020). Head lice management in schools (Position Statement). Author.

Participation in Publication Review: NA

Presentations Significant to School Nursing: NA

Research Significant to School Nursing: NA

Participation in Data Collection: NA

Statement of View: I will do my best to keep NASN Strategic Plan to assist students healthy, safe, and ready to learn. The task of increasing membership not only in NASN but my affiliate remains a challenge- add the pandemic, budget cuts, many schools are asking if membership is beneficial for their districts. It's easy to increase numbers but difficult getting and keeping qualified nurses in our organization. It's been said nurses eat their young but I feel the NASN Directors and staff have been helpful with concerns and questions I have had, even when I 'didn't know what I didn't know or how to ask it. I find I have done many different types of advocating for schools having a full-time nurse in every school that I hadn't given credit myself for all the ways I work to improve our district for ALL students. Key challenges to NASN over the next months/years include the pandemic and all the mental health side effects of required isolation/distance from our support systems. Equality and equity among nurses, students, and staff we interact with daily can be influenced by media so our positive outlook is imperative for others.

This Nominating Committee candidate completed the Nominating Committee process.