



FASNating News

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL NURSES

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FASN strives to improve the health and educational success of students and the school community by developing and providing leadership to advance school nursing practice.

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Take The Leap!

Melissa Wallace, RN, BSN
FASN Lee County Liaison

In my first five years of school nursing I never attended the FASN conference. Every year, the nurses that did attend would come back and present information at our meetings, full of excitement and energy. I would listen to them talk about the conference and I wanted to go, but I never took the leap!

Finally, in my sixth year as a school nurse, I decided to just do it...I was going to conference!! The first night there, as we all worked together filling bags and stapling packets I knew I was in the right place with "my people". So often in the school setting we are isolated from other nurses, and it was just nice to spend this time with colleagues. We chatted about how our different school districts handled situations and bounced ideas off one another.

On the first official morning of the confer-

ence I walked into a room full of nurses who understood the daily struggle that we face—the balancing act of providing a safe, healthy learning environment for our students. The information presented in the following sessions was invaluable. We got updates from the state health department, information about the newest technology available for diabetic students, and learned how to help our most fragile kids—the ones who have experienced more trauma than many of us will know in a lifetime.

I left the conference two days later filled with a renewed sense of empowerment, ready to take on any task that came my way. I was excited to go to work and I felt more prepared than I had previously been. I now understand the excitement of my fellow school nurses when they came back from the FASN conference. It was like a breath of fresh air that I will need each and every year.



"Serving School Nurses Statewide"

www.FASN.net



President's Message

Janet Jones, MSN, RN, NCSN, AHN-BC
FASN President



Greetings fellow school nurses. We have endured a very traumatic year, which has impacted our schools, our homes and our sense of safety. The events on my own doorstep in Parkland not only reverberated throughout Florida, but throughout the nation. Fast on the heels of Florida's tragedy was another school shooting in Texas, and it was with a heavy heart that I sent my condolences to the President of the Texas School Nurses Organization. As we continue to see these terrifying situations occurring, increased security and active shooter drills have become a necessary part of life. Onerous though some of these things may be, I ask that you try to remember our own safety and that of the staff and students for whom we care.

Florida was also impacted by a huge natural disaster; namely, hurricane Michael. At the time of writing, many of our schools in the Panhandle are still closed due to the damage they sustained. Neighboring districts are trying to accommodate as many as they can, but I'm sure that both staff and students are struggling to return to normalcy. One of our members, Melissa Glover, collected donated clinic supplies and other badly needed items and took them to Bay

County during the Thanksgiving Holiday. Thank you, Melissa for your generosity of heart.

I spent some time during the Thanksgiving break thinking about gratitude, and I want you all to know that I am so thankful for your work in our schools each day, caring for our students. Your offices are a safe haven; a place where students can feel welcome, no matter their

problems. I know it isn't easy, but you are an unwavering presence in the life of these children and they will remember you for a long time.

FASN Annual Conference 2019 is right around the corner and our Education Committee has been working hard all summer to be able to bring you the best conference ever. We heard your voices, and for this coming conference, you will be able to register for individual days if you are unable to be with us for both. I

attended my first FASN conference

in 2004. I traveled alone from Ft. Lauderdale arriving in time for the first event, which I believe was the reception. I did not know a soul and was a little nervous. I needn't have worried; I was soon welcomed in to the midst of a wonderful group of people - all of you - Florida's school nurses. I have been part of this amazing organization ever since. I really hope you will be able to join us on February 8th - 9th, 2019, and meet up with old friends and make new ones. I look forward to seeing you all in Orlando.



Janet



Promote FASN—Like Us on Social Media



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Join Us And Make Your Voice Heard!

Kathy J. Browning, BSN, RN, NCSN

The FASN annual conference offers a variety of experiences for school nurses and school nurse leaders! Gaining professional development and continuing education during sessions, networking, and talking with vendors are valuable for all. In addition, the conference provides opportunities for attendees to learn more about the FASN organization, its structure, and its leaders!

The annual luncheon / business meeting (included with conference registration) is held for several purposes in addition to sharing a meal with other school nurses/leaders from your region! Plan to sit with your region (you are sure to meet someone new!), and "shout out" your total number of regional participants when the roll is called. Let's fill the room to capacity!



During this luncheon, FASN leadership is introduced, officers are installed, and business that requires membership participation/vote is presented. Every member's vote counts!

Do you have an interest in meeting and speaking with FASN leaders? You are invited to "drop in" from 7 - 8 AM (YES, it's that early!) on Saturday morning during the conference continental breakfast for casual interaction with the FASN affiliate director, president, president-elect, and other office-leaders. Would you like to hear more about how you could contribute to this organization?

Have you been attending conference and wondered how to become more involved? Talk to any of the current officers or committee members throughout the conference, and JOIN US for this breakfast conversation! We would love to meet you!



If you are interested in representing your county or region, are interested in sitting on a committee or have questions, [please complete this survey.](#)

Vision Vouchers



Have you applied for VSP vision vouchers to help needy families? It's a member benefit! Go to www.nasn.org and click under the Member Center tab or click the link above to apply.

They're free!

VSP Vision Vouchers news flash! They've lifted the limit on the number of vouchers you can get. And each voucher is good for a full year.

What Could Beat February in Orlando...at a mall???

What are YOU doing in February??? Believe it or not, a visit to Orlando is just what is needed to blast away those mid-winter blahs!!! No—not the parks!!!

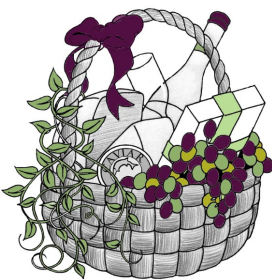
Come join your school nurse colleagues for **two days** of learning, **fun**, fellowship, **fun**, networking, **fun**, sharing, **fun**, skill-building, **fun**, equipment demonstrations, **fun**, accolades, **fun**, food, **fun**, shopping, **fun**, prizes, **fun**, and rejuvenation for the final three months of school!



The **23rd FASN Annual Conference** is again being held at the Florida Hotel and Conference Center at the Florida Mall in Orlando! This conference has it all and is **specifically designed by school nurses for school nurses!!!** Join us **February 7, 8, 2019** for two days of learning and sharing. If you can only squeeze in one day, **single day rates** are now available. Where else can you enjoy the camaraderie of your school nurse colleagues, earn 12 CE credits for license renewal, AND leave with a refreshed outlook? See YOU in Orlando in February! Make [Conference registrations here](#) and [Hotel reservations here!!](#) Find more details at FASN.net.

And Remember To Bring Your \$\$\$\$

FASN members have a lot of fun at our conference and most don't go home empty-handed. Every dollar we raise in our Basket Raffle and Purses for Tropical Nurses goes towards payment of conference registration fees for school nurses who receive scholarships. Our 50/50 raffle proceeds support research in school health.



Awesome Baskets Available!!!! A great way to let everyone know more about your county is by putting a basket together to showcase your county! Some baskets have county themes, movie themes, summer themes, exercise themes, relaxation themes, and many more! Everyone will find something they like, I'm sure of it! All you have to do to win, is buy raffle tickets, put it by the basket you'd like to win....and VOILA! If your number is picked....YOU WIN!!!! I can't wait to see you there!

50/50 Raffle: Each day, throughout the conference we will be selling tickets. If you buy tickets, you will have a chance to win half the money that is raised each day! The other half of the proceeds goes to FASN to support school nursing research. So, bring some cash, have some fun and you just might be a winner!! The tickets are one dollar each or 6 tickets for five dollars.



We are excited to once again, offer our fabulous 'Purses for Nurses', at our 2019 conference. Donations of new purses are received from FASN board members, County Liaisons and Regional Representatives and are then entered into a silent auction. This is going to be our best year yet, as I heard there are some really cute purses in the pipeline. The funds generated from Purses for Nurses enable us to offer conference scholarships each year, so I hope you'll take a look and bid on a purse.



FASN Director's Message

Lisa Kern, RN, MSN, NCSN
FASN Director

On behalf of FASN and the National Association of School Nurses (NASN), I'd like to extend best wishes for a safe and blessed holiday break. Many counties across our state are still struggling with recovery from Hurricane Michael and the road back for some will be long. Your support for students experiencing trauma and those in need of mental and physical health care is invaluable to your school communities. Thanks for your expertise, passion and dedicated service in support of student health.

As I begin my fourth and last year representing Florida on the board of the NASN, my commitment to professional school nursing is stronger than ever. As one of four Directors serving on the NASN Executive Committee and now chair of the Advocacy and Membership Strategic Committee, it is exciting to work with directors, NASN staff and officers each month to support NASN's strategic plan and advocate for the critical work of school nurses.

In July, the NASN board of directors approved a Gun Violence -Position Brief describing gun violence as a "public health crisis" that is "devastating to communities across the nation". Please consider joining other health professionals across the nation who are supporting a petition asking Congress to consider measures that would prevent gun violence and promote a safe and supportive health environment for all children. The NASN also released a position brief related to the reunification of refugee or immigrant children separated from their families and worked with Futures Without Violence to develop an infographic for school nurses to help students heal from trauma.

If we are to make a difference in the lives of our

students, school nurses must begin to have courageous conversations with school boards, district leaders, and local legislators, armed with county (or school) specific data. We know that one in four students in the U.S. may have a chronic health condition. Students with chronic health conditions deserve access to a registered professional school nurse all day, every day to ensure health and safety.

The NASN board of directors representing states from across the nation will meet again in February in our nation's capital to review and approve revised position statements, celebrate successes, and identify strategic opportunities for growth. During the NASN board of directors annual 'trip to the hill', I'll have an opportunity to discuss the legislative priorities of NASN and Florida school nurses with our state legislators.

FASN believes that YOU are uniquely positioned to help your school community identify and develop creative ideas, supports and partnerships committed to improving student health and access to care. Together, we must make sure that stakeholders understand what school nurses do and how they can make a significant and sustainable contribution to students' academic success, and lifelong health.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the 23rd Annual FASN Conference in February where we will provide support for School Nurses: Cultivating Healthy Bodies and Healthy Minds! Follow me on Twitter @lkern12!





End Notes



Join the FASN Website!

If you haven't joined the FASN Website already, please take a few moments and join as a follower. By joining you will receive announcements, event invites, group communications and access to the members' only areas.

The steps are easy:

- Go to the FASN website: FASN.net
- Click the "sign up" icon at the upper right hand corner of the screen
- Enter the *required ID information
- Create a password
- Click create your account

You are now ready to start receiving e-mail updates and stay connected with FASN!

REFER
a
FRIEND!

And Watch Us Grow!

Refer a friend for FASN membership.

It's an easy way to earn \$10 in e-commerce credit.

You can use your Refer a Friend credit to help decrease your own membership fee!



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