



FASNating News

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL NURSES

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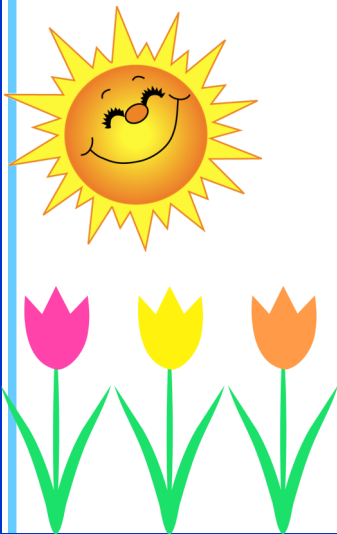
Spring 2019

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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Success!

Kathy J Browning, BSN, RN, NCSN
FASN President Elect

The flurry of activity that occurs at the annual FASN conference compels school nurses to engage in networking, continuing education, and leadership opportunities! The 2019 FASN conference was no exception. After months of spectacular planning by the Education Committee et al and Board of Directors, over 100 school nurses from across the state of Florida gathered in Orlando to renew friendships, discuss the urgency of advocacy for students as well as school nurses, and pursue common interests in our autonomous profession. Twelve hours of continuing education provided pertinent topics for application as “best practice” in our field. We were delighted to honor the FASN School Nurse of the Year, Mary Davis, Pasco

County!

FASN gained new members and new leaders (THANK YOU!), and we shared a luncheon while hearing the business reports of the organization and an update from our NASN Director, Lisa Kern. All eight regions of the state were represented at the conference, and a regional meeting in Region 7 followed conference by just a few weeks!

Will you consider the voices you heard and let the FASN conference be your beginning point for a deeper commitment to the daily work you are doing and the collective work we can do as an organization? Congratulations to all for a very successful 2019 FASN Conference!





President's Message

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



School Nurses matter! Since 1972, National School Nurse Day has been set aside to recognize school nurses and to create a deeper understanding of the work that we do. This year we will celebrate National School Nurse Day on Wednesday May 8th. Get busy with the 'Post-it Notes' and leave little reminders everywhere! You deserve to be recognized!

We had an excellent 23rd Annual Conference. A huge thank you goes to our Education Committee led by Janie Sailors and Marcy Burnes. Thank you also, to all of our board and committee members who worked behind the scenes to make the conference a rousing success. Planning is already underway for our 2020 conference. The Education Committee is busy reviewing your comments and surveys but it's not too late to make your voice heard. If you want particular topics, or have other requests for next year's conference you can contact me via the link on FASN.net, and I will pass it on.

Two new board members were installed during the Annual General Meeting. Wildaliz (Wally) Colon is now Recording Secretary, and Mellissa Wallace is the new Membership Secretary. Congratulations to them both, I'm excited to welcome them to the BOD. We are not saying goodbye to our retiring board members, Nancy Carrera and Karen Bodwell. I'm happy to report that they will still be playing an active role in the organization. Nancy is Regional Representative for Region 4 and Karen continues as Communications Chair.

We are also very fortunate to have appointed a brand-new Research Chair, Katherine Burdge, RN, BSN, CSN. Katherine worked on the 'Step Up and Be Counted' initiative for NASN when she was a school nurse in New Jersey. We wish her a warm welcome to FASN.

Last year three Florida school nurses passed the National Board for Certification of School Nurses (NBCSN) examination. They are Karen McClintock, Palm Beach County, Tania Chouljian, Orange County and Kerry Biondoletti, Monroe County. The NCSN credential reflects a high level of competence and professionalism. Many congratulations to our new NCSNs!

FASN continues to offer scholarships to our own conference and, last year, we were also able to provide two partial scholarships to the NASN Annual Conference. Numbers of scholarships are directly related to our operating budget, which is dependent on membership. Retention and recruitment of members is extremely important for growth and scholarship sustainability.

Most of us practice in a variety of different settings, and more often than not, in isolation. FASN and NASN provide us with resources to assist in making clinical practice decisions and the opportunity to connect electronically with other school nurses nationwide. Check out our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter to hear all the latest news. My very best wishes to you all, as spring turns into summer and we look ahead to our rapidly approaching end of year.

National School Nurse Day May 8, 2019

*2019 Theme: School Nurses: Advocates for
21st Century Student Health*



Promote FASN—Like Us on Social Media

You Make a Difference Thank You for all you do!

*Janie Sailors and Marcy Burnes
Education Committee Co-Chairs*



And the Entire Education Committee Members!

Conference Day 1



Conference Day 2





PREMIER VENDORS

School Health



Sivic Solutions Group



Dairy Council of Florida



Thank You!

School Nurses: You Are Key to Disrupting the Cycle of Human Trafficking on School Campuses

Summary by Mary P. Davis, BSN, RN, NCSN

The presenter, Michelle Gaines, works for the Florida Department of Education. She is the Director of Title IV-Part A, Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) and is also the Health Education Coordinator. Funding from SSAE enabled Pasco County to hire three additional school nurses this school year. Ms. Gaines is a member of the Florida interagency anti-trafficking workgroup and serves on the Statewide Human Trafficking Council as the Commissioner's designee.

Human trafficking is a crime involving the exploitation of a person through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. Force may include physical abuse, sexual abuse or imprisonment. Fraud may include the false promise of better work or living conditions. Coercion may include threats of harm to the individual or their friends or family. It may include psychological manipulation, such as threatening to disclose compromising photos. Documents may be confiscated and labor demanded to pay off debts.

Human trafficking is the modern equivalent of slavery. People may be trafficked for organ removal, labor or sexual exploitation. Labor trafficking may include domestic work, small businesses, large farms, factories or hotels. Sex trafficking may include escort services, fake massage businesses, strip clubs or street prostitution. Sex trafficking is more lucrative than drug trafficking because victims may be sold repeatedly for years.

Human trafficking affects communities throughout the world. Florida is third in the nation for states with the highest reported cases of human trafficking. Texas and California are first and second. Atlanta is the number one city in the U.S. for re-

ported cases of human trafficking. Those trafficked may include any age, gender, ethnicity or socio-economic background. In the U.S., the average age of trafficked youth is eleven to thirteen years old and eighty-three percent of those trafficked are U.S. citizens.

Traffickers prey on people who are emotionally or financially vulnerable, promising them a better life, one with the financial or emotional security for which they long. LGBTQ boys and young men are especially vulnerable to trafficking. Traffickers may spend years grooming a victim by building a false romantic relationship on-line. Victims usually do not seek help due to fear, shame, a language barrier or ignorance of the law. Victims who have been compelled to engage in illegal activities, including prostitution or the selling of drugs, are usually arrested, rather than being seen as victims. Some victims have been so manipulated that they do not even identify themselves as trafficking victims.

It is important to recognize the signs of human trafficking in our schools and in our communities. Victims of sex trafficking may be tattooed with the mark of their handler to indicate that they are his property. The tattoo may even be a bar code. Victims are often accompanied by someone who does not leave them alone or let them speak for themselves. Students may stop attending school, show a drastic change in behavior or have clothing, jewelry or other items that they are not able to afford. Suspicious activity should be reported to the Florida Abuse Hotline at 1-800-96Abuse or to the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888. It is better to risk making a mistake than to risk losing a life to human trafficking.



Michelle Gaines

Florida Department of Education

Congratulations!

Mary Davis, BSN, RN, NCSN *FASN School Nurse of the Year!*

The Florida Association of School Nurses is extremely pleased to submit **Mary Davis**, FASN's 2019 School Nurse of the Year for the Excellence in School Nursing award. Mrs. Davis has provided school health services to students for over 25 years and is currently assigned to a busy high school and a secondary alternative education center on the west side of Pasco County, Florida.

Mary provides a level of service that is above and beyond the normal job expectations for a school nurse. She is caring, tenacious, dependable, has an amazing work ethic and is genuinely devoted to children, staff and school health. Mary also demonstrates her dedication to her profession as a Nationally Certified School Nurse since 2001, and a long standing member of FASN and NASN.

Mrs. Davis cares about the community and wants to make a difference every day. She mentors other school nurses and challenges them to think outside the box and grow professionally. One of her principals said it best, "She emphasizes the importance of accuracy and precision as we work with children in the schools. When she teaches and trains school personnel, she truly desires for them to understand the "why" behind what she is teaching them. You could say that she cares about others, and cares about others caring like she does!"

Here's one more personal accomplishment of Mary's – she is the proud author of three children's books. The author bio reads "Mary Perrone Davis is a registered nurse who never planned to be an author. She was spending some quiet time outside on a women's retreat when a butterfly landed nearby and her first book, Mary's Butterfly Garden, was born." These good works are just another example of Mary's caring attitude!





FASN Director's Message

Lisa Kern, RN, MSN, NCSN
FASN Director

Lisa Kern 

GI Issues: Information and Management in the School Setting

Summary by Natalie Porzio, RNSchool Nurse Lee County

In a presentation titled "GI Issues: Information and Management in the School Setting", Angie Frink, MSN, APRN-BC, provided a wealth of information that will be very helpful in caring for students with GI issues in the school setting. She presented several case studies to provide real life scenarios. I was able to apply this information in my nursing practice by changing how I assess students who may be having stool incontinence, chronic stomach aches or vomiting at school.

I now know that many times, students may have functional constipation. They may have diarrhea due to stool blockages, not having complete bowel movements, or having infrequent bowel movements. This occurs in the absence of any biological or anatomical explanation. When we know that this is causing a stomach ache or accidents, the nurse can help to set up a bathroom schedule with the teacher and parent. We can also try to identify why the student may be holding their stool. Students may also be prescribed laxatives or stool softeners to help. Sometimes, constipation can be caused by cow's milk. Students will need a blood test to determine if that is the case. The school nurse can help to provide diet change information once a diagnosis is made.

Ms Frink also outlined the differences between a milk protein allergy and lactose intolerance. She provided the types of testing that need to be done to confirm a milk protein allergy. Primary, secondary and congenital lactose intolerance.

The presentation concluded with information about what we, as school nurses, can do. These recommendations included helping the parent know when a child is too sick to be in school, planning stomach pain (being able to go to the clinic,, having a bathroom schedule, etc.), and identifying sources of stress that could impact GI health.

This presentation was very helpful to me, as it is always hard to asses the cause of a stomach ache or incontinence, especially in young children. I now have more tools for talking with parents and guiding them to the proper resources.



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.



Region 7 (Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry and Glades) met on March 15th at Manatee Elementary in Lee County, and had a wonderful time! We enjoyed two speakers; Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking. It was a great day of learning, networking and making new friends. We hope to continue this on a yearly basis.





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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