



## VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL NURSES

# COMPASS

Uniting all VA nurses - North, South, East and West

September 2025 - Volume 2, Issue 2

Virginia Association of School Nurses (VASN) is a nonprofit organization that advocates for professional school nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.



***Compass*** is the Virginia Association of School Nursing newsletter. You will find information to assist you with excellence in your nursing practice.

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Dear Colleagues,

As always, it is my honor to serve you as your President. We've had an exciting and productive year, achieving many wonderful things together. Most notably, we've made significant progress on legislation related to student health, and we are thrilled to present our work at the upcoming VASN Conference in November.

I hope your school year is off to a great start as I know how busy this time of year can be! I'm excited to invite you to the VASN Conference, taking place November 8–9 at the Hilton Oceanfront in Virginia Beach. Based on your feedback from last year, we've lined up an incredible roster of speakers and made several exciting additions to the event.

New this year:

- A free National Board Certification Review Pre-Session, hosted by Janice Selekman.
- A Regional Reception on Saturday evening, where attendees will gather by region for fun, camaraderie, and even some friendly competition. Heavy appetizers will be served, and a cash bar will be available.

During the conference, we will also recognize and celebrate our Scholarship Winners, the School Nurse and School Nurse Administrator of the Year, and the PIPSN Winner. In addition, we'll be announcing our new President-Elect and NASN Director.

It has been a very busy and successful year for VASN. We partnered with VAAP, VDH's Joanna Pitts, and VDOE's Na-Keisha White to bring the Mental Health Toolkit Modules to our website, providing you with ongoing opportunities for professional development.

We also now have five VASN members serving on the Continuing Education Committee, led by Collette Hokana, helping to expand learning opportunities year-round.

Our School Nurse Day Committee did a fantastic job this year, and Beth Barbolla continues to keep us informed and connected through social media.

In response to your needs, we created a much-needed Technology Chair position on the Executive Committee. Karell Smith has stepped into this role and is doing an excellent job modernizing our website and helping guide us into the future.

And of course, our Conference Committee, led by Tammy Moody, has been hard at work planning an amazing event in just a few weeks. We've got a great swag bag waiting for you—we can't wait to see you there!

Click here to register:

<https://www.vasn.us/education-events/for-school-nurses/events/eventdescription?CalendarEventKey=2a1ec850-17c0-4d3d-b6de-019452b4b84b&CommunityKey=ed850331-9396-423d-9c24-80980e809db0&Home=%2Fhome>

Lastly, continue to check the VASN website <https://www.vasn.us/home> and follow our social media accounts on Instagram, Facebook, and X to receive regular updates.

Your regional directors are here to assist you. Be sure you know who they are and contact them with any questions or suggestions:

<https://www.vasn.us/about-vasn/where-we-are/all-regions>

Warm regards,

Betsy Looney

President, VASN



## NASN 2025 Recap – Virginia Nurses Shine in Austin!



NASN 2025 did not disappoint! The conference was held in vibrant Austin, Texas, a city full of energy, music, and charm.



Many of us took the opportunity to learn a few country dance steps and even treated ourselves to some classic cowboy boots. It was truly a stomping good time!

The conference offered a wide variety of sessions, covering a range of important topics relevant to school nursing. We were thrilled to have **over 50 Virginia nurses** in attendance—what an amazing turnout!

Even more exciting, **Virginia nurses were featured presenters in two sessions:**

- **Mental Health Toolkit for School Nurses**
- **Leadership, Data and Collaboration in School Nursing**

Both presentations received excellent reviews, and we couldn't be prouder of our Virginia representation!



From L to R: Robin Wallin, Erin Maughan. Betsy Looney, Heather Wisnieski, Tammy Moody.



A special reception was held for National Board Certified School Nurses (NBCSN), offering a moment to recognize and celebrate this distinguished group. VASN leadership joined Janice Selekman at the event.



Additionally, VASN hosted a delightful Italian dinner, which was full of laughter, good food, and meaningful connections. It was a wonderful evening of camaraderie and networking.





YEEHAW! Greetings from  
**AUSTIN, TEXAS!**



Looking ahead, **NASN 2026** will be hosted in **Las Vegas**! Don't miss out—mark your calendars, pack your bags, and get ready to elevate your school nursing practice while having a great time with colleagues from across the country. Be sure to use the NASN toolkit to work with your school district to attend this amazing educational opportunity. The 2026 toolkit will be released in February 2026.

<https://www.nasn.org/nasn2025/attendees/justification-toolkit> Get your tickets and enjoy the fun and camaraderie all while enhancing your education in school nursing. Come join Jenn Bliven and I in 2026!!



VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION  
OF SCHOOL NURSES

# VASN 39<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 8 & 9 2025

HILTON OCEANFRONT

VIRGINIA BEACH

3001 Atlantic Ave, Virginia Beach, VA 23451

## *Charting the Course*

Navigating the Future of School Nursing:  
Advocacy, Innovation, and Wellness



### NBCSN Review Janice Selekmán



Janice Selekmán  
Keynote



Diabetes



ADHD/  
Neurodivergent



Legislative



Emergency  
Management



Eating Healthy &  
Disordered Eating



Asthma/  
Allergy



Nursing  
Assessment



Orthopedic  
Injuries



POTS



Sickle Cell



Legal  
Documentation



Derm/  
Rashes



GI



Leadership



**REGISTER NOW**

[WWW.VASN.US](http://WWW.VASN.US)





# *Charting the Course*

**39th Annual  
Virginia Association of School Nurses  
Conference**

**November 8-9, 2025**

**Hilton Oceanfront  
Virginia Beach**

**Navigating the Future of School Nursing:  
Advocacy, Innovation, and Wellness**

**Together, we  
navigate  
challenges and  
steer towards a  
healthier  
tomorrow**



**Contact Us**



[www.vasn.us](http://www.vasn.us)

**Virginia Association  
of School Nurses**






# ATTENTION VIRGINIA SCHOOL NURSES




We are asking you to take part in a research study being done by Christina Bulaski, MSN, FNP-BC at Old Dominion University.


If you choose to be in the study, you will complete a survey. This survey will help us evaluate differences in asthma management knowledge, self-efficacy, and access to undesignated stock albuterol for school nurses throughout Virginia. The survey will take about 10 minutes to complete.



You can skip questions that you do not want to answer or stop the survey at any time. The survey is anonymous, and no one will be able to link your answers back to you. Please do not include your name or other information that could be used to identify you in the survey responses.



Questions? Please contact Christina Bulaski at [cbula002@odu.edu](mailto:cbula002@odu.edu) or Dr. Kelli Garber (Responsible Principal Investigator) at [kgarber@odu.edu](mailto:kgarber@odu.edu). If you have questions or concerns about your rights as a research participant, you can contact the ODU Social & Behavioral Human Subjects Research Exempt Committee Chair, Dr. Randy Gainey, at [rgainey@odu.edu](mailto:rgainey@odu.edu) or 757-683-4794, or the Old Dominion University Division of Research and Economic Development, at 757-683-3460.



Being in this study is optional. If you want to participate in this study, scan the QR code to start the survey.



Thank you for your participation!



# School Nurse Resources 2025

In addition to the many continuing education options available through VASN, there are many new topics available (on an ongoing basis) on the NASN website. Be sure to check the NASN learning center on a regular basis: <https://learn.nasn.org/>

## VASN/NASN Membership:

When you join VASN, you are a member of VASN and the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) with full benefits from both organizations. Learn more about the rich offerings on their websites and update your profile while you are there.

VASN - <https://www.vasn.us/home>

NASN - <https://www.nasn.org/home>

## VASN Legislative Updates:

VASN has a robust presence in Virginia and an active legislative arm. On the VASN website, you can see updates posted in real time.

<https://www.nasn.org/vasn/advocacy-policy/legislation-laws>

## NCSN:

As noted on the NCSN website, “Board certification in school nursing is a formal recognition of advanced knowledge, competence, and a personal



commitment to excellence in the specialty practice of school nursing on behalf of the better health and education of school-age children.” Read more about the process at [www.nbcsn.org](http://www.nbcsn.org)

Try answering the “Challenge the School Nurse” question each month:

<https://nbcsn.org/challenge-the-school-nurse#>

Please share this newsletter with any school nurses in Virginia who are not members of VASN (and encourage them to join). If there is a topic you would like featured or a “shout out” we can share, contact me at [bmberset@gmail.com](mailto:bmberset@gmail.com).

**Bernadette Berset, MSN, RN, NCSN**  
**VASN Newsletter Chair**