

SUMMER BOARD AND CONFERENCE REPORT

Once again, as it bears repeating, I am awed to serve as your Director to NASN board of directors. I will be serving my last year of my four year term this year, officially ending in January of 2013. The in-coming director will audit the July 2012 board meeting, and will orient with me for the last six months of my term.

At the most recent board meeting I received an update on the national activities. Here are some of the most important ones:

POSITION STATEMENTS:

- Many new and revised position statements were approved. A number of outdated ones were retired. Look for these new statements on the NASN website and NASN School Nurse magazine where they will be published.
 - Emergency Preparedness
 - Allergy and Anaphylaxis
 - Parenting Students
 - Medication Administration in the School Setting
 - Overweight and Obesity
- Issue briefs on the following were also approved:
 - Drug testing in schools
 - Government Relations

PRACTICE GUIDELINES:

The board also passed a motion which I believe will have a big impact on the practicing school nurse: To begin the creation of **practice guidelines**, to provide the practicing school nurse the evidence-based structured guidelines to **implement** the content of position statements and issue briefs. The first practice guideline to be developed will be **medication administration**.

THE CASE FOR SCHOOL NURSING-WHERE'S THE RESEARCH?

The board passed a motion to create a place on the NASN website which will link to evidence based research articles that will make the case for school nursing. This will a fabulous resource for school nursing looking to articulate why what we do is so important. Dr. Martha Dewey Bergren already has a long list of these, and has an intern who may be able to get this up and running before the end of the summer.

COPY READY NEWSLETTER BLURBS FOR YOUR USE:

The Executive Committee, acting on behalf of the board, also passed a motion recently to create a place on the NASN website to access copy ready newsletter blurbs. School nurses can use this to either create their own newsletters, print of web-based, or to insert them in to school general letters, to increase the visibility of the school nurse. Having these already written, to just copy and paste, will save the school nurse valuable time, yet increase her ability to do community health education.

SEARCH FOR A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

With the resignation of Amy Garcia last spring to take the number 2 position as Programs Director as ANA, NASN is in the process of search for the perfect new director. Sally Schoelsler is currently our interim ED, and doing a wonderful job. As I have been appointed to the ED search committee, I will be traveling back to DC in August to interview prospective candidates. There are currently five. After that interview, 2-3 candidates will then be interviewed by the entire Executive Committee, who will hopefully make a decision in September. We should have a new ED on board by the end of the year.

Update: I have just returned from D.C. and the first round of ED candidate interviews (whirlwind trip, fly to DC, interview, fly home arrguuuh!). The ED search committee has whittled the field to two exceptionally qualified candidates. The Executive Committee, of which I am a member, will be picking the final candidate after another round of interviews in San Antonio next month.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

NASN has just released several new publications you might want to check out, including the following:

- Diabetes ToolKit-Developed by NASN staff CDE Sarah Butler and Nicole Bobo, give great research tested IHPs, forms and checklists for standardizing your diabetes care management. I purchased this book and it is excellent!
- Physical Assessment Books
- Upcoming: 2nd revised edition of the School Nursing Textbook and a long-awaited book on administrative school nursing.
- Upcoming: Allergy and Anaphylaxis toolkit, a joint CD- NASN project.

CONFERENCE

Conference was once again spectacular! DC is a fabulous place, and the weather cooperated as most days were very nice, not nearly the high temperature and high humidity that is typical in DC this time of year. Jeanine and I were very pleased that nine NSASN members attended the DC conference, including the President, Incoming President, Director and Past President.

We look forward to NEXT year's conference, which will be the closest it has been in years, in San Francisco. Make plans to attend!

Although we did not have any poster presenters this year from Nevada, we did have two breakout and pre-conference session speakers. Spoke at two sessions on "Nutrition." I was honored to co-lead a breakout session on Understanding Hearing Loss, the School Nurse's role with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children," and a pre-conference tour of the famous Gallaudet University, the first liberal arts college for the Deaf.

Respectfully

Debbie Pontius