

# South Carolina Association of School Nurses



Newsletter  
Fall 2022

## A Note from the President

Happy New (school) Year!

Welcome to the 2022- 2023 school year. My name is Melanie Alphin and I am your current SCASN president. I have been active with SCASN since 2014 and really value the involvement I have with my professional organization. Your professional organization is your voice when it comes to legislation affecting our practice. Your voice to support our practice. Your voice as a school nurse. Please consider getting involved, so we all can be heard.

Sincerely,  
Melanie Alphin, BSN, RN, NCSN

## Emergency Medication Updates

The FDA has put out a notification that the emergency medication for seizure disorders Diazepam Rectal Gel (Rectal Diastat) is currently unavailable. How do we make sure our students with seizure disorders have emergency medication available at school? Educate your parents and guardians to ask their provider about other emergency medications available.

For example Valtaco (diazepam nasal spray) is a prescription medicine used for the short-term treatment of seizure clusters (also known as “episodes of frequent seizure activity” or “acute repetitive seizures”) in patients 6 years of age and older.

Lilly pharmaceutical has announced they will be discontinuing the old red Glucagon Kit by December 31, 2022. Generic from Amphastar will still be available.

Gvoke Hypopen (a preloaded glucagon injection) and Baqsimi (nasal spray to treat low blood sugar) are now available.

Resources: <https://baqsimi.com>  
<http://gvokeglucagon.com>  
<http://valtaco.com>

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# South Carolina Association of School Nurses

## NASN State Director Update

Our Summer SCASN conference was awesome! The Presentation from “TallCopSaysStop” was very eye opening. It showed that you really can’t stop what you don’t know. “High in plain sight” brought to the forefront the new vape pods that are sold online, vape and smoke shops. There has also been an increase in the use of Delta 8 THC. Students are also using Diphenhydramine by itself in high doses seeking to achieve a drug high. I encourage you to check out the vaping material on our NASN website.

### NASN NEWS

Our biggest headliner is **Valtoco (Nasal Diazepam)** School Nurses now can advocate for the least restrictive medication for students. Please visit [Resources | VALTOCO® \(diazepam nasal spray\) CIV \(valtocohcp.com\)](#) for free School nursing resources. Here in our SC, we have the **South Carolina Advocates For Epilepsy (SAFE)**, supported by the Epilepsy Alliance. Please visit their website for free training and resources for schools. ALL School Nurses should become **Seizure First Aid Certified**. Another site is the Epilepsy foundation They also provide the **free** course and several others <https://learn.epilepsy.com/>.

Our students with Seizures / Epilepsy should all have Seizure Action plans (SAP) signed by their HCP. This serves as a guide to your students’ care.

NASN is also excited to introduce the new [School Nursing Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guideline: Students with Type 1 Diabetes \(T1D\) Toolkit](#). School nurses provide leadership in the school setting to support resilience and self-management for students with T1D. NASN’s [School Nursing Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guideline: Students with Type 1 Diabetes](#) provides evidence-based recommendations to assist the school nurse in their role of improving the health and safety of the school-age child with T1D. This toolkit will help school nurses implement those recommendations.

Angella Hamer RN



# South Carolina Association of School Nurses

## SCASN Board

### President

Melanie Alphin, BSN, RN, NCSN

### NASN State Director

Angella Hammer, RN

### Secretary

Elizabeth Starling, RN

### Treasurer

Karen Lobitz, RN

### President Elect

Dawn McAdams, MSN, RN,  
NCSN

### Immediate Past President

Amanda Santamaria, RN, RN-  
BC, CSN

### Data Coordinator

Victoria Ladd, MSN, RN

### NBCSN State Liaison

Michelle Devine, BSN, RN,  
NCSN

## Why become a SCASN Member?

- SCASN membership is an affiliate membership of National Association of School Nurses (NASN)
- Membership dues are only \$116.00 per year.
- Subscription to The Journal of School Nursing
- Subscriptions to the NASN Newsletter and SCASN newsletter
- Reduced registration fees for state and national conferences
- Free continuing education credits
- Discount prices for NASN publications
- VSP vouchers for free vision exams and glasses for your students

<https://www.nasn.org/membership>

# South Carolina Association of School Nurses



## Get involved in your Professional Organization by Joining a Committee

Bylaws - Chair: Open  
Communication - Chair: Open  
Continuing Education - Chair: Open  
Finance - Chair: Open  
Legislation and Professional Standards - Chair: Open  
Membership – Chair: Jennifer Robinson  
Nominations - Chair: Open  
Ways and Means - Chair: Open

**Please Contact Melanie Alphin if you would like to chair/join a committee. [scasn@scasn.org](mailto:scasn@scasn.org)**

### *2023 SCASN Summer Conference*

*The first 150 SCASN members who book their hotel rooms at the Sheraton Myrtle Beach Convention Center will have the cost of their hotel room reimbursed after attending the conference. Look for the block to open in 2023.*



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# South Carolina Association of School Nurses

## SCASN Annual Awards are being aligned with NASN Awards

NEW Lillian Wald Award application Deadline: **November 1<sup>st</sup>**

NEW All other Application Deadline: **February 1<sup>st</sup>**

Awards will be given out at the Annual Summer Conference

### 1. School Nurse of the Year (RN of the Year Award)

#### Purpose

To publicly recognize school nurses nationwide by annually honoring one School Nurse of the Year from each affiliate who has demonstrated excellence in school nursing practice and leadership in school health

#### Nominee must be:

- A registered professional nurse.
- A current member of SCASN.

### 2. LPN of the Year Award

#### Purpose

To publicly recognize school nurses in South Carolina by annually honoring one School Nurse of the Year from each affiliate who has demonstrated excellence in school nursing practice and leadership in school health

#### Nominee must be:

- A licensed professional nurse working in the field of school nursing.

### 3. School Nurse Administrator of the Year (Dee Dee Chewning Award)

#### Purpose

To publicly recognize school nurse administrators nationwide by annually honoring one School Nurse Administrator of the Year from each affiliate.

#### Nominee must be:

- A registered professional nurse.
- Bachelor's degree of nursing or higher.
- A current member of SCASN

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# South Carolina Association of School Nurses

## 4. Distinguished Service Award (Cindy Rish Poole Award)

### Objectives

To recognize an organization or individual who have continually supported or uniquely contributed to SCASN, school nursing or school health services nationally in at least the last five years

### Selection Criteria

- The individual's life and contributions to SCASN could inspire others to promote the health of school children.
- This individual shall also promote the goals and philosophy of SCASN.

## 5. NEW - Lillian Wald Legislator/Public Policy Award

### Objective

To recognize a legislator or public policy official who has supported or uniquely contributed to SCASN, school nursing, or school health services.

### Selection Criteria

- The individual has effectively advanced legislation or public policy during the past year in areas of importance to school nursing.
- The committee may choose more than one recipient for the Recognition award if it is determined that two or more candidates are of equal merit.

## 6. NEW - Media Journalist Award

### Objectives

1. To recognize an individual or news service that has supported or uniquely contributed to SCASN, school nursing, or school health services through the media in the past year
2. To recognize writers who effectively give audiences a greater awareness and understanding of the importance and value of school nursing through the media

### Selection Criteria

- Story content is accurate, relevant, and creative.
- Storyline has a positive, major impact on public opinion or policy.
- Storyline has made school health issues relevant to new audiences.
- Storyline shows careful research and balanced, fair reporting

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# South Carolina Association of School Nurses

**\*\*\*We have updated our Scholarship\*\*\***

## **MaryEllen Hatfield School Nursing Certification Scholarship**

The MaryEllen Hatfield School Nursing Certification Scholarship Awards are a memorial to MaryEllen Hatfield, South Carolina's School Health Nurse Consultant from 1980 until her retirement in 1997. MaryEllen was passionate about her work on behalf of children. It is SCASN's goal to validate the knowledge and expertise of the school nurse beyond basic RN licensure through board certification. School Nurse Board Certification demonstrates expertise, commitment, and excellence in patient care.

A board certified school nurse is a professional who chooses to take the extra step in their education to prove their competence and dedication to their students. The MaryEllen Hatfield School Nursing Certification Scholarship will encourage school nurses to seek higher educational levels and to remind us all to ask the question, "Is this in the best interest of the children?"

Scholarship awards will be provided as funds are available. The scholarships will reimburse one SCASN member per testing period who shows they have passed the NBCSN exam; as well as paying recertification fees for SCASN members who are actively participating as a Committee Chair or Board Member of SCASN.

To be considered for reimbursement after passing the NBCSN exam the school nurse must be an active member of SCASN in good standing and provide proof that they have passed the exam. Applications are due by May 1<sup>st</sup> each year. The Board will determine which candidates will be awarded the scholarship.

A check made payable to the award recipient will be issued by SCASN. Scholarship recipients will be formally recognized at the SCASN Annual School Nurse Conference. Conference attendance is not required in order to receive the scholarship award.



# South Carolina Association of School Nurses

You asked, we listened, so we are bringing him back!

## Tall Cop: Jermaine Galloway

**Monday, March 13, 2023**

**Join us  
for a FREE  
training  
for ALL  
school nurses,  
SRO's & mental  
health support  
professionals.**

Check-in 7:30

Training 8:30-3:30

Lunch on your own

**Max capacity 500**



**Richland 2 Institute  
of Innovation (R2I2)**

763 Fashion Drive  
Columbia, SC 29229



**Check out these reviews from  
this year's summer conference:**

"Tall Cop was PHENOMENAL! I am so thankful I was able to attend. I wish anyone who works with or has teens could hear what he has to say. He was very knowledgeable, passionate, and provided critical information that I will most certainly apply to my nursing practice."

"Tall Cop was the best speaker I have heard. He gave so much information that I was not aware of! He was amazing!"

Registration link will be coming soon. For more information about Tall Cop, visit <https://www.tallcopsaysstop.com/>



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**SAVE THE DATE!**

*21st Annual School Nurse  
Summer Conference*

**JUNE 11-13, 2023**



**"Riding the Wave to Resiliency"**

*Sheraton Myrtle Beach Convention Center*