



# SCASN Newsletter

**South Carolina Association of  
School Nurses**

SCASN NEWSLETTER

Summer 2007

## Message from the president

### South Carolina Delegates Celebrate a Funded Mandate for School Nurses

Every year, delegates to the NASN Annual Conference look forward to the annual membership meeting. These meetings include important changes to the bylaws and induction of officers, but for many members, the highlight of the meeting is the Roll Call of States. As the NASN Secretary/ Treasurer calls the roll, each state's delegation has one minute to highlight what's special about their state.

This year, some states highlighted their college and professional sports teams. Some states bragged about their beauty queens. States expressed pride in their beaches, their mountains, and even in being the home state of various presidential candidates. Every delegation received applause and many tongue in cheek presentations had the crowd laughing, but when the Roll Call came to South Carolina, all 1300 delegates from 52 states as well as six foreign countries rose and gave a standing ovation to the mighty state of South Carolina which joins the handful of states who have a funded mandate for school nurses.

As representative of our state delegation, I told the assembled delegates that the South Carolina Association of School Nurses has been working since its inception to educate our legislators about the vital role of school nurses in the schools. When finally, in 2005, the Student Health and Fitness Act was passed including a mandate for funding for a school nurse in every elementary school, we told ourselves it was too soon to celebrate. When our Governor included funding for school nurses in the state budget, we told ourselves it was too soon to celebrate. When that funding came into jeopardy, we didn't give up and kept lobbying our legislators. Late in June, the very week of the NASN conference, we learned that the final version of the state budget as signed by the governor included funding for school nurses in every elementary school and now, we were proud to say, it was time to celebrate.

As delegates from around the country stood and cheered, the South Carolina delegation raised their glasses (of sparkling grape juice) in celebration. Many of us were teary-eyed. All of us were proud.

Jessica Porter, President SCASN

### Calendar

**September 26-28**  
**Orientation for**  
**Nurses Practicing in**  
**SC's School Settings,**  
Columbia, SC

**November 15-16**  
**26th Annual School**  
**Nurse Conference,**  
North Charleston, SC

**December 31, NCSN**  
**Certification Exam**  
**for School Nurses**  
**Application Deadline**

**June 12, 2008**  
**8th Annual SCASN**  
**Summer Conference,**  
Myrtle Beach, SC



**Director's Report**

By Carolyn Duff

As summer vacation ends, and I wonder where the time went, I feel that I filled my summer nicely with a balance of school nursing continuing education, household rejuvenation projects, and downtime at the beach with family and friends. Now, even though I must readjust to a 5:00 a.m. wakening time, I still feel excited about a new school year and my mind is clicking with ideas. I imagine I am not alone. School nurses are hard to hold down.

Much of my feelings of being refreshed and refueled come from attending the SCASN and NASN Annual School Nurse Conferences. The SCASN Conference at Ocean Bays Middle School in Myrtle Beach was our best ever, I think. We had over 250 nurses in attendance. SCASN cannot thank Gail Moss and Horry County Schools enough for seven years of hosting the conference. I hope all of you will plan to be there next summer on June 11 and 12, 2008.

I was happy to see several of you at the NASN Annual Conference in Nashville. I would like to have had a much larger South Carolina delegation at the Annual Meeting, and I am hopeful that we will have many more SCASN members in attendance in Albuquerque next summer. If you have never attended the conference before, I encourage you to start saving now, and treat yourselves to a visit to New Mexico. You will not regret it.

NASN/SCASN members, starting in August, will begin receiving the NASN Weekly Digest by direct e-mail if the corporate office has your e-mail address. In the past I forwarded the Digest to you when I received it. Now, you will receive it directly. If you did not provide the office with an e-mail address, it is not too late to give them a call. The Digest updates members on NASN activities and services and gives current information on practice issues.

NASN offers information to members on many topics via [nasn.org](http://nasn.org). Some of the information is available to anyone, but the most valuable information can be accessed only by NASN members. If you are a member and have never logged on to search the web site, I encourage you to do that. Your member number is your password and you can find that number on the address label that comes with your Journal of School Nursing or on your NASN ID card.

One way that members can be kept current on many school nursing fronts is to join and participate on discussion lists. The discussion lists are members-only services. You can click on *Access Discussion Lists* on the menu on the left side of the home page to join. You can then send and receive messages via e-mail. One discussion list that is of interest to all of us is the Legislative Discussion List. Through that list you can keep up on legislative issues that affect our practices and the health services available to our students. Often there will be calls for action on important issues, such as Medicaid reimbursement and SCHIP legislation.

I know I repeat myself when I say that the NASN web site is a wealth of information, but I believe I cannot say it enough. I recommend that you start off the school year to your best advantage by joining NASN/SCASN if you are not a member and by using [nasn.org](http://nasn.org) on a regular basis. Best wishes to all for rewarding work, successful experiences and outcomes, and great professional growth in the new school year.

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**School hasn't even started yet and we're already looking forward to...****The 8th Annual SCASN Summer Conference**

which will be Held On June 12, 2008 at Ocean Bay Middle School, Myrtle Beach.  
Annual Meeting and reception in the evening of June 11, 2008

**H\*3620 passed unanimously in the House, ratified by the Senate**



**South Carolina Delegates Celebrate a Funded Mandate for School Nurses**

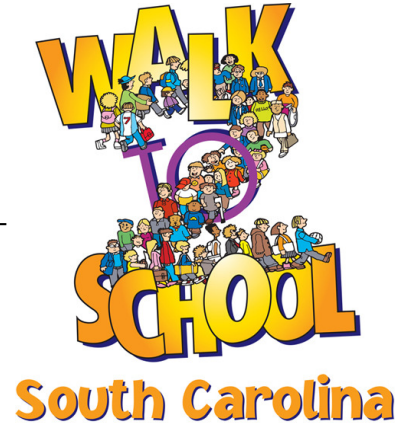
**T**ime to celebrate the milestone of having a funded mandate for elementary school nurses!!! Many thanks to all of you who worked so hard to make this a reality! Now as we all anxiously await directives from the State Dept. of Education on how the money will be distributed, we need to take action and make sure we thank the appropriate people at the state house for their support.  
Cindy Poole, State Director– Elect

Here's the link so that you can see it to believe it.

[http://www.scstatehouse.net/cgi-bin/web\\_bh10.exe?bill1=3620&session=117&summary=T](http://www.scstatehouse.net/cgi-bin/web_bh10.exe?bill1=3620&session=117&summary=T)

**October 3, 2007 is Walk to School Day**

International Walk to School Day is a global event where children, adults, schools and communities come together to promote physical activity, teach traffic safety skills, and to identify and implement steps toward safer communities for walking and bicycling. Visit Walk to School Day Headquarters at [www.walktoschoolday.org](http://www.walktoschoolday.org) to register your school and to receive free posters, pencils, stickers, and more. For more information, contact Amy Splittgerber at 803-798-9086.

**Healthy Hoops Challenge for Students with Asthma Sends Students to School with Asthma Action Plans**

School Nurses who were involved with Healthy Hoops challenge last year say that the programs really energized their case management of students with asthma. As a member organization of the Healthy Hoops Coalition, SCASN has joined with the Healthy Hoops initiative to get the word out to SC School Nurses and parents about this valuable program. Through the Healthy Hoops challenge, children aged 7 to 15 who have asthma take part, with their parents, in a free one-day basketball camp along with interactive asthma management and education sessions conducted by certified asthma educators. The event also includes live entertainment, giveaways, free food, and an awards ceremony. The dates are Saturday, October 6, 2007 at USC for the Columbia area and Saturday, November 3, 2007 at the Potential Sports Academy in Greenville for the upstate area. For more information and registration forms, go to <http://www.selectthehealthofsc.com/community/healthyhoops/>.

**August Is Back to School Time for School Nurses Too**

If you are an RN or LPN continuing your education in a degree program, you may want to apply for the MaryEllen Hatfield School Nursing Scholarship Award. The application deadline for this year is September 1, 2007 but the application is very user friendly. You can find more information at <http://www.scdhec.net/health/mch/wcs/school/mehaward.htm>.



## **South Carolina Sends a Record 15 School Nurses to the NASN Conference**

There's a special thrill about a NASN Conference. Just ask this year's delegates:

Diane Arnold  
Jeanne Bridges  
Carolyn Duff  
Cheryl Guyton  
Deborah Helm  
Brenda Ingram  
Margie Moore  
Sandra Moore-Akpan  
Gail Moss  
Brenda Musick  
Susan Pelc  
Jessica Porter  
Lisa Skorzewski  
Cathy Storey  
and  
Anna Taylor



**South Carolina delegates gathered at the Magnolia staircase at the Gaylord Opryland Resort.**

## **SCASN Membership Benefits** Sharon Lothridge, RN

As members of SCASN we are often asked why join this organization. Not only does membership provide an alliance with school nurses all over South Carolina and the nation, but it also brings benefits that can be shared with students. One of these benefits is the ability to receive gift certificates for free eye exams and glasses (if needed) from **Sight for Students**. Many PTAs actually pay their school nurse's annual membership dues so that this wonderful resource may be utilized for their school population. This is a great way to provide eyecare resources for the student that does not have any insurance and meets the financial requirements. Visit the NASN web site, [www.nasn.org](http://www.nasn.org), for additional information on this benefit and ordering gift certificates.

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Visit us online at  
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**Let me tell you about a great school nurse I know.**

Not only does she have excellent clinical skills, she's gotten her entire administration and faculty excited about student health and safety. She's done so many innovative programs over the last few years with teachers and her school's PTA/PTO yet she always has time to lend support and guidance to her fellow nurses. This year I'm going to nominate her for SC School Nurse of the Year.

Do you know a nurse like this? There's still time to get a nomination in. Just go to <http://www.scdhec.gov/health/mch/wcs/school/noyaward.htm> to download a nomination packet.

**School Health Services Award**

School nurses know that it takes a team to assure the health and safety of the students in our schools. The School Health Services Award is presented annually to honor an individual or entity, other than a school nurse/s, whose contributions or accomplishments to the field of school health have made a positive impact on the lives of school students. Award winners may be from within the educational community or from some other part of the community that serves the health interests of school students. You can download a copy of the nomination form at <http://www.scasn.com/shsa.html>.