



IASN NEWSLETTER

THE BEST RESOURCE FOR
LEARNING FROM SCHOOL
NURSES LIKE YOU.



OCTOBER 2020 Edition

From The IASN President

Dear IASN Member,

School nurses have always answered the call to serve during times of crisis. What I know for sure about school nursing right now is that we are each demonstrating how essential the role of a school nurse is to the health, safety and well-being of students, staff, and the communities across the state of Illinois. I stand with you and will continue to advocate for our profession.

I ran on a platform of membership engagement, and will continue to create ideas to fuel a culture of connectedness and support. I have a great team of leaders on my Board, and we look forward to our collective work together to better serve you.

I've said it before, and I'll say it again, as a school nurse working here in Illinois, no matter your degree, this is the organization you can depend on. Take advantage of the resources available to you, engage in our upcoming Town Hall meeting and follow us on social media.

Wishing you and your families a very Happy Holiday season, may you be safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Gloria E. Barrera, MSN, RN, PEL-CSN
IASN President

Interested in getting involved? [LEARN MORE](#)



Nurses 4 Nurses Networking Call

MODERATOR: IASN PRESIDENT GLORIA E. BARRERA



This month's ANA-Illinois Nurses 4 Nurses Networking Call will be lead by a panel of IASN school nurse leaders. Juanita Gryfinski, Linda Vollinger, and Cam Traut will educate other nurses on our role, the educational preparation needed to be a school nurse and the importance of certification, and how we've been working on the frontlines of COVID-19. The discussion will be moderated by our President, Gloria E. Barrera.

See you there!

Join the discussion with this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82388643722>

IASN Virtual Conference Testimonials

"This was my first IASN conference, and although it was "virtual," I could not have been happier to have attended this year's conference. Everything was so interactive and exciting to hear, from the board meeting to the last day of the conference, especially with the wonderful speaker, Donna Cardillo. I was also very happy to have received the DuPage Valley PEL Grant award. It was very nice to see the recognition of *all* of the award winners. I am so grateful to be part of this great organization, and I thank you for all of the important work you do to highlight the work of School Nurses and help us "take a seat at the table." ". - Araceli Orozco, BSN, RN-BC

"I left the IASN Conference feeling empowered in my current role of school nursing! Regardless of the setting, nurses play a key role and should be valued as such." - Guadalupe Terrazas

Feedback from Conference Attendee, Amy Cowan below.

What did you feel was the most beneficial part of this year's virtual conference?

I really enjoyed Donna Cardillo's speech on empowering school nurses to be strong leaders. She presented ways to advocate for ourselves and spoke to the important role of a school nurse. She reinforced the notion that if WE do not promote ourselves, no one else will do it. She shared a multitude of fabulous ideas and provided useful resources.

How will you use the information you learned to shape your practice in the future?

I am already employing her suggestions by encouraging and supporting my building's registered nurses, who are new to school nursing. Although our district is mostly remote, the exclusion date has passed, and this is the time to revitalize our roles, promote health and wellness, and make ourselves more visible. Some nurses are making health-related bulletin boards, others are sending health-focused emails and reminders to staff, and we are sharing helpful videos on handwashing and wearing masks that are age-appropriate.

If you could also share your credentials, the district you work in, and the program you're enrolled in, that would be great.

I am a BSN, RN, Licensed School Nurse, Intern

I am employed by Indian Prairie School District 204

I am in the School Nurse Certification Program at University of Illinois-Chicago. (I am learning SO MUCH and I am ALMOST finished!)

IASN Book Club

Did you hear the good news? We're starting an IASN Book Club, please join us! Start reading "Falling Together" by our 2020 keynote speaker Donna Cardillo, [purchase your copy here](#). We will be meeting virtually to discuss the book in December, happy reading!
#SchoolNursesBookClub #FallBookSelection



NASN AND YOU!

By: Cathy Yonkaitis, DNP, RN, PEL-CSN, NCSN, PHNA-BC

NEWS ABOUT JOURNAL OF SCHOOL NURSING (JOSN)

New Editor: Welcome to Dr. Martha Bergren! And thank you to Dr. Julia Cowell for her dedicated support of school nursing as the JOSN editor for 11 years.

GOING VIRTUAL: The Journal of School Nursing is going all online! JOSN will be produced as always but you will only receive a virtual copy. The NASN School Nurse journal will continue to be printed and mailed to you.

NASN PODCASTS!

Did you know the *Journal of School Nursing* and *NASN School Nurse* record podcasts each month highlighting articles from the journal? After listening, if you want to read more, the journal article is linked with the podcast as well!

Podcast library for JOSN: <http://sagenursing.sage-publications.libsypno.com/webpage/category/Journal%20of%20School%20Nursing>

Podcast library for NASN School Nurse: <http://sagenursing.sage-publications.libsypno.com/webpage/category/NASN%20School%20Nurse>

School Nurse of the Year



IASN Announces: School Nurse of the Year - Susann (Susy) Marcum, MSN, RN, NCSN, PEL-CSN the Curriculum Chair Nurse from McLean County USD #5.

Ms. Marcum was recognized for not only her work with students in Unit #5 but for her work mentoring undergraduate nursing students from local programs and for spearheading an initiative to bring a school nurse certification program to Illinois State University. Congratulations Susy!

Welcome to Our New Board of Directors

Name	Position	Email
Gloria E. Barrera	President	gloriabarrera.rn@gmail.com
Bridget Heroff	President-Elect	bridgetheroff@gmail.com
Debbie Miller	Treasurer	deb7610@yahoo.com
Jessica Gerdes	Advocacy/Legislative Coordinator	jessicagerdes@gmail.com
Laura Robinson	Education Coordinator	iasnlaura@gmail.com
Karen Madura	Governance Coordinator	kmadura@hotmail.com
Jill Accardo	Marketing/Communications Coordinator	jra0725@yahoo.com
Cathy Yonkaitis	Director to NASN	cyonk@uic.edu
Linda Kimel	IASN Foundation Liaison	frogkimel@gmail.com

The 2020-2022 Board of Directors would like to extend our thanks for the time and dedication to those who have recently concluded their service on the board. Thank you!

- Juanita Gryfinski
- Linda Vollinger

[View Board of Directors on the IASN Website Here](#)

School Nursing in the Time of COVID-19



IASN VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING

Calling All School Nurses

School Nursing in the Time of COVID-19

Hear from fellow IASN members about their triumphs and lessons learned on mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in their schools, districts, and communities.

November 12th - 6:30pm

Save the Date - School Nursing in the Time of COVID-19

November 12, 2020

6:30-8:00 pm

Thank You to Our Sponsor School Health Corporation

Moderated by Gloria E. Barrera, MSN, RN, PEL-CSN—IASN President

Panelists

Andi Clark, MSN, RN-BC—Quincy School District 172

Joy Lewis, MSN, RN, PEL-CSN—Vandalia School District

Apryll Elliott M.Ed., BSN, RN, PEL-CSN—Kane County Health Department Assistant Director for Communicable Disease

Dr. Alexandra Sophia Sontag, MSN, DNP, RN, FNP-BC—Chicago Public Schools

School nurses were at the frontlines before stay-at home orders went into effect here in Illinois, and now we're leading the COVID-19 response. Hear from fellow IASN members about their triumphs and lessons learned on mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in their schools, districts, and communities. Case scenarios will be presented for discussion with the Assistant Director for Communicable Disease of Kane County Health Department.

Stay tuned for registration details.

Legislative Affairs and Advocacy

Nurse Practice Act:

The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) on Oct. 26 released the

2nd writing of the rules to implement the NPA of 2018. IASN provided comment on the delegation section of the NPA in May 2020. The rules are now awaiting review by Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR). The NPA rule will be on the JCAR calendar for Nov. 17. If there is no objection from JCAR, the rule will be fully implemented once recorded by the Secretary of State.

Attached (linked) are two documents regarding the rule: 1) the rule as rewritten and provided to JCAR and 2) the comments received from the public with the actions or lack of actions taken in response to each comment. IASN comments are listed as numbers 27, 28, 29 and 29 (29 being a number repeated).

The primary interest for IASN was to clarify that schools are specifically among the community settings in which RN delegation may occur. Delegation is very specific as to process and as to the routes by which medications may be delegated.

[Attachment 1](#)

[Attachment 2](#)

Legislation:

The CoVid pandemic halted the legislative season in March, until May, when the legislature met to review urgent legislation related to the pandemic and state health and education agencies wrote emergency rules related to CoVid in the community and in schools. The legislature also wrote the state budget, which was then signed by Gov. Pritzker. The legislature then adjourned in late May. ISBE emergency rules later were formally adopted as the law caught up with the emergency. Anyone working in the Illinois schools knows the content of those laws and rules. For more information on specific laws and rules, contact your individual school district administration or the state health and education agencies.

Known as the “veto session”, a legislative session is set to convene Nov. 17 and run for three days to Nov. 19, and again Dec. 1-3. The intent of the fall “veto session” is to take up any legislation that was passed by the General Assembly but vetoed by the Governor. Gov. Pritzker signed 591 of the bills into law, while vetoing seven and sending one back to the General Assembly with an amendatory veto. None of the bills that were vetoed involved education or health, and among those laws passed, the ones applying most closely to school nursing related to the pandemic.

ISBE rule on “short term approval” (STA):

ISBE has been working on a rule that implements Short Term Approval (STA) Professional Educators Licensed (PEL) in student support roles (nurse, social worker, psychologist, counselor, speech-language pathologist). ISBE rule on STA has not yet been formally presented to ISBE for a vote, although a draft of the proposed rule was given to ISBE board in July. The draft was the topic of a meeting on Sept. 29 of the Speaking4Children (S4C) collaborative group, of which IASN is a member. Individual members of S4C have written ISBE to challenge the concepts on which the draft rule was written, and IASN will report to members when the STA is presented to ISBE. A 45-day comment period will follow any proposal.

Other News:

Finally, a small group of school health advocates met on Sept. 30 to discuss whether and if legislation requiring a nurse in every school may be introduced this fall. Although we passionately advocate for a nurse in every school, the group decided to wait until the economic climate has improved and a coalition of legislative leaders can be found to create a “tipping point” that will be successful.

As bills are introduced, IASN gets a “heads up” about legislation related to nursing or schools from an online service called “Fiscal Note” as well as from other sources. At this time, committee chair has reviewed legislation that may be proposed during the fall session, and none is significant for school nursing or education. More bills will come up in the coming weeks.

For more appreciation of the legislative process, please email JessicaGerdes@gmail.com with questions or to join the LA&A group.

School Nurses in the News

[School nurses take on larger role during pandemic](#)

MONMOUTH – School nurses dedicated to ensuring the health and wellness of students and teachers have an even more crucial role during COVID-19. [Continue Reading](#)

[Illinois School Nurses Foundation Honors Lewis University Students](#)

The Illinois Association of School Nurses Foundation recognized its 2020 scholarship and award winners October 2-3 during Virtual Illinois Association of School Nurses Annual Convention. The year's honorees included two Lewis University students and a Lewis University alumna. [Continue Reading](#)



*What does IASN
mean to you?*

"IASN represents a collection of nurses working together for the wellness of children in schools. It helps give me a sense of community in an otherwise very autonomous role. Attending the IASN conference this year was an amazing way to network among peers, share challenges and triumphs, and stay informed on the most current practices."

Amy Janis