



IASN NEWSLETTER

THE BEST RESOURCE FOR
LEARNING FROM SCHOOL
NURSES LIKE YOU.



MARCH 2021 Edition

From The IASN President

Dear IASN Member,

March is [Women's History Month](#), inextricably linked to the history of nursing. Thankfully men are joining the profession in greater numbers, but it was women who first organized and founded our nursing associations--including those that came together to form [NASN](#). We have so many phenomenal women to remember and honor in school nursing.

On March 11th we marked a year since the [World Health Organization](#) declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global pandemic. We now have three life-saving COVID-19 vaccines available, and look to the future with a much greater sense of optimism. We're hopeful that we've turned a corner, but we must remain diligent with mitigation strategies in place to keep our students, schools, and communities safe and healthy. We launched a [campaign](#) to encourage others to get vaccinated and to increase vaccine acceptance. If you haven't shared your photos already, please send them to be part of this historical effort.



We need your help in strengthening our voice by reaching 1,000 IASN members; refer a friend to [join here](#). Take advantage of the resources available to you, consider stepping up to a leadership position--we welcome you!

I look forward to our continued work together, and hope to see many of you at our upcoming *Coffee with the Board* on March 20th as we welcome Spring.

Sincerely,

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

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

COFFEE WITH THE BOARD

YOU'RE INVITED!



SAVE THE DATE

Zoom Link to Come

*Saturday, March 20th at
10:00 AM*

Innovative ideas are brewing! Come hear about the open leadership positions within IASN, join a committee, get involved. Join us for Coffee with the Board on Saturday, March 20th at 10:00 AM. We look forward to chatting with you and just checking in.

Join the conversation on March 20th with this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84592253655>

[Meet Our New Research & Innovation Coordinator](#)

MEET OUR NEW RESEARCH &
INNOVATION COORDINATOR



**MAUREEN RABBITTE, MSN, RN,
PEL-CSN
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
SAINT XAVIER UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF NURSING AND
HEALTH SCIENCES
RABBITTE@SXU.EDU**



Maureen Rabbitte is an assistant professor in the School of Nursing and Health Sciences at Saint Xavier University in Chicago. She earned her bachelor of science in Nursing from Saint Xavier University, Chicago. She began her nursing career as a labor and delivery nurse, and this is where she became interested in adolescent sexual health. She returned to school and received her school nurse graduate certificate from the University of Illinois at Chicago and started working in a charter high school in Chicago. She earned a master of science in advanced practice public health nursing from Rush University, Chicago. As part of her studies she assisted in the creation and implementation of the comprehensive sexual health education curriculum in Chicago.

Ms. Rabbitte is PhD candidate at the University of Missouri, Sinclair School of Nursing in Columbia Missouri and is a National Institute of Health T32 Research Fellow. Her program of research focuses on enhancing health outcomes for sexual minority young adults. She is particularly interested in intervening with adolescents in an effort to prevent negative health outcomes with regard to sexual health.

She is the 2020 recipient of the Journal of School Nursing /SAGE Scholarly Writing Award for her manuscript titled "The Role of Policy on Sexual Health Education in Schools: Review".

Maureen lives with her three teenage children Sean (19), Seamus (18), and Nuala (15), and her dog Bunny. She is an active member in the Illinois Association of School Nurses, and Sigma Theta Tau International. She enjoys swimming, traveling, and attending her children's extracurricular activities.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

School nurses know the value of protecting our most vulnerable populations. The more we can vaccinate, the sooner we can approach a sense of normalcy. We are asking you to help us, contact me, **Neal Levin at the American Red Cross**, if you are interested in getting our communities vaccinated (neal.levin2@redcross.org).



**American
Red Cross**

Do you know have a colleague that always goes above and beyond?

Consider nominating them for the 2021 School Nurse of the Year or School Nurse Administrator of the Year Award. The application is now open and can be accessed on the IASN webpage (www.IASN.org) or directly at the links below.

The application requires one person to complete the nomination and one letter of support. You can go in and out of the nomination portal so you can complete it over time! You could even nominate as a group if you like! Deadline for submission is June 15th.

Finalists and the winners will be announced at the start of the 2021-2022 school year! Please reach out to me (Cathy Yonkaitis) if you have any questions at cyonk@uic.edu. I will be hosting a “how to” session (30 min) to go over the application and to answer any questions on Monday March 15th at 4:30p. To join go to: <https://uic.zoom.us/j/85728983305?pwd=K0hBeXBVdW9lK3FaQjNQbFBkNnJGZz09&from=addon>
Meeting ID: 857 2898 3305 Passcode: Ci2zL0ci

Direct links to the application and directions:

School Nurse of the Year: <https://portal4nurses.com/applications/policies/iasn/awards/school-nurse-of-the-year-award>

School Nurse Administrator of the Year:

<https://portal4nurses.com/applications/policies/iasn/awards/school-nurse-administrator-of-the-year-award>



NASN will be holding national elections begin March 15th and close on April 15th (see candidate flyer at the end of the newsletter). Candidates for President elect, Secretary/Treasurer and Nominating committee are being decided in this election cycle! To view the candidate data and Statement of view visit: <https://www.nasn.org/about-nasn/elections> Vote by going to NASN.org and click the NASN Election icon—you will need to sign-in to vote.

[DOWNLOAD FLYER HERE](#)

[IASN Foundation - Grants/Scholarships/Awards Available](#)

IASN Foundation Grants, Scholarships, and Awards

The IASN Foundation offers multiple Scholarships, Grants, and Awards. These are intended to assist IASN members in obtaining school nurse certification, graduate education, and recognize professional achievement. IASN members are encouraged to apply for these. Applications will be accepted starting April 1.

State-Wide School Nurse Certification Grant

Two \$800 grants given annually to nurses working to obtain their PEL-CSN. Recipients also receive complimentary admission to the next IASN Annual Conference (approximate value: \$150). Applicants must be enrolled in an Illinois School Nurse Certification Program or have completed a program within the past academic year.

Margaret Winters Memorial Scholarship

One \$1,500 scholarship given to an IASN member currently enrolled in a graduate level program which has at its core, nursing or nursing management in the school setting. Your graduate program scholarly project may be used to fulfill the scholarship application requirements. The recipient will also receive complimentary admission to the next IASN Annual Conference (approximate value \$150).

Lois Frels Research Award

One \$500 award given to an IASN member in recognition of research that impacts school nursing or the health of children/youth. The research must have been completed within 24 months of the application deadline.

IASN Achievement Awards

Two \$150 awards annually to IASN members. These awards recognize achievements that impact school nursing or the health of children/youth. Achievements can consist of things such as: writing an article for publication in a professional journal, conducting a quality improvement project, developing and implementing a school program, developing and implementing a school based project, accomplishing a special project for IASN, first time oral presentation at the NASN conference.

Cook County Legacy Grants

Up to ten grants of \$1,000 each annually to IASN members living in Cook County working on obtaining their Professional Educator's License as a School Nurse. Applicants must have been an IASN member for at least 1 year and been approved for and started in the internship program of a PEL-CSN program, in the past 12 months.

DuPage and Will Counties PEL Grant

Up to 10 one-time grants of \$1,000 awarded annually to IASN members living in DuPage or Will counties working on obtaining their Professional Educator's License as a School Nurse. Applicants must have been an IASN member for at least 1 year and been approved for and started in the internship program of a PEL-CSN program, in the past 12 months.

Lake County Legacy Grant

One grant of \$2,000 to a nurse pursuing a Professional Educator's License as a School Nurse. The grants is for the purpose of assisting an IASN member residing in Lake County obtain their School Nurse Certification. The grant will go to a student attending Lewis University's ISU/Mennonite's School Nurse Certification Program. (The grants for other certification programs have already been awarded). Applicants must have been approved for and started in the internship program of a PEL-CSN program, in the past 12 months.

The South-Western Illinois PEL Grant

One grant of \$1,200 grant for the purpose of assisting an IASN member in the former Market-Kaskaskia area obtain their School Nurse Certification. Applicants must reside in Pike, Scott, Calhoun, Macoupin, Madison, Greene, Jersey, Montgomery, Bond, St. Clair, or Monroe counties. Applicants must have been approved for and started in an Approved Illinois School Nurse Certification Program.

Northwest IASN Conference Attendance Scholarship

Up to twelve \$150 grants will be awarded annually for IASN members in Boone, Winnebago, Ogle, Stephenson, Lee, or JoDavies counties. Applicants must agree to share information learned at the conference with other nurses in their school district after the conference and before the end of that school year

The deadline for all scholarships, grants, and awards is **September 1st**. Additional information and application forms are available on the IASN Foundation page of the IASN Website. Send questions to IASNFoundation.contact@gmail.org

Help Us Reach 1K Members



Calling All School Nurses &
Aspiring School Nurses

HELP US REACH 1K MEMBERS

VISIT IASN.ORG TO BECOME A MEMBER

EMAIL IASCHOOLNURSES@GMAIL.COM WITH ANY QUESTIONS

Calling all Illinois school nurses and aspiring school nurses. Help **#GetIASNto1K** by becoming a member today. Already a member? Refer colleagues to be entered into our raffle, please have them enter your full name in the “Member Referral” line for tracking purposes.

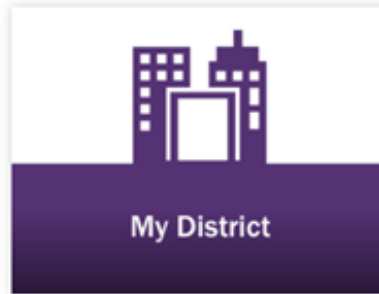
IASN History Committee

In recent years, the history and contributions of nursing have been more widely discussed and publicized. But did you know that the IASN has a History Committee? Of course, as a “newer” field of nursing within the past century, there is less well- documented publications and photographic evidence of school nursing. Meanwhile, communities around the country have become more reliant on the service and professionalism that we provide. Especially at this time, we need to reflect on and celebrate our value to the world!

I would like to start a virtual scrapbook of school nursing, but I need help from the membership. If you have articles or photos about school nurses, please send them to me so that I can share them out to all members. Thank you for representing your place in nursing history!

Pam Barron MPH, BSN, RN, PEL-CSN
mphcsn@aol.com

Introducing NASN's new data collection platform for the National Data Set: *Every Student Counts!*



The new platform, found at www.schoolhealthdata.org, will enable a school district representative to enter their district's aggregated, de-identified data directly. Data can be entered monthly, quarterly, or annually and the district representative will be able to compare their district data to the local, state, and national averages. To register to be your district's data submission representative, please email the NASN Data Coordinator for Illinois, Dena L. Hinkle, DNP, MEd, IL PEL-SN, NCSN at denalhinkle@gmail.com.

To learn more about *Every Student Counts!* and the new data platform, please consider participating in a research project developed by Lewis University MSN School Nurse Capstone students Diane Karamagianis, Krista McClellan, and Amy Pelnarsh. The project is presented in a pretest, webinar, posttest format and will be available during the month of March. The focus of the webinar is how to collect, aggregate, and submit valuable school data to the National Data Set, *Every Student Counts!*. After completion of the three components of the project, the participants will be awarded **1.25 contact hours** for continuing education. If you are interested in participating, please email Amy Pelnarsh amyapelnarsh@lewisu.edu to receive the introductory email and informed consent. We appreciate your consideration.



*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