



February 2015 IASN NewsBlast

IASN Board News

The Board, during the January meeting, worked diligently to achieve a strategic plan that reflects the organization's goals, objectives and action to move IASN toward the future. The profession of school nursing in Illinois is changing. IASN is prepared to meet these challenges.

Your responses to the membership survey were instrumental in focusing our resources on strengthening the practice of professional school nursing, being visible to our stakeholders, and promoting school nursing. 78% felt a need for professional development. Thus, Mary Girardi, State Ed/Certification Chair working with the Ed/Cert Committees and the Executive Committee has submitted the 300 page application for IASN to become a CNE provider. We are awaiting final approval. A **BIG** thank you to Mary for her hard work, endless hours and commitment to follow this venture through for the future growth of IASN and its members! 75% chose collaboration with and support of other school nurses as important. Collaboration with other school nurses comes from being an active member of the Divisions as well as the State Association. Attending meetings, educational offerings, and conferences are ways to enhance your knowledge and spirit of school nursing as well as developing lifelong friendships.

As IASN President, Mary Anne Wesoloski says, WE are responsible for our profession. WE are responsible for our visibility. WE are in charge of our destiny. WE are the school nurses of our future!

IASN Foundation News

Deadlines for all awards, poster presentations and scholarships will be August 1. The Scholarship and Inquiry/Innovations Committees are seeking 1-2 people to join. Please contact Foundation President, Linda Kimel at frogkimel@gmail.com if interested. Updated bylaws, operating guidelines, descriptions and applications for all awards, grants and scholarships will be available on the IASN website. The IASN Scholarship named has been changed to School Nurse Certificate Grant to better reflect its purpose.

A brief description follows:

- 2 \$500 School Nurse Certification Grants - for nurses working towards their School Nurse Certification (PEL-CSN). Must be currently enrolled or have completed the certification program within the past academic year.
- 1 \$1,000 Margaret Winters Scholarship - for a PEL-CSN working on a master's degree in nursing related to working in schools
- 1- \$500 Lois Friel Research Award- to a school nurse for a research project completed within the past 2 years that impacts school nursing or the health of children
- 1 \$ 200 Inquiry and Innovation Mini Grant - to a school nurse for a project completed within the past 2 years that impacts school nursing or the health of children

-1 \$100 Achievement Award - to a school nurse for an achievement accomplished in the past 2 years that impacts school nursing or the health of children (published article, national speaking presentation, demonstration project, poster presentation, project involving a student activity)

Unless otherwise specified, all members, certified and non-certified, are eligible to apply for these awards.

Donors to the Foundation will be recognized on the website.

Mentorship Liaison, Diane Driver, luv2ski57@sbcglobal.net would like more members to become Mentors. There will be a greater demand for mentors to help nurses completing the ISBE course on school nursing and/or those pursuing their PEL-CSN.

Inquiry/Innovation Chair, Robyn Shannon, rshannon6859@gmail.com would like more members submitting poster presentations. This committee will gladly give guidance to potential presenters in preparing your posters. The poster presentations are another means of collaboration among you and your fellow school nurses. Everyone is doing something great in their schools! Please share!

IASN Website

The website has been seeing about 100-200 hits per day. The pages most visited are Home page, Job page, Licensure/Endorsement, Membership, Calendar, Contact and before the October conference, the conference information and handouts link! Information updates are an ongoing process.

Any division events, educational offerings, job vacancies to be posted contact, Linda Gibbons, Executive Secretary at iaschoolnurses@gmail.com and Barb Wicks, Webmaster at encoder422@comcast.net.

Other News

IASN Board will subscribe to the Gold Version of Survey Monkey for state and division balloting and member surveys.

NASN will be raising dues 5% to raise revenue.

Congratulations to Donna Kunz as the new IEA Representative. She will join Linda Vollinger, past IEA Rep and President, Mary Anne Wesoloski at the exhibit table at the IEA Representative Assembly in April.

Cam Traut, IASN liaison to ANA-IL. Informed us that IASN has been invited to ANA's evening with legislators in Springfield in March. Sandy Lawinger, Legislative Affairs Chair and Mary Anne Wesoloski, IASN President will represent IASN.

IASN was invited in January to join a new coalition of Illinois Professional Educator Licensed Professionals. This coalition includes the state organizations for school social workers, psychologists, counselors, nurses, and speech pathologists. The coalition is called "Speaking for Children" This group hopes to bring positive legislation for the children of Illinois. Look for their Facebook page.



Kudos Corner

Kudos to Cameron Traut who traveled on a medical mission trip to Panama.

Kudos to Northwest Division for a successful Fall Conference. The conference had a profit of \$11,000.

Other Kudos have previously been sent out via the listserv.

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