



# IASN November 2016 NewsBlast

## IASN NEWS

Welcome to the new and continuing 2016-2017 IASN elected board officers.

Left to right: Joan Kittler, Treasurer LS, Maryann Tolzien, Recording Secretary LS, Juanita Gryfinski, President- elect NE, Linda Vollinger, President LS, Cameron Traut, Director to NASN NL, Linda Gibbons, Executive Secretary LS. Other officers not pictured, Nominating Committee-- Susan Gerardot NE, Kathy Knawa LS and Jean Geller NW.



Other new members appointed to the 2016-2017 IASN board are: Gloria Barrera serving in the new position as the IASN Director for the National Association of Hispanic Nurses-Illinois Chapter (NAHN-IL) Anne Marie Mullins serving as IASN representative to the Immunization Advisory Committee, and Denise Racky serving in the position of CTU (Chicago Teachers Union) representative. The entire IASN board is looking forward to working with all the above mentioned officers.

President Mary Anne Wesoloski ended her two year term at the conclusion of the October, 2016 conference. Under her leadership IASN continued to grow stronger. During this time IASN established itself as a CNE provider unit, developed a Concussion Training for School Nurses to meet the new state concussion law. Soon this, as well as, other Education Offerings will be available on the IASN website. Other technology updates include on-line conference registration, credit card transactions, membership surveys, electronic elections, Facebook and Twitter launchings.

IASN was visible with Illinois Legislators regarding specific bills impacting school nurses and children's health and were successful in moving bills in favorable directions in ALL instances. IASN also became the first NASN state affiliate to join FiscalNote, a legislative search engine and interactive tool. We had 2 board members on work groups for the revision of the State Nurse Practice Act. IASN continues to strengthen our collaboration with multiple nursing and education organizations and other stakeholders to further the cause for school nursing and childrens' health.

Many of the other achievements obtained during the past 2 years were discussed in the September, 2016 Newsletter and Annual Report. Refer to that for further information.

**THANK YOU** to Mary Anne for her leadership in taking us forward! Think about becoming an active member and even continuing on the path forward by joining the IASN Board! As she said at the conference, "While it is important to know where your journey is taking you, it is more important that you *take the journey.*"

## IASN ANNUAL CONFERENCE, STANDING STRONG FOR STUDENTS



The conference was well attended by 90 attendees. Interesting topics were Toxic Stress, Presentations on Concussion Protocols and Oversight Programs, and The Noisy Planet: What Loud Noises Can Do To Your Hearing. The accommodations and the food were good. The Foundation's Scholarship Fund-raising event-Power of the Purse was successful to the tune of over \$1000.00. So think about applying for scholarships! Check out the scholarship requirements on the website ([iasn.org](http://iasn.org)) under the Foundation Tab. A **HUGE Thank You** to Lynn Rochkes and her team for all their hard work in making this conference a success!

Vyki Jackson, IDPH liaison, is probably going to retire at the end of this year. IDPH is looking for a replacement for her position. It would be terrific to have a PEL Nurse as a candidate. If you know a PEL Nurse who would be a potential candidate, please encourage them to seek information from Vyki. Thank you go out to Vicki for her knowledgeable and helpful service over the years she has held this position! Bunches of Roses to Vyki!



## **SNOY/SNAY**

Congratulations to Linda Kimel as 2016 School Nurse of the Year and to Eva Detloff as 2016 School Nurse Administrator of the Year. They were both honored at the Annual IASN Conference October 21-22, 2016.



## **CTU NEWS (Chicago Teachers Union)**

Helen Ramirez-Odell states in her last report as CTU representative in IASN that this has been a difficult year for the children attending Chicago Public Schools, for the school nurses and the teachers. RCM Technologies was hired to provide nursing services, professional development and scheduling of nurses. LPNs and non-certified RNs were hired to work in the schools. Certified school nurses at CPS dropped to 135 serving almost 600 city schools. CTU has released a report on the failure of RCM Technologies to provide satisfactory nursing services. For access to this report, go to the CTU website at [www.ctunet.com](http://www.ctunet.com). CTU wants a full time nurse not an agency nurse in every school. IASN supports CTU in having more school nurses in the schools. **Thank you** to Helen for serving on the board in this capacity.

## **EDUCATION/CERTIFICATION**

Progress towards meeting IASN APU Goals continue. The goals are: Enhance the quality of continuing education opportunities for nurses working in schools, Establish performance outcomes measures specific to the IASN Approved Provider Unit. The new Education Planning Tool highlights OUTCOMES meaning what will participants do to change their practice and HOW will we measure this? We will need to reassess and resurvey the participants of all educational offerings. This is a work in progress.

## **IASN FOUNDATION**

The Foundation's Mentorship Program is eager to pair newer School Nurses with experienced Nurse mentors. This free program offers a person (that knows the ropes) to help guide new nurses through the ups and downs of a school year, serve as a resource to answer questions and provide helpful hints gained with years of experience, and be someone to listen to excitements and frustrations. Email Carol Virtue if interested in obtaining a mentor at [carolvirtue@gmail.com](mailto:carolvirtue@gmail.com).

### **Inquiry and Innovation**

There were five poster presentations at the Annual IASN Conference, "Standing Strong for Students". They are:

--Martha Bergren & Jessica Gerdes: Step Up & Be Counted! Illinois School Nurses Matter. This poster describes the Step Up and Be Counted National School Nurse Database Initiative and the data reported by the Illinois School Nurses.

--Juanita Gryfinski: The Effect of a Therapy Dog on Self-Reported Student Anxiety. This poster examines the effect therapy dogs have on reducing self-reported levels of anxiety in students with known anxiety disorders.

--Jessica Minnott: Professional Development: Prevention, Treatment and the Aftermath of Concussion. This poster gives school nurses methods and tools for staff development aimed at recognizing and decreasing concussions in students.

--Ayesha Qadir & Jessica Gerdes: Stock Epinephrine in Illinois Schools. This poster outlines protocols for undesignated epinephrine administration, findings of the Illinois State Board of Education report on use of epinephrine in schools and implications for school nurses.

--Celeste M. Schultz: Giving Children a Voice: Exploring Pre-School Age Children's Beliefs about Eating. This poster outlines obesity and healthy weight pre-school children's beliefs about eating and implications for school nursing practice.

Donna Kunz discussing Jessica Minnott's poster presentation. The Poster Presentation award presented to Jessica by Robin Shannon.



## **IASN LISTSERV NEWS**

The etiquette rules are sent out twice a year for review. Failure to comply with the List Rules may result in removal from the Listserv. To review a few rules, Maintain the confidentiality related to client/student health issues. Be careful, when in doubt leave out ANY information which may make identifying the student easy. The "Reply" button sends message automatically to all subscribers. Please re-address posts meant for one person. Do not use the discussion list for personal messages, advertising or other commercial endeavors, campaign or political statements or religious messages. Do not post a survey for research or other purposes without pre-approval by IASN.

It is important to have the listserv as an open, professional forum to share ideas and ask questions of other school nurses. This is why it is important to use your **PERSONAL EMAIL ADDRESS ONLY**. As you know, once any information is put out on the internet it cannot be called back. If you are using your school email address, the school can look at your email anytime and see what you are doing, especially if you are emailing on school time. There is no privacy with a school email address. So if you need to change your email to a personal email address, please send the corrected email addresses to Barb Wicks at [Encoder422@comcat.net](mailto:Encoder422@comcat.net). Remember the address changes are done manually so it may not be done instantly! Guard IASN, you and your students' safety and privacy by changing your email address ASAP!