



NEWSLETTER

Editors:

Mary Beth Durbin & Mary Martin

Spring 2009

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NWOASN

Greetings to all NWOASN Members,

First of all let me thank each and every one of you for being a member of this great organization. It has been my pleasure to be your President. Through this organization, I have met many excellent school nurses that are leaders in school health who have taught me many things.

I would like to acknowledge Beth Roth, our President-Elect, for bringing to us another great NASN sponsored program, S.C.O.P.E. It is necessary for us to be the leaders and strong voices in our schools and communities in order to address this overwhelming issue of obesity. She also brought us experts that taught us how to care for our students living with cystic fibrosis.

Thank you to Beth's committee member, Colleen Ryan, who will bring us to a close this year with our spring banquet, "Eating Right for Health and Wellness." I hope you all will come and take a little time and learn how to care for yourself. I know it is very hard because we are all so used to caring for others.

I will also take this time to thank the rest of our officers: Alice Bruning, our Treasurer; Meg Sullivan, our Secretary; Laurie Gladieux, our Past President; and Marie Kraus, our OASN Representative. I would like to thank the members of our standing committees: Newsletter—Mary Martin and Mary Beth Durbin; Membership—Ann Cipriani; Ways & Means—Mary Schwartz; and our Website—Jan Overmyer. You have all worked hard to benefit NWOASN and make it a strong, meaningful organization.

We were represented well by Maureen Knowles, our Vice President of OASN. The 36th Annual OASN Conference was GREAT!! I am sorry for all of you who could not make it this year; it was tons of fun and lots of learning. Thank you, Maureen!

Last, but not least. Thanks to all of you who have taken the time to write, send e-mails, or call our representatives regarding Governor Strickland's plan for health services in Ohio's schools. It is imperative that we continue to verbalize our concerns that only qualified professional RN School Nurses provide care to our students at the recommended ratio of 1:750 well students and 1:125 for students with complex health care needs. We need to voice our concerns with the role of LPNs in the school setting. If you are not a member of OASN and NASN, I strongly urge you to consider joining. Through their leadership and legislative efforts, we can preserve our position within our schools. Remember, there is strength in numbers.

Sincerely,

Denise Kaufman, RN
President

National School Nurse Day—May 6, 2009

2009 Theme: “School Nurses: Meeting Needs of Today’s Students”

Background: Since 1972, National School Nurse Day has been set aside to recognize school nurses.

Purpose: National School Nurse Day was established to foster a better understanding of the role of school nurses in the educational setting.

Date: National School Nurse Day is celebrated on the Wednesday within National Nurse Week and National Nurse Week is always May 6th through May 12th. Upcoming dates:

May 6, 2009

May 12, 2010

May 11, 2011



Slate of Officers—2009/2010 School Year

President.....Beth Roth
Past President.....Denise Kaufman
Vice President.....Nancy Murdock
Secretary.....Ericka Spsychalski
Treasurer.....Alice Bruning
NWOASN Rep.....Marie Kraus
Ways & Means.....Mary Schwartz
Newsletter.....Laurie Gladieux, Denise Kaufman
Membership.....Ann Cipriani
Website.....Jan Overmyer



Newsletter

Mary Martin and Mary Beth Durbin are handing over the newsletter duties to Laurie Gladieux and Denise Kaufman. Mary and Mary Beth have enjoyed the job, but both have aging parents that are needing attention! Laurie and Denise will do a great job! Thank you!

NASN Annual Conference

You can join your fellow school nurses in Boston June 25-28, 2009, and help NASN’s 41st Conference break more records. Brochures WILL NOT be mailed and must be downloaded from the internet.

Swine Flu

The CDC has suggested that SCHOOLS are the most important in the issue of “controlling” transmission of this flu. The CDC are basing their recommendations on the history of the pandemic flu in 1918—which proved that the early interventions could result in better control of the disease and reducing mortality. CDC stated that by the time that 10% of the population is affected, it is too late to have effective interventions. So they are advocating early intervention!

A great resource directly related to school intervention is: <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/mitigation.htm>. Note specifically the Recommendations for School Dismissal and Child Care Facility Closure. Other resources: www.cdc.gov (check the swine flu section). Also www.osdfs.safeschl.gov. Any questions can be submitted by email to osdfs.safeschl@ed.gov.



Save the Date....



Annual Spring Banquet
“Eating Right for Health & Wellness” Wednesday, May 6, 2009, at St. Luke’s Hospital Auditorium A. Dr. Julie Brennan, Ph.D., is the Director of Behavioral Sciences at the U.T. School of Medicine. She has a Ph.D. in Psychology from OSU and is a registered and licensed dietician.

Registration: 5:00—5:30 p.m.
Dinner: 5:30—6:00 p.m.
Program: 6:00—7:00 p.m.
Business meeting to follow



OASN Conference Highlights by Ann Cipriani

Many TPS School Nurses attended the 36th Annual OASN Conference. Our Department Chair, Maureen Knowles, was responsible for coordinating the entire conference. She did a fantastic job and it was very well attended despite the down turned economy. Many of our nurses helped Maureen with a variety of responsibilities and committees.

Mary Kiplinger had a poster presentation about using guided imagery to help a student with diabetes overcome her fear of self injections.

We came back with new ideas, information, and enthusiasm! Thanks to everyone who helped with this conference.

News from NW Rep

Dear NW members,

This is the latest OASN alert. I realize many of you received it already, and I apologize for the duplicity. However, many are not members of OASN and I want to get the message out. This is the update on HB1. This alert summarizes everything. Letter writing is still needed. It has been VERY beneficial to date. Please do not give up. As always, if you have any questions, please contact me.

Marie Kraus, NW Rep

Substitute House Bill (HB) 1 was released Tuesday afternoon in House Finance Committee! Below is a brief summary of changes OASN has been following and working on:

- LPN language was removed from the bill. The removal of the language was a huge victory for school RNs, OASN and Ohio's students and we thank all of you who participated in some intense advocacy with members of the Ohio House to make this change happen. Because of your advocacy and these changes to the as-proposed HB 1, Substitute HB 1 does not include that a LPN is an acceptable level of service-delivery in Ohio's schools; *however, language in Substitute HB1 does leave two definitions open to interpretation*, including:
 - Definition of the prescribed "district health professional"
 - The qualifications of the school nurse and the school nurse wellness coordinator
- OASN will continue to advocate that the school nurse wellness coordinator qualifications are, at a minimum, a registered nurse. OASN will also fight to bring clarity to the role of the "district health professional" as we continue advocacy in the Ohio Senate (please see below).
- The school medication administration changes we requested are in the sub bill and worded exactly as OASN suggested. The new language allows school employees "who complete a drug administration training program" to administer medication to Ohio's students. This change allows schools to provide high-quality care, maximize student safety as well as gives schools flexibility to meet the health needs of students.

CALL TO ACTION: Here is what OASN NEEDS YOU TO DO TODAY!

Contact Ohio House of Representatives members with the following information by e-mail and phone and/or letter:

- Put in the subject line—"thank you for supporting OASN school nurse amendments."
- For a phone call: Start with—You are calling to express your thanks for your legislator's support of the OASN school nurse amendments.

Addressing letters and emails:

The Honorable John Doe
The Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Mr/Ms Representative Doe

KEY TALKING POINTS:

1. You are expressing your thanks that they carefully considered OASN concerns regarding the health and safety of students and staff.
2. Thank them for recognizing that the scope of practice and educational preparation of the LPN and the RN are vastly different; and that highly qualified school health services for ALL of Ohio's children is important.
3. Thank them for protecting our children by making the medication law changes suggested by OASN, thus removing barriers to students receiving life saving medications, and making sure that those who will deliver them are trained.
4. Always include your name, where you live or work, and who you are: nurse, staff, student, parent, administrator, etc.
5. Please concentrate calls and emails to members of the Ohio House Primary and Secondary Education subcommittee (especially Chairman Dyer); and the members of the Ohio House Finance committee, as well as your own legislator (if he/she is not already on the committee).

Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee Contacts:

Rep Stephen Dyer
614-466-1790

Rep Clayton Luckie
614-466-1607

Rep Ron Maag
614-466-0891

Rep Jennifer Garrison
614-644-8728

Rep Seth Morgan
614-644-8051

Finance and Appropriations Committee Contacts:

Rep Vernon Sykes
614-466-3100

Rep Lorraine Fende
614-466-7251

Rep Ross McGregor
614-466-2038

Rep Linda Bolon
614-466-8022

Rep Stephen Slesnick
614-466-8030

Rep Barbara Boyd
614-644-5079

Rep Ron Amstutz
614-466-1474

UPCOMING WORK IN THE OHIO SENATE:

OASN is continuing its advocacy work in the Ohio Senate, as we are hoping to further clarify the definitions and roles in this bill as noted above. You will receive alerts over the next couple of weeks from OASN, as well as details regarding OASN formal testimony to the Ohio Senate Finance Committee.

OASN continues to be grateful to the grassroots advocacy of the membership—OASN members made a significant difference when they wrote letters, sent emails, and made phone calls. EVERY legislator that OASN leadership has worked with and visited with brought up how well OASN members advocated to their legislators. In short, they noticed!

The next alert you will receive will ask you to start contacting particular senators regarding our requested Senate amendments.