NASN Board of Director's Report- Winter, 2012
by Chris Tuck

It was my great honor to attend and participate in the NASN Board of Directors meeting in Alexandria, VA, January 28th – January 31st, 2012. The board meeting included a reception for all returning board members as well as an orientation for incoming board members. The first day of meetings consisted of information from NASN staff to assist board members in understanding their role on the board, as well as understanding web-site usage, legislative priorities and other essential elements of successful board-work. Committee work and the official board of directors meeting also occurred. Visits to Capitol Hill to meet with our personal legislators occurred on January June 31st. I organized visits with legislative assistants from the offices of Senator Jerry Moran, Senator Pat Roberts, and Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins to discuss NASNs legislative agenda as well as provide specific information about Kansas. (See Legislative Activities information).

This was a monumental meeting as the meeting was entirely paperless. Board members were provided information electronically before the meeting and at the meeting all were provided with a zip drive with information to assist in board meeting business. All board members were to bring a lap top to allow this endeavor to occur. It was a very exciting transition into the digital technology world, and was well received by all board members!

Linda Davis-Aldritt, NASN President, opened the board meeting and provided information about her activities over the past 6 months as she leads the organization forward into the 2012 year.

New NASN Director, Donna Mazyck provided information on the programs, activities and phenomenal work that NASN has done this past year as well as future endeavors they are working on.

Martha Dewey Bergren has resigned her position as Director of Research and NASN is actively seeking her replacement.

This year’s board meeting included support with partnership liaison presence from National Association of State School Nurse Consultants (NASSNC – Jane Stueve, KDHE Child & School Health Consultant and immediate Past President of NASSNC, and Sue Nokleby, President of National Board for Certification of School Nurses).
The following information provides Kansas school nurses with a synopsis of the great work that NASN’s board of directors are doing for school nurses across the country and abroad over the past 6 months.

- **Strategic Committee Assignments** were made for all directors - I have been assigned to the Advocacy/Public Relations committee which encompasses various activities and programs to advocate and support school nursing practice.

- **Membership**: Kansas numbers (2009 - 153, in 2010 – 149, as of Dec. 19, 2011 178) which shows an increase of 29 members this past year. NASN has 15,012 members which is a 9.4% increase in over the past 12 months, and are still focusing on retaining members. NASN continues to focus on sustaining membership and feel that if a school nurses is a member for at least two years, she will most likely continue his/her membership.

- **Legislative Activities** -
  - **2012 Legislative Priorities** -
    - The Student-to-School Nurse Ratio Improvement Act of 2011 was introduced in the House on June 16, 2011. The Senate version of the bill was reintroduced on January 26, 2012. The Act would create a pilot program allowing federal assistance for local educational agencies most in need of improving their ratio. All students should be able to have their health needs safely met while in the school setting. Current reality is that although students today have greater medical needs than in past generations, caseload assignments for nurses vary greatly throughout the U.S. and within states. NASN is asking Members of Congress to become co-sponsors of Representative Carolyn McCarthy’s (D-NY-4) bill in the House (H.R. 2229), and Senator Chuck Schumer’s (D-NY) bill in the Senate. Member support of this critical piece of legislation will work towards ensuring that all students’ health needs are addressed.
    - As the Congress continues to work on the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and prepares for the reauthorization of IDEA, NASN requests the inclusion of specialized instructional support personnel throughout legislative language. As essential members of specialized instructional support personnel, school nurses are serving as a critical link to school success for many students. Having specialized instructional support personnel included in reauthorizing laws would pave the way for the creation of a National School Nurse/Coordinated School Health position within the leadership ranks of the U.S. Department of Education. Such a position would help guide the implementation of necessary health services for all students, including the increasing number of disabled students and students with chronic health conditions. Congressman Dave Loeb sack’s (D-IA-2) bill, H.R. 1995, is supportive of this priority and SISP language is in the Senate Manager’s Amendment for ESEA.
    - Bipartisan legislation has been introduced in the House and Senate that has the potential for saving lives in schools throughout the country. It is the School Access to Emergency Epinephrine Act (H.R. 3627 and S. 1884). In the U.S., approximately 5 million children have asthma and nearly 6 million children have food allergies. The companion bills would provide states with incentives to require elementary and secondary schools to maintain and permit school personnel to administer epinephrine at schools. The lead role of the school nurse as “authorized personnel” is cited in the bills. NASN is asking Members of Congress to co-sponsor this legislation and support its eventual enactment so that more schools nationwide will allow for immediate treatment for anaphylaxis.

Visits were made to Senator Pat Roberts, Senator Jerry Moran and Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins!
• Position Statements - NASN continues to revise and retire position statements and issue briefs as well as write new ones to meet the needs of their members around the world. I was the lead author in an Issue Brief on Service Animals in schools as well as providing input in issue brief on Emergency Equipment in Schools. All new position statements/issue briefs will be highlighted in the NASN Newsletter, so “stay tuned” for more info. Other position statement/issue brief information included:
  ◦ Rescinded IB Chronic Health Conditions – (New PS Chronic Health Conditions and also approved creation of Chronic Health Conditions pamphlet)
  ◦ Rescinded PS Child Abuse and Neglect – (Approved New Issue Brief, Child Maltreatment)
  ◦ Approved IB Concussions – NEW
  ◦ Approved revised PS Education Licensure Certification
  ◦ Rescinded PS on Animals in the Classroom and approved new IB Service animals in Schools
  ◦ Approved PS Nursing Minimum Data Set
  ◦ Rescinded PS Preparing for Emergencies and approved IB Emergency Equipment and Supplies
  ◦ Approved PS Diabetes Management in the School Setting
  ◦ PS Human Sexuality was referred back to committee for re-working of verbiage
  ◦ Approved PS Sexual Orientation – Sexual Minority
  ◦ Approved writing of IB on “School Start Times” – referred back to committee for writing
  ◦ Referred Medication Administration in the School Setting revisions back to committee for further editing–

• NASN continues to have school nurse educational CE opportunities, tool-kits and other programs all providing the school nurse with knowledge and tools to enhance school nursing practice

NASN is currently updating and creating 17 new publications:

• Textbook 2nd ed. – due at the 2012 Conference
• School Nurse Protocols by Cindy Devore, 2012
• From One School Nurse to Another – Deb Liard, revised as webinars, articles, and NASN radio piece
• Mental Health – collaborating with NASP, due 2012
• Delegation of Care – seeking authors
• Managing Weight – due Spring 2012
• Best Practice Series
• Vision care – Kathleen Murphy
• Documentation Guidelines – seeking author
• School nursing advice
• Administrator’s book – Carol Costante, due Summer 2012
• Public Health Book – Naomi Ervin, due late Fall 2012
• The Ear and Hearing Guide revision – seeking author
• Blood borne Pathogens – seeking author
• New Job Performance Evaluation Manual
• Clinical Practice Guideline for Medication Administration
• Asthma book for school nurses – Mike Corjulo – due late 2012

School Nurse Recognition (SNOY) information for Valerie Rainman (KSNO SNOY 2011), has been submitted to NASN for her to be recognized with her school nursing colleagues from across the country, this summer in San Francisco at the annual conference.
**ANNUAL CONFERENCE** – “Advocacy, Access, Achievement: Making the Connection” is the theme for the 44th annual conference in San Francisco, June 23rd through 26th, 2012 in San Francisco.

- Hotel – Marriott Marquis Hotel
- Main Events -
  - 2012 Endowment Event – Yank Sing Restaurant, June 24th 6:30 – 10:30 pm. $125
  - Affiliate Night Out

I will be presenting at a School Emergency Triage Training preconference and Dr. Bub Hull(Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools) and I will present a breakout session titled “NIMS/ICS and All-Hazards Emergency Management in Schools – Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools + Kansas School Nurses Collaboration + Lives Saved”, on Sunday, June 24th at the conference.

- Future NASN Conference Sites:
  - 2012 San Francisco
  - 2013 Orlando
  - 2014 San Antonio
  - 2015 Philadelphia
  - 2016 Atlanta
  - 2017 San Diego
  - 2018 Baltimore

**NASN Elections** will be online this year – Ballots will open on March 15, 2012.
[http://www.nasn.org/Home/ArticlesHomePage/tabid/464/ArticleId/192/2012-NASN-Elections](http://www.nasn.org/Home/ArticlesHomePage/tabid/464/ArticleId/192/2012-NASN-Elections)

- Tia Campbell – Vice President –
- Linda Mendonca – Nominating Committee

**2011 Ratio Ruler updated** - Kansas ranks #13

The results of the 2011 comprehensive Membership survey, conducted every 2 years, were published in the January 2012 issue of the NASN School Nurse. Over 2600 members responded. The responses regarding NASN’s service to members were overwhelmingly positive and information is used to direct association services and educational offerings. Key findings included:

- 95% percent of survey respondents were RNs, 1% LPNs, 3% were advance practice registered nurses, and 1% had other types of licensure.
- School nurses’ ages ranged between 21 and 66+ years of age. 63% are older than 51 years of age.
- 31% of respondents were nationally certified through the National Board for the Certification of School Nurses.
- 83% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. 15% had a master’s in nursing, and another 15% held a master’s in another field. 9% had an associate’s degree in nursing and 4% had a registered nurse diploma as their highest level of education.
- The typical NASN member is a female, registered nurse with a bachelor’s degree who is over the age of 50.
- School nurses earn from less than $19,000 annually to more than $150,000. The largest percentage of school nurses (46%) earn $40,000 – 59,000.
- Readership of all of NASN’s publications has increased significantly since 2009.
- 46% use electronic health records (EHR), with another 28% using less comprehensive EHR (74% total).
More than half of respondents reported needed continuing education in mental and emotional health issues. More than 20% of respondents reported needing continuing education in the following areas:

- Mental or emotional health issues: 53%
- Chronic health care and disease management issues: 47%
- Acute illness or injury: 42%
- Legal issues: 37%
- Emergency preparedness: 34%
- Special education and Section 504: 32%
- Health care planning: 30%
- Grant writing: 27%
- Acute care skills (trach, catheters, gastrostomy): 27%
- Public health (needs assessment, program planning, evaluation): 23%
- Research, evidence-based practice: 23%

The full text of the article: [http://nas.sagepub.com/content/27/1/36.full.pdf+html](http://nas.sagepub.com/content/27/1/36.full.pdf+html)

I have been asked by Linda Davis-Aldritt, NASN’s President, to represent NASN at the Nurses in Washington Internship (NIWI) February 25th – 28th. After the KSNO Board meeting on Saturday, Feb. 25th, I will fly into Washington DC and will attend meetings as well as hill visits during this time. This is truly an honor to represent my school nursing colleagues from Kansas as well as across the country at this phenomenal event!

More photos of the great NASN board meeting and highlights:
State Level Activities:

1) School Nurse Emergency Preparedness Survey Result discussion – (Provided results to child health advocate partners at the Kansas Child and Adolescent Health Council meeting in Topeka in December, and met with representatives from KDHE’s Emergency Preparedness programs (Emily Nickel, Sarah House, Jane Shirley and Pam Tierce) to discuss how these various programs can collaborate with school nurses to assist with emergency operations planning and response efforts in local areas throughout the state. Identified various data sets we would like to see, such as:
   a. Times 911/EMS called to schools
   b. Outcomes of emergency events when transport to hospital occurred in response to 911/EMS calls
   c. Injuries that occur in Kansas schools, to include concussions, fractures, etc.
   d. Times emergency medications (Epinephrine, Albuterol, Glucagon, Diastat, etc.) are administered or emergency procedures (reinsertion of trach or feeding tube, etc.) are done in schools and who were they done by (ie RN, LPN or delegated UAP)
   e. Times schools enacted an emergency operation response (ie lock-down, evacuation (from fire, bomb threat), shelter in place) due to an emergent event that occurred in the school district.

2) Attendance at Kansas State Board of Nursing Practice/IV Therapy Committee meetings – at this time no issues related to school nursing practice have been discussed.


4) Active participation on the Immunize Kansas Kids (IKK) Policy Committee and have participated in phone conferences reviewing strategies of IKK related to immunization policy, with specific strategies that pertain to school/daycare requirements. Also provided written and verbal testimony opposing HB 2094, which would allow exemptions to required vaccinations for reasons of parent/guardian conscience or personal beliefs.

5) Submitted KSNO Major Activity Accomplishments to NASN as requested.

If anyone has any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me. My email address is: ctuck@usd345.com or chris.tuck06@yahoo.com. My home phone number is: 785-484-2525. My work phone numbers are: 785-575-8700 or 785-575-8770 and my cell phone number is: 785-633-1393.