

TASN Director Report for 2013

The NASN Board of Director met twice during 2013. There are several committees on which a director may be assigned to work: Governance and Administration; Advocacy and Public Relations; Research; Finance; and Programs and Resources. Each has a specific role to play in the continued functioning and success in achieving the objectives of the National Association.

In January I began my service on the Research committee. This committee is responsible for furthering the research objectives of NASN including revision and updating of position statements, promoting school nursing research, and advancing the school nurse's access and ability to use current research. During the January meeting each committee spent the first day working on their part of the strategic objectives and committee projects. The second day was a full board of directors meeting during which we discussed and approved several position statements. The Board also continued work on advancing the NASN strategic plan with the goal to ensure that the Association remains a foremost authority on school nursing practice. On the third day the Directors visited the offices of our Congressmen and promoted the legislative objectives of NASN. Building on that work, the NASN Government affairs liaison worked with Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy of New York to reintroduce the Student-to-School Nurse Ratio Act in May.

An important project of NASN this spring was the 2013 School Nurse Survey (previously known as "the membership survey") which is conducted every two years to learn the needs of school nurses (both members and nonmembers). This year's survey was updated to address the strategic activities of NASN. After the data is tabulated the results will be provided. This year there were a record-breaking number of school nurses who participated, thanks to the efforts of affiliate presidents who assisted in getting the word out about the survey.

In April, the staff of NASN completed the move into the new offices, just a short distance from the previous offices. The new offices are located at 1100 Wayne Avenue, Suite 925, Silver Spring, MD 20910. The phone and fax numbers remain the same: phone: 1-240-821-1130 ; Toll-Free phone: 1-866-627-6767; Fax: 1-301-585-1791

In June the Board of Directors met again in Orlando, Florida. We experienced a productive board meeting and a very informative conference. In addition, I am thrilled to tell you that a huge milestone was reached in June of this year. During the June Board of Director's meeting and the annual convention, our endowment fund goal of one million dollars was reached and announced to all attendees to much rejoicing. It has taken thirteen years of progress to reach this point but now we can start to use the proceeds of the fund to provide opportunities for school nurses for research and education. The research committee will continue to provide recommendations to the Endowment committee as plans are developed for use of these funds.

One goal of the work of NASN is to promote the role of the school nurse in translating health reform into the school setting and increasing the visibility of the school nurse. Throughout the year, members of the NASN staff have represented and promoted school nursing in a variety of forums including venues such as the National Hemophilia Foundation (NHF) School Nurse Summit; the National Children's Oral Health Foundation; the Working Group on Education and Health, part of the National Prevention Council's Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion, and Integrative and Public Health; the Midwest Hemophilia Summit, which brought nurse leaders and bleeding disorder experts together to discuss von Willebrand's Disease; and various state school nurse conferences.

The Research committee has continued to work on our objectives in support of the strategic plan. We have been working on grants with various partners to conduct and disseminate pertinent research related to school nursing. These partnerships and grants will improve data collection and increase knowledge on school nursing. We are continuing to promote the inclusion of school health data in the national health and educational data sets. We are indentifying the critical indicators that will help distinguish the effects of school nursing on child, family and school communities. We continue to update current position statements, research and write new position statements to present to the full Board of Director's for approval, and are currently reviewing the joint statements and endorsements.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Mauter BSN, RN
TASN Director for NASN