

NASN Board Report

January 30, 2011

Submitted by Suzey Delger FNP, WSNA Director

1. Financial: Chicago conference income was down significantly over the Boston conference by approx. \$200,000 due to decreased attendance and vendor participation. However, we received 3 new grants totaling \$700,000 which will be able to cover the loss. We were reassured we are not deficit spending and we are financial stable.
2. Position Statements: We have 53 position statements some of which are very old. Please look at NASN.org for updated position statements as they become available. We have a new Education Director: Sally Schoessler who has done a fantastic job of helping the committee's to rework these statements.
3. Legislative priorities:

**Student-to-School Nurse Ratio Improvement Act** of 2009 was introduced in the House and the Senate during the 111<sup>th</sup> congress. A version of the bill was also included in the House health care reform bill. The Act would create a pilot grant program allowing federal assistance for states 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 the new bills when they are reintroduced in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress by Representative Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY) and Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) 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 US 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.

**The lack of paid sick days has become a public health concern.** More than forty million private-sector workers (38%) do not have access to paid, job-protected time off to recover from a common illness like the flu—millions more lack paid, job-protected sick time to care for a sick child or close family member. And among workers in the lowest income bracket, 81% do not have a single paid sick day. For children with both common and chronic illnesses, the results can be devastating for health, well-being, and educational success. In a study of mothers, 40% whose children had asthma and 36% whose children had other chronic diseases did not have paid sick days. School nurses know that now is a critical time for making paid sick days a reality, given the rapid spread of flu and other illnesses in school. The need is clearly essential for the economic survival of families and for obvious public health reasons. **Member support is requested when the Health Families Act is reintroduced in the House and the Senate.**

**I would expect that none of our Wyoming representatives (Senator Enzi, Senator Barrasso, or Representative Lummis) plan to support the position on Paid Sick days, due to the national debt that they see as a top priority and they view these as State's issues not Federal Gov't Issues. This is based on previous discussions that I have held with them, I was unable to meet with them this visit due to the adverse weather in D.C. They however may support the reauthorization of IDEA.**

4. The program that NASN that deals with school nurses as first responders in emergencies has been completely revamped and is now available through NASN for presentation.
5. The reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act has been passed and we are all to be commended for our legislative participation.
6. Recruitment/Retention of members: We did indeed get 1000 new members in 100 days in the fall, but the most important thing is to now retain those members. The most valuable way to get people to engage is to present opportunities for "meaningful" ways to volunteer. If you can ask and encourage people to join and then help that person find meaning in WSNA that translates to NASN members. Some advantages of membership included: \$325 worth of free CE's.
7. We need to be certain that our By-laws match NASN as the Director position does not end until the January Board meeting when the new member is inducted.
8. Suzey has been appointed to a sub-committee to work on ways that NASN can help present "task training" to the LPN's across the country that are school nurses.
9. NASN has seen a 9% increase in members over last year with 15,014 members. We have a total of 72 members from Wyoming (66 Active, 2 Associate, 3 at large, and 1 LRE (retired). We need to find out why we have 3 at large members since we are an affiliate state.
10. There is a new Food Allergy Toolkit on the NASN web page for all to use.

11. The next Annual conference will be in Washington DC and we hope to see many of our Wyoming Nurses in attendance.

**Sincerely submitted,**

**Suzey Delger FNP**