Dear RICSNTA Members,

As we enter this season of colds, hot chocolate, flu, cozy slippers, strep, and being indoors with those we love, I want to take the time to thank you for all that you do. School nurses are on the front line of surveillance in the community. We know first when there is a virus going around. We know first when a family can’t afford heat. We know first when a child isn’t getting enough food. We know so many things first…. sometimes it is overwhelming. Please take time for yourself and your family. Please remember to take care of you first, so that there is something left, to take care of others. Thank you for all that you do.

Your professional organizations are here to support you. The RICSNTA website was down for a while, but it is back up and functioning. Both www.ricsnta.org and www.nasn.org are invaluable resources for you. Please be sure to become active members of both organizations and use all the resources that they have to offer. The National Association of School Nurses is our national professional organization. They have a large amount of resources that are free to use for all school nurses, but they offer a lot more for their members. Did you know that by being a member you can get free CEUs? Did you know that they have a vision program where you can get free eye exams and eyeglasses for your students in need? Did you know that they offer discounts on publications, conferences, and other resources to their members? If you aren’t a member of NASN, please join. They support the work of RICSNTA, and every school nurse, everyday.

The Board of RICSNTA is working hard to ensure that all of you have resources to ensure best practice, up-to-date information, and are able to care for the children you serve. There is a lot of work happening to try to establish a new list-serv, a better website, and to provide continuous surveillance of the legislation and issues arising in school health. We are attending meetings on the state level for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the RI Action Coalition (RIAC), Department of Health (HEALTH), State Implementation Model (SIM), and ANA- RI. Regionally we are involved with planning the New England Conference that will be held in Maine this May. On the national level we are actively involved with the National Board (NBCSN), and NASN. It is important to be at the table and to have a voice. This involves a lot of people and a lot of time. There is always room on the Board for new members. Please consider becoming more involved with RICSNTA.

A very special thank you to each member of the Board, for all that you do!

Sincerely,
Diane Kowal
REMINDER – Step Up and Be Counted Continues in the 2016-2017 School Year

Step Up and Be Counted

2016-2017 School Year

Plan for your district/school to Step Up and Be Counted:

1) Designate ONE nurse per district to compile the district’s data and make one submission on behalf of the district at the appropriate time

2) Private or Parochial schools should submit for your individual school

3) Submission date for the 2016-2017 school year – submit June 1, 2017 (link for submission to be sent)

4) Link for data point definitions  https://www.nasn.org/portals/0/2016_SUBC_Data_Points.pdf

5) More detailed information to be presented at RI DOH/RICSNTA conference in April

Thank you,

Linda Mendonca

Designated State Data Champion  linda.mendonca@health.ri.gov

Submitted by Linda Mendonca
My role as NASN Director for Rhode Island has certainly continues to be an exciting one! This fall I was elected by the NASN Board of Directors to serve a 2 year term on the NASN Executive Committee. I mentioned before how impressed I was at the work done by the Board, and now get a closer more “inside” look at NASN. I’m finding that monthly 4-5 hour webinar committee meetings are the norm, (I’m glad technology allows me to walk around the house if I need to and still be connected to the meeting!) as well as 2 additional face-to-face EC meetings. It is an exciting opportunity and I appreciate the support I have to be able to participate in this!

The NASN Board of Director’s meeting will be held in D.C. from February 4th through February 7th. Among other things, the BOD will discuss the NASN Strategic Plan for 2017-2020 with updated goals of the organization. Board Members have also scheduled appointments with the Legislators from their state to discuss legislative priorities of NASN, which are:

- Reauthorization of CHIP (Children’s Health Insurance Program) which finances quality health coverage for more than eight million children in families with incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid but too low to afford private health coverage. Current funding will expire on September 30, 2017
- Support for the NURSE Act (Nurses for Under-Resourced Schools Everywhere Act) – which would recognize the critical role of school nurses in providing students access to quality health care so that they are safe, healthy, and ready to learn. Wide nurse:student ratios disparities exist from state to state, within states and school districts, and between urban and rural schools.
- School-Based Medicaid Services – NASN opposes attempts to implement block grant or per capita caps. Schools are part of the safety net for children and Medicaid plays a significant role, particularly in the funding of needed medical services for children in special education under IDEA through their IEP, but also for those students without IEPs who are eligible for Medicaid.
- Child Nutrition Reauthorization – Congress failed to reauthorize this important nutritional program that ensures children have access to breakfast and lunch in the last Congress.

I will be meeting on February 7th with Senators Reed and Whitehouse as well as Rep. Langevin and members of their staff to discuss these issues as well as issues related to the health and safety of the students in RI. I look forward to updating you on our progress after the meeting!

Submitted by:

Marianne Manzi Adams
Dear Members,

If you know of any nurses who are seeking school nurse teacher certification please direct them to Dr. Christine Fisher, the coordinator of the Master’s In Health Education and for School Nurse Teacher certification, Department of Health and Physical Education. Her office number is 456-9693 and her email address is cfisher1@ric.edu.

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) is no longer doing transcript review for School Nurse Teacher certification. Therefore, those seeking certification will need to complete a Credential Review Pathway (CRP) through Rhode Island College, a Credential Review Consortium Institution* (CRCI). Although Rhode Island College does not have an official school nurse teacher certification (SNTC) program, we do offer the eight courses required by the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), prior to January 2015, for certification as a school nurse teacher. Until RIC has a program for SNTC the eight courses remain as the course work needed for SNTC.

If a School Nurse Teacher has Preliminary certification and needs to renew their certification, they will need to start the CRP process.

Please refer to the following link for additional information: https://www.ric.edu/healthphysicaleducation/graduate_school_nurse.php

I will be teaching one of the required certification courses, HPE 531 Methods and Procedures for School Nurse Teachers, Spring Semester. The course is scheduled to meet on Thursdays from 4:00-6:50 pm in the Murray Center, Rm. 201.

I wish you a Happy Healthy New Year!

Best regards,
Alice Brady, RN, Ed.D., M.Ed., CSNT, CCHC
Adjunct Professor
Rhode Island College
Department of Health and Physical Education
abrady@ric.edu
Advocacy/Legislative Committee

HAPPY NEW YEAR! We hope everyone enjoyed beautiful and memorable holidays with family and friends and we are hopeful that 2017 will be a healthy, safe, and rewarding year for everyone.

The RI legislature is back in session as of early January 2017. The General Assembly website is monitored daily by our committee members to review bills newly introduced to the House and Senate. Any bills that may potentially impact our school nursing profession or the health and safety of our school children are carefully tracked and monitored by this committee. Careful consideration is given and executive committee is consulted before any action is taken on behalf of RICSNTA. At Educational Meetings, board meetings, through the newsletter or other communication avenues, members are notified of any action taken.

I encourage everyone to visit the General Assembly website to peruse the wealth of information available within this user-friendly site. Their website address is www.rilin.state.ri.us. You can look up information on your state representative and senator, read bills currently being heard and voted upon, and learn about how a bill becomes law.

Please be reminded that RICSNTA respect fully requests you to contact the Advocacy/Legislative committee or any member of the Executive Board if you have any legislative concerns or are interested in proposing legislation to improve student health and safety. If we work together as a collective unit we can move forward with greater strength to bring about changes to positively impact RI, our students, and our school nurse-teacher practice and profession.

Respectfully,

Deborah L. Svitil
Marilyn Mattera
Penny Bailey
Debra Weaver

Legislative/Advocacy Committee
RHODE ISLAND

SCHOOL NURSE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Seeking nominations for this year’s

Certified school nurse teacher of the year

Requirements:

- Full time CSNT in R.I. who provides direct services to students
- An active member of RICSNTA for the current and last 3 consecutive years
- Provide evidence of excellence in their practice

Questions and nominations may be directed to:

Lillian Martin
273 Anthony Street
Seekonk, MA  02771
774-991-2289

Deadline for nominations is February 10, 2017
School Nurse/teachers in Warwick have been busy not only providing our daily health services including dealing with Noro Virus and Flu, but also holding several community Blood Drives (Michelle Furlong RN), offering CPR classes (Carole Sivo RN) to staff and faculty in all schools, and asthma clinics (Donna Rainone RN). We have also been busy with multiple in-service training’s using Aspen in our Health offices. In an effort to switch to electronic health records, these training’s have been extremely informative in learning how Aspen can be utilized and revised to meet our medical needs while maintaining student confidentiality and hopefully save valuable time.

Scholarship

Applications for the Elizabeth Robinette Annual scholarship are now being accepted. Deadline for submission is April 7, 2017. The $500 award is given to a registered nurse who intends to enter the field of school nursing. The award will be presented at our annual banquet in May. Criteria, procedure and application can be found on our website. Please pass along this information to anyone who may be entering or has already taken some classes to become certified as a school nurse. For any questions, please send me an email rdicenso@woonsocketschools.com. During each educational meeting held during the school year, raffle tickets are sold for baskets donated by RI school nurses from our districts. So far, we have collected $310. Your support is greatly appreciated. This money directly benefits our annual scholarship.

Upcoming Events
RHODE ISLAND CERTIFIED SCHOOL NURSE TEACHERS

Our Winter Educational Meeting

Topic- “CARING FOR STUDENTS WITH TYPE 1 DIABETES IN THE SCHOOL SETTING & THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL NURSE”

DATE AND PLACE- Tuesday January 31, 2017 @ Crowne Plaza Warwick, R.I.

In order to accommodate everyone, we request your registration no later than Fri. 1/20/17

This activity has been submitted to the Northeast Multistate Division for approval to award 2 contact hours.

SCHEDULE FOR THE EVENING:

- 3:30- 4:00 p.m. - registration/visit vendors/networking
- 4:00- 4:40 p.m. - buffet dinner/general membership meeting
- 4:40- 4:50 p.m. - Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
- 4:50- 5:00 p.m. - presenter set up time
- 5:00- 7:00 p.m. - Gregory Fox MD presentation

Registration Form

Name-__________________________________________ Email-________________________________________
Address-___________________________________________________________
Home Phone-__________________ Cell Phone-__________________

Please make check payable to RICSNTA. Checks MUST be RECEIVED by Friday 01/25/17. Be sure to include your invoice if you registered on-line and are paying by check.

Please contact Sue Breen (svervl@yahoo.com) if you have any food allergies
TEEN DATING VIOLENCE TRAININGS
FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS,
FACULTY, RESOURCE OFFICERS, TA’S
(Elem. Staff also welcome to attend)

Wednesday, March 29, 2017
3:30-6:30pm
Thursday, March 30, 2017
3:30 – 6:30pm
both held at Parkview Middle School Library
25 Park View Blvd, Cranston

For your convenience, we are offering 2 dates to choose from.
Kindly choose one date only.

Participants will receive training on the topic of dating violence including the
warning signs, cycle of abuse, effects on the victim, responding to victims and
incidents of tdv at school, and community resources. Implementing the Lindsay
Ann Burke Act, including simplifying RIDE’s model tdv policy and developing a
district tdv policy will be covered if needed.

Presenter:  Ann Burke, M.Ed.  Retired Health Teacher/SNT
Participants receive Certificate of Attendance for 3.0 hrs
Cost = free.

REGISTRATION: Space is limited.  Pre-register asap via email to:
annburke@labmf.org
Provide your name, school, position, and email address.  Confirmation &
handouts will be sent via email.

Save the Date
The Rhode Island Department of Health, Rhode Island Certified School Nurse Teacher Association, and Brown University Alpert Medical School

*Present the*

**2017 School Nurse Conference**

Monday, April 24, 2017

3:00 – 7:30 pm

Crowne Plaza – Warwick, Rhode Island

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**NASN2017 - the NASN 49th Annual Conference**

*From Evidence to Action*

Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina, San Diego, California

June 30 - July 3, 2017 (preconference June 29th)

More info to follow.

I guarantee it will be a great conference!
Registration is now open for the 2017 New England School Nurse Conference May 6-7 in beautiful Portland, Maine! This two day conference offers many presentations relevant to our practice, dynamic speakers and networking opportunities, and offers 8 CEU’s for those attending the full conference.

Registration now open: Please visit [http://tinyurl.com/NESNC2017](http://tinyurl.com/NESNC2017)

Hotel rooms at the beautiful Holiday Inn by the Bay Portland, Maine may be booked starting at $155 per night plus tax by calling the hotel directly and requesting the conference rate.

Conference Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/2017NESNC/](https://www.facebook.com/2017NESNC/)

If you plan on attending we would love to hear from you! Rhonda and I will be organizing a RI attendee dinner reservation on Saturday evening. Please send us an email so we can contact you with carpooling and dinner reservation details.

Amy Dark amydark@cox.net and Rhonda Sexton rlsrn7@verizon.net

NE Conference Co-Chairs
EXECUTIVE BOARD

President- Diane Kowal
Past-President- Donna Lennon
President- Elect- Rachel Cruz
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Membership - Renee Dicenso/Rachel Cruz
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