



National Board for Certification of School Nurses

Newsletter

Spring 2013

NBCSN Board Members

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 - ◆ Nadine Schwab, BSN, MPH, NCSN, FNASN
Executive Director
Orange, CT
- NASN Representative**
- ◆ Tia Campbell
Mechanicsville, Virginia

NBCSN Reception

All NCSNs are invited to the NBCSN reception at the NASN Conference on Wednesday June 26th from 6:30-7:30. NCSN of the Year and NCSN Liaison of the Year will be recognized.

President's Message

Susan Nokleby



Certified Nurses Day is celebrated every year on March 19 in honor of Dr. Margretta Madden Style's birthday. She developed nursing standards, designed a study on nurse credentialing and promoted nursing certification to provide quality nursing and improve health outcomes. AACN calls certification "a milestone of personal excellence along the professional journey." Certification is an acknowledgement that the nurse has the knowledge, experience and skills necessary for competence in a nursing specialty.

In November 2012, NBCSN endorsed the *Statement on Continuing Competence for Nursing: A Call to Action* which was proposed by the National Board for Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nurses (NBCHPN) in 2011. Key to the statement is the definitions of competence and competency — two concepts in professional nursing and certification. Although the terms seem interchangeable, they are distinctly different. Competence is defined as the individual nurse's ability to function in a given situation. Competency refers to the performance of the nurse. Nurse's competence is necessary to demonstrate competency. Continued competence refers to the nurse's commitment to continue to apply knowledge, skills and judgment in their practice. The complete statement can be viewed at <http://nursingcertification.org/pdf/Statement%20on%20Continuing%20Competence%20for%20Nursing%20June%202011%20FINAL.pdf>

Earlier this year, we put out a call for applicants to serve on the Board. We had several excellent candidates. The Board ranked the candidates based upon their qualifications. A committee interviewed the three top candidates, and employers were contacted to confirm their support of the candidate's time and travel commitments to NBCSN. Martha Dewey Bergren was nominated to the Board and appointed to begin in June. An article featuring Martha's interest in serving on the Board for a second term and the expertise she brings to it will be included in the Fall Newsletter. The other two top candidates were also nominated to serve on the board and will be appointed as additional positions open.

President's Message — continued from page 1

Our application for reaccreditation to American Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC) is in process. We are currently clarifying questions from ABSNC. When accepted, we will be accredited for another five years.

The Role Delineation Study (RDS) generated rich data that NBCSN is committed to further evaluate. Currently we are working with NASN on a memorandum of collaboration to further analyze the study data and explore possibilities for additional research on the unique role of school nurses. See the article in this Newsletter about the RDS, including information on a workshop at the NASN annual conference on June 27, 2013, in Orlando regarding preliminary findings of the RDS.

On June 26th at the 2013 NASN conference, NBCSN is holding an item writing workshop. Consider joining NBCSN at this rewarding professional experience to learn about how to generate items for the certification exam. Later the same day, the Board will hold the annual State Liaison Meeting, followed by the NBCSN reception. More information on these events is included in this newsletter.

References

American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN). Certified nurses day-March 19. Retrieved from <http://www.aacn.org/WD/Certifications/Content/celebrate-cert-nurses-day.content?menu=certification>

National Board for Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nurses (NBCHPN), 2011. Statement on continuing competence for Nursing: A call to action. Retrieved from <http://nursingcertification.org/pdf/Statement%20on%20Continuing%20Competence%20for%20Nursing%20June%202011%20FINAL.pdf>

Mission Statement

The mission of NBCSN is to advance the quality of school health services (school health practice) by providing a rigorous national, credentialing process to validate competency based on professional standards.

Vision Statement

Certification by NBCSN is widely recognized and highly valued by providers, employers, and the public as the standard of excellence for school health services.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS?

NCSNs, send us any changes to your e-mail addresses by emailing certification@nbcnsn.com. Please be sure to include your full name and new email. Make NBCSN a "safe sender" to ensure that e-mails from NBCSN are not sent to your SPAM folder. You can also register for the online member section by using the weblink that is included in the body of the email this newsletter came in. Once you are registered online, you can update your information .

Upcoming exam dates

July 23– August 3, 2013

Application deadline
May 31, 2013

2012 Annual Board Meeting Highlights

Joyce Ells

The NBCSN board met November 29 – December 2, 2012 at the Professional Testing Corporation (PTC) office in New York. We spent two days reviewing and formalizing the content for the 2013 examinations. Dr. Sallyann Henry, President and psychometrician of PTC, facilitated this review. Dr. Henry introduced us to Dr. Pamela Ing, a new member and psychometrician of PTC. She joined us in the two-day review process. We also reviewed previous test results to help us understand the validity of our examination.



Officer reports, as well as sub-committee reports, were presented when our official board meeting began on December 1st. These reports will be highlighted from their respective chairpersons throughout this newsletter.

The Board made changes to our policies and procedures. The Policy and Procedure Committee will make the edits based on the Board's recommendations before posting the updated version online.

The Board made plans for its annual Item Review Session which will be held in North Carolina.

The Board discussed the upcoming National Association of School Nurses (NASN) annual conference. We made tentative plans for our board meeting and our activities prior to the conference.

This year we will invite NCSNs to an all-day Item Writing pre-conference session. Details for participation in this event will follow. Our other activities prior to the conference include the NCSN Liaison Meeting and the NCSN Reception. We have one breakout session, NBCSN Role Delineation Study, which will be presented on the first day of the conference.



Nancy Crutchfield,
Secretary, NBCSN

Finally, the Board re-elected Mary Ann Gapinski and Carol Costante to two-year terms. We also elected new officers. Carol Costante is our Vice-President and Nancy Crutchfield is our Secretary. Joyce Ells becomes our Newsletter Editor.



Carol Costante, VP, NBCSN



NBCSN at our December 2012 meeting in New York City.

Left to right: Susan Praeger , Carol Costante, Susan Nokleby, Nancy Crutchfield, Mary Gelfman, Mary Ann Gapinski, Joyce Ells, Tia Campbell (NASN), Nadine Schwab

Liaison Corner

Thank you to our current liaisons!

Liaisons are NCSNs who promote certification and facilitate communication between school nurses in their state and NBCSN. Each state can have one or two liaisons; more than one is especially helpful in large states. Currently, thirteen states have two liaisons and twenty two states have one. At this point, thirty-five states have liaisons. States with liaisons are:

Dianne Swanson (AK)	Faith Miller (ID)	Susan Rothman (MO)	Marlys Woodard (TX)
Catherine Davis (AL)	Wendy Kaplan Smith (IL)	Jodi Sullivan (MS)	Rae Ann White (UT)
Carla Kelley (AR)	Ginger Barnes (IL)	Donnis Harris (MS)	Belinda Cameron (VA)
Candace Hilvers (CA)	Lindsey Minchella (IN)	Dorothy Warner (MT)	Mary Spare (VA)
Teresa Ross (CO)	Christine Tuck (KS)	Clementine Buford (NC)	Karolyn Towne (VT)
Patricia Krin (CT)	Patricia Hoban (MA)	Dina Ward (NM)	Janice Doyle (WA)
Sharon-Rose Gargula (DE)	Donna Lyman (MD)	Arlene Heitt (NV)	Diane Nelson (WI)
Nancy Nadel (DE)	Jeanne McDuffie (MD)	Mary Bacharach (NY)	Denise Koster (WV)
Dianne Mennitt (FL)	Jane Borr (MI)	C. Dawn Abbott (OH)	Sharon Richardson (WV)
Carolyn Seifert (FL)	Julie Lechtenberg (MI)	Mary Norton (OH)	
Sally Vandenbos (GA)	Cynthia Hiltz (MN)	Michelle Ulishney (PA)	
Sharon Guthrie (IA)	Jeanne Sedgwick (MN)	Jessica Porter (SC)	
Julieann Horras (ID)	Connie Caudle (MO)	Robbie Gellman (TX)	

If your state is not listed above or if your state has only one State Liaison and you are interested in becoming a State Liaison, please visit the website for more information and an application. Most State Liaisons find it is professionally rewarding to promote national certification in their state.

Any questions that are not answered on the website, email the Board's State Liaison Coordinator, Carol Costante, RN, BSN, MA, NCSN, FNASN at carol.costante@gmail.com.

State Liaison Annual Report

Don't forget that the State Liaison Annual Report is due April 15th. Start now if you haven't already to think of ideas to promote national certification. Keep track of your efforts to make it easier to fill out your report. Ideas for promotion and marketing can be found on the website. <http://nbcnsn.com/liasons.htm>

Liaison Meeting—June 2013

Carol Costante, NBCSN Vice President, will meet with state liaisons to give them an update on issues being addressed by the board. Sue Nogleby, NBCSN President, and other members of the Board will attend the Liaisons' Meeting and look forward to feedback from the liaisons, as well. The meeting will be held on Wednesday June 26, 2013 at 5:00 pm at the Walt Disney World Swan and **Dolphin** Resort. Mark your calendar so you can attend this informative session.



State Liaisons are the Key to Promoting Certification

Our State Liaisons are extremely important to NBCSN. They promote certification at the state level in ways that work for individual states, and they serve as the link between the state and the NBCSN. Although the number of liaisons have increased slightly, we still need representation in: Arizona, Hawaii, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Wyoming. If you or anyone you would recommend would be interested in this most important volunteer position, please apply. Information about the responsibilities of Liaisons and the application form can be found on our website.

For more information you may contact Carol Costante, Vice President of NBCSN, at carol.costante@yahoo.com. She will be contacting the state presidents in the above listed states to request that they appoint a Liaison and suggest that they create a Liaison seat on the State Association Board so that certification can be integrated into the fabric of the state's activities.

For those of you who are already Liaisons, please remember that your annual report to NBCSN is due April 15th. If you are attending the annual conference in Orlando, we will be hosting a meeting for Liaisons to answer questions and share strategies that work in promoting certification. You are also in position to nominate someone from your state for the annual recognition award for outstanding NCSNs.

Seeking nominations for NCSN Recognition of the Year

Consider nominating a NCSN colleague who exemplifies excellence in their practice of school nursing and dedication to national certification. Nominations are due April 30th.

See website for past winners (<http://nbcnsn.com/recognition.htm#recognition>) and nomination form (<http://www.nbcnsn.org/PDFs/RecognitionAward.pdf>)

NBCSN Events at the NASN Conference

NBCSN Events at the NASN Conference

Wednesday June 26, 2013

8:00 AM-4:30 PM—NBCSN Item Writing Workshop. Read more about this on page 6 and check out the website for more details and the application.

5:00-6:00 PM—Liaison Meeting. Read more about this on page 4.

6:30—7:30 PM—NBCSN Reception

Liaison of the Year award

NCSN Recognition Award

Share your Accomplishments

NBCSN is interested in celebrating your **"Good News!"** by publishing information about a degree, honor, or promotion you have been awarded. If you have published an article or completed a research project, let us know. NBCSN would like to share it with other NCSNs through the NCSN Newsletter. Send your **"Good News!"** to Joyce Ells, Newsletter Editor at jellls@hotmail.com

ITEM WRITING WORKSHOP

ATTENTION NCSNs – Apply now to attend NBCSN's Item Writing Workshop!

WHEN – June 26, 2013, Pre-Conference day at NASN

WHERE – Orlando, FL, NASN annual conference

HOURS – 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Use your knowledge of quality, evidence-based school nursing practice to enhance NBCSN's certification examination. Item writing is essential to exam development. Excellent items (questions) produce a credible examination. This workshop is intended to provide NCSNs with the knowledge and skills necessary to become competent item writers.

Participants will:

Learn principles of writing test questions;

Analyze test items;

Write 15 original test items that have never been used, published or shared previously;

Interact with other NCSNs in contributing to future certification examinations.

Requirements:

NCSN

Commitment to diligent work – before, during, and after the workshop

Review of test writing materials prior to workshop

Participation for the full day 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Submission of 15 original questions generated at or within three months following the workshop that have never been used, published or shared previously.

Participants earn:

Certificate for 5 credits towards NCSN recertification

\$500 stipend after attendance at the workshop and submission, within 3 months (by September 26th) of 15 original questions that have never been used, published or shared previously.

To Apply: Complete the application which you can find by clicking here on [Forms & Applications](#) or going to www.nbcsn.com, and at the bottom (or left side) of the page, click on the Forms & Applications section. Fax, or scan and email, the application to the number/address below **no later than May 10, 2013**.

REMINDER

Log onto the Member's section of the NBCSN website. Here you can make changes to your address/email as well as see past editions of the newsletter.

Online Practice Exam

Practice test available for \$75.

To get more information please visit:

<http://www.ptcny.com/clients/NBCSN/#Dates2>

Spring Meeting of the American Board of Nursing Specialties

Mary Gelfman, JD, NBCSN's Public Member, and Nadine Schwab, Executive Director, represented the Board at the Spring meeting of the American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) in Las Vegas on March 1 and 2, 2013. NBCSN is a member of ABNS, along with representatives of approximately 32 other nursing specialty certification organizations. Some members have attained accreditation by the American Board for Certification Specialty Nurses and other members are considering or in the process of application, but have not yet become accredited. Several associate members representing vendors who provide testing, software, and management services for certification boards also attend.

The day and one half meeting is extremely stimulating and educational for Board members, who attend on a rotating basis. Part of the meeting is to conduct the business of the organization and the rest is quality continuing education related to certification programs for specialty nurses and advanced practice nurses. Highlights of the business and informational content include:

ABNS Research Committee and Credentialing Research in Nursing

ABNS has a formal relationship with and liaison from the Institute for Credentialing Excellence, or ICE, to find things they can collaborate on to move certification research forward.

ICE has invited ABNS to have a representative sit on its Continuing Competence Task Force.

ABNS has a bibliography with resources current through 2012 related to specialty nursing certification and related research.

This bibliography is accessible to the public, not just member organizations, and will be interactive in the near future.

The ABNS Research Committee has a Task force to synthesize findings from eight research projects on certification and report the results in a manuscript.

Preliminary findings from Phase Two of its research project on nurse-sensitive quality indicators are very exciting in the areas of patient falls, wound care, and reduced infections across operating and critical care nurses managing surgical patients, showing a link with better outcomes when care is provided by certified nurses. These findings are not directly relevant to all certified nursing specialty groups who are accredited (such as NCSNs) although they have implications for them. (Aside from NBCSN: Example of an implication for school nursing might be the need for implementation (and enhancement) of standardized nursing languages to enable research on school-nurse-sensitive quality indicators across settings and states).

ABNS is seeking funding for Phase Three of its research project on nurse-sensitive quality indicators (using ANA's [National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators, NDNQI](#)) to investigate patient outcomes across the continuum of care. For information about NDNQI, see <https://www.nursingquality.org/>

The first meeting of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) Standing Committee on Credentialing Research in Nursing, sponsored by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), was held on January 14, 2013, in Washington, DC. The presentations and a panel discussion focused on gaps in the research, methodological and measurement challenges, and priorities for future research. The meeting included a public comment period and several open question-and-answers sessions.

For general information on the IOM Standing Committee on Credentialing Research in Nursing and to sign up for email alerts about its activities (bottom left side), go to:

<http://www.iom.edu/Activities/Workforce/NursingCredentialing.aspx>

For information on the first meeting and access to the presentation content (right side, click on presenter's name), visit:

<http://www.iom.edu/Activities/Workforce/NursingCredentialing/2013-JAN-14.aspx>

For general information on IOM, visit

<http://www.iom.edu/About-IOM.aspx>

ABNS Task Force on the IOM *Future of Nursing* update March 1, 2013 – The Task Force's purpose is to identify talking points regarding the IOM's *Future of Nursing* document and each of its recommendation, what ABNS has done related to the recommendations, and what ABNS still need to do in the future. ABNS is conducting a survey to gather information from specialty organizations and, with survey information, will develop an action plan.

Report of NBCSN to ABNS on Governance Challenge and Newest Initiative

Biggest governance challenge - workload for Board members and oversight of its Examination and Management Company.

As one step in working through these issues, the Board hired a part time ED and now is working out the role of the ED versus roles of Board member and officers.

Newest initiative – NBCSN has been working with its management company to develop an online recertification program.

The beta testing has been completed and hopefully it will go live this Spring for all NCSNs who apply for recertification.

The other major initiative is a potential collaboration with NASN to use data from NBCSN's 2012 Role Delineation Study to further analyze and report on the role of the school nurse.

APRN Update --- the Campaign for Consensus – Maureen Cahill, National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN).

The consensus Model for APRNs – uniform preparation and practice requirements.

Grad or post grad entry level required

Created model language for states (on website)

Follow progression of implementation – see Map on NCSBN website

At the end of 2012, NCSBN was 65% on the way to implementing the major elements of the Model. Hardest will be the standards of independent practice and prescribing.

More consensus supporting bills this year (e.g., equal pay nurse/MD, provider care in schools, etc.)

Other presentation and discussions addressed

Governance Challenges with Volunteer Boards

Marketing and Branding a Certification Program

When to Start and When to Stop a Certification Program

ROLE DELINEATION STUDY 2012

The National Board for Certification of School Nurses (NBCSN) has a fundamental responsibility to assure that the content of its certification examinations accurately reflects the current role of school nurses across the country. To provide that assurance, NBCSN completed its second School Nurse Role Delineation Study in the spring of 2012. Conducting a role delineation study (RDS) is required at least every ten years by the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification. NBCSN's first RDS was completed in 2007 for initial application to the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC), and a second RDS was conducted for its 2012 application for reaccreditation by ABSNC. The second application is currently in review, and includes a preliminary report of the RDS results produced by NBCSN with the assistance of Professional Testing Corporation.

NBCSN is very pleased to report that an article reporting the preliminary analysis and findings of the RDS is in process and expected to be published in a future issue of the *Journal of School Nursing*. In addition, NCSNs interested in the initial findings from the RDS can attend a workshop at the NASN conference in Orlando on the first day of the conference, June 27, 2013. In the workshop, Board members will present an overview of the study, including the survey instrument, survey administration, and preliminary data analysis and findings. Also very exciting, NASN Research Director, Erin Maughan, will share the possibility of a collaborative project between NASN and NBCSN to conduct and report on a more thorough analysis of the RDS data.

As many survey participants requested information about the findings, we hope NCSNs and other school nurse survey participants will be able to attend the June workshop and also access the article in *JOSN* when it is published. For the article, NBCSN will send an email blast to all NCSNs when we have a publication date (make sure you are signed in as a member at www.nbcsn.org and have updated your email address).

Members of the Board extend their appreciation to all who assisted NBCSN to conduct this important study including:

The panel of experts who contributed to the development of the survey; *

NASN for spreading the word about the survey on its website and through email blasts to all of its members;

NCSNs and other school nurses who participated in the survey;

Mary Ann Gapinski who, as President of NBCSN 2010 - 2012, provided the vision and leadership necessary to ensure completion of a valid, thorough study; and

Joan Campbell (PTC) and Susan Praeger (NBCSN) for coordinating or producing aspects of the RDS development, process and initial report for NBCSN's application to ABSNC for reaccreditation.

* **RDS Panel of Experts:** Charlotte Barry, Sarah Butler, Tia Campbell, Carol Costante, Vicki Crump, Joyce Ells, Mary Ann Gapinski, Susan Nokleby and Susan Praeger. These experts represented the NBCSN, NASN and School Nurse Educators SIG.