



# National Board for Certification of School Nurses

## Newsletter

Spring 2011

### NBCSN Board Members

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- ◆ Nadine Schwab, BSN, MPH, PNP, NCSN, FNASN  
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### NASN Representative

- ◆ Tia Campbell  
Mechanicsville, Virginia

## 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.**

### President's Message

#### Thinking like a NCSN...using critical thinking skills is the hallmark of a NCSN

To those we work with and for, school nursing can look so simple....applying a band aid, checking an ankle joint, reading a medication order, dispensing a medication, and asking a few simple questions of the student who enters your office. But we know that the practice of school nursing is so much more than this..



School nursing, like all nursing specialties, requires use of the nursing process to assess, plan, intervene and evaluate appropriately. But school nursing differs from other nursing specialties because it requires most school nurses to do this independently and autonomously as a lone healthcare practitioner in a non-healthcare setting.

The school nurse must listen carefully to what is going on in her office as well as in the hallways. She needs to have her ear to the heart and breath sounds of a student as well as to the heart and soul of the school environment. She needs to see things that others are not trained or attuned to recognizing. All the while she is doing this, she must be gathering information, prioritizing and planning the next step she will take...sometimes, as in the case of a critical incident, she must do this in seconds - all intuitively, without even being aware of all that she is doing.

At the foundation of good school nursing practice are critical thinking skills. If you search the web for a definition of "critical thinking", you will come up with over 7,400,000 results. Gardner defines critical thinking as "a characteristic that distinguishes a professional nurse from the nurse who performs skills only and is one essential criterion used in Baccalaureate Nursing Education". While policies, protocols and procedures will work most of the time for school nursing practice, eventually the school nurse will be called upon to make decisions and provide care based upon so much more than this. School nurses use everything they have been taught, observed and experienced to provide appropriate interventions. This requires an understanding of outcomes and risks, prioritizing and responding correctly - and acting with confidence in these interventions.

This is the hallmark of a nationally certified school nurse. The examination process for certification tests the level of critical thinking by the school nurse to assure that she has attained a level of practice that denotes competency. The test examination items reflect the nursing process and the "best answer" is always one that reflects the use of critical thinking skills to respond correctly. Successfully passing the certification examination demonstrates a national standard of school nurse preparation, knowledge, and practice. Board certification in school nursing is highly valued and provides formal recognition of school nursing knowledge and expertise.

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# 2010 Annual Report

In 2010, 406 school nurses took the national certification examination for school nurses, and 269 passed for a passing rate of 67%. Another 450 school nurses renewed their national certification by demonstrating 75 hours of continuing nursing education related to school health during the five years prior to their certification. It was a busy year for the National Board for Certification of School Nurses (NBCSN). As of November 2010, 3,334 school nurses are currently Nationally Certified School Nurses (NCSN). North Carolina continues to top the list with the greatest numbers of NCSNs at 763 and Massachusetts is second with 532 NCSNs.

In February 2010, the on-line practice test for candidates for the NCSN examination was offered. This on-line practice test is comprised of 75 items no longer included on the regular examination. It allows candidates to familiarize themselves with the process for electronic test-taking techniques as well as the format of the questions on the examination. The initial fee for this examination was set at \$75. At the end of 2010, 92 individuals used this resource.

Nadine Schwab represented NBCSN at the American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) Conference in March 2010 held in Costa Mesa, California. Topics discussed among members included recertification by use of portfolios and concerns regarding the use of online practice tests. NBCSN took appropriate measures to be sure these conflicts did not occur with the implementation of this online service for NCSN applicants.

An Item Review Session was held in April in New

Haven, Connecticut with six NCSNs from Massachusetts and Vermont in attendance along with Board members Carol Costante, Nancy Crutchfield and Mary Ann Gapinski. Sallyann

Henry from Professional Testing Corporation (PTC) presided over the session and over 100 items were reviewed for

inclusion in the item bank for the NCSN examination. Prior to this conference, a sub-committee of NBCSN also met to plan and review new events and activities scheduled to be held at the June 2010 NASN Annual Conference. This sub-committee consisted of Mary Gelfman, Mary Ann Gapinski, Carol Costante, Nancy Crutchfield and Nadine Schwab.

The June 2010 Board meeting was held in Chicago prior to the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) Conference. This meeting was very productive with many

new initiatives coming to fruition. Present at this meeting were Mary Ann Gapinski, president, Nadine Schwab, vice president, Mary Gelfman, secretary-treasurer, Nancy Crutchfield, newsletter editor, Carol Costante, Joyce Ells, Susan Nokleby and Susan Praeger. Sandi Delack, NASN President, met with the NBCSN to discuss future opportunities for collaboration. A follow-up meeting was held in October 2010 in Providence, Rhode Island, with the Executive Board of the NASN which included Amy Garcia, Executive Director, Sandi Delack, Linda Davis-Alldritt, President-Elect and Tia Campbell, Vice President and Mary Ann Gapinski and Nadine Schwab representing NBCSN. It was determined that greater collaboration between the two boards was necessary for both organizations to meet their goals and objectives. While the NBCSN currently has non-voting representation on the Board on behalf of NASN, it was recommended that NASN has similar representation to its Board from NBCSN as a non-voting member. Ms. Delack will present this for the NASN Board's consideration at the annual Board meeting to be held in January 2011.

The Board hosted the first Liaison Leadership Summit under the direction of Nadine Schwab at the June NASN Conference. Donna Mazyck, past-president of NASN, and Denise Wagner, administrator for NBCSN at PTC, both

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presented information that was essential to the attendees. Ten liaisons from across the country attended this summit and it was deemed a huge success in providing information related to

leadership, marketing and recruiting efforts toward school nurse certification. The total number of state liaisons has increased to 36 during 2010.

In addition, a Question and Answer Forum was conducted for both school nurses interested in national certification and in those who will be submitting applications for recertification. This was also a first-time event and over 60 school nurses participated. It was decided that further forums of this nature need to be held at each annual NASN conference.

NBCSN was represented on a panel conducted by the American Teacher's Foundation (AFT) to present a national resolution on developing parity with the national teacher certification for school nurses. This resolution was brought to the national AFT conference in July where it was approved by the healthcare committee and sent to the AFT Executive Council meeting in October where it was discussed further and met final approval. In addition the National Education Association (NEA) adopted a similar resolution to present to its membership. NBCSN submitted evidence of such parity for this resolution.

At the NBCSN Reception for NCSNs attending the NASN conference, the first annual award for leadership was presented to a state liaison, Gerry Harvey, from New Hampshire. Gerry received this award for her efforts to promote national certification among school nurses in her state. Pat Krin from Connecticut was awarded the NBCSN Recognition Award for her work in promoting standards of school nursing practice as well as national certification. Over

150 school nurses from across the country attended this reception.

Information was requested from a NCSN from the state of Arkansas for consideration by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing for NCSN certification to be eligible for recognition as an approved certification body for relicensure by the state. This information provided evidence of continuing professional development required of NCSNs and they are now eligible for relicensure in Arkansas by maintaining their national certification as a school nurse.

In October 2010, Mary Ann Gapinski and Mary Gelfman represented NBCSN at the ABNS meeting in Chicago. The featured presentation was "Certification University – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Leadership for CEOs and Boards" presented by Dr. Les Wallace. In discussing "The New Normal", he stressed the power of the internet, especially in attracting and maintaining a younger generation membership. He commented that using blogs and other online information and disinformation about our organization could be distributed widely without our knowledge and that transparency was essential for this purpose. He proposed that all materials and information be available to members online. He also described High Performance Governance as competent, strategic, constituent focused, transparent, and having clarity. This discussion was presented to NBCSN members at the following Board meeting.

At the December Board meeting held in Las Vegas, NV, board members present at this meeting were Mary Ann Gapinski, president, Nadine Schwab, vice president, Mary Gelfman, secretary-treasurer, Nancy Crutchfield, newsletter editor, Carol Costante, Joyce Ells, Susan Nokleby and Susan Praeger. Tia Campbell, Vice President of NASN, attended and served as the NASN representative to the Board. Sallyann Henry, psychometrician and president of PTC, discussed previous test results and validity of the test. The Board then set the 2011 passing score at 187 correct answers out of 250 questions. At this meeting, Ms. Crutchfield's, Ms. Gelfman's and Ms. Schwab's three year terms ended. Ms. Crutchfield and Ms. Gelfman were re-elected to the Board for

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an additional three year term and they accepted. Ms. Schwab was appointed to the Board for additional six months until a replacement could be elected. At this meeting it was also voted to separate the secretary-treasurer's position into two separate positions. Ms. Ells was elected to the new position of secretary for a two year term and Ms. Nokleby was elected to a two year term as vice president, replacing Ms. Schwab who resigned from the position.

NBCSN also contributed comments to the NASN document on the revised Scope and Standards during 2010. These will continue to be under revision by NASN throughout the coming year. These changes may significantly impact the content of the certification examination and further work on reviewing this content will be dependent on the NASN document. The resource list for the examination was updated by Board members during the year.

NBCSN continues to remain in a strong financial position. The main source of income for NBCSN is a share of test fees, after PTC's contracted share has been deducted. With assistance from PTC, in 2010 our database and website were upgraded and the Newsletter began distribution by email, reducing postage costs. Sale of items with the NCSN® logo continued. Ms. Gelfman, NBCSN treasurer, reported a year ending balance of \$67,830.52. Substantial funding remains in other savings accounts to cover additional, unforeseen Board expenses.

Two newsletters were sent electronically to members this past year under the direction of newsletter editor, Ms.

Crutchfield. In addition email blasts were sent to the entire membership in March, September and December in order to remain connected to the Board.

The NBCSN continues to remain a strong organization posed for the challenges facing all nursing specialty certification organizations. Providing evidence of the value of certification is among its challenges and the NBCSN approved providing funding to support research in this area. In addition, the Board also voted to support the Amicus Brief on behalf of the California School Nurses Organization in their efforts to demonstrate the need for school district administration to honor the Nurse Practice Act of California which does not allow delegation of certain medication administration to unlicensed individuals. NBCSN also moved forward in creating online accessibility for its members for the recertification process. Other attempts to meet the needs of our membership with additional services are being explored.

Much appreciation is extended to the volunteer members of the NBCSN who spend a great amount of personal time to meet the needs of school nurses throughout both the certification and recertification process. Their efforts to sustain the work of the Board are immeasurable. Gratitude is also offered to the staff at PTC in New York for their work to service the needs of both our members and the Board during 2010.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ann Gapinski, MSN, RN, NCSN  
President, NBCSN



# Report on the National Association of School Nurses Board Meeting

## January 31, 2011

Carol Constante attended the National Association of School Nurses Board meeting in Alexandria, VA as an observer on behalf of NBCSN. Sandi Delack invited Carol to give greetings to the Board.

The motion, to support a collaborative relationship between NBCSN and NASN was read as “the NASN President would determine liaisons annually”. The vote was passed unanimously with no questions. NBCSN and National Association of State School Nurse Consultants (NASSNC) are now accepted as liaisons: both organizations may send representatives to the open sessions of the Board, receive the meeting agenda ahead of time, and speak to an issue if advanced notification is given. If advance notification is not given, such liaisons may speak at the discretion of the President. This is an important stipulation because as discussions on motions ensue during Board meetings, issues may arise that would require response from NBCSN.

In addition, other items were presented at the NASN Board meeting that may be of interest to NBCSN:

1. The Executive Director presented a staff report that demonstrated the involvement of NASN with other agencies. NASN has increased its membership 9% in this last year. They are now concentrating on retention.
2. The NASN President spent much time discussing the important Institute of Medicine report *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*, a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation initiative. NASN was invited to a meeting in December where this was presented and NASN is extremely excited at the opportunities it offers our specialty because school health is mentioned throughout the consensus report. NASN has an open invitation to have input to the IOM committee. It promotes the 1:750 ratio of nurse to student in its recommendations.

The report is based on an extensive 2-year study involving numerous aspects of society, not just the healthcare industry. Its premise is that nurses should play a central role in designing and implementing the evolving health care delivery system by being full partners with physicians. It states that nurses should practice to the full extent of their education, training and licensure and that scope of practice barriers should be removed.

The report states that the proportion of nurses with a BSN should be increased to 80% by 2020. Of interest to us is that the report states that school nurses should be required to have a baccalaureate degree and be certified.

Refer to <http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2010/The-Future-of-Nursing-Leading-Change-Advancing-Health.aspx> for full details.

3. The Executive Director gave an update on the California Amicus Brief Most likely any decision will be appealed again and may go to the US Supreme Court. Interestingly, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing will not participate.
4. Many position statements were approved at the meeting and several more are in process. Many of NASN’s position statements had not been updated for 10 years. NBCSN will need to review these as items are written for the certification examination. Statements such as the Role of the Unlicensed Assistive Personnel (UAP), Infectious Diseases in the School Setting, and Pediculosis were approved and several more are in process. All current position statements can be found on the NASN website
5. The state of the Scope and Standards document was not on the agenda.



**ALL CURRENT NCSNs are invited to join the NBCSN Board of Directors to honor NCSNs at the NASN Conference on Wednesday June 29, 2011 in the Maryland B&C Rooms from 6:30 pm—7:30 pm.**

# Liaison Corner

## Liaison Reminder—Annual Reports Due

The Annual Report is due in the NBCSN office by April 15, 2011. Please be sure to download an application from our website [www.nbcson.com](http://www.nbcson.com) under the forms and applications page. We can't wait to hear what you have been up to since last year, so be sure to include anything you have done to promote school nursing, any new activities, and feedback from use of supplies.

## A Report from Pat Krin, NBCSN Connecticut Liaison

Pat Krin, NBCSN Recognition Award Recipient 2010, sent us this interesting report about her state's experience with certification test review.

On a hot steamy July 14, 2010 evening forty school nurses attended a four hour NBCSN review course in Connecticut. This course was organized by the South Central School Nurse Supervisors' Group.

Faculty included Mike Corjulo, APRN, of the supervisors' group and three NCSNs, Sue Marchitto, Arlene Painter, and Pat Krin. Using the NASN certification review manual the course consisted of a general review of test taking skills and a review and discussion of a number of the sample questions.



The nurses had a lively discussion about the questions and answers. Dinner was served about half-way through, and then the course continued. Feedback from the nurses was very positive and we are hopeful that we will be doing this again. Three nurses from the course were already registered to take the next exam and thanks to funds provided by the supervisors' group they each received a partial scholarship toward the exam. Each one of those participants passed the exam and is now a proud NCSN. Congratulations to the new Connecticut NCSNs Krista Belmont of Norwalk, Roseanne Bucknam of Wethersfield, Mary Crosby of Guilford, Lois Mulhern of Waterbury, and Karen Owen of Guilford. Connecticut is proud to have 85 nationally certified school nurses.

## Thank you to our current liaisons!

Rebecca Hansen (AK)	Sally Vandebos (GA)	Cynthia Hiltz (MN)	C. Dawn Abbott (OH)
Catherine Davis (AL)	Sharon Yearous (IA)	Jeanne Sedgwick (MN)	Mary Norton (OH)
Vicki Crump (AR)	Faith Miller (ID)	Jodi Rankin (MS)	Jessica Porter (SC)
Candance Hilvers (CA)	Wendy Kaplan Smith (IL)	Clementine Buford (NC)	Jeanne Carey (TX)
Teresa Ross (CO)	Lindsey Minchella (IN)	Geraldine Harvey (NH)	Kathy Briggs (UT)
Patricia Krin (CT)	Patricia Hoban (MA)	Amy Billera (NJ)	Belinda Cameron (VA)
Nancy Nadel (DE)	Jeanne McDuffie (MD)	Dina Ward (NM)	Karolyn Towne (VT)
Dianne Mennitt (FL)	Jane Borr (MI)	Arlene Heitt (NV)	Janice Doyle (WA)
Carolyn Seifert (FL)	Julie Lechtenberg (MI)	Mary Northrup (NY)	Sharon Richardson (WV)

**IS YOUR STATE MISSING FROM THE LIST? DO YOU WANT TO BE A LIAISON? SIMPLY FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FORM THAT CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE [WWW.NBCSN.ORG](http://WWW.NBCSN.ORG) UNDER THE FORMS & APPLICATIONS PAGE**

## One Job

## Becomes Two

### Treasurer/Secretary

#### Mary Gelfman—Treasurer

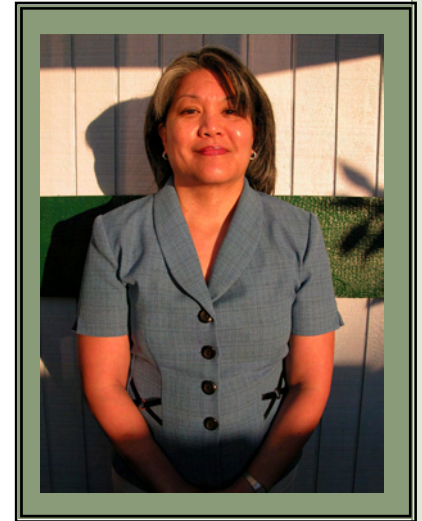
When Dot Warner, secretary/treasurer extraordinaire, asked me if I would be willing to serve as S/T, I said yes, partly because she made it look easy. Little did I know that taking minutes ALL DAY is very different from taking minutes in a two-hour meeting! I also discovered that we are required to have an independent audit of our books, which may require significant time, before, during and/or after. As one of my fellow board members tactfully said, "Not everyone has both skill sets." Dot, I don't know how you did it!



Mary Gelfman, M.A., J.D.  
NBCSN Secretary/  
Treasurer 2010, Treasurer  
2011

#### Joyce Ells—Secretary

I am humbled by the opportunity to serve as secretary. I look forward to ensuring our website reflects changes made by the board. We also welcome your comments on what you would like to see on our website. For the business side of the NBCSN board, I will strive to accurately record our minutes. Our board is a busy working group. We readily accept new roles as they are presented to us whether it be in the form of a standing committee or an ad hoc committee. I look forward to meeting many of you at the annual conference in Washington, D. C.



Joyce Ells, RN, MSN,  
NSCN  
Secretary 2011

## Liaison Information

The NBCSN State Liaison Program's purpose is to promote NBCSN Certification on the state level. ([nbcnsn.org/liasons.html](http://nbcnsn.org/liasons.html)) The National Board for Certification of School Nurses (NBCSN) appreciates all the work the state liaisons do to encourage national certification within their states. At this point, 32 states have 1 or 2 liaisons. If you are interested in becoming a liaison, the job description and application is located at the above website. It is very rewarding work to promote our profession. Any questions, please contact me at [snokleby@paulbunyan.net](mailto:snokleby@paulbunyan.net).

States with opportunities to become a liaison include: Arizona, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana,

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## A school nurse who is a national champion for certification

As many of you are aware, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Healthcare School Health (formerly School Nurse) Subcommittee has been working very hard to achieve recognition of the National Certified School Nurse in the same manner that the National Certified Teacher is recognized. This has been a long process that has brought the AFT Education and Healthcare experts together at the table with NASN and NBCSN. A resolution was developed by the AFT. That resolution was then brought to my Local Union (Saint Paul Federation of Teachers-SPFT) and my State Union (Education Minnesota) and through them it was submitted to the AFT National Convention in Seattle this past summer. At that convention it went before the AFT Healthcare Committee --it passed through that committee with a recommendation for it to go to the AFT Executive Council. The next step took it to the AFT Resolutions Committee for concurrence. My Local Union (SPFT) and my State Union (Education Minnesota) were officially notified last week that the AFT Executive Council adopted the resolution!!

What does this mean for you??? There is now national support for the NCSN from the organizations that developed the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards---AFT and National Education Association (NEA). NEA also brought a resolution through SPFT to their National Convention this summer that recognizes NCSN in the same manner that Teacher's Certification is recognized. If the teachers in your local are receiving compensation for their National Board Certification, then you too should bargain for contract language that recognizes the NCSN.

But more important than the monetary piece is the recognition of the rigor of the certification process that measures the school nurse's ability to demonstrate competency at the mastery level. Hopefully the language in the resolution will provide you with a resource as you bargain.

Both AFT's and NEA's resolutions were written to include support for the certification processes of the other school health professionals that we work with--please share this with them as well.

**I am thankful to the AFT for all of their support during this long process!!**

For more details about this resolution, go to this website:

[https://www.aft.org/about/resolution\\_detail.cfm?articleid=1606](https://www.aft.org/about/resolution_detail.cfm?articleid=1606)

Jeanne Sedgwick, RN,LSN,MS,NCSN  
Bridge View School  
Saint Paul Public Schools  
Saint Paul, MN 55116  
[jeannes@comcast.net](mailto:jeannes@comcast.net)



## What is it like to attend an Item Writer's Workshop?

### By Karina Haynes, an attendee from the Boston 2009 Item Writer's Workshop

While I was studying to take the certification exam in 2007, one of the strategies I used was to make-up my own questions. I read the sample questions provided in the booklet and then picked my weak areas and wrote some tricky ones. I remembered exams I'd taken in school where ONE word made a difference in the whole outcome of the answer. I also wondered how recent the clinical issues would be on the exam. How long did they keep the same questions before tossing them and adding more?

In June 2009, I was quite surprised when my question submissions were accepted and I was invited to the item writer's workshop. I knew absolutely no one at the NASN conference except for passing Carolyn Duff from my home state of South Carolina in the hotel lobby. I wondered if I'd gotten myself way in over my head with everyone at the workshop having multiple degrees, certifications and supervisory roles. What the heck did this high school nurse have to add to this picture that could possibly be missing?

One of the facilitators with a PhD in nursing discussed the learning process and the different levels of expertise in a field - beginner, novice, and expert. She discussed the different levels of thinking and how measuring learning involves being able to do something with that knowledge, not just regurgitate facts. When writing test questions, one should be careful NOT to use words like, except, never, and always. Test questions should be written with a case management approach, which requires a higher level of thinking to reach the answer.

Jane Tustin, president of the NBCSN board at the time, discussed the history of the exam and some key changes in policies and exam procedures. I had taken my test by computer at a cozy testing center in my home state. In the past, they used paper and pencil and offered it at the national convention each year. Jane's message was very clear: ***school nurses at the practicing level were being sought out for our clinical experience.*** The average Joe school nurse has an important voice in the current clinical problems and practices. We are the battlefield!

Later, we were split into working groups with board members and invited school nurses evenly split amongst the tables. I sat with a nurse from the Midwest who worked in an elementary school, and like me, she was a bit nonplussed about being in a group of accomplished women. Mary Ann Gapinski and Nancy Crutchfield from the board were also seated nearby. I learned so much about the differences between states in how they practice school nursing. This reminded me that the questions must address the broader issues and should consider issues that vary from state to state. What works in South Carolina, doesn't necessarily hold true for School Nurses in North Carolina and vice versa.

All School Nurses should take a stab at writing a question about situations they remember from their own practice. Their expertise is needed in all levels of practice.

Katrina Haynes RN BSN NCSN  
White Knoll High School  
5643 Platt Springs Rd.  
Lexington, SC 29073  
803-821-5230 or 5231



# Pipelines and Pathways....

At a recent American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) meeting, Dr. Les Wallace spoke of the "pipelines and pathways" that all Boards need to have to assure Board leadership is in place to make certain that both the mission of the Board and the needs of its constituency continue to be met during times of transition. The National Board of Certified School Nurses (NBCSN) is always looking for a few good NCSNs interested in expanding their professional practice and ready to demonstrate leadership within their nursing specialty. This is an opportunity for NCSNs looking for challenging, rewarding and demanding voluntary Board service. If this defines your next step in your professional practice, please consider serving on the NBCSN.

The NBCSN is an independent corporation which develops, administers and evaluates the national certification examination for school nurses, and awards the credential of NCSN to successful candidates. In addition, the Board works in collaboration with other professional nursing organizations to identify, develop and evaluate the standard of preparation, knowledge and practice required for certification, as well as additional mechanisms for continuing to assess competency in professional school nursing.

Duties and responsibilities of the voluntary Board members include:

1. Attend and participate in Board meetings and complete assigned Board activities in a timely manner.
2. Participate in establishing goals, objectives, and programs to accomplish the mission of the NBCSN.
3. Monitor and evaluate the process for both certification and recertification of nationally certified school nurses to ensure that candidates meet the requirements of national certification .
4. Approve the annual budget and supervise the financial affairs of the Board.
5. Review and revise Bylaws and Policies and Procedures as needed.
6. Select and perform annual reviews of the professional testing firm, and approve contract arrangements for the implementation of the certification process.
7. Market and promote the NCSN certification nationally.

An appointment to the NBCSN is for three years, with a one-time option for reappointment. The board meets twice a year, in June and December for two to four days to conduct the business of the organization. Other meetings, as Item Reviews, are scheduled for Board members on a rotation basis. All other business is conducted via email and conference call. Nominations for the Board must meet the following criteria along with other factors that are considered:

- Current NCSN
- Member NASN (RN members)
- Geographic diversity
- Experience on professional boards
- Current employment in school health related services
- Representative of different school nursing practice specialties

If you would prefer serving in a more local capacity, please consider serving your state colleagues as a State Liaison if this position is available in your state. The NBCSN State Liaison Program's purpose is to promote NCSN at the state level. (Please see our website at: <http://www.nbcnsn.org/liasons.htm#liasons> for a current listing of State Liaisons). The role of the State Liaison is to:

1. Serve as a resource on certification at the state level.
2. Promote certification at the state level.
3. Participate in state activities with NBCSN information.

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4. Serve as a Liaison between state and NBCSN Board of Directors.

Leadership training is provided by NBCSN and an annual meeting is held at the NASN Conference. In order to promote certification, it is encouraged that State Liaisons:

- Serve on the Board of state professional school nurse organization as a State Liaison in order to promote certification
- Submit articles to State Newsletter about NBCSN
- Have displays with NBCSN information at state level meetings
- Develop state level activities to obtain exam questions and then submit them to NBCSN

Formulate study groups for nurses that are going to sit for exam.

If you are interested in serving as Board member, please complete an application found at: <http://www.nbcsn.org/PDFs/BoardApplication.pdf> or contact Mary Ann Gapinski, NBCSN President at: [mary.gapinski@state.ma.us](mailto:mary.gapinski@state.ma.us) for more information. If your state is in need of an additional State Liaison, please complete the application available at: <http://www.nbcsn.org/PDFs/LiaisonApplication.pdf> or contact Sue Nokleby, NBCSN Vice President at: [snokleby@paulbunyan.net](mailto:snokleby@paulbunyan.net) for more information. Are you ready for the next step in advancement of your school nursing career as a NCSN? Then please consider a leadership position on the NBCSN or as a State Liaison.

## Liaison Information

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Maine, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

**Upcoming liaison listserv!** It will be a place to share ideas to promote National Certification in your state, to support each other, and to form professional friendships. Be sure to review your contact information at [nbcsn.org/liasons.html](http://nbcsn.org/liasons.html) and send updates to [certification@nbcsn.com](mailto:certification@nbcsn.com) so that when we have it functional, you will be able to join us.

**Annual State Liaison report is due by April 15<sup>th</sup>.** The report form can be found at - [nbcsn.org/liasons.html](http://nbcsn.org/liasons.html) Share ideas you have used this year to encourage National Certification!

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011, join us in Washington, DC at the NASN Conference for our Liaison meeting from 5:30-6:30!

(Continued from page 1)

NBCSN is always looking for NCSNs to supply us with examination items that reflect this level of higher orders of critical thinking skills, beyond knowledge recall. As you work with students throughout the school day, think about situations that require you to apply this advanced level of nursing expertise. Format this into a multiple choice question with one correct response, with the answer referenced for validation and current evidence-based practice. Please send these examination items for review to: [certification@nbcsn.com](mailto:certification@nbcsn.com). (Five credits toward recertification per five year recertification period will be provided for submission of at least fifteen items for the examination).

The NCSN credential is a personal commitment to higher standards that inspire credibility and confidence. It signifies what it means to be able to multitask, to think in several directions at once. The NCSN is able to make the task of changing a bandage look simple while knowing to assess skin integrity, check for signs of infection or inflammation, being aware of any co-morbidities, looking to determine the causation of the wound including whether it was an intentional or unintentional injury, thinking ahead to what follow-up steps may need to be taken and how these contacts will be made, anticipating what the student's and family's needs will be to assure that there is a good outcome and the student is able to return to class in order to learn. And they just thought you were applying a band aid.....

1 Raines, L., 2010, accessed online at: <http://www.ajc.com/jobs/thinking-like-a-nurse-640609.html>

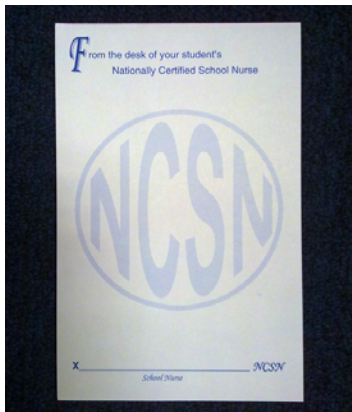
2 Gardner, E., 2004, Exploration of an Online Case Study Model that Incorporates Critical Thinking Concepts: A Pilot Study, accessed online at: [www.mtsu.edu/~itconf/proceed04/gardner.doc](http://www.mtsu.edu/~itconf/proceed04/gardner.doc)

3 NBCSN, 2011, accessed at <http://www.nbcsn.org/>

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