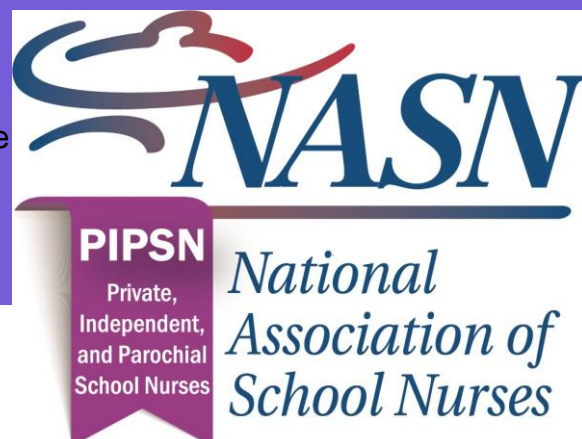


The PULSE

News for the Private, Independent, and Parochial School Nurse



Spring 2021

News From the Chair

Jan Brant, RN, NCSN



Greetings to all Private, Independent, and Parochial School Nurses,

During these times, having a support system of PIPSN in place is a blessing for all of us. I am grateful we have Gail Trano, our PIPSN discussion list monitor, and her support for the PIPSN discussion list. If you have a pressing question or need advice, the discussion list is there for your help 24/7. Theresa Hartel, public relations chairperson, is responsible for our Facebook page and all the fantastic posts. To find the Facebook page, search for PPSN (Private and Parochial School Nurses) on Facebook. You can follow the Facebook Page by "Liking It". You will see daily posts that will keep you current in your school nurse practice. Linda Register takes charge of the PIPSN Pulse newsletter, minutes, and Zoom gatherings. The yearly Pulse newsletter is an essential tool that keeps us in touch with all the private, independent, and parochial school nurses. Cheryl Blake has served in many positions for PIPSN leadership including secretary, newsletter, awards chair, vice chair, and now past chair. Cheryl is my guide and mentor and helps me keep afloat as the PIPSN Chair.

Kristin Beers and Deborah Jo Kummer are the membership co-chairs and want to help non-public school nurses learn more about NASN and PIPSN. Please reach out to them if you are interested in forming a PIPSN group in your state. I am forever grateful to my Maryland PIPSN group. We started with 10-12 private school nurses 20 years ago. We would meet a few times per year in person at our schools. We have blossomed into more than 100 PIPSNs in our google group. The

Save The Dates

NASN Annual Conference 2021

Transforming Student Health: School Nurses Leading the Way

June 21, 2020 – June 25, 2020

June 22, 2021 PIPSN Business Meeting; 7 PM; Virtual Zoom Meeting

Online Registration for the conference will begin on or about April 12, 2021.

PIPSN Round Table

October 2021

Make plans to join us for this annual back to school program.

pandemic has taught us that meeting by Zoom makes meetings so much easier to attend!



Every Wednesday at 4:00pm, I meet on Zoom with the private, independent, and parochial school nurses in Maryland. Taking out this time to meet with my Maryland PIPSN colleagues is a high point in the week. I recall the meeting we had just before COVID-19 vaccine plans were being implemented in Maryland for school nurses. The health departments in Maryland forgot to include the non-public school nurses in their roll call. We discussed this at

our Wednesday meeting. Our group of school nurses alerted health officials about this faux pas. This omission was corrected immediately. We received the link for the COVID-19 vaccine. This proved to me that our group in numbers could affect change. I did not take it personally because everyone was assuming all the schools were closed. We were overlooked by accident. It is beneficial to be part of a PIPSN group because our voices are heard when there are many of us. I know I could not have persuaded the health department to make an appointment for only me. However, when the health department heard there were hundreds of PIPSNs in Maryland, the change was made. Working as a team with the PIPSNs in your state will likely prove just as effective to meet the inevitable challenges that arise.

Living in a pandemic has brought hard times and uncertainty to all of us. It is our decision on how we navigate our life during this pandemic. We can complain about the pandemic, and all the additional work we have, and the constraints in our life, or we can fill our mind with positive thoughts, and be grateful for waking up every morning, and being able to help others.

To see NASN in action, I hope you have made plans to attend the Annual Conference, Virtual NASN 2021, Transforming Student Health: School Nurses Leading the Way, scheduled for June 21-25, 2021.

PIPSN Annual Business Meeting- Zoom Platform

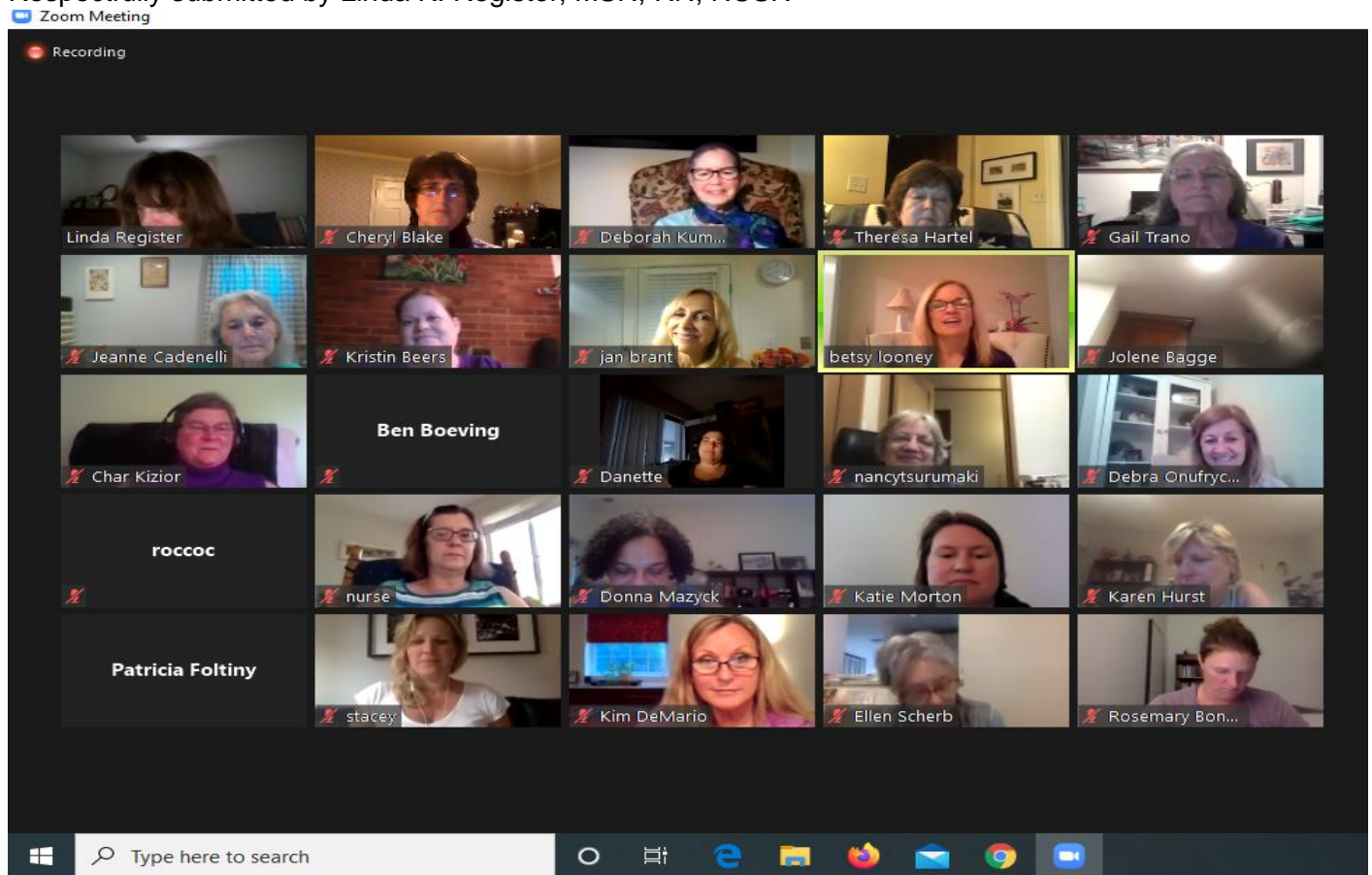
Tuesday, June 30, 2020 7pm-8pm

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order by PIPSN Chair Jan Brant. Ms. Brant welcomed returning and new members to the meeting. She recognized that attending the meeting shows support for PIPSN their commitment to their school nursing practice. All members were encouraged to join PIPSN under their NASN profile and to participate in the PIPSN Discussion forum on SNN.
2. Introductions of PIPSN Leaders present at the meeting.
 - Jan Brant – Chair
 - Cheryl Blake-Past-Chair, Awards Chair
 - Linda Register-Secretary, Newsletter-PULSE
 - Theresa Hartel-Public Relations
 - Gail Trano-PIPSN Discussion List Monitor
 - Kristen Beers- Membership Co-Chair
 - Deborah Jo Kummer – Membership Co-Chair
3. Introductions of NASN Leaders present at the meeting.
 - Donna Mazyck- Executive Director
 - Laurie Combe- President
 - Linda Medonca- NASN President-elect
4. There were 127 members registered for the meeting, representing 28 US States, the District of Columbia, and Tokyo, Japan.
5. Order of Business
 - a. Discussion and approval of 2019 Annual Business Meeting minutes. Motion made, seconded, and accepted with no changes to the minutes.
 - b. Discussion and recommendation to change the PIPSN Award criteria to nurses with a BSN. This change is in line with NASN school nurse recommendations. Motion made to approve, seconded and accepted. 44 in favor and 1 opposed
 - c. Discussion regarding temporarily suspending guidelines for chair and past-chair positions term limitations and permit Jan Brant and Cheryl Blake to continue in their roles for an additional term. Katie Morton voiced appreciation for their service. Motion made to approve, seconded and accepted 36 in favor 0 opposed
 - d. Reports from PIPSN Leadership

6. Recognition and introduction of 2020 Award for Outstanding Private, Independent or Parochial School Nurse. Ms. Brant made this presentation to Betsy Looney of Virginia.
7. Raffle prizes awarded during the meeting to 10 attendees.
Winners: Bagge, Morton, Boering, Onefrychuk, Hurst, Mendoca, Baily, Scherb, Kizior, and Moahica
8. Announcements
 - NASN Conference 2021- June 24-27, 2021 in Austin, Texas
 - Encouraged participation in NASN Conference virtual booths
 - Upcoming PIPSN Presentation – The Challenges of Returning to School During a Pandemic- August 6, 2020 at 7:00 PM – Registration online.
 - Zoom photo of attendees
 - Meeting Adjourned at 8:29 PM

Respectfully submitted by Linda K. Register, MSN, RN, NCSN



The Challenges of Returning to School During a Pandemic

Cheryl Blake, MSN, RN, NCSN

On August 6, the PIPSN Leadership provided a Zoom meeting PowerPoint presentation to address some of the challenges private, independent, and parochial school nurses may well face when returning to in-person learning for the 20-21 academic year. This presentation was made available to PIPSNs regardless of their membership in NASN. Approximately 90 school nurse participants attended this offering.



The main goals of the presentation included identifying ways to assist faculty and students with the transition back to campus, isolation and health room design considerations, self-care strategies and mental health challenges, and health education needed to reinforce new strategies at school. During the presentation, the participants submitted many questions and comments. The most common questions pertained to classroom and playground modifications, seeking out PPE and sanitizer sources, and how to handle ill students, masking, outside visitors, and formation of class cohorts.

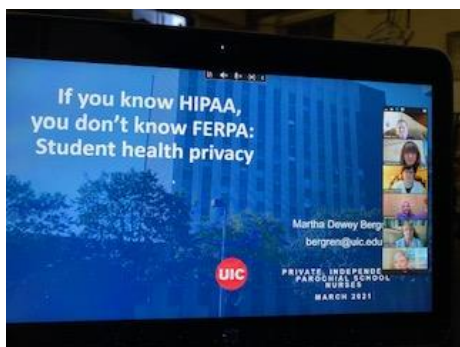
One crucial point made during this presentation was the importance of school nurses being an advocate and active leader on their school re-entry team. All participants were encouraged to take care of themselves during this pandemic, realizing there would be new levels of stress and anxiety this fall. The final message shared for the night was the importance for each of us to network with other school nurse peers at the local, regional, state or national level for support and collegial discussions. This in turn will

advance the health and educational success of our students.

PIPSN Educational Program 2021 by Jan Brant, RN, NCSN

The Private, Independent, and Parochial School Nurses (PIPSN) special interest group (SIG) was formed in 1994 to promote communication and exchange of ideas among nurses who work in private, independent, and parochial schools. Professional affiliation for PIPSNs is a necessity if we want to be informed about best practices for addressing school health needs. NASN has school nurse leaders in each of our communities, leaders who provide resources to support PIPSN members.

Martha Dewey Bergren, DNS RN NCSN PHNA-BC FNASN FASHA FAAN is an exceptional role model for leadership in school nursing practice. Dr. Bergren has devoted over thirty years to clinical and academic work. Her articles have appeared in over 80 peer-reviewed publications. She has demonstrated that improving healthcare in schools and creating healthy school environments and cultures are the most cost-effective and prudent investments for school-aged children. Besides school nursing, population health, privacy, informatics, journal peer-reviewing and editing, and leadership are all included in her areas of expertise. Last September, Dr. Bergren was named the Executive Editor of the Journal of School Nursing.



On March 2 at 6:30PM EST, Dr. Martha Dewey Bergren, met with over 246 PIPSNs via Zoom to present "If You Know HIPAA, You Don't Know FERPA: Student Health Privacy". Dr. Bergren practiced school nursing at an independent school early in her career. She understands the autonomous nature of being a PIPSN. With the recent COVID-19 pandemic, many of us need guidance about student health privacy and sharing health information about the coronavirus.

If you missed this informative session that was offered by Dr. Bergren, it is located in the PIPSN library @

<https://schoolnursenet.nasn.org/communities/community-home/librarydocuments?communitykey=0d9fe1d7-dd21-4a78-b1aa-7269a96edd40&tab=librarydocuments&LibraryFolderKey=&DefaultView=>

I have summarized the following highlights from Dr. Bergren's presentation:

Do you know if your school follows Family Education Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA) or Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA)? Many of us need to confirm this information with our school administrators. If a private school accepts no federal funds, it is not subject to FERPA. A school that accepts no federal funds would be subject to HIPAA Privacy, Security, and Transaction Rules if it engages in HIPAA transactions, such as electronic billing for any health-related services such as nursing, speech, physical therapy, or psychologist services.

How can you communicate with a healthcare provider about health issues about a student?

Be proactive and collect an annual HIPAA compliant authorization for students.

Annual signed, HIPAA compliant authorizations for students are required to communicate with their healthcare providers. If a school requires records or information for assessment and evaluation purposes, healthcare providers are prohibited from releasing information to school nurses unless requested on HIPAA compliant authorization forms. This is required whether a school is covered by FERPA, HIPAA, or neither.

After the presentation, Dr. Bergren answered questions from the PIPSNs. She offered her email address to the audience for additional questions unanswered, and for questions we may encounter in the future. Our PIPSN leadership is setting a date for our next session. We are dedicated to providing all PIPSNs with up-to-date information to be prepared to use best practices for addressing school health needs.

PIPSN Monitor Report

March 2020 – March 2021 Gail Trano, BSN, RN, CSN

PRIVATE, INDEPENDENT AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOL NURSE (PIPSN)



The PIPSN community on [SchoolNurseNet \(SNN\)](#) enables members working in the private, parochial and independent settings networking opportunities with their colleagues in the unique school settings they serve. PIPSNs have special and unique challenges beyond their public-school colleagues reflected by often being the only medical professional in their entire community setting and not having access to broader district support and resources.

School nurses require professional mentoring, supervision, and support. The PIPSN community provides this through participation in discussions on SNN, virtual meetings, presentations and speakers, in our annual business meeting at the NASN conferences, by outreach and networking at the NASN conferences. All the above offers members the support, mentoring, access to experienced colleagues and resources they require as professional nurses working in the PIP school settings. Members get to know each other through participation and create supportive and collegial relationships with fellow members. The pandemic this year made this especially important and necessary. Members looked to the PIPSN community with an increased need for information and support specific to our needs and challenges.

When a member enrolls in PIPSN, a NASN Special Interest Group (SIG), via the membership application or NASN profile, they are automatically given access to the Private, Independent & Parochial School Nurses community on SchoolNurseNet. Participation in the community forum is encouraged as we share support of PIPSNs through our discussions, the PIPSN Library, sharing of resources and personal professional experiences and expertise beneficial to all members.

Across the board, the numbers show a substantial increase over the last reporting period, a further demonstration of the value and need to our community for members. The total membership of PIPSN is 2,421, an addition of 726 members from the last reporting period. The total number of discussion threads for this reporting period was 407, close to double that of the 2020 report. The Community Library added 81 additional resources bringing the total to 292 contributions in the Library.

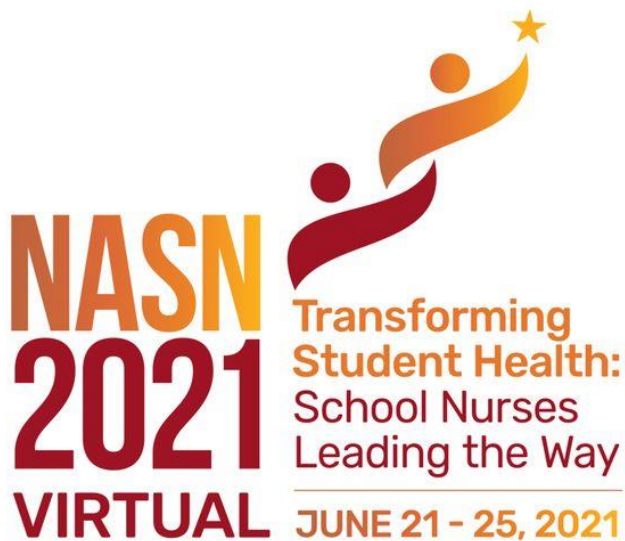
All member questions posted to the community received at least one response; none went unanswered. Additionally, 265 posts were sent directly to the individuals in a private one-on-one response, an increase from last year. This points to PIPSNs reaching out individually, as well as, directly within posted discussions; demonstrating the excellent networking opportunities SNN offers PIPSNs to develop collegial relationships forged through active membership and participation in PIPSN. The PIPSN Community forum continues to provide ongoing outreach to members, offering resources of interest, PIPSN initiatives and professional resources.

The PIPSN Community Home page has a photo album slideshow with photos of PIPSN events, members, PIPSN leadership and the photos of all Outstanding Award recipients 2009 – 2021.

Most popular discussion topics:

- PIPSN PROFILES— Members shared their stories and background.
- PANDEMIC/COVID-19:
 - ISOLATION ROOM
 - PPE/MASKS
 - PLANS FOR RE-OPENING
 - DAILY WELLNESS CHECKS AND APPS, TEMPERATURE POLICIES
 - PARENTS: COMMUNICATIONS AND DEALING WITH CHALLENGES
 - COVID TESTING IN SCHOOL
 - CDC RECOMMENDATION CLARIFICATIONS
 - CHALLENGES WITH PCP AND TESTING/REFERRALS
 - IN-PERSON VS ONLINE
 - BOARDING SCHOOLS SPECIFIC UNIQUE NEEDS
 - PROMS, ATHLETICS, MUSIC, CHORUS, FIELD TRIPS
 - CLOSE CONTACTS
- NON- PANDEMIC DISCUSSIONS
 - HEALTH OFFICE PROTOCOL DEVELOPMENT
 - IMMUNIZATIONS- EXEMPTIONS
 - DIABETIC STUDENT CARE AND CHALLENGES
 - FORMS, PROTOCOLS, PROCEDURES FOR OTC MEDS
 - ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS
 - PARENT /STUDENT COMMUNICATION
 - MENTAL HEALTH

Respectfully submitted by Gail Trano, BSN, RN, CSN; PIPSN On-line Community Manager





2021 Outstanding PIPSN Award Recipient

Kristin Beers, MSN, RN, SANE The Lexington School

It is my privilege to announce that Kristin Beers from The Lexington School in Lexington Kentucky has been chosen as the 2021 Outstanding Private, Independent, and Parochial School Nurse (PIPSN) Award Recipient.

Kristin has served as school nurse and health educator at The Lexington School since 2000. Nurse Kristin has been described as being inspirational and having a tremendous amount of grace under pressure. She provides community education and develops health units that encompass her schools core curriculum while uniting the various disciplines at school.

When COVID-19 closed her school for the remainder of the 19-20 school year, Kristin found other ways to utilize her time and experience. She joined the Medical Reserves Corp and was trained as a Subject Matter Expert. By working at the DPH nights, holidays, and weekends, she was able to give epidemiologists, nurses and other public health employees a much needed break. Kristin was also approached by an art teacher and two physicians to help design face shields. Kristin jumped at the chance to provide input and deliver supplies to the local law enforcement officers and a rural hospital.

Kristin is an active member of NASN and PIPSN. In 2019, she presented a session at the NASN Annual Conference in Denver. Her presentation, *There's a Health Unit In That Classroom: Creative Collaboration Across Specialties*, focused on ways to partner with faculty and staff to develop curriculum health units. Kristin is currently the PIPSN Co-Chair for Membership, reaching out and inviting private, independent, and parochial school nurses to join NASN and the PIPSN community.

Outside of the school setting, Kristin is certified as a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner and has worked as a SANE with the Lexington Fayette County Division of Police since 2017. In addition, Kristin recently attended the virtual Legislative Day in Kentucky. During this time, she was able to make a speech about being a PIPSN and the need to support a Kentucky bill aimed at increasing the number of school nurses in her state. Her message to all school nurses is: "Get involved and let your voice be heard".

The Silver Lining- Linda Register, MSN, RN, NCSN

What a year! When I look back to what I was doing a year ago and what I have accomplished in the past 12 months, I am so thankful to be a PIPSN. As school nurses we have worked tirelessly for our communities, our students, families, faculty and administrators. I don't remember ever being so physically and mentally exhausted, yet so very proud and amazed at what I have achieved with the support of other school nurses.



I have communicated with nurses across the country and around the world searching for answers and collaborating around COVID issues too numerous to count. PIPSNs have shared their time, ideas, laughter, tears, frustration, and successes. The friendships and connections that I have formed with these nurses have provided the strength and resilience I needed to find innovative solutions to the many challenges I faced each day.

Many of my thoughts and feelings were reflected in posts found on the PIPSN community SchoolNurseNet:

I am so thankful for this group and the resources it brings, especially during this pandemic.


I have to say though, it is so nice to know that I am not alone in this and that there are other private school nurses having the same issues!! Thanks for reassurance! It takes a village.

I love reading about PIPSNs practicing in diverse school settings. This is a great way to feel connected to each other in this time of isolation and it offers us some insight about all of the impressive things that our members are engaging in.



What we have achieved for our schools is nothing short of miraculous. Thank you to all of you who responded to my texts, emails, and phone calls. I appreciated the last minute meetings via Zoom and the spontaneous visit to another school campus to see how I might improve our carpool screening process. I have so much gratitude for our international friends who shared their time and experiences as they were the first to venture back to in person learning. The Zoom meetings with these incredible nurses gave me courage and confidence to move forward with hope.

I look forward to continuing our friendships and Zoom meetings in the future. Thank you PIPSNs from the bottom of my heart.

Name	Office	State	Email Address	Phone	Photo
Jan Brant, BSN, RN, NCSN	Chair	MD	jbrantrn@gmail.com	410-258-6637	
Cheryl Blake, MSN , RN, NCSN	Immediate Past Chair Chair PIPSN Award	NC	cherylwblake@gmail.com	919-698-3121	
Open	Vice Chair				
Linda Register, MSN, RN, NCSN	Secretary Chair PIPSN- PULSE Newsletter	NC	lindaregister@greensboroday.org	336-288-8590	
Gail Trano, BSN, RN, CSN	Online Communicati on Manager	NYC, NY	CUBSNRN@aol.com	917-612-1634	
Theresa Hartel, MSN, RN	Chair PIPSN Public Relations	MA	hartel@bchigh.edu	339-987-0444	
Kristin Beers, MSN, RN, SANE	Co-Chair Membership	KY	kbeers@thelexingtonschool.org	859-608-4807	
Deborah Jo Kummer, BSN, RN, CGRN	Co-Chair Membership	NY	deborahjokummer@gmail.com	585-732-2875	