

August 2020

Dear Region-19 School Nurses,

My name is Miriam Carmichael and I am your new Texas School Nurses Organization (TSNO)- Region 19\* president for 2020-2021. I have been an RN for almost 35 years and a school nurse for the last 16 years in both elementary and middle school in EPISD. I was honored to represent you as TSNO School Nurse of the Year in 2018-2019. I love the challenges and joys of school nursing and know that school nurses make a lasting difference in the lives our students. I invite you to join or renew your membership in your professional organization to work together to improve our practice and the lives of students.

We are living through unprecedented times. The COVID- 19 pandemic has caused illness, death and economic hardship throughout the world. Here in the U.S. we continue to see infection and death/hospitalization rates soar while some countries have been able to flatten the curve and begin to re-open their economies and schools. <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>; <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us.html>; <https://covid19.who.int/> It is more important than ever that nurses speak out individually and with a unified voice through their health services departments and professional organizations to support science and public health based responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and the many other public health problems facing our country. It is important that we look beyond the excellent work that we do every day in our schools and see how legislative processes and policies are affecting our nursing practice and the students, families, and communities that we serve.

TSNO and our national organization, The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) are working relentlessly to support the interests of school nurses at the state and national levels through clearly communicated position statements, lobbying, education, and outreach. Please see NASN position statements at <https://www.nasn.org/home>. I invite you to join your professional organization, support public health informed policies, and vote in your local, state, and national elections.

If you are not already a member, please make a commitment to your profession and join your TSNO/NASN. You can join at <https://www.nasn.org/membership/become-a-member>. When you join NASN you automatically become a member of TSNO Region 19. Just be sure to include your local organization in your registration. In addition to joining your voice with other school nurses, you will have access to many resources and educational opportunities. On School Nurse Net you can chat with other school nurses across the state and country in order to find support and solve problems. You will receive *The Journal of School Nursing* and free continuing education in the NASN learning center. You will receive free VSP vouchers to help qualifying students get eye exams and glasses. There is also a prescription drug card discount program and professional liability insurance. Scholarships and Grants are also available. Conferences on the national, state, and local levels bring school nurses together for fellowship, education and growth.

Please join us for our TSNO-Region 19 general zoom meeting on Tuesday September 15 at 5pm. Please see the enclosed zoom invitation. This is a chance for you to meet other school nurses, ask questions,

and bring ideas. You can also meet the TSNO-region 19 Board and our Region 19 School Nurse of the Year, Terrie Bolt from MacArthur Middle School in EPISD. Congratulations to Terrie!

Wishing you a healthy and safe 2020-2021 school year! Sincerely, Miriam Carmichael RN, BSN, BA

\* TSNO Region 19 represents school nurses from all schools and districts in El Paso and Hudspeth counties.

Miriam Carmichael is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: TSNO- Region 19 General Zoom Meeting

Time: Sep 15, 2020 05:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82292558747?pwd=R05lTzMwOEZaZTRTUmg5a1lWRFJnQT09>

Meeting ID: 822 9255 8747

Passcode: 2ZJEUu