

President Diane Lightfoote's Outgoing Remarks...

I want to thank you for your confidence in me to lead this wonderful organization. My year long reign as NYSASN President ended Saturday November 7th as I became the immediate Past-President and Suzanne Smith was inducted as our new President. Please welcome Suzie to this position. I hold her in high esteem as she is an asset to our organization.

One of my two main focuses as President was to increase our membership numbers because I wanted to show that NYSASN represents and speaks the one voice of School Nurses across New York State. The second focus was to educate our legislators that every school building must have a school nurse, so they would be in favor of a School Nurse Mandate. The students in New York State deserve to have a registered professional school nurse to meet their safety and medical needs. I am proud to say I have led the way to make the changes to entice school nurses to join NYSASN, unfortunately I have not been able to pave the path to a school nurse mandate, but I have kept the journey alive!

Membership in your professional organization is considered a standard of excellence and we are your school nursing professional association! NYSASN made some positive strides this year. We conducted several surveys of our members and NYS school nurses with regards to membership in NYSASN. We listened and acted! We expanded the **options** for the membership and renewal process. NYSASN offers a separate dues structure for joining @ **\$55** per year, and NASN dues are \$100 per year. You can choose to join one or both separately in the same month or join months apart. I encourage you to join both NYSASN and NASN. During the current economic recession we hope that this increased flexibility will enable more school nurses like you to pursue membership participation.

Please help NYSASN to grow and become stronger to have a louder voice for change for the School Nurses in NYS! The impact that we make as an organization whether it be partnering with other organizations, or educating our legislators is dependent on the number of active members we represent. We need your support as we continue to follow our mission statement: "To advance the practice of school nursing and enhance the educational success of students by promoting quality health services". Please continue with us in our efforts. New York State Association of School Nurses: Caring for New York's Future.