

NYSASN Members, School Nurses across NYS, and nysasn.org visitors;

Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup> I was inducted as the President of NYSASN. I am delighted to start my new position and duties. I have had a lengthy reign as president-elect and feel confident that I am ready to take on the role of president. I want to thank Joanne Reynolds, past-president who has been my mentor and Rita Molloy, immediate past-president who has included me in all aspects of the Presidency. And I welcome working side by side with Suzie Smith our new President Elect.

NYSASN is THE professional organization representing School Nurses in New York State. I appreciate that many of you are members. I urge the others of you who are not to join today. The application is on this website.

Memberships to all organizations are declining, partly due to the Economy. I have hopes that with President-Elect Barack Obama we will have significant positive economic changes in America. Therefore, I would like to challenge each of our members to recruit one, at least one new member to our organization. That would double our membership!

President-Elect Obama also supports medical insurance for all individuals and families across the nation. I agree that medical insurance is key to healthy children and better outcomes at school. It seems almost too good to be true that each child could have medical insurance giving the parents the needed help to take their children to their physician for preventative care, and acute and chronic medical needs.

I strongly support educating our New York State Senators and Assemblymen in the Legislature on the importance of a school nurse in every school and building – a school nurse mandate. Our students deserve the very best safe and medical care while at school.

Again, I urge you to join NYSASN to increase our membership numbers, increase our visibility in the Educational Arena and increase our power in changing the minds of Administrators, Boards of Education, and Legislators across New York State to make a School Nurse Mandate a reality.

As many of you know, my husband of 29 years passed away suddenly in October. My life is forever changed; I am starting a new Chapter in the book of life. I will be asking many of you for your moral support and I will be delegating many tasks to those I trust. But know this, I will continue to do my best to promote positive changes and work hard for this wonderful organization.

*Diare S. Lightfate RN, NCSN*