

Dear School Nursing Colleagues,

While it is the middle of our school year, a new calendar year has begun and along with that often comes New Year's Resolutions and promises for improvement! Our professional environment changes rapidly and it seems that almost daily, an opportunity for further education, professional development, and technological advancement is presented to us.

One of the best ways to keep in touch with the rapidly changing professional environment is membership in your professional organization. In upholding our mission "to advance the practice of school nursing and to enhance the educational success of students by promoting quality health services" NYSASN will strive to offer you opportunities that will assist you in maintaining and developing your school nursing practice. Our newly unified membership status ensures that you will be able to easily access all the benefits of the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) as well as the New York State Association of School Nurses (NYSASN).

If you are reading this, then you can already count yourself as a part of school nursing in New York State, as you have visited our website. It is my hope that current members and *prospective* members will be able to easily navigate around our new website to garner valuable information relative to their school nursing practices. It is my hope also that our membership continues to grow and ultimately include each and every school nurse, school nurse teacher, and school nurse administrator in New York, as the voices of many – united in one message - are much more likely to be heard. If each current member were to recruit just one colleague - we will have doubled our force! Our membership is strong, but it needs to grow.

NYSASN's Board of Directors, which meets four times per year, continues to develop and maintain relationships with many other groups who focus on issues related to children and children's health care. Your elected officials take their roles seriously in steering NYSASN into the future. If you are wondering what the work of the Board of Directors is, perhaps you would like to audit a meeting. Perhaps you are a future leader just waiting to emerge. If you think "YES", please contact me! The path of this organization depends on you - the members. Every one has a contribution to make.

As you consider your New Year's resolutions, please give serious thought to how you can improve your own practice of school nursing. Perhaps it will be with a new NYSASN membership, perhaps it will be with an interest in joining the Board of Directors, perhaps you will attend one of our educational opportunities. Whatever direction this new year, 2007, is taking for you, know that NYSASN is here to support the school nurses in New York and ultimately to benefit the children in our care.

Best wishes to all,



Joanne Reynolds RN
NYSASN President