



## New York State Association of School Nurses

[www.nysasn.org](http://www.nysasn.org)

### Spring 2008 NYSASN President's Report

Welcome to our NYSASN 2008 Spring Symposium. The spring season brings the promise of renewal and growth. We have been focusing on initiatives that involve both renewal and growth regarding NYSASN membership. Our unified status with NASN has brought about several membership changes. Most recently NASN eliminated the practice of extending a grace period for all members. Our members who find themselves lapsed are being contacted to encourage continued membership renewal. NYSASN extends to all school nurses our sincere desire to remain connected to them, and maintain strong statewide representation. A unified force, that represents the majority, is far more effective when we encourage legislators to endorse proposals that will protect the health and safety of our students. NYSASN wants you to join in and continue to support efforts to ensure that the presence of a school nurse is guaranteed to all children in New York State schools. NYSASN is your professional organization, and we are working toward positive change.

The winds of change are blowing in many new practices for us in our health offices. To remain up to date on both proposed and new legislation, visit [www.nysasn.org](http://www.nysasn.org). Dental screenings, BMI's and a new food allergy management program will be instituted for the upcoming school year. I have given input to the guidelines for creating local policy to address food and other allergies in schools. When this informative document is released, it will help your district to develop policies to protect the safety of allergic children in your school setting. Your participation in the adoption of these recommendations is essential to the development of best practices for your setting. Please express your desire to be a part of this process to advocate for your students. Encourage your administration to partner with you on this potentially life saving initiative. Additionally, the New York State Dental Association has asked for me to join them on a task force to improve access to dental services for children. I will hope to have more information to report on soon.

Please celebrate your achievements on National School Nurse Day. Every school nurse is essential to the optimal educational experience of his/her students and faculty, and deserves recognition for a job well done!

Rita Molloy, RN  
President NYSASN