Dear Colleagues,

Well welcome to the end of what I hope has been a successful 2016-17 school year for everyone. To say it went fast, and we always do, is an understatement. For me, as did my last year as the ASNC president, it really flew by! The year ends similar to how it begins, very busy. Between School Health Surveys, Asthma reports, self-evaluations and awaiting parents to pick up meds, in addition to many other details to attend to, it is a race to the finish line but one we all are looking forward to getting to.

I thank all our members and non-members who attended our spring dinner which celebrated School Nurse Day. It was a fun and informative night (with the exception of a few technological glitches). It is always my favorite dinner of the year because we can all celebrate ourselves and also honor those among us who have truly earned their recognition of school nurse, school nurse advocate, and school nurse supervisor of the year as well as the peers among us who deserve recognition just for being great role models and school nurses! We also have a shout out to all our retirees as we honor their years of service and wish them well as they enter a new phase of their lives.

As a Board we have worked hard this year to increase our educational offerings via webinars, and hope you have had the opportunity to take part in one or all. This summer we will be hosting a one and a half day seminar providing both a clinical focus on what we often see as challenging cases and diagnostic dilemmas in school, as well as a half day preparation for the National Certification exam. Please check out our website for more information and registration.

Our Board of Directors will have a few changes next near. I am excited to turn the reins of the Presidency over to Chlo Bobrowski who I know will be a committed and innovative leader. We are sad to tell you that Mike Corjulo, who has been Past President and has served in multiple roles while wearing multiple hats, will be leaving school nursing and the ASNC Board for a position as an APRN for HeadZone Concussion Center. The good news for us all is that he will stay involved in educational efforts and legislative activities. Please remember that Board meetings and committees are open to all members. We have a few great additions this year and I encourage anyone interested to join us the second Thursday of the month.

Finally I wish everyone a wonderful summer. Whether it is some adventurous travel or a few good books, I know you have all earned some time for yourself. Enjoy and see you in the Fall!

Editor’s Note: Thank you, Susan, for all your hard work and dedication as our President. You’ve done a wonderful job and have always tried to infuse a little bit of fun and laughter into our meetings and activities. We’re happy that you will remain with us in your new role as Past President. A special thank you also goes out to Mike Corjulo, with the Board’s deepest gratitude for having shared the past 7 years with you. We wish you all the best in your new venture.
Trying to explain to kindergarteners and first graders the reasons why we need to wash our hands on a frequent basis can be quite challenging! But with a bit of planning and creativity you can get the message across to them.

Previously I showed a DVD, read a book and showed them different large fluffy germs that I explained were one million times bigger than the real thing. Quite a difficult concept for them to understand, though the book was good the DVD was a bit dated. I also knew that to keep the interest of my audience I needed to use different methods to deliver my message, as their attention span could be quite limited. We are also moving forward into a more technological age with smart boards in the classrooms, I decided to ditch the DVD and try and find something appropriate on You Tube. I like the book Germs, Germs, Germs by Bobbi Katz so decided to keep that in my program. The young ones love seeing the fluffy germs and want to touch them; consequently the germs have germs and need to go into the washing machine!

As the book is short and rhymes (which the students really enjoy!) the illustrations are bold, colorful and quite illuminating, which captures the kindergartner’s interest, so I continued to use it. Using the classroom technology was challenging for me (dinosaur that I am!) but with help from the teacher I found an appropriate short film Kindergarten Hand Washing by Maksim Khalil. The students loved it. It was funny but informative and they were enraptured by Germy the germ who hopped about in different areas including landing on a sandwich! The instructions for the actual handwashing were very simple and easy for them to follow. And with regard to my fluffy germs I tried to think of something different to do to display them, then it struck me, germs are on your body so I stuck my germs all over my sweater! It was a big hit; the students thought I looked hilarious! (None of the staff batted an eyelid, what does that say about me!?) The best part is the discussion and questions and how their minds work, when to wash their hands as well as how! Trying to get the happy balance between stressing the importance of this subject without scaring them to death!! Some of the places they reckon there are germs are quite eye opening but true e.g. Baby brother, hamster and their teeth!

The feedback from both parents and teachers was very positive. They felt that the students retained much of the information, and many of them could remember how to wash their hands the correct way! Just a part of our job but one I find very rewarding!
**Congratulations to our Retirees!**

**Sandy Barry Retiree 2017**

Sandy graduated from UMass School of Nursing in 1977 and worked at St. Francis Hospital on a med/surg/ unit then in outpatient medicine until 1999. She began her school nurse career in Enfield working at a parochial elementary school from 2000 until 2008 when she was employed in a public school, grades 3-5. She also worked as a summer camp nurse for several years at the University of Hartford.

**Linda Miller Retiree 2017**

I am a wife of 47 years, a mother of three and a blessed grandmother of five! I graduated from the University if Connecticut School of Nursing in 1970 and have worked in several settings through these many years, and decided to venture into school nursing in 1986.

On Dec. 8, 2016 I celebrated 30 years of caring for “My Kids” as I always called them and even caring for the children of some of my former students!

Retiring is very bittersweet for me, but it is time to begin another new chapter in my life and to celebrate and enjoy every minute of it!

**Joan Mandzuk Retiree 2017**

Joan has been an RN for 45 yrs., 30 of them as a school nurse. She graduated from St. John’s Nursing School in Queens, NY and attended Brooklyn College.

Her career began at State University, Downstate Medical Center a teaching and research hospital in Brooklyn, NY. She worked on a surgical unit for 9 yrs., caring for patients requiring complicated surgeries, including heart and kidney transplants. Her husband’s promotion in his company relocated them to Danbury, CT. Since she had a 9 mo. old son and no family in CT, Joan worked on week-ends for Quality Care Nursing Agency. She provided staffing in the local hospitals, convalescent homes and home care.

Eventually, a teacher friend convinced her to try substitute school nursing and she was hooked!

She subbed in all the schools in Brookfield and Danbury. Loving nursing’s challenges, Joan took a permanent position at Danbury HS where she has worked for the past 25yrs. Her special areas of interest are working closely with the pregnant teens and students with diabetes. She has served on numerous committees at Danbury HS, organized several fund raisers for the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation, a rare disorder that afflicts her oldest son and has been a member of ASNC and NASN for most of her career.

In 2006, she was CT School Nurse of the Year, leading her to a visit to the Capitol to meet with and receive a proclamation from Gov. Jodi Rell. Sen. Joseph Lieberman read about her in the News-Times and chose her to be his 2006 Joe’s Hero, an award he annually bestows on a person he considers “an unsung hero.” This entire experience was humbling, but Joan was proud that school nursing got some of the recognition it deserves.

She says that she was born to be a nurse and feels blessed for having worked in a career that she loved. She looks forward to traveling, reading mountains of books and spending more time with her husband, adult sons and their families, especially her 19 mo. old granddaughter. She is even considering subbing!

**Seeking our Award Winning Nurses**

In an attempt to update our website listing of awards over the past 3 years, kindly send us your information on any nursing or community awards that you may have received. We need to update our archives, support one another, and recognize our accomplishments. Please feel free to send any additional information that you would like to share.

Kindly send your information to me at map_rn@yahoo.com (note underscore, not hyphen between p and r).

Mary Anne Porto, BS.RN
ASNC Member-at-Large
Debra Poach, School Nurse of the Year.

Mary Anne Porto proudly receives her award from Dr. Cheryl Resha.
BSN, RN, CPN from the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, Department of Otolaryngology. Some topics covered were tracheostomy care, both routine and emergency, as well as how to effectively deal with nose bleeds, and recognizing different types of ear infections.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in the fall and wishing you all a relaxing, well deserved summer vacation!

Springs Dinner Meeting, May 10th 2017

By Annette Sauerbrunn

ASNC held its final dinner meeting of the year on School Nurse Day at the lovely Riverview Bistro in Stratford. Retiring members were honored as well as bestowing the School Nurse of the Year Award on Debra Poach from Wallingford. This award publically recognizes one exceptional school nurse annually, nominated by peers, for demonstrating outstanding professionalism, initiative, and leadership skills. Also being honored was Mary Anne Porto for receiving the Advocate of School Nursing Award. This publically recognizes an individual who has significantly contributed to the promotion and support of school nursing. Congratulations to all!

Following a delicious meal, attendees listened to an interesting presentation by Amy Godiksen,