

BRIDGEPORT HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION I, Inc.

October, 2016

Dear Member:

Our Annual Dinner/Alumnae Meeting was held the 2nd Tues of April, 2016. Our speaker was Dr. Linda Podolak, BHSN Director of Nursing. Linda, also an AAI member, enlightened us on the new Bachelor of Nursing program that was to start the fall of 2016 at the University of Bridgeport (UB), about the new RN to BSN program that started the fall of 2015, and the tedious and lengthy process that had to be done before this transformation could take place. Linda shared that the last BHSN class was admitted to the School of Nursing the fall of 2015 and will graduate its last class in May, 2017. You can also check our face book page for any BHSN/UB updates.

The current Board of Directors to AAI had agreed to remain in office for another 2 years except Joyce Bruno, our long standing secretary, whom retired, and Board members were voted in to office by AAI members at our April, 2016 dinner/meeting. Dottie Connolly, cl 72, AAI Board member, was voted in as our new secretary. Susan DeMatteo, cl 84, has agreed to join the AAI Board. Congratulations on your retirement, Joyce, and to Dottie and Susan for your new positions!

AAI honors the top scholastic BHSN students upon graduation for their outstanding academic achievements. The Suma Cum Laude gold pins were awarded to Molly Jenkins, cl 12/15 and Christina Gizzi, cl 5/16. Magna Cum Laude gold pins were awarded to Ellen Welch, cl 12/15 and Sally Jennings, cl 5/16. Congratulations to all! AAI also awards yearly scholarships to the students while they are attending BHSN to help with their tuition and expenses.

Graduation of the BHSN took place on May 2, 2016. There were 54 graduates. The Accelerated Class of December, 2015, with 31 members, were invited to attend the May, 2016 graduation ceremonies at the University of Bridgeport. Of the 54 graduates, 51 from the class of 5/16 completed AAI applications. AAI honored our new graduate nurses with a social in April. Congratulations to all the graduates!

The updated AAI Continuing Education scholarship information is on our website- for nurses whom wish to pursue advances in their nursing education. The Scholarship is up to \$4000 and distributed as a one-time award. The Guidelines for the Scholarship prerequisites and the applications are on our website. Applicants must be a current AAI member for at least one year. If you would wish to apply for a scholarship, you can contact Caren Silhavey, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, @ Silhavey@att.net or 203-375-4553, or Debi Petrushonis, AAI Treasurer, at debptreas@juno.com or 203-924-9175 also for an application and a copy of the guidelines. Applications will be accepted starting January to March, 2017 only and will be under review by the scholarship committee. Scholarship recipients will be announced and awarded at our April dinner/meeting.

To join AAI face book or to see AAI updates, email Jamie at jme02raz02@aol.com or go directly to the Face Book page- **B.H.S.N. Alumnae Association.**

AJ Klein Jewelers at 866 Ave, Shelton, has replicas of the BHSN nursing pins for order if you would like a charm, necklace/pendant or just a replacement of your lost original pin. Both, the [vintage original pin](#) for graduating classes before 2003 and current pin since 2003 are available; colors are maroon and gold. The price list for gold filled, 10K and 12K will vary on the pins. You would contact A.J.Klein Jewelers directly to order pins at 203-929-3300. With gold prices fluctuating at times, the estimate of the pins may vary. Pins will be made to order, a few are in stock, and will cost the price of the pin plus CT sales tax, shipping and handling. Pins are no longer available for purchase after graduation from BHSN. If you need more information, you can contact Caren Silhavey at 203-375-4553.

The Memorabilia and Historical room at BHSN, we are looking to form a committee of members to meet soon on how to archive the historic items at the BHSN. A few members have asked to be included on this committee. If you are interested, please contact Linda Podolak at BHSN, Dottie Connolly, or Mary Toohey Repko by the end of October, 2016.

Deceased Members: A few of our AAI members have passed on: Dorothy Didsbury Mills, cl 46, Helen Vernocy Cook, cl 40, Barbara Friberg Creighton, cl 54, Irene Mirsencik Firmender, cl 38, Joan Grabiec Converse, cl 58 . All will be sadly missed! AAI contributes a donation to our Continuing Education Scholarship Fund in memory of our deceased member if we are unable to send a delegation to their service. If you hear of any distant or out of State members whom have passed, please contact one of our Board members. If anyone has a nursing cap that you would like to donate for the funeral delegates to wear or if you would like to participate as a funeral delegate, please contact Cathy Nucera at 203-452-9618.

If anyone is interested in posting news in our annual newsletter, have a class get-together or reunion at our annual meeting, please send emails by March 1st to Debi @ debptreas@juno.com. Or if anyone knows of a member in a hospital or convalescent home, call one of our board members or email to Debi.

If anyone knows of a restaurant, with a banquet room and handicap access, that you would like to try or recommend for our annual April dinner/meeting, please call Cathy Nucera at 203-452-9618

News on the upcoming changes at Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing:

Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing, BHSN, has admitted its last graduating class the fall of 2015 to graduate May, 2017. The accelerated class will graduate in December, 2016. The academic final year at BHSN remains strong, current and continues to uphold quality education. The program has enhanced students' knowledge and clinical application of safety initiatives with a focus on high reliability organizations (HRO). This spring the School began a Safety & Quality bulletin sent to students emphasizing key principles of clinical practice. BHSN has also enriched the area of "Diversity" within the curriculum to reflect current trends in healthcare. The School is strong and will end strong!

The RN to BSN program began its first class the fall of 2015, at the University of Bridgeport (UB), and the traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing, BSN, degree program has started this fall, 2016 also at UB. A majority of faculty from BHSN have remained at the school to teach the last class, few have transitioned to UB, and most will join the UB BSN nursing program by July, 2017. The BHSN has taught nursing students since 1884 and has accomplished graduate nurses whom have exceeded the national average on the NCLEX-RN state board of examination. The graduates of BHSN have had strong clinical experiences and have been held in the highest regard. This will end the 133 year diploma nursing program at Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing, which is the last program of its kind in CT. The BSN program is the upcoming way of the future for nursing by 2020. The BHSN website has been totally changed and now addresses the current changes and the changes to come. It also provides a link on its home page for you to view the closing of BHSN announcement by Bridgeport Hospital President & CEO, Mr. Jennings and Sr. Vice President, Ms. Kosturko. Check out the new site and announcement letter, <http://bhsn.bridgeporthospital.org> For more information on the UB, BSN program, go to www.bridgeport.edu/academics/undergraduate/rn-bsn/ or email Linda Wagner, Associate Dean RN to BSN at lwagner@bridgeport.edu

Please update your address if you move or email address and forward to Debi @ debptreas@juno.com -please include your full name in a note so that I know whom you are.

Officers of AAI: President: Mary Toohey-Repko- 203-378-9783

V.President: Cathy Nucera-203-452-9618

Secretary: Dottie Connolly-203-922-8022

Treasurer: Debi Petrushonis-203-924-9175

AAI Webpage: www.BHSNAA1.org

Facebook page: [B.H.S.N.Alumnae Association](https://www.facebook.com/B.H.S.N.Alumnae.Association).

Email: debptreas@juno.com

