

BRIDGEPORT HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING ALUMNAE ASSOC. 1

Dear AA1 Members,

January, 2025

Happy 2025 New Year to all our AA1 members and their families! We are hoping for a much better year than 2024, less stress, good health, better economy and of course World Peace! We extend our continued thank you to all of the nurses and health care staff for their support of everyone under their care! Our 2024 Annual member April meeting/dinner was held at the Stonebridge Restaurant, Milford, Ct. We finally were able to get out and have a wonderful dinner with over 30 members and friends. Our speaker was, Steve Mieczkowski, RPH, Pharmacist, who discussed "Ozempic" and how to better educate us on the use of this drug, the benefits and side effects. We appreciated his summation and went away with a much better realization of this widely used medication.

AA1 members voted in our current Board Officers, at our 4/9/2024 meeting, for the next 2 years.

For our Annual April dinner meeting, the AA1 Board is looking at restaurants to hold our meeting. The Alumnae has recently learned that only AA1 members dinners may be paid for by the Alumnae during our annual educational dinner meeting. Save the date, Tuesday, April 8, 2025 , 6 to 9pm with more information to come in our March newsletter.

BHSN Historical items-We still have several of the blue Danube and clear glass dessert plates and clear glass tea cups that were used at BHSN Faculty/student Tea's over 50 years ago. It is a wonderful way to support our Continuing Education fund with a donation of your choice and to receive a part of our BHSN history! If anyone is interested in these items, please contact one of the AA1 officers.

Scholarships- 2024 AA1 Continuing Nursing Education Scholarships were awarded to Alyssa Kostopoulos, class of 2014 and Maura Lynch, class of 2010. Best of Luck in your future endeavors!

AA1 has given a Nursing Excellence award to Mary Judson, RN, Nursing Professional Development Specialist, from Bridgeport Hospital, during nurses week in May, 2024, in which AA1 Board members, Mary Toohey Repko, President, Linda Podolak, Past Director of BHSN and Debi Petrushonis, Treasurer, also attended.

Continuing Nursing Education Scholarship revised application and guidelines information- is on the AA1 website, www.BHSNAA1.org. For any AA1 member who would like to apply for a scholarship, being in good standing and continuing with their nursing career, applications will be accepted during an *extended time period- between February 1, 2025 through March 31, 2025*. You can contact Caren Silhavey for any further information @ 203-375-4553 or email at Silhavey@att.net. Scholarships will be awarded after all information required has been reviewed and a Board decision is made.

AA1 has set up a new Certification scholarship program for AA1 members to assist in covering expenses for their specialty certification/ recertifications that are necessary to continue in their career fields. You can find the certification form and guidelines on our website, www.BHSNAA1.org . If anyone is interested, please contact Edi Poidomani @ edisr@sbcglobal.net.

AA1 has made several donations in 2024, Our mission is to encourage and support nursing continuing education, lifelong learning, and to collaborate with allied associations.

- 1) Educated Canines Assisting with Disabilities, ECAD(for clients with autism, medical disabilities, PTSD),
- 2) The Red Cross- (for Hurricane Milton and Helene Relief Fund),
- 3) The Connecticut Nurses Honor Guard-(to help continue their service at Ct deceased nurses' funerals),
- 4)The Stratford VNA-(to support a safty education program for nurses and staff)
- 5) The Colby Fund- (to assist and support families of stillborn infants)

On the AA1 website- The AA1 Bylaws along with past newsletters, our membership pamphlet, the AA1 Mission Statement, scholarship and certification applications and guidelines and AA2 organization information are on our website- www.BHSNAA1.org

Deceased Members: Several of our AA1 members have passed on in 2023 and 2024-They will be sadly missed! *Annette(Swanny)Swanhill Seirup, cl of 1948(deceased 12/2023)*

Jean Bodak Beezel,cl of 1957(deceased 9/2024)

Patricia O'Brien Maurer,cl of 1953(deceased 1/2024)

MaryAnn Seesler Dobyns,cl of 1951(deceased 9/2024)

Helene Repko Prokop,cl of 1944(deceased 11/2024)

Saundra Mandulak Erickson,cl of 1963(deceased 11/2024) *Nancy Kasper Savinsky,cl of 1956(deceased 1/2024)*

Mary Ann Krajick Hmura,cl of 1973(deceased 3/2024) *Jean Baltrusatis Vince,cl of 1952(deceased 11/2024)*

Funeral Delegations- AA1 frequently sends a delegation to attend a local funeral of our deceased members. If we are unable to send a delegation because of distance or other circumstances, the AA1 will donate, in their memory, to our Continuing Education Fund or at the family's request. **We are in need of volunteers for our funeral delegation; there is a stipend for your service. AA1 has extra, cleaned, gray wool BHSN nursing capes to loan to AA1 members who would like to join our funeral delegations.** Also, if anyone has any BHSN pins that they would like to donate to AA1 for our delegation to wear on the capes at our member's funeral and if anyone is available to attend funerals, if only occasionally, please contact Cathy Nucera,VPres. at 203-449-6944 or cathy.nucera@gmail.com for more information.

If anyone knows of any AA1 members who are in nursing homes, in the hospital, or who has passed away, please contact Dottie Connolly, AA1 secretary- 203-922-8022 or Dotconn0119@gmail.com

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

V.President: Cathy Nucera- 203-449-6944

Secretary: Dottie Connolly- 203-922-8022

Treasurer: Debi Petrushonis- 203-231-3306

AAI Webpage: www.BHSNAA1.org

NEW*Email: debp320@gmail.com**

Other email still in use short time- debptreas@juno.com

Deb Petrushonis, AAI Treas.
29 Leavenworth Rd
Shelton, Ct 06484