

BRIDGEPORT HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING ALUMNAE ASSOC. 1

Dear AA1 Members,

January, 2026

Happy New Year 2026! We hope all of our AA1 members and their families have a healthy and wonderful New Year! We extend our continued thank you to all of the nurses and health care staff for their support of everyone under their care!

Our 2025 Annual member April meeting/dinner was held at the Gusto's Restaurant, Milford, Ct. We had a wonderful dinner with over 35 members in attendance. Our speaker was, Jeannine Link-Staltaro, CDN, who was a dynamic speaker about nutrition and foods that are better choices. We appreciated her conscientious input on ways to keep healthy!

Save the date for our 2026 Annual April dinner meeting, Tuesday, April 14, 6 to 9pm, possibly at Gusto's Restaurant again this year. The Alumnae has recently learned that only AA1 members dinners may be paid for by the Alumnae during our annual educational dinner meeting. Our speaker will be Jennifer Hubbard, a dynamic, inspirational speaker, author and Executive director of the Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary in Newtown, Ct. More information to come in our March newsletter.

AA1 members will need to vote in current or new Board Officers at our April dinner meeting. Our current board officers wish to continue for 2 more years, but if anyone is interested in any position, please let one of our board members know. AA1 board is also looking for a member who is interested to join the board as our ninth member. Please let any of the board members know if you are interested. There is a small stipend to attend each of our 4 to 5 board meetings which we have been holding on Zoom.

Scholarships- AAI Continuing Nursing Education Scholarships- none were requested in 2025.

Continuing Nursing Education Scholarship 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 January 15, 2026 through March 31, 2026*. You can contact Caren Silhavy for any further information @ 203-375-4553 or email at silhavy@att.net. Scholarships will be awarded after all information required has been reviewed and a Board decision is made.

AA1's 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 at edisr@sbcglobal.net. We have had several members apply and have been awarded recertification scholarships in 2025.

AA1 has made several donations in 2025, Our mission is to encourage and support nursing continuing education, lifelong learning, and to collaborate with allied associations.

- 1)Bridgeport Hospital Foundation- for scholarships in excellence in nursing during nurses week and to support nurses in obtaining their certifications and to attend medical conferences,
- 2)Albertus Magnus College- donation for scholarships in their new nursing program,
- 3)Fairfield University- donation for scholarships in their nursing program,
- 4)Sacred Heart University- donation for scholarships in their nursing program,
- 5)University of Bridgeport- donation for scholarships in their nursing program,
- 6)University of Bridgeport- donation for 54 student nurses and 2 faculty to attend a Ct Student Nurse conference.

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 2025-

Janet Izzo Wells, cl of 1959 (deceased May, 2025), Marcia Telesha Anthony, cl of 1991 (deceased August, 2025), and Jessica Pellegrino, cl of 1969 (deceased October, 2025). They will be sadly missed!

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 nursing caps or pins that they would like to donate to AA1 for our delegation to wear on the capes for 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

Secretary: Dottie Connolly- 203-922-8022

AAI Webpage: www.BHSNAA1.org

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

Treasurer: Debi Petrushonis- 203-231-3306

*** NEW Email: debp320@gmail.com

Old email - debptreas@juno.com - do not use

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