

Diocesan School Nurse Assumes State Leadership Position



The Virginia Association of School Nurses, VASN, initiated its newest slate of officers November 5, 2010, at their general meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia, and our own Mrs. Debbie Zeller, MSN, NBCSN, St. Andrew the Apostle School Nurse, has assumed a state leadership position with VASN.

Many believe the responsibilities of a school nurse amount to little more than drying tears and covering boo boos. In fact, school nursing practice encompasses a varied array of organizational and health care demands requiring continued education to remain current. School nurses advocate for the whole family and facilitate student learning by promoting health and wellness. School nurses with their broad scope of practice are ideally positioned to serve as critical resources to the school community.

Mrs. Debbie Zeller is in her 9th year as school nurse at St. Andrew School. She will serve as VASN president elect for 1 year, followed by the position of President for two years, followed by two years as Past President of the state Executive Board.

Nursing leadership is not new to Mrs. Zeller. She has served actively on the Diocese of Arlington, Office of Catholic Schools, School Health Advisory Committee, at the request of Sr. Karl Ann Homberg, SSJ, Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Elementary Education, and she has been instrumental in developing and standardizing health policy for our diocesan schools.

Mrs. Zeller encourages her diocesan colleagues to join VASN. "Every school nurse should be a member of their professional organization and take advantage of the networking and learning opportunities offered," said Mrs. Zeller, who has led the diocesan nurses informally for years.

Also of note, Mrs. Zeller recently published an article, "Perspectives on Private School Nursing," which may be found in the November 2010 edition of *NASN School Nurse*, the official publication of the National Association of School Nurses. I think everyone will agree that Mrs. Zeller is such a blessing to our school community.