

WELLSPRING

The Source

*The Official Publication of the
Iowa School Nursing Organization*

Iowa School Nurse Organization
Trish Swartzendruber
4235 Topaz Ave. NW • Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

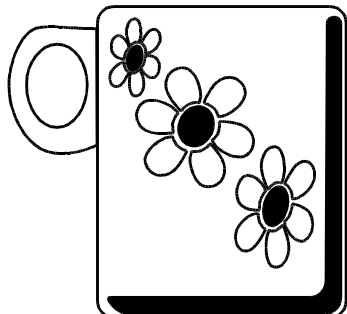


Winter 2006

Coffee Cups

A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. Conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life. Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups - porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite - telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

When all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said, "If you noticed, all the nice looking expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress. Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases it is just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink. What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups... And then you began eyeing each other's cups. Now consider this: Life is the coffee; the jobs, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain Life, and the type of cup we have does not define, nor change the quality of Life we live. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee. Enjoy your coffee...and remember the happiest people don't have the best of everything they just make the best of everything."



Author Unknown

Message from the President

By Trisha Swartzendruber, RN, BSN, NCSN



I sit here pondering what I should write about as I struggle with the fatigue of pregnancy, the frustration of a two-year-old, the compromises of marriage, the exhaustion of housework and laundry, the depression of writing bills, the struggles of running my own business, the duties of leading a professional organization and the never-ending work in my clinic as a school nurse. So then I realize, even with all of these woes, I wouldn't change a thing!! I am a very lucky young woman and I love my life! BUT... How is one person supposed to handle all of this at the same time? When is there time for me? Where do I fit in? Am I "Wonder Woman"?

Sometimes, I would love to have that little, curvy body in the "Underoos" and fly around in an invisible jet, but reality is, I just have to make it all work! But again, HOW?? We have a running joke around my house about "when are the fairies coming?" You know the fairies – the dish fairy, the laundry fairy, the toilet cleaning fairy. Well, I have yet to see a fairy, but amazingly everything gets done, eventually that is. I have found that the main thing that gets me through is BALANCE.

No, I don't mean standing on your head and juggling at the same time, although I bet many of you could do that. I mean, take the time to look at your life and make sure you are well-rounded. Look at the things that are important to you and make sure you have even amounts of them. We all know that kids that are well-rounded do better in school. We often counsel kids to make sure they have a healthy family life, supportive friends, and are involved in extra-curricular activities. So, do you have healthy family relations, not only with your spouse but with your children, grandchildren, parents, siblings, etc.? Do you have a friendship circle in which you can socialize, whether it is at school, at church, in your neighborhood, or old college friends? Do you have extra-curricular activities, such as church, volunteering, reading, playing a sport, listening to music, or getting a massage?

Research shows that only 20% of kids are ready to learn when they come to school in the morning. The other 80% is dealing with social, emotional, mental and physical barriers to learning. These are the kids you deal with everyday to help them deal with their barriers. But, do you have barriers in the way of letting you be the best school nurse you can be? I know I do. Make sure that you take time for yourself and identify your barriers so that you can be more productive and ready to care for your students. Take breaks; eat lunch away from your desk, network with other school nurses via e-mail, ISNO, or at conferences and stay healthy!

School Nursing is a tough and often thankless job. However, we stay in this field because of the many tiny rewards it gives us, much of which is warming to our hearts. The day-to-day tasks of school nursing is never-ending and often ever-changing. We have to constantly be on our feet, flexible and ready for action. We have to prioritize and re-evaluate every moment of the day. It often seems we will never get the immunizations done, or the IHP's written, or the IEP meetings attended, or the training of emergency medical procedures completed, or what about the hand-washing classes, or the mental health screening, or that Diabetes walk that you are planning, or thethe list goes on and on and on! Remember, you are only one person- a wonderful person at that, but not "Wonder Woman." Do what you can and leave the rest until tomorrow. Go home, have a nice dinner with your family, call your best friend, take a hot bubble bath, read a book with your children and get ready for tomorrow, cause it starts all over again and you LOVE IT!!

Trisha Swartzendruber RN, BSN, NCSN
ISNO President

Student Nurses Advocate For School Health

By Adelaide Capparelli Gerling
Outgoing Legislative & Educational Director for IANS

Over the past year, nursing students in Iowa have been working to support healthy school districts. Their efforts to advocate for more registered nurses in K-12 schools across Iowa were clearly defined during the Iowa Association of Nursing Students (IANS) Annual Convention October 5th and 6th where 400 nursing student gathered to debate various issues.

A total of four resolutions were submitted to IANS this year and of those, only two were adopted by the House of Delegates. Both of the resolutions adopted support the need for RNs or ARNPs to staff school health clinics. The newly elected IANS Board of Directors will now take these resolutions and take action. One resolution will remain in the state of Iowa where the IANS board will help local school chapters take action to raise awareness. The second resolution may be submitted to the national level where several state organizations will join forces to increase awareness of the need and benefit of having ARNP's in school based clinics.

The aim of the IANS student body is to support a healthier environment for the children of Iowa and to aid those children who may not have access to healthcare. IANS students look forward to having the support of RNs and ARNPs across the state. If you would like to support the efforts of IANS or have any questions, please contact the newly elected IANS Legislative & Educational Director at legislative.educational.director@gmail.com

From the President Elect

I hope everyone's school year has started out well- just remember things will slow down, eventually! Just a few important dates to remember:

ISNO is supportive of Iowa school nurses (including myself!) taking the National School Nurse Certification Exam through NBCSN this winter or summer. This will not only boost your professionalism, but it will help prove your expertise. You can register by going to <http://www.nbcns.com/>. The last day to register for winter testing is November 30, 2006. Testing for the winter is at your preference from 1/13-1/27/07. There will be testing offered again in the summer. Application deadline for the summer is 5/15/07. Testing is from 7/14-7/28/07. Once I get names of interested individuals, I will try to set up a study group with someone who has gone through the testing. If interested, please e-mail me at tlevens@mchsi.com. We could all meet, study, and network at the spring conference.

Save the dates: The ISNO spring conference will be April 12th and 13th at Blank Children's Hospital in Des Moines. I have reserved a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn Downtown, which is close and offers a shuttle if needed. Information will be sent out around the Christmas Season.

Tami Leavens RN, BSN

ISNO Board Members As of April 2006

President:

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Continuing Education Committee Chair:

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Outreach Committee Chair:

Sandy Wells, RN, BSN, NCSN
59448 150th Ave
Fonda, IA 50540
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E-mail: swells@slesd.org

Dear School Nurses:

Do you ever feel like you are the only one out there in your position? Nobody to talk with about a concern or question you might have in your daily work? Well, I have a solution for you! There are currently **162 members** of the Iowa School Nurse Organization and we are here to help each other. Thank you to all of you who are current members of ISNO! It would also help our students, staff, families and ourselves if we could continue to increase our membership to include **all** the school nurses in Iowa. We need you to encourage your colleagues to join us as we strive to make the profession of school nursing, and what we do, known to others. The definition of a profession includes not only "an occupation requiring special education" but also "public declaration respecting something." We want the public and the people we work with to respect what we do each and every day. To have this we need to be a strong professional group. ISNO needs each of us. I know that some of you may have colleagues that are hesitant to join ISNO because they have no time available to do any extra volunteer work, or maybe just do not feel they want to be involved in another organization, or maybe it is because they have no idea what ISNO is. Don't be afraid to tell them as a school nurse it is important to be a part of our professional organization. No excuses. The only time needed is to fill out the membership application, which can be done quickly online at the ISNO website www.isno.org/2006pdf/IANASNApplcation.pdf. The only money to spend is \$119.50 and may be tax deductible for some. I can guarantee that this money will be worth it when members receive the Journal of School Health magazines, NASN Newsletters and ISNO newsletters throughout the year. Members also receive discounts on conference registrations sponsored by ISNO. Please don't be alone out there in your position. We, as Iowa School Nurse Organization Members, are here for you. Join us and encourage your colleagues to join! If you have any questions please call or e-mail and I will be glad to assist you in any way.

Laura Wheeler, RN BSN NCSN
ISNO Membership Chair
319-558-3798
lwheeler@cr.k12.ia.us

ISNO Financial Report June 30, 2006 to Spetember 30, 2006

Checking Account Balance as of June 30, 2006	<u>\$28,288.34</u>
Income:	
NASN/ISNO Membership Dues	\$1,174.00
CEUs	\$145.00
Advertising	\$0
Interest Earned	\$6.98
Conference – Spring 2006	\$4,570.00
ISNO Clothing	\$110.00
University of Iowa New School Nurse 2006 Conference	\$386.00
Total Income 1st Quarter 2006:	<u>\$6,391.98</u>
Expenses:	
NASN Affiliate Dues	\$0
INA dues	\$0
Printing	\$0
Newsletter	\$133.55
Postage (Trish S. – to M. Hicklin)	\$5.55
<u>CEU Expenses</u>	\$0.00
National Director - N. Spalj (NASN 2006 conference – NY)	\$918.01
Board Meeting 2006 ISNO summer Board meeting – Perry, IA	\$986.95
<u>Regional Leaders Expenses</u> Conference call 6/13/06	\$260.87
<u>Conference Spring 2006</u>	\$4,846.27
NASN National Conference – NY 2006	\$2,567.22
ISNO Clothing	\$0
Web Page Expense	\$0
Gift/S. Yearous, Picture Frame – IA School Nurse of the Year	\$11.60
Total Expenses 1st Quarter, 2006:	<u>\$9,730.02</u>
Checking Account Balance 1st Quarter, 2006:	<u>\$24,950.30</u>
US Bank – Investment CD = <u>\$5,290.63</u>	
<u>Total ISNO Assets July 31, 2006</u>	<u>\$30,240.93</u>
<i>Investment CD Matures 9/9/06 – Balance = \$ 5,290.63. Term at Renewal – 25 months</i>	
<i>***CD #3-964-0095-3974 matured on 9/9/05 – balance at maturity = \$5,290.63 –</i>	
<i>renewed for another 25 months and next maturity date will be 10/9/08. Contact US</i>	
Bank 24-Hour Banking for questions – 1-800-872-2657.	

ISNO Legislative Committee Report

Submitted by Barb Allen.

ISNO Legislative Chair

Sharon Yearous and Barb Allen are sitting on the Governor's Healthy Children Task Force (SF2251). The purpose of the task force is to assess current policies and statutes affecting the health of children, specifically physical activity, physical education, food and nutrition, and nutrition education for children age birth through 18.

The recommendations from this Task Force will be returned to the Legislators in January. The Legislators will consider the recommended policy and statute changes for discussion and possible legislative action. Both school nurses on the Task Force have recommended that all school districts in Iowa must employ, at a minimum, one registered school nurse and districts are recommended to have one registered school nurse for every 750 students.

The Iowa State Education Association has taken the recommendation of the ISNO Legislative chair to lobby (again) for full inclusion of all non-teaching professionals who meet criteria in the Teacher Quality and Compensation Program.

Partnering to Share Health Messages

Iowa Department of Public Health Director, Mary Mincer Hansen, RN, PhD, is pleased to share the details about a media opportunity between IDPH and WHO-TV 13. The "Move It" segments began Wed., Sept. 20 at 10 p.m. and will air weekly at the same time for the next six months. As they were planning this news segment, Channel 13 contacted IDPH and Dr. Hansen met with WHO-TV 13 reporter Sonya Heitshusen to discuss the importance of physical activity and nutrition and the role the state and local public health departments' play in creating a healthier future for all

Iowans. "Move It" will shadow two Des Moines metro families for six months on their quest to become healthier through physical activity and nutrition changes. The inspiration for the "Move It" series comes as a supplement to the upcoming season of the NBC hit "The Biggest Loser."

Kleen Receives Scholarship to Attend NASN Symposium



Twyla Kleen (right) with Jeanne Kiefner, former NASN board member whom the scholarship was created in honor of.

Twyla Kleen of Pocahontas, Iowa recently received the American Healthcare Institute (AHI) Regional Symposium Scholarship from the National Association of School Nurses. Kleen has been a Special Needs School Nurse and Health and Motor Development Specialist at the Storm Lake Community School District in Storm Lake, Iowa for the past six years.

With this \$1000.00 scholarship award, Kleen attended the NASN Symposium in Dallas, TX. Kleen stated "It was fabulous! I will go again because it is hands-on classes; things you can take back and use. The networking was great also!"

To obtain scholarship guidelines and application visit www.nasn.org or call NASN toll free at 1-877-627-6476.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Keeli Irwin, MSN, ARNP, CPNP

I received my RN diploma at Iowa Methodist School of Nursing in Des Moines in 1998. Then moved to the Iowa City area to be closer to family and received my BSN at the University of Iowa in 2000. While working on the Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant unit at UIHC, I continued my education in the MSN/PNP program at U of I and graduated in 2004.

In the fall of 2005 I started a job with the Iowa City Community School District (ICCSA) as a school nurse. This has been a very different and exciting role for me. Recently I have been blessed to be a part of the process of initiating a community school based health clinic, which I will run in the ICCSD. The United Way has funded the initiation of this and we will open April 2007. YEAH!

I live in Solon with my husband Todd, almost 4 year old Grace (who thinks that she is Cinderella) and 7-month-old Jack. My greatest joy is spending time with family and friends. Hobbies include gardening and sewing, which have taken a back burner to school and starting a family.

I have been a member of ISNO since 2005 and I love attending the conferences and being able to network with this wonderful group of nurses.

Mission Statement

The Iowa School Nurse Organization supports school nurses in the delivery of health services designed to improve the health and academic success of children.

Outreach Committee Report

This will be our first year with an ISNO Outreach Regional Leader for every school nurse in the State of Iowa. We are excited to have this connection and are hopeful this will bring unity to our profession. Please contact the Regional Leader in your area listed below and give them the information they need to contact you during the school year and during the summer months. ISNO is currently working on Standards for School Nursing Practice. It is important that we be able to contact you quickly and get immediate responses so that you all have the opportunity to give your input.

ISNO REGIONAL LEADERS As of October 2006

AEA	NAME	PHONE	E-MAIL
AEA 1	Sheila Knapp	563-744-3371	sknapp@epworth.w-dubuque.k12.ia.us
AEA 4 & 12	Jennifer Mars	800-572-5073	jmars@nwaea.k12.ia.us
AEA 2,6, & 7	Angie Beenken	319-273-8250	abeenken@aea267.k12.ia.us
AEA 8	Sandy Wells	712-288-6586	swells@slcsd.org
AEA 9	Wendy Shoppa-Sargent		sargent@machlink.com
AEA 10	Susan Rumelhart	319-558-3473	srumelhart@cr.k12.ia.us
AEA 11	Jean Phillips	515-242-7618	jean.phillips@dmps.k12.ia.us
	Barb Allen	515-986-9594	gallen478@msn.com
	Melanie Hicklin	515-278-5553	mhicklin@netins.net
AEA 13 & 14	Nancy Osborn	712-236-3106	nosborn@harlan.k12.ia.us
	Dawn Clausen	712-642-2279	dclausen@movalley.k12.ia.us
	Melissa Meeker	712-644-2168	mmeeker@logan.k12.ia.us
	Dawn Fichter	712-642-4149	dfichter@movalley.k12.ia.us
AEA 15 & 16	Karol Little	641-944-5483	littlek@oskaloosa.k12.ia.us
	Lesle Kouba	641-664-3470 or 641-664-2200 ext. 1120	koubal@aea15.k12.ia.us

The Outreach Regional Leaders Goals for 2006-2007 are:

1. Offer 2 Educational offerings this year.
2. Establish e-mail list for each region

The Regional Leaders are planning to offer a Continuing Education Program over the ICN in March. Your Regional Leader will be informing you of the topic, date and time. We plan to choose several sites in each area so that it is available to all school nurses.

If you are contacted to mentor a Student Nurse in your area through a Community College or Bachelor's Program, please consider this as a wonderful opportunity. It can be educational for you as well as facilitate your own practice to be able to do projects you would not otherwise have time for. This is a resource that school nurses should utilize if possible.

Keep in touch with your Regional Leader and we will see progress made in the School Nurse Profession as we move forward as one unified group.

ISNO wants to get to know YOU!!!

We really want to support and celebrate you. Please e-mail Trisha Swartzendruber at trishcrpc@msn.com with any big news (good or bad) happening in your life.

NASN News

By Nancy Spalj

"NASN is continuing to make *A Capital Investment* since opening our new office in Silver Springs, Maryland. Representatives from the Board of Directors, members with special expertise, and your NASN staff have had the opportunity to meet with leaders from many nursing, health and education associations. Every meeting is an opportunity to improve the understanding of what school nurses do. The new location in our Nation's Capital makes these meetings cost effective." (Amy Garcia - Executive Director).

The Board of Directors meeting, which is generally held in the fall, will be held in January at the new office in Maryland. Therefore, the Board members have not been as busy with committee work. The following are some activities of the Executive Committee:

- Slate of Candidates for the 2007 NASN Election

President-Elect: Sandi Delack
Cindi Galemore

Secretary/Treasurer:
Norma Nikkola

Nominating Committee:
Pat Krin

- Sally Hunter, Vice-President, encourages us to join a NASN list-serve. You can participate in an NASN discussion list pertaining to your school nursing sub-specialty practice or a specific area of interest. Go to NASN.org and click on the left side where it says "join a discussion list."

Wanda Miller, who just retired as Executive Director, shared a bit of NASN history in a letter. I found this to be very interesting and would like to share it with you. She writes: "My first experience with what was then called the Department of School Nurses and later became the National Association of School Nurses was in 1977. NASN was in its infancy, having just severed ties with the National Education Association and emerged as an independent (501) c 3 organization. The office consisted of one person, an Executive Director, who functioned out of the den of her home." Wanda further states that "I knew several NASN Presidents and Executive Directors and that they frequently voiced the hope that NASN would become an organization that could sustain itself in the Washington DC area." The new office in Silver Springs, Maryland, now has a corporate office staff of 15 with Amy Garcia as the Executive Director. The dreams and hard work of many school nurses has become a reality. NASN and ISNO need you, your dreams and hard work to continue to make school nursing even better.

Have a wonderful year!

New Immunization Brochures and Poster

The Iowa Department of Public Health's Immunization Program has announced the availability of several new brochures and a new poster. These feature Iowa's new slogan "Immunize for a Better Life." Two topic specific brochures include "Immunization Law and You" and "Influenza Immunization." Three additional brochures address "Infant Immunization", "Adolescent Immunization" and "Adult Immunization."

Currently these resources are available in English at no charge through the Health Protection Clearinghouse, 615 5th Street SE in Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401. (Toll free phone: 1-888-398-9696; Fax: 319-861-2869; email: clrhse@crlibrary.org) Note that the poster may have limited availability. Spanish versions are expected to be available in the future.

IDPH Director Dr. Mary Mincer Hansen Elected ASTHO President

Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) Director Mary Mincer Hansen has been elected president of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO). Hansen transitioned into the one-year term on Sept. 13 after serving as president-elect during the past year.

Hansen will play a key role with the national group while continuing to serve as director of IDPH. "This is a tremendous opportunity to raise awareness of the role and contribution public health plays in the quality of life for all Americans and to the economic development of our country," Hansen said.

ASTHO Executive Director Paul E. Jarris, MD, MBA said, "Dr. Hansen's extensive experience and demonstrated leadership abilities will ensure that ASTHO remains a strong voice in serving the public health of our states and nation. Her political insight, as well as her ability to bring people with a wide range of perspectives together, will enable us to build a strong, agile, and efficient public health infrastructure."

As president of ASTHO, Hansen's duties will include talking to federal and state leaders about the importance of public health programs, including those fighting obesity, pandemic influenza, smoking and chemical, biological or nuclear terrorism.

The state of Iowa benefits from Hansen's new leadership role in many ways. "Iowa will have a voice at the national table so our issues and concerns are heard," she said. "It also increases Iowa's profile nationally regarding the excellent public health initiatives Iowa is doing. In addition, I will be able to bring to Iowa the latest information regarding policies and future issues from public and private entities influencing funding and policy decisions."

ASTHO is a national nonprofit organization representing the state and territorial public health agencies of the United States, the U.S.

Territories, and the District of Columbia. It is dedicated to formulating and influencing sound public health policy, and to assuring excellence in state-based public health practice.

"For close to 65 years, ASTHO has been a strong voice for public health in this country and I am honored to be part of its continuing legacy," said Hansen. "For more than 100 years, organized public health has saved countless lives and improved the quality of life for all Americans. It's critically important that America continue to strengthen public health services as new challenges face our country."

Genetic Syndrome Goes Undiagnosed in Thousands of Children



Cornelia de Lange Syndrome (CdLS) is a little-known genetic disorder that occurs in about 1 in 10,000 births.

An estimated 20,000 people in the United States have CdLS but remain undiagnosed or without the services and support they need.

Many individuals with CdLS remain undiagnosed because the medical community is not aware of the syndrome. While severely affected children are typically diagnosed at birth or within a few months, mildly affected individuals often slip through the cracks. The diagnosis of CdLS is delayed into early childhood or later, with a trail of symptoms—such as speech, growth and developmental delays, and medical complications, like GERD and seizures—and no one able to put a finger on the underlying cause.

May times children with CdLS go for years without the benefit of medical expertise and therapies that could

improve their lives. Their families also miss out on connections with others who share similar experiences.

By raising syndrome awareness among professionals—like school nurses—who are on the front lines each day, the CdLS Foundation aims to reach the thousands of children in need of diagnosis and medical care.

Please take the time to educate yourself about CdLS. Contact Marie Malloy at 800-753-2357 or outreach@CdLSusa.org to request a professional packet, or visit the CdLS Foundation web site, www.CdLSusa.org.

CdLS Facts

- It is estimated that at least one child with CdLS is born each day in the U.S.
- Although children with CdLS range from mildly to severely affected, most have similar physical characteristics: small hands, feet and head; thin eyebrows that meet; long eyelashes; upturned nose; and thin, downturned lips.
- About 25 percent of individuals with CdLS have limb differences or missing limbs.
- The first CdLS gene was discovered in 2004 by researchers at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. NIPBL on chromosome 5 is found in the affected individual about half of the time. Another gene—SMC1L1 on the X chromosome—was discovered this year by Italian scientists and is seen less frequently.

CdLS Foundation Facts

- The CdLS Foundation is a family support organization that works to ensure early and accurate diagnosis of CdLS; promote research into the causes and manifestations of the syndrome; and help people with a diagnosis of CdLS make informed decisions throughout their lifetime.
- The Foundation was founded in 1981 by parents of children with CdLS and professionals.
- Currently, the Foundation actively serves more than 2,200 people with CdLS, 10,000 family members and caregivers, and 2,500 interested professionals.

I-Smile Dental Home Project

by Sara Schlievert
Iowa Department of Public Health

On May 12, 2005, the Iowa Legislature passed a bold Medicaid reform initiative called "IowaCare," which was signed into law by Governor Vilsack. Included within the IowaCare legislation was the following mandate:

"By July 1, 2008, every recipient of medical assistance who is a child twelve years of age or younger shall have a designated dental home and shall be provided with the dental screenings and preventive care identified in the oral health standards under the early and periodic screening, diagnostic, and treatment program."

In response to this legislation, The Iowa Department of Human Services partnered with the Iowa Department of Public Health, the Iowa Dental Association, the Iowa Dental Hygienists' Association, Delta Dental of Iowa, and the University of Iowa College of Dentistry to develop a proposal that would fulfill the dental home mandate. The result is called the I-Smile Dental Home Project.

Phase I of the I-Smile project is now underway. This phase will focus on increasing the case management capacity of Iowa's Title V system, a network of public health agencies responsible for coordinating and tracking dental care for uninsured, underinsured, and Medicaid-enrolled children. Each agency will be hiring a dental hygienist as an Oral Health Coordinator. The coordinator will streamline communications between dental practices and parents of Medicaid-enrolled children; address issues such as patient compliance; and provide caries risk assessments, preventive dental services, and patient education.

Key to the success of the I-Smile project will be collaboration between

the Title V public health agencies, schools, WIC clinics, Head Start centers, and other community partners. We would appreciate your support. The benefits will be substantial for Iowa's underserved children!

For more information about helping your students access dental services, please contact your local Title V agency for assistance.

A map of the regional Title V public health agencies can be found at: <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/webmap/default.asp?map=epsdt>.

A summary of the I-Smile project can be found at: http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hpcdp/oral_health_ismile.asp.

"Vision is the Art of Seeing the Invisible" – Jonathon Swift

*Submitted by Sharon Yearous,
ISNO Past-President*

This quote by Swift represents the challenge before us as school nurses. I personally have a vision that every child in every Iowa school will have daily access to a registered nurse. We can no longer sit back and say "that's the way it has always been." Healthcare demands that we use best practices and our profession demands we do what is best for our clients. I ask each of you to define your vision, share your vision, then reach for your vision.

The momentum continues in the state of Iowa to support more school nurses—don't hold back now, please get involved! As Barb Allen, ISNO Legislative Chair, notes in her newsletter article, Barb and I are both members of the "Healthy Children's Task Force" (SF2251). We are hopeful that new legislation will be introduced in Iowa this upcoming year to require school nurses in districts with-

out a registered nurse and allowing for more school nurses in districts where there are more than 750 students. ISNO will also support the introduction of other legislation that supports the role of school nurses.

Nursing students in several different nursing programs in Iowa are supporting the role of school nurses too. The Iowa Association of Nursing Students recently introduced and adopted two new resolutions supporting the need for more registered nurses and advanced practice nurses. These resolutions will be shared with national level organizations in the near future. This is excellent support for the school nurse profession.

I know you have heard this over and over, but now I'm pleading with you. It will be essential that you contact your local legislators between now and January and have discussions with them about supporting legislation for school nurses. Even if you have never talked to your state legislators, PLEASE take time this year to make at least one contact with them. Share information related to school nursing in Iowa and your role to keep kids in the classroom. We each have a role in maintaining or improving the health of children in Iowa and we should be able to articulate this. Share your "vision."

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For Email Addresses

Visit <http://www.state.ia.us> then:

1. Click “Government”
2. Click “Government Telephone Listings
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Postal Mail

c/o State Capital Bldg.
Des Moines, IA 50319

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Updated Legislative Website

The State Legislature’s web page, www.legis.state.ia.us, has recently been updated and redesigned. On this site you can find information about legislators, committees, and the legislative calendar. Also, you can search for legislation by file number as well as listen to live floor debate.