



# NYS ID/DD NURSES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Vol. 27, Number Two

Summer 2020

## President's Message



As difficult as the healthcare arena is right now due to the Covid pandemic, we are seeing ID/DD nurses rise to the challenge all over New York State.

Nurses are leading the way for care via telemedicine, collaborating with area

health departments, teaching precautions within programs, and advocating for the DSPs to administration.

In addition, we have worked together to share information as it was being disseminated out of Albany. Never has the nurse been a greater asset to an agency. Thank you to Sue Prendergast BS, RN, Director of Nursing at OPWDD, for prompt responses to our questions.

I would also like to thank Linda Dudman, our conference planner, for helping us navigate the details for our cancelled 2020 conference and seamless rescheduling to September 20-22, 2021, at the Albany Marriott. We hope to see everyone there, as it will truly be a time to celebrate our nursing specialty.

Despite a cancelled conference, NYSIDDDNA will be offering the annual diabetes update this fall to its members. We are in the process of obtaining CE credits and hope to have additional information within the next month.

The diabetes update curriculum will be accessed via a webinar and/or self-study documents emailed to members. More information will be coming late June or early July. Be watching your email!!

We know our strength is in the networking of our members. Our google docs link is another avenue to share information.

Here is the link: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/15e7JayRDKBpTR7npiCwJqtMUaVsD8JfCkGvHTv8l00o/edit?usp=sharing>

Please feel free to contact me with suggestions, concerns, or questions. Thank you,

*Edie Smith*  
NYSIDDDNA President  
[edie.smith@cayuga-cc.edu](mailto:edie.smith@cayuga-cc.edu)

## Hello from Your Planning Manager

Hello, everyone. I have enjoyed my involvement with NYSIDDDNA. I look forward to meeting more of you virtually or in-person. These past few months have been busy with the many membership renewals and the addition of several new members. We welcome you all to the NYS IDD/DD Nurses Association.

Thank you to Nancy Rutledge who has continued to mentor me through this first half of my first year. It was disappointing that the Annual Conference needed to be cancelled, but I believe we made the right decision for this year. The good news is the planning committee completed much of the preliminary work that needs to be done for a successful conference. Linda Cultrara, Conference Committee Chair, and her committee members will be several steps ahead when we begin planning for the September 2021 Annual Conference. Thank you to Marty Gleeson for stepping up to serve as Corresponding Secretary and Newsletter Chair.

I look forward to continuing to learn about your organization. You will receive messages from me throughout the year. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions, suggestions, or comments.

*Linda Dudman*  
NYSIDDDNA Planning Manager  
[information@nysiddna.org](mailto:information@nysiddna.org)

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*The New York State Intellectual Disabilities/ Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association (NYSID/DDNA) was founded to promote Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Nursing as a specialty area of practice. The Association continues to support its members' activities in nursing law, education, research and practice.*

## Membership Committee

In these challenging times, it may be more important than ever to be a member of our organization. Although the ways that we “meet,” share information, and seek support have changed in many circumstances, please know that the Association is here for you! The use of social media and technology keeps us “in the loop,” and the sharing of your ideas, knowledge and expertise is important as we learn together.

Membership renewals are still being accepted. We understand the difficulty that some of you may have encountered with agency funded memberships.

Nurses may join the Association at any time throughout the year, so please encourage your co-workers to join. The membership application is included in this newsletter. You can also visit the website [www.nysiddna.org](http://www.nysiddna.org) to renew your membership if you have not already done so.

If you know any nursing students who are not yet licensed and are interested in this field, please encourage them to join as well. There is a reduced rate, but no voting privileges.

If you renew your membership or join as a new member by July 1, 2020, you will be eligible to vote in the 2020 elections. You can pay your

membership fee by check or through PayPal. The link to PayPal is in the membership section of our website.

### Opportunities for Members:

- Engage in networking with colleagues at Zone meetings, the Annual Conference, and online.
- Participate in continuing education opportunities at the Zone meetings and the Annual Conference to ensure continued competency.
- Receive support from other nurses who have a wide range of expertise and experience.
- Assume leadership roles at the Zone and the state level.
- Learn about the latest advances and updates in the field.

The membership fees for 2020 are \$50 for full membership and \$30 for associate membership. Associate members are full time nursing students or inactive nurses (retired or unemployed) and are non-voting members of the Association.

If you have questions about membership, write to [information@nysiddna.org](mailto:information@nysiddna.org).

Many thanks to all of our members for all that you do every day, especially in these unprecedented times!

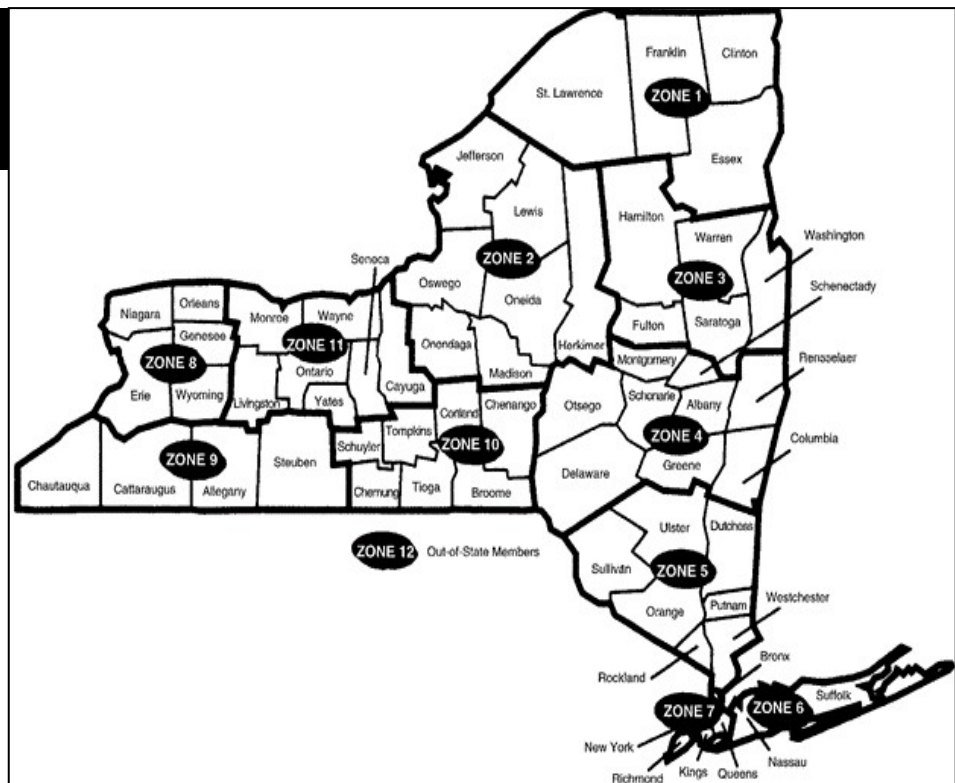
*Cathy Engel, BSN, RN, CDDN*  
Membership Committee Chairperson  
[cengel@intandem.org](mailto:cengel@intandem.org)

## NYS ID/DD Nurses Association ZONE MAP

The NYS ID/DD Nurses Association has twelve zones.

You can find your zone by looking for your county on this map of New York State. You will also find your zone on your membership card that you receive after you become a member or renew your membership.

See updates from the zones on pages 4 and 5.



## Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy Scholarship

*For students in an RN or LPN to BSN Program*

**Are you a student in an RN or LPN to BSN Program?** If you are, then this scholarship opportunity is for you!

The Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy is offering a \$1000 scholarship to a nurse working in NYS in the field of intellectual/developmental disabilities nursing and is matriculated in a program toward a bachelor's degree in nursing. If this scholarship opportunity does not apply to you, feel free to share this information with your colleagues and with nursing students you know.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: August 15, 2020**

**To be eligible, an applicant must meet all of the following requirements:**

- Is an RN or LPN who is currently working in the intellectual/developmental disabilities field.
- Is currently matriculated in an accredited baccalaureate in nursing RN program.
- Is a New York State resident.
- Intends to work as an ID/DD RN in New York State upon graduation.

**Your application should include the following information: \***

1. A *resume* describing your educational and work experiences
2. An *essay* explaining your future educational plan & professional goals. (500 words or less)
3. *Proof of current matriculation* in the RN program. (Must be a letter or verification on school letterhead from the Nursing Program or the College Registrar's Office)
4. A *description of educational and related costs* not covered by other scholarships, employer reimbursement, or financial aid.

The NYS ID/DD Nurses Association will appoint a scholarship selection committee and will recommend the finalist to Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy. The Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy will provide the scholarship directly to the recipient.

**Send application to:**

NYS ID/DD Nurses Association  
c/o Scholarship Committee  
P.O. Box 25832  
Rochester, NY 14625

\* Send requested materials in one PDF document or in Word documents with your name in the document title.

## NYSIDDDNA Website

[www.nysidddna.org](http://www.nysidddna.org)

An updated *What's New* has been posted to the website. If there is anything you would like to see posted on the website, let us know.

The website covers many different aspects of the NYS ID/DD Nurses Association. I encourage you to take time to go through the menu and see what is on the site. If you prefer to pay your membership fee by PayPal, you will find a link to PayPal in the Join NYSIDDDNA section.

Please pay attention to the upcoming scholarship offered by the Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy (deadline for applying is August 15) and the opportunity to nominate an outstanding colleague for the Joyce Binder Memorial Award. Both of these opportunities are in the Awards section of the website.

These are difficult times when our normal pathways of networking are on hold and there is so much information coming our way on COVID-19 issues. The Association will try to help with that any way we can. The website is one method of keeping in touch.

New material can be added to the website by Trish Potocar [tpotocar@slnysarc.org](mailto:tpotocar@slnysarc.org) or Linda Dudman [information@nysidddna.org](mailto:information@nysidddna.org).

## NYSIDDDNA Social Media

- **Twitter** <https://twitter.com/nysidddna>
- **LinkedIn** [https://twitter.com/dd\\_nys](https://twitter.com/dd_nys)
- **Facebook** NY State ID/DD Nurses Association

Our Facebook link is easy to find. Search for NY State ID/DD Nurses Association. If you cannot find it, go to our website and click on the "f" in the circle in the blue section at the bottom of our homepage. This link will take you directly to our Facebook page. Visit the Facebook page and do a "like" to have the feed connected to your personal Facebook page.

If you have a question to put out to the membership, news on any member, and/or photos to share, please send to [tpotocar@slnysarc.org](mailto:tpotocar@slnysarc.org) or [kjarvis@slnysarc.org](mailto:kjarvis@slnysarc.org). We welcome your input.

*Submitted by Trish Potocar, RN,  
Website Chairperson  
[tpotocar@slnysarc.org](mailto:tpotocar@slnysarc.org)*

## Zone Reports

### **ZONE 1: St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton and Essex Counties**

Zone 1 normally holds meetings 3-4 times a year—usually in March, June and October. As with other zones, our 2020 meetings so far have had to be cancelled. We are hopeful that later in the year we will be able to reschedule. In the meantime we would love to hear from our zone members if you have any questions or comments. If you are new to ID/DD nursing or new to NYSIDDDNA, please reach out for information. Contact us at:

*Trish Potocar, [tpotocar@slnysarc.org](mailto:tpotocar@slnysarc.org)*

*Karen Jarvis, [kjarvis@slnysarc.org](mailto:kjarvis@slnysarc.org)*

*Marty Gleeson, [mart4950@gmail.com](mailto:mart4950@gmail.com)*

*Submitted by Trish Potocar  
Zone 1 Co-Chairperson*

### **ZONE 2: Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, Oneida, Onondaga, Madison and Herkimer**

The Zone 2 acting chair is now Melissa Britton. Iellan Rice is treasurer. We have not been active due to COVID, but we will be setting up a meeting as soon as we are able. Send any questions or concerns to Iellan or Melissa.

*Submitted by Melissa Britton  
Zone 2 Acting Chairperson and Secretary  
[mbritton@liberty-resources.org](mailto:mbritton@liberty-resources.org)  
and Iellen Rice, Treasurer, [irice@elmcrest.org](mailto:irice@elmcrest.org)*

### **ZONE 3: Hamilton, Fulton, Washington, Warren, and Saratoga Counties**

Zone 3 is actively seeking new members, if you know anyone interested in membership, if you are interested in participating in Zone 3 activities or if you wish to be added to the zone email list, please contact Sean or Tara. Our last meeting was in November and we were unable to schedule a meeting in the spring because of the COVID-19 restrictions. Hopefully as the NY Forward initiative progresses, we will be able to schedule a meeting in early fall. Zone 3 would also like to acknowledge and thank all of the hardworking nurses out there in the field making a difference during these challenging and unprecedented times.

*Sean Casey and Tara Sanford-Briggs  
Zone 3 Co-Chairpersons  
[scasey@caparcny.org](mailto:scasey@caparcny.org) or [tsandford@cwinc.org](mailto:tsandford@cwinc.org)*

### **ZONE 4: Albany, Montgomery, Schoharie, Schenectady, Otsego, Delaware, Greene, Rensselaer and Columbia**

Summer is finally here! We have not had any

meetings/trainings thus far in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions. Those of us who were not so tech savvy have needed to maneuver through many obstacles over the past several months by needing to utilize technology so much more than ever before – such as zoom meetings, zoom trainings – such as the Abbreviated Med Course, zoom recertifications, and Telehealth/Telemedicine. We are optimistic about having a Fall meeting/training whether it be via zoom or in-person (yet to be determined). Please reach out for further information about Zone 4. Take Care & Be Well! Wear your Mask! Wash your hands often!!

*Submitted by Carol Krueger  
Zone 4 Secretary, [kruegerc@springbrookny.org](mailto:kruegerc@springbrookny.org)*

### **ZONE 5: Sullivan, Ulster, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester**

We were unable to meet in March due to COVID-19. Even though we were unable to meet, we are interested in hearing from our Zone 5 members, especially members in the counties above Rockland County. Please reach out to me when you have a chance. I would love to hear from you.

*Submitted by Madlyn Vaillancourt  
Zone 5 Secretary, [rtgomd@optonline.net](mailto:rtgomd@optonline.net)*

### **ZONE 6: Nassau and Suffolk Counties**

Hi from Zone 6. Unfortunately, our June 10th meeting for the Diabetes update had to be cancelled due to the Covid 19 restrictions and will not be rescheduled this year. We look forward to holding our September meeting on 9-15 with the topic of Immunizations and Vaccines. Seems like that will be perfect timing for the Flu season as well as a potential resurgence of Covid 19 cases (with prayers that it does not happen). I know that we in the entire NY region have experienced many hardships and challenges in the recent months and have risen to the occasion both from healthcare workers and frontline staff including fire fighters as well as law enforcement and all other essential workers. We need to remain strong in our beliefs to ensure that we protect ourselves and our loved ones in these trying times. Thanks and be well and safe from the Zone 6 Board.

*Submitted by Pat Ruckel  
Zone 6 Treasurer, [pruckel@phpcare.org](mailto:pruckel@phpcare.org)*

### **ZONE 7: New York, Richmond, King & Queens**

*Doris Figueroa  
Zone 7 Chairperson, [dfigueroa@sus.org](mailto:dfigueroa@sus.org)*



## Zone Reports (Continued)

### **ZONE 8: Niagara, Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming and Erie Counties**

Zone 8 is slowly coming out of our “COVID Coma.” Although we have not been actively meeting, nurses remain hard at work! Western New York is buzzing. Our group homes have become wonderful classrooms for learning, crafts and fun. It has been so nice to see stories of folks creating gifts for Easter, Mother’s Day, and Father’s Day. Some homes have simply learned to enjoy being at home and hanging out outdoors. We have learned to appreciate the outdoor patios for picnics and chalk drawings and even some backyard games and fishing! In this perpetual weekend, folks have really stepped up to keep things running smoothly. From flower donations to mask making, the activities are endless. Karaoke has certainly been a hit as well. With all this new found talent, who knows what the future will bring!

*Submitted by Linda M. Cultrara,*

*Zone 8 Secretary, Linda.m.cultrara.@opwdd.ny.org*

### **ZONE 9: Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Steuben and Allegany Counties**

### **ZONE 11: Monroe, Wayne, Ontario, Yates, Seneca, and Livingston Counties**

As with most of the zones, we had to cancel our spring and summer meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restricted guidelines. We are planning to meet on Tuesday, October 13th at Starbridge Inc. either in person or via Zoom for our speaker presentation. In the meantime, we are trying to support each other through this trying time. We welcome Debra Hill from Pathways, Inc. as one of our new zone reps. Debra’s years of experience will be a benefit to the zone and to the NYSIDDDNA Executive Board. We are currently looking for a new zone treasurer. Anyone interested can contact Edie Smith, Zone Secretary, or Mary Ellen Stammersky, Zone President. The zone officer positions of secretary and chair are up this year, and we are seeking any interested members.

*Submitted by Edie Smith,*

*Zone 9 & 11 Secretary, Edie.smith@cayuga-cc.edu*

### **ZONE 10: Schuyler, Tompkins, Cortland, Tioga, Chenango, Broome, and Chemung**

Zone 10 is not currently active at this time. If you would like to become a zone officer for Zone 10, we welcome you and support you in your interest. Contact Edie Smith, NYSIDDDNA President at edie.smith@cayuga-cc.edu if you are interested. You are welcome to connect with a neighboring zone and to join them for educational presentations and networking opportunities.

## Joyce Binder Memorial Award Nomination

Every year, a member of our Association is chosen to receive the Joyce Binder Memorial Award. This award is named in honor of Joyce Binder, one of our own who made outstanding contributions to the field of ID/DD and to the individuals she served throughout her career.

The NYS ID/DD Nurses Association has chosen to honor Joyce’s memory with this award that is given to an Association member who has made a significant contribution to advancing the practice of supporting individuals with ID/DD through the demonstrated attributes of caring/compassion, advocacy, mentoring, leadership, dedication, education/ research.

You all have the opportunity to recognize a colleague by submitting a nomination for the Joyce Binder Memorial Award.

**NOMINATION DEADLINE: August 31.**

### **To Nominate a Candidate:**

- Submit your nomination on the form that is available in the Awards section of the NYSIDDDNA website ([www.nysiddna.org/](http://www.nysiddna.org/)). If you prefer, you can request the form by writing to [information@nysiddna.org](mailto:information@nysiddna.org).
- You will be asked to describe how the nurse you are nominating :
  - has/will change the quality of life and has made a positive impact for the people he/she supports.
  - demonstrates the attributes of caring/compassion, advocacy, mentoring, leadership, dedication, and education/ research (in at least 150 words)
- You will also be asked to provide a brief statement describing your candidate’s experience in the ID/DD field.

All candidates must be members of NYSIDDDNA by August 1, 2020.

Not sure if your candidate is a member of NYSIDDDNA? You can ask your nominee or you can check with Linda Dudman, NYSIDDDNA Planning Manager, at [information@nysiddna.org](mailto:information@nysiddna.org).

### **Send your nomination to:**

NYS ID/DD Nurses Association  
c/o Joyce Binder Memorial Award  
Box 25832, Rochester, New York 14625  
OR to [information@nysiddna.org](mailto:information@nysiddna.org)

## DQI Documentation Requests 2020

### 24-Hour Nursing Coverage Procedures.

Agency written procedures for the availability and response of agency employed or contracted health care professional at minimum at the level of RN

1. Assignment of RNs for coverage.
2. Communication procedures with the RN.
3. Required documentation when contacting RN.
4. Staff Training: Procedures for RNs and program staff training on the above.

### COVID-19 Infection Control Procedures.

Agency Infection Control Policy and Procedures

#### 1. Staff behaviors and expectations:

- Actions staff are to take when on duty for their protection and the protection of individuals, including PPE use and other precautionary behaviors.
- Actions expected of staff if feeling sick or is suspected of illness.
- Actions expected if staff are on quarantine.

#### 2. Staff Screening: Monitoring of staff health status and symptom and response.

#### 3. Staff Return to Work: Decision making and criteria for deciding when employees exposed or test positive for COVID-19 can return to work.

#### 4. Individual Screening: Monitoring of individuals' health status and symptoms, and response. Include blank check list(s) used.

#### 5. Visitor Screening: Monitoring visitor health status.

#### 6. Guidance regarding individuals' activities:

- Direction regarding group activities, dining, and community access.
- Guidance on management of individuals in isolation and/or quarantine.

#### 7. Cleaning Practices and Frequency: Products to use, targeted cleaning areas, frequency, assigned responsibilities. Provide any checklists in use.

#### 8. Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) Tracking and Requests: Guidance regarding maintaining, monitoring, and requesting needed PPE.

#### 9. Staff Training: How training of all involved parties in these Infection Control activities occurs.

### Training on COVID Signs and Symptoms.

Supply materials used to train staff to monitor health & status of individuals, and the method staff are trained (in-person, on-line, read and sign, etc.)



## Nominations & Elections 2020

We are holding elections for the positions of Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer. The term for each of these positions is two years, with the term beginning January 1, 2021. Both of these officers serve on the Executive Board.

If you are interested in either of these positions or know someone you think would be good for one of these positions, please send the person's name and a statement about why this person is a good candidate to Melissa Britton, Nominating Committee Chair, at [mbritton@liberty-resources.org](mailto:mbritton@liberty-resources.org). Be sure to include your name and relationship to the person you are recommending. Self-nominations are welcome.

**DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS: July 20**

### Corresponding Secretary

- Is responsible for the correspondence of NYSIDDDNA.
- Solicits articles for the newsletters and works with the NYSIDDDNA Planning Manager to finalize each issue.

### Treasurer

- Has responsibility for the care and custody of all funds of the Corporation.
- Makes an annual financial report to the membership.
- Signs all checks. In the absence of the treasurer, the President may sign checks.
- Allocates a portion of annual dues paid to each zone chairperson/treasurer for use within the zone.
- Audits zone income and expenses by means of a financial statement submitted each year by the zone chairperson/treasurer. Includes a summary of this review in the annual financial report to the membership.

*Submitted by Melissa Britton  
Nominating Chairperson  
[mbritton@liberty-resources.org](mailto:mbritton@liberty-resources.org)*

### Training: Donning, doffing, disposal of PPE.

Supply training materials used to train staff in the use PPE and method for these trainings.

# New York State ID/DD Nurses Association, Inc. 2020 Membership Application/Renewal Form

**New Members:** Please complete all information on this form.

**Renewing Members:** You only need to complete your name and any changes since last year.

**Check your category:**

☐ New Member (full membership) ☐ Renewing Member ☐ Associate Member \*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ RN ☐ LPN ☐ RN Student ☐ LPN Student

Do you hold CDDN? ☐ yes ☐ no

Nurse License Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Site/Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Send all mailings to: ☐ HOME ☐ WORK

FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS ONLY:

School Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE

(Membership Year is April 1-March 31)

**Full Membership \$50 Associate Membership\* \$30**

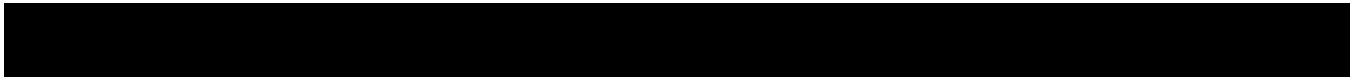
**Send application and payment to: PO Box 25832, Rochester, NY 14625**

Make check payable to NYS ID/DD Nurses Association, Inc. If paying by PayPal, please send the membership application by mail or email ([information@nysiddna.org](mailto:information@nysiddna.org)).

Please Note: The mailing address is new as of January 1, 2020.

\* Associate members are full time nursing students or inactive nurses (retired or unemployed) and are non-voting members.

**NYS ID/DD Nurses Association**  
PO BOX 25832  
Rochester, NY 14625



## **SAVE THE DATE!!**

### **Conference 2021**

**Albany Marriott**  
**September 20-22, 2021**

*Please note this is Monday—Wednesday.*

Unfortunately, our NYSIDDDNA 2020 Annual Conference was cancelled due to COVID-19.

The good news is we have already reserved our place at the Albany Marriott in September 2021. The hotel room rate will be the same as it was going to be this year — \$129.00 plus tax for a single or double. We encourage you to *Mark Your Calendar* now, so you can plan to join us in 2021.