



# NYS ID/DD NURSES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Vol. 27, Number Three

Fall 2020

## President's Message



As difficult as our roles as ID/DD nurses have become due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are navigating the healthcare arena as leaders in caring for our individuals. We continue to innovate within our agencies to deliver healthcare and provide healthcare access, all

while keeping our individuals and DSPs safe.

In addition, we have worked together to share information as it is being disseminated out of Albany. Never has the nurse been a greater asset to an agency. A priority of the NYSIDDDNA is to provide educational opportunities to its members. The pandemic and the cancellation of our annual conference have provided us with opportunities to grow as an association and meet this goal.

The annual diabetes update was recently emailed to all members; a certificate of completion and CE credit from DDNA is available. Sharing of this information with nurses working in the field is encouraged, as it will benefit individuals we serve. We hope non-members will find the offering beneficial and want to join to obtain a certificate of completion or CE credit from DDNA.

We also look forward to the online educational offerings that our conference committee is working on for 2021. We know our strength is in the networking of our members; stay safe and healthy.

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

## Conference Planning Update

At the 11/5/20 Executive Board meeting, a discussion was held regarding the feasibility of an in-person conference in September 2021. The contract with the Albany Marriott in September has yet to be signed. Board members agreed unanimously that it would be unlikely that we would be able to fulfill our commitment to attendees and room reservations based on the current COVID environment. It is believed that signing the contract would result in likely fiscal losses based on current social distancing requirements. It is a risk our organization is not willing to take.

In lieu of a conference, we are planning potentially three ½ day web/zoom based conferences with the topics/speakers that were available previously. We will also seek new presenters and topics that our folks are interested in learning about! Feel free to reach out. We look forward to not only hearing from our members but seeing them on web call!

*Linda Cultrara, Conference Committee Chair*  
[Linda.m.cultrara@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:Linda.m.cultrara@opwdd.ny.gov)

## From Your Planning Manager

It has been almost a year since Nancy Rutledge came to my house to train me to be your Planning Manager. It felt overwhelming at the time, but with Nancy's support through this year and with the support and encouragement of the Board members, I feel comfortable with my role as your Planning Manager.

I look forward to continuing to learn about your organization and to meet more of you in this virtual environment. I have enjoyed meeting several of you at the Annual Meeting in September and the Board meetings. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions, suggestions, or comments.

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

*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 Update

The Association currently has 234 members! See the table for a view of our membership.

It is great to see that the Zones continue to grow, adding new members and maintaining contact using new ways to reach out and share information. KUDOS to Zone 4! Great job recruiting 24 new members!

As we all continue to face challenges with so many unknowns, reaching out to each other for support is important. The Association strives to meet your needs – please do not hesitate to let us know what we can do for you!

Please visit the website [www.nysiddna.org](http://www.nysiddna.org) to renew your membership if you have not already done so. Nurses may join the Association at any time throughout the year, so please continue to encourage your co-workers to visit our website and join us.

The membership fee for 2020 is \$50. We continue to offer an associate membership at a reduced rate of \$30 for full or part-time RN/LPN student nurses and nurses who are inactive (i.e., retired or unemployed).

Many thanks to all of our members for all that you do every day. Your roles have never been more important. Welcome to our new members!

## Membership by Zone (as of 10/31/20)

Zone	Renew	New	Total
1	24	6	30
2	17	2	19
3	9	1	10
4	36	24	60
5	22	7	28
6	27	8	35
7	8	1	9
8	10	0	10
9	6	0	6
10	2	2	4
11	17	5	22
12	1	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>234</b>

We were pleased to see the membership renewal of 178 members and the addition of 56 new members. See list of new members on page 6.

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

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

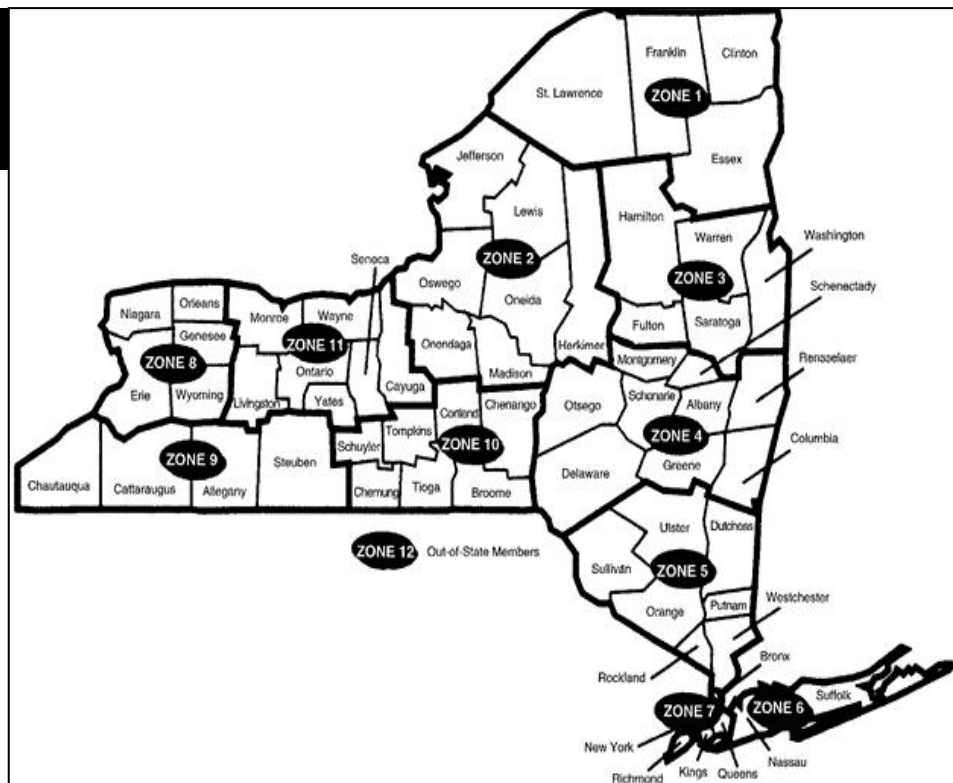
## NYS ID/DD Nurses Association ZONE MAP

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 received after you renewed your membership or became a new member.

See updates and contact information for the zones on pages 4 and 5.



## Joyce Binder Memorial Award

### Congratulations to JoAnn Weinstein Recipient of the 2020 Joyce Binder Memorial Award

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.



Habiebbah Benton presenting JoAnn Weinstein with the 2020 Joyce Binder Memorial Award

Thank you to Habiebbah Benton for nominating JoAnn Weinstein for this award. In her nomination, Habiebbah focused on JoAnn's leadership, professionalism, compassion, and love, as you will see below. JoAnn and Habiebbah work at Abbott House in Irvington, New York.

“JoAnn is truly connected to OPWDD. She genuinely cares for everyone she comes in contact with. I believe this is not only a job for her, but a commitment of life. I know that she has countless sleepless nights. **Leadership** is her middle name. She takes the reins when no one else wants to guide. She is always available to receive calls all times of the day – and did she receive many calls!!! Even if she is asleep, she will answer without making you feel like you are a burden.

**Professionalism** motivated JoAnn. She exhibits professionalism and expects it from all she encounters. **Compassion** is what she strives for. The individuals that we serve depend on us and the direct service professionals. She has knowledge of all the individuals. If anything changes with them medically, she has first knowledge of all diagnosis and treatment that may be necessary to ensure they receive the best care.

Because JoAnn truly **loves** her occupation, she will continue to be the Nurse who will care for the rest of her life. She is a mentor to the nurses in the Nursing Department. All staff truly respect her for the Nurse that she is.”

## NYSIDDDNA Website

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

Information was posted on the website concerning SLMS trainings and access. OPWDD is trying to make it easier for nurses to get the training they need without travel and other difficulties. Training is tailored to the ID/DD nurse. Application for membership is and can be completed through PayPal.

Information on this year's NYSIDDDNA scholarship winner and the recipient of the Joyce Binder Award can be found on our website. Let us know if there is anything you would like to see posted.

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

## NYSIDDDNA Social Media

Facebook connection is easy to find. If you can't find it on a search, simply go to the website and click on the “f” on the homepage. It will take you directly to our Facebook page. Visit the Facebook page and do a “like” and the feed will be connected to your personal Facebook page.

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

For twitter and LinkedIn accounts, contact Tara Sandford-Briggs. [tsandford@cwinc.org](mailto:tsandford@cwinc.org).

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

### For more information about NYSIDDDNA, check:

- **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/nysiddna>
- **LinkedIn:** [https://twitter.com/dd\\_nys](https://twitter.com/dd_nys)
- **Facebook:** NY State ID/DD Nurses Association
- **Website:** [www.nysiddna.org](http://www.nysiddna.org)
- **Email:** [information@nysiddna.org](mailto:information@nysiddna.org)

## Zone Reports

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

Zone 1 is still in a holding pattern as is everyone else. We are certainly available to answer any questions of members or anyone interested in being a member. If you don't know which zone you are in, we can help with that. Zone 1 covers a large area including St Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, and Essex Counties. If anyone is interested in having a networking meeting per zoom, let Trish, Karen or Marty know and we will see about setting it up. You can contact us at Trish Potocar [tpotocar@slnysarc.org](mailto:tpotocar@slnysarc.org) 315-353-6618, Karen Jarvis [kjarvis@slnysarc.org](mailto:kjarvis@slnysarc.org) 315-353-6618, 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**

No report submitted. Send any questions or concerns to Melissa or Iellan.

*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 participating in Zone 3 activities or if you wish to be added to the zone email list, please contact Tara or Sean. All of our members have been extremely busy during this unprecedented time. As a result of COVID-19 we have not had a chance to meet. We are looking forward to the spring when hopefully a vaccine will once again normalize life a little. We have been in contact with the representatives from the company that offers Epidiolex, a progressive treatment for severe epilepsy. We are working to offer a virtual presentation on the benefits of Epidiolex for zone members. We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

*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**

We can't believe 2020 is almost over. What a strange year this has been. We hope everyone has stayed healthy. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19,

we have not had an in-person meeting this year. We are currently organizing a virtual training about a new anticonvulsant drug formulation called Sympazan, which is a benzodiazepine that is a film that dissolves on the tongue. It is used as an adjunctive treatment of seizures with Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome in patients older than 2 years old. The training will take place on December 3rd at 11am.

*Submitted by Lindsay Parker  
Zone 4 Chairperson,  
[Lparker@wildwoodprograms.org](mailto:Lparker@wildwoodprograms.org)*

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

No report submitted. Please reach out to Madlyn with questions or concerns.

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

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

Hi and Happy Fall from Zone 6. Due to the continued COVID-19 restrictions, we were not able to hold a traditional meeting this fall but were able to hold a virtual Zoom meeting on Sept 15, 2020. Dr. Cynthia Friedman, MD, PhD, MPH, Medical Director of the Immunization Action Program at the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, presented on coronavirus updates, as well as on various immunizations and their importance. The Zoom meeting was attended by over a dozen nurses from our Zone. At present we have 35 active members and always welcome new and returning members. The Zone 6 Board will be meeting shortly to discuss and strategically plan our 2021 meetings as well as a possible safe Holiday gathering.

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

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

No report submitted. Please reach out to Asuncion with questions or concerns.

*Asuncion Muyalde  
Zone 7 Treasurer, [amuyalde@sinergiany.org](mailto:amuyalde@sinergiany.org)*

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

Zone 8 has not held any meetings during COVID. We continue to have weekly COVID calls with the DDAWNY nurses group to keep our networking alive. We also continue to send potential learning webinars and zoom education

## Zone Reports (Continued)

calls for those interested in available topics. We completed a Web call with UCB regarding Nayzalam for seizures and Lilly for Baqsimi intranasal Glucagon for diabetes rescue.

*Submitted by Linda M. Cultrara,  
Zone 8 Secretary, Linda.m.cultrara.@opwdd.ny.gov*

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

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

Zone 9 & 11 plan to hold 3-4 virtual meetings via ZOOM for 2021. Our next meeting will be later in January 2021. The zone officer positions of secretary and president are up this year, and we are seeking any interested members. At our October 13 ZOOM meeting, we were pleased to have Dr. Fred Wetzel join us. Discussion topics included review of the September 19, 2020 Annual Meeting updates, Annual Diabetes Curriculum; confirming everyone has received, NYSIDDDNA Orientation Curriculum, and Covid-19 precautions/guidelines in program settings. Hoping that everyone is navigating this new pandemic territory and are staying safe and healthy.

*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, contact Edie Smith, NYSIDDDNA President at edie.smith@cayuga-cc.edu. Feel free to connect with another zone and join them for educational presentations and networking opportunities.

## Diabetes Training—An Update

The “Annual Diabetes Update for Managing Diabetes with a Focus for Direct Support Personnel” meets the NYS OPWDD annual diabetes update and is available to all members. Members can receive a certificate of completion and 1 CE credit from DDNA. Non-members can complete the training; however, certificates of completion are not sent to non-members. If you would like to receive a certification of completion and CE credit, you will need to become a member of NYSIDDDNA. This membership provides additional educational offerings, links to resources, and networking with members. The membership application is available on the NYSIDDDNA website.

## Officer Election Report

Thank you to everyone who voted in the election for the two positions on our Board —Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary. Karen Jarvis was elected for a second term as Treasurer, and Olivia Frink was elected Corresponding Secretary.

Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to Karen Jarvis for her re-election as Treasurer. We are grateful to Karen for her willingness to be nominated—and elected—for a second term.

After the elections were completed, we received notice from Olivia that she was offered a new position and would no longer be available to serve as our Corresponding Secretary. Thank you to Marty Gleeson for accepting the appointment to the position of Corresponding Secretary for the two year term. Marty is currently serving as the Interim Corresponding Secretary through the end of December.

## From the American Heart Association

In a recently published statement by the American Heart Association (AHA), “Awareness of drugs that may cause arrhythmias and knowledge of distinct arrhythmias that may be drug-induced are essential for clinicians.” The article is available at <https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/10.1161/CIR.0000000000000905>

While a large number of medications have been associated with QT prolongation and torsades de pointes, there are also many widely used medications that can induce other arrhythmias, some with serious consequences that clinicians may not be as familiar with. These arrhythmias include bradyarrhythmias, atrial fibrillation/atrial flutter, atrial tachycardia, atrioventricular nodal reentrant tachycardia, monomorphic ventricular tachycardia, and Brugada syndrome.

The article lists the various medications that may be problematic. The statement also describes various prevention strategies that should be utilized by clinicians to reduce the risk of drug-induced arrhythmias. These include modifying risk factors when possible (i.e., reducing dose, correcting electrolyte abnormalities, avoiding alcohol/other medications) and increased monitoring for patients with nonmodifiable risk factors.

*Submitted by Nancy Rutledge*

Reference: Tisdale JE, Chung MK, Campbell KB, et al. Drug-induced arrhythmias. *Circulation*. 2020;142:00–00. doi: 10.1161/CIR.0000000000000905.

## DDNA Update—June 2020

Plans are already underway to celebrate the 2021 Conference in San Antonio, Texas May 14 – 17, 2021 at the Grand Hyatt San Antonio. Keep checking the website for more information as it becomes available!

RN's and LPN's who wish to sit for the certification exam may continue to do so through Prometric testing centers. In accordance with the changing local and federal governance and advice from the CDC and WHO surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, Prometric will be implementing and adhering to global safety guidelines and legislative policies in their testing centers. More information is available on the DDNA website.

With the cancellation of the 2020 conference, DDNA realized that many certified nurses are seeking continuing education to meet their certification requirements. DDNA has been working with their conference sponsors to host educational webinars with certificates of attendance provided.

There are now three DDNA Nursing Councils, with two of the three Councils open to all DDNA members:

- The *DDNA Education Council* works to identify relevant venues to promote nursing education about health and healthcare among persons with DD; promote knowledge about health and healthcare among persons with DD to other professionals and the community; promote networking and collaboration among DDNA members interested in this work and disseminate examples of what DDNA members do in these endeavors; and to contribute to development of DD collegial learning and continuing education for DDNA members.
- The *DDNA Research Council* works to identify relevant problems in DD nursing for research through partnership with professional DD nurses; promote networking and collaboration among DD nurse researchers; and disseminate DD nursing research findings within the DD nursing community and the wider health care community to positively affect healthcare practice and policy for people with developmental disabilities.
- The *DDNA Nursing Practice Council* works at the direction of the DDNA Board of Directors to review DD nursing practice concerns, trends, standards and to draft responses/positions statements on behalf of DDNA. Members of this Council must be certified as a DDC or CDDN and via nomination or self-nomination, are appointed by the DDNA Board of Directors.

During the past year DDNA has changed from a chapter/network structure to a simpler, affiliate group structure with local DD nurse groups. The NYS IDDDNA will now be an affiliate of DDNA.

*Shared by Cathy Engel*

## Welcome to Our New Members

Please join us in welcoming our members who joined us for the first time this year. New members are listed by their zone.

**ZONE 1:** Karen Brown, Jesse Howe, Samantha LaBarge, Sarah Lucey, Leane Miller, Amanda Morley, Brittany Shorette

**ZONE 2:** Caroline Donlon, Barbara Jones

**ZONE 3:** Theresa Cantz

**ZONE 4:** Nicole Ayotte, Alli Benedict, Kelly Bennett, Cynthia Bofelos, Loretta Brzac, Jean Bull, Adrianna Butler, Tracy Cobb, Hazel Densmore, Heather Ellis, Catherine Forgit, Mindi Kane, Betty Lee, Nestra Love, Morgan Manchester, Melissa Martin, Raymundo Mingua, Carinn Parsons, Emily Perry, Katherine Ramiza, Carrie Rider, Jessica Weston, Linda Wheeler, Ruth Zinkievich

**ZONE 5:** Dawn Blades, Heather Delaney, Laura Depuy, Emily Loehr, Deborah Mahaba-Munuge, Olivia Robinson (Note: A seventh person joined but is no longer a member.)

**ZONE 6:** Kerri Corrales, Sara Desiderio, Lisa Farrell, Margaret Massa, Susan Papszycki, Maureen Paul, Sheryl Seader, Alexandra Villafana

**ZONE 7:** Akhmed Abdurasulov

**ZONE 10:** Heather Leudemann, Katarina MacFadden

**ZONE 11:** Anna Bell, Latrisha Fox, Kimberly Hansen, Jennifer Krossber, Amanda Wiedrick

## Orientation Curriculum Outline

*Have you had an opportunity to check out the Orientation Curriculum Outline for Nursing?*

If not, check the NYSIDDDNA website for the Orientation Curriculum Outline. It is available in Resources on the [www.nysiddna.org](http://www.nysiddna.org) website.

All topics on this checklist should be provided to new nurses entering the ID/DD field by OPWDD Nursing Orientation and through the nurse training at the specific agency of employment.

## COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation & Safety

### [aadmd.org/coronavirus-center](http://aadmd.org/coronavirus-center)

Click on the blue box that reads: “A vaccine is coming, so now what?” The link will take you to the Joint COVID-19 Vaccine Statement developed with partners ANCOR, NASDDDS, NADSP, & DDNA.

The statement, which is dated 10/28/20, reads::

“The development of a safe, effective vaccine is a critical component of the global response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Vaccine distribution and allocation must be done in a safe and equitable manner, and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) must be explicitly addressed in any framework for vaccine allocation. This joint position statement addresses the risks facing people with IDD during the pandemic and recommends how they should be included in the vaccine allocation framework.”

Topics covered include: Summary of Recommendations, Specific COVID-19 Risk Factors for People with IDD, Risk of Congregate Living Settings, Direct Support Professionals, The Rights of People with IDD to Medical Care, Access and Distribution, and Vaccine Safety.

## Nursing Student Scholarship Opportunity

A \$1000 scholarship is awarded each year by the New York State ID/DD Nurses Association to encourage LPNs and other staff working in the field of intellectual/developmental disabilities to explore or remain in the field of Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Nursing.

The scholarship is awarded to an LPN or Direct Support Professional who is matriculated in an accredited RN program in NYS, is a NYS resident, and intends to work as an ID/DD RN upon graduation.

Scholarship applications will be sent to nursing programs throughout New York State in mid-January. Applications will be accepted through April 15, 2021. Guidelines for applying will be posted on the web site ([www.nysiddna.org](http://www.nysiddna.org)) in January.

Our scholarship recipient for 2020 was Olivia Robinson, who is in Zone 5.

## Becoming a Member

If you or a colleague are not currently members of NYSIDDDNA, you can become a member by completing the membership application. The membership year is April 1-March 31.

### Benefits of Membership:

- Engage in networking with colleagues at Zone meetings, the Annual Conference, and online.
- Participate in continuing education opportunities at Zone meetings, the Annual Conference, and through virtual webinars 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.

To become a member, go to the website and click on the “Join NYSIDDDNA” tab. You will find the membership application and payment information.

## Current NYSIDDDNA Address


In January 2020, when Linda Dudman became the NYSIDDDNA Planning Manager, the mailing address for NYSIDDDNA changed.

If your membership dues are paid by your agency, please check to be sure the address has been changed in their accounting system. Mail sent to the previous address will no longer be forwarded to the new address beginning in July 2021.

To assure receipt of your membership dues, please see that the address in your system is listed as: NYSIDDDNA, P.O. Box 25832, Rochester, NY 14625. The email address did not change. It is [information@nysiddna.org](mailto:information@nysiddna.org).



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



## **Annual Conference 2021**

### **Change of Plans**

We had hoped to hold the NYSIDDDNA 2021 Annual Conference in person; however, the continuing changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic has made us rethink that plan.

Our new plan is to host up to three half-day virtual mini-conferences in Spring/Summer 2021. The Planning Committee will reconvene to develop a plan for these mini-conferences with announcements sent to all members a few weeks in advance.

Please see the article written by Linda Cultrara, Planning Committee Chair, on page 1.