



# NYS ID/DD NURSES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Fall 2021

## President's Message



The NYSIDDDNA continues to be committed to its members in providing educational opportunities. Over the past year, we have seen the resilience of our executive board and zone officers remaining steadfast to meet the needs of members.

Linda Cultrara, President-elect, Conference Committee Chair, and Linda Dudman, our Planning Manager, have worked to bring several webinars to our members this year and into spring 2022. They are in process of planning our in-person conference at the Albany Marriott for Fall 2022. We look forward to the return of in-person gathering and networking.

The Executive Board and committees have used their time wisely this past Covid year. The Association has hired an accounting service to promote fiscal security, consolidated zone accounts to provide security of funds and ease of management, increased access to members through purchase of ZOOM platform and tech capabilities. The committee, chaired by Mary Jean Keegan, our incoming President, is reviewing bylaws and standing rules.

On a sad note, we recently lost a rock and guiding force of this Association, Kathy Keating. Kathy is remembered for her passion to the nursing profession and for being a spitfire in our Association. She has guided and helped us navigate the ever-changing forces of OPWDD. Kathy will be greatly missed.

I would like to say "thank you" to the Executive Officers and Linda Dudman; it has been a privilege serving the past two years of my presidency with you. I hope everyone takes some time to enjoy the holidays as we move back to careful in-person gatherings. We look forward to seeing you in 2022.

*Edie Smith, NYSIDDDNA President*  
edie.smith@cayuga-cc.edu

## Conference Planning Update

It is with great pleasure to announce that our committee has unanimously decided to hold an in-person conference in 2022!

*Save the Date!* October 17-18, 2022 at the Albany Marriott. We have shortened the conference to two days in consideration of staff shortages and the challenges COVID continues to present. We will send out the Call for Proposals in January. If you have suggestions for topics and speakers, we are open to hearing your ideas.

Our webinar series has been a success and will continue into early next year as well. We as an organization have gracefully risen to the challenges presented these past months and are a better prepared to provide networking and value to our members.

*Linda Cultrara, Conference Committee Chair*  
Linda.m.cultrara@opwdd.ny.gov

## Mark Your Calendars!

We have three more webinars in our series.

### 2021/2022 Webinar Series

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14** – 12:00-1:15

*The Science of Cannabinoids*

Jessica J. Roland, PhD, Senior Medical Science Liaison, New York State, Greenwich Biosciences

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 11** – 12:00-1:00

*Putting Yes, And To Work: Building a More Adaptable, Empathetic, and Humanizing Healthcare Experience*

Cory Jenks, PharmD, BCPS, BCACP, Pharmacist, Improv Comedian, Speaker

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8** – 12:00-1:00

*Role of the DD Nurse*

Fred Wetzel, RN, PhD, Consultant

*The New York State Intellectual Disabilities/ Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association (NYSIDDDNA) 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.*

DDNA held the annual Membership meeting at the 2021 Virtual Education Conference that was held in May. Judy Stych, DDNA President, shared the following highlights:

**2022 Conference:** This will be the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Educational Conference and will be held May 20-23, 2022 in San Antonio, Texas at the Grand Hyatt Hotel on the Riverwalk. Updates will be available on the DDNA website.

**Transition from Chapters to Affiliates:** Over the last few years, DDNA has been evaluating the current chapter structure for their affiliate groups. After much deliberation and consternation, the Board determined the best course of action was to move away from a formal chapter structure with all groups. DDNA hopes to continue its affiliation with these local networks and groups in a less formal manner. Final documents for transitioning these groups were received from the attorney and approved by the Board. Our organization has been a network of DDNA, and we are awaiting more information on how this may affect us.

**New Corporate Membership Option:** After much consideration and work, DDNA is now making group memberships available through a discounted “corporate membership” option. The corporate membership option is reserved for corporations/entities that are interested in obtaining and maintaining DDNA nurse membership for at least 20 nurses. It is hoped that this will help those companies offer membership to more nurses at an affordable rate, making DDNA available to them as a resource. If your employer is interested in purchasing group memberships for DDNA through the corporate membership option, please have them contact DDNA at [admin@ddna.org](mailto:admin@ddna.org).

**DDNA COVID 19 Study:** Results of the DDNA COVID 19 survey conducted in April 2020 were published in the *Disability and Health Journal*. All of the authors are DDNA members.  
*Citation:* Desroches, M., Ailey, S., Fisher K., & Stych, J. (2020). Impact of COVID-19: Nursing challenges to meeting the care needs of people with developmental disabilities. *Disability and Health Journal*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dhjo.2020.101015>  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7640896/pdf/main.pdf>

**Practice Standards of Developmental Disability Nursing, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition:** This 3rd edition includes 11 updated standards and introduces a 12th standard, “Role of the DD Nurse in Social and Community

Inclusion.” In addition, nurses will find the:

- Developmental Disability Nursing Professional Practice Model
- Alignment of Practice Standards with the Core Competencies on Disability in Health Care Education
- DDNA Position Statement on Nursing Delegation

Available for purchase at <https://ddna.org/> under the “Learn” dropdown.

### **2021-2023 Biennial Theme: DDNA: Leading the Future of DD Nursing**

Initiatives include work in several areas:

#### **Educate toward DD nursing competence**

- Achieve CE approver status – providing CE accreditation for programs offered by DDNA, its Affiliates, and other entities
- Participate in the Consortium Action Networks (CAN) within the PATH-PWIDD project (5-year grant awarded by the USDHHS Administration on Community Living – began in Fall 2020)
- Develop a DD nursing webinar series useful for DD nursing education (Education Council)

#### **Empower toward DD nursing resilience**

- Enhance outreach strategies and membership benefits to increase national and international nursing student and licensed nurse membership
- Support connections with independent DDNA Affiliates
- Develop a new e-communication resource for members
- Identify and develop liaison relationships or partnerships with other DD nursing entities, other nursing associations, and other DD organizations in the USA and other countries

#### **Advocate toward DD nursing excellence**

- Disseminate the DD Nursing Professional Practice Model and the Practice Standards of DD Nursing
- Complete and publish *Medication Management Best Practice Guidelines* (Practice Council)
- Establish scholarships or mini-grants to support much-needed DD nursing research (Research Council)
- Initiate recruitment of funding and resources for a revised and accredited CDDN certification exam

*Continued on the following page.*

## DDNA Update — Continued

The growth, development and sustainability of DDNA is rooted in active involvement of DDNA nurse members. One way to get involved and support DDNA in leading the future of DD nursing is through one of the DDNA Councils:

### Education Council

- Meets: 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday from September to June (6-7 PM ET)
- Co-Chairs: Sarah Ailey, PhD, RN, CDDN and Deb Maloy, RN, CDDN
- Contact: [education@ddna.org](mailto:education@ddna.org)

### Practice Council (Must be CDDN or DDC)

- Meets: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday from September to June (6-7:30 PM ET)
- Chair: Judy Stych, DNP, RN, CDDN
- Contact: [practice@ddna.org](mailto:practice@ddna.org)

### Research Council (familiarity with doing research is helpful)

- Meets: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday from September to June (6-7 PM ET)
- Chair: Melissa Desroches, PhD, RN
- Contact: [research@ddna.org](mailto:research@ddna.org)

*Prepared by Cathy Engel, BSN, RN, CDDN  
cengel@intandem.org*

## Thank you to our NYSIDDDNA Webinar Series Presenters

We appreciate the willingness of our October and November speakers to share their knowledge and expertise with us.

### October 12, 2021:

**Thank you** to Cynthia Pross, RN, MS, BSN and Annette Kasenko, RN, NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs, for presenting *Surrogate Decision-Making Committee (SDMC): A Toolkit for Providing Expert Nurse Testimony and Handling Challenging Cases*.

### November 9, 2021:

Thank you to Anne Marie Desmond, NP-BC, MS, CNS, RN, Clinical Practice Liaison, Neurocrine Biosciences for presenting *Tardive Dyskinesia Forgotten But Not Gone*.

**A Note About the September Webinar:** As you know, we had to cancel our first webinar, *An OPWDD Update*, that was scheduled for September 14th. We plan to re-schedule this presentation, but we do not currently have a new date. When we have a date, we will notify you by email.

## Membership Committee Update

Thank you to all of our returning members and welcome to those of you who are new to the Association! We currently have 195 members.

Our members are truly critical to the success of our organization. Your commitment to IDD nursing, networking, and educational opportunities is so important. Your dues help to ensure that the Association remains viable and can continue to provide high quality programs, scholarships, and a newsletter that keeps us all informed.

Consider becoming involved as an officer in your Zone or at the state level. This is a great way to learn, to share, and to grow in the profession and our specialty.

Please encourage other nurses who are in the field to join us. We welcome nurses who work with the individuals we support in other settings (schools, primary care and acute care settings, etc.) as well. We continue to offer an associate membership at a reduced rate for full or part-time RN/LPN student nurses and nurses who are inactive (retired or unemployed).

**THANK YOU** all for recognizing the importance of being a part of the Association, and for all that you do for the individuals we support, their families and loved ones, and for our staff! So many challenges, but we are in this together. The Association is here to support **YOU!**

*Cathy Engel, BSN, RN, CDDN  
Membership Committee / cengel@intandem.org*

### Membership by Zone — 2021

Zone	Returning	New	Total
1	21	2	23
2	15	4	19
3	7	1	8
4	31	7	38
5	18	11	29
6	18	4	22
7	8	3	11
8	6	1	7
9&11	21	10	31
10	2	0	2
12	1	0	1
DNK	0	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>195</b>

## From Your President-Elect

Time just continues to fly by. I regret that I missed our Annual Meeting in October, but I am also grateful to have been able to view that meeting through our new Zoom account.

My husband and I were fortunate to travel to Rome, Italy and then cruise Greece (Corfu, Olympia, Santorini, Athens and Mykonos), Florence, and Naples. My trip could only happen because I was able to prove I was vaccinated, willing to wear a mask, and have multiple COVID tests. Even this past spring, I was still not sure whether this trip of a lifetime would actually happen. Even fun travel changed because of COVID. All that being said, the trip was truly fantastic! Europeans take precautions very seriously around COVID. They have a "green card," which is an electronic card on their phones indicating vaccination status, which was necessary for entrance to just about everything.

As we head into 2022, we have changes to look forward to with the Association.

The Association has begun making plans for an in-person 2-day Annual Conference October 17-18, 2022 at the Albany Marriott on Wolf Road. The conference committee has already begun planning. Save these dates on your calendar. We look forward to seeing everyone in person once again.

We also hope to hold the Spring 2022 Board meeting in person in Syracuse on April 29, 2022 and hope you will also add this date to your calendars.

I want to thank Edie for her tireless efforts to lead us through all the COVID challenges and transitions over the past 2 years. She has done an excellent job throughout this challenging time.

Thanks to both Edie's and Karen's leadership, we have hired a bookkeeper to assist the State Treasurer, which should make this position actually manageable for a volunteer. All the Association funds have now been moved into one State level account, with a process for the Zones to request any funds necessary for compensation to educational speakers or to cover venue costs for their meetings.

The Association now has a Zoom platform and is now able to host educational webinars and meetings.

Please be on the look-out for revisions to the **Standing Rules** and **By-laws**, which should be

coming your way in Spring 2022 for membership review and final approval at our Annual Meeting that will be held at our Annual Conference in October 2022. These revisions reflect the changes to the management of Association funds.

Congratulations to our newly elected State officers. Linda Cultrara (Zone 8) was elected President-Elect, and Pat Ruckel (Zone 6) was elected Recording Secretary. They will begin their two year terms on January 1, 2022.

Thank you to all our Zone officers for volunteering in these unusual times. We are all stronger because each of you are willing to volunteer and bring renewed energy to this Association.

As we look forward to 2022, I wish each of you a safe in-person holiday season with friends and family and a healthy new year.

Be well,

*Mary Jean Keegan, President-Elect*  
mkeegan@wildwoodprograms.org

## Thank You to Our NYSIDDDNA 2021 Officers

Thank you to our 2021 Board of Directors for their leadership during the past two years. We appreciate all they have done and continue to do for the Association.

- Edie Smith, President
- Mary Jean Keegan, President Elect
- Carol Krueger, Recording Secretary
- Martin Gleeson, Corresponding Secretary
- Karen Jarvis, Treasurer

## Welcome to Our NYSIDDDNA 2022 Officers

Congratulations to our two new elected officers, Linda Cultrara and Patricia Ruckel. They will join the Board of Directors on January 1. Mary Jean Keegan, our current President-Elect, will begin her two year term as President on January 1.

### NYSIDDDNA 2022 Officers

- Mary Jean Keegan, President
- Linda Cultrara, President Elect
- Patricia Ruckel, Recording Secretary
- Martin Gleeson, Corresponding Secretary
- Karen Jarvis, Treasurer

Thank you to Edie Smith and Carol Krueger for their years of service to the Association and their many contributions as members of the 2021 Board.

## Scholarship Recipients

Thank you to the Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy for awarding two \$1,000 scholarships to registered nurses (RN) who are enrolled in a program toward a bachelor's or master's degree in nursing and are working in New York State in the field of intellectual/ developmental disabilities nursing.

Two nurses were selected to receive the \$1,000 scholarships. As part of their award, they received a one year membership in NYS ID/DD Nurses Association. The scholarship recipients are:

**Jessica Colón, RN** - Jessica has been working in the field of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities for over 18 years. She graduated from the Suffolk County Community College School of Nursing in 2012 as a Registered Nurse with an Associate Degree in Applied Sciences. She joined her current agency, Life's WORC, in 2013. Jessica is pursuing her BSN and plans to pursue a Master of Science in Nursing Leadership after completing her BSN. Jessica is a member of Zone 6.

**Tammy Ellinger, RN** - Tammy has been employed for the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (NYS OPWDD) for the past 30 plus years and is dedicated to advancing her career to continue to assist the developmentally and intellectually disabled population. She is pursuing a graduate degree at Binghamton University in the Family Nurse Practitioner program. Tammy is a member of Zone 2.

## NYSIDDDNA Scholarship Opportunity

Each year, the New York State ID/DD Nurses Association offers a \$1,000 scholarship 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 NYSIDDDNA 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.

Announcements about the scholarship opportunity will be shared with nursing programs throughout New York State in mid-January. Applications will be accepted through April 15, 2022. Guidelines for applying for the scholarship will be posted on our web site in January. Feel free to share information about the scholarship with nursing students you know.

## NYSIDDDNA Website

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

Find your way to our website and check out the features. We are very lucky to have the services of **[h3webdesigns](#)** to quickly fix any web concerns or update programs/content.

Let us know if there is new material you would like to see posted. New material can be added by Trish Potocar [papotocar@thearcjslc.org](mailto:papotocar@thearcjslc.org) or Linda Dudman [information@nysiddna.org](mailto:information@nysiddna.org).

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

PLEASE NOTE: This is a new email address for Trish.

## NYSIDDDNA Social Media

### NY State ID/DD Nurses Association

Many people have found their way to our Facebook page. It is great to have the new contacts.

You can do a search or go to our 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. Share a thought or a concern with the group.

You can send news and/or photos to [papotocar@thearcjslc.org](mailto:papotocar@thearcjslc.org) or [kejarvis@thearcjslc.org](mailto:kejarvis@thearcjslc.org)

*Note: These are new email addresses.*

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

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

PLEASE NOTE: This is a new email address for Trish.

### For more information about NYSIDDDNA, check:

- **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/nysiddna>
- **LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/new-york-state-idd-nurses-association-4618b691/>
- **Facebook:** NYSiddna
- **Website:** [www.nysiddna.org](http://www.nysiddna.org)
- **Email:** [information@nysiddna.org](mailto:information@nysiddna.org)

**Want to receive OPWDD updates? It is easy.**

Go to [OPWDD.ny.gov](http://OPWDD.ny.gov). On the home page, click on the box that says "SIGN UP FOR UPDATES."

## NYSIDDDNA Zone Reports

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

Hope we are starting to see some light at the end of the tunnel. But as I say that, I have to acknowledge that cases of employees and People We Support being positive for COVID have not let up. Fortunately, most recover successfully, although some have required hospitalization.

We follow OPWDD and Public Health recommendations for masking, distancing, and other ways to limit spread.

We have enjoyed the webinars put on by the Association but are looking forward to getting back to onsite conference in 2022. We have missed the contact and networking.

Zone 1 includes St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, and Essex counties. We would like to hear feedback from anyone in our zone.

Current officers are:

- *Chairperson:* Trish Potocar-QS RN/Medical Coordinator for The Arc Jefferson St. Lawrence, Inc.  
[papotocar@thearcjslc.org](mailto:papotocar@thearcjslc.org) | 315-353-6618
- *Co-Chairperson:* Marty Gleeson. Marty spent many years as an RN for residential facilities in St. Lawrence County. He has held various zone and state officer positions and is currently State Corresponding Secretary.  
[mart4950@gmail.com](mailto:mart4950@gmail.com)
- *Secretary:* Karen Jarvis is the Supervisor of Nursing for The Arc Jefferson St. Lawrence, Inc. Karen has been involved on the zone level and is currently State Treasurer.  
[kejarvis@thearcjslc.org](mailto:kejarvis@thearcjslc.org) | 315-353-6618

**Please note the NEW email addresses for Trish and Karen.**

*Trish Potocar, Zone 1 Co-Chairperson*  
[papotocar@thearcjslc.org](mailto:papotocar@thearcjslc.org) | 315-353-6618

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

Please email me to learn more about Zone 2. If you would like to become a Zone 2 officer, please let me know. Becoming an officer is a good way to get involved in our zone and in NYSIDDDNA.

*Melissa Britton*  
*Zone 2 Acting Chairperson and Secretary*  
[mbritton@liberty-resources.org](mailto:mbritton@liberty-resources.org)

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

Zone 3 has not been able to meet this quarter as all members have been extremely busy during these unprecedented times. As we move towards winter, we will continue to monitor the rates of COVID-19 in our region and plan to meet when the rates of COVID-19 infections decline. We hope that everyone has a safe and happy holiday season. Zone 3 is always 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.

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

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

We decided not to have any in-person meetings for the 2021 season to be safe and so that nurses could take the opportunity to attend all the Fall/Winter Webinar Series being offered each month from the Association. We have sent out via e-mail the paper ballots as a few officer position terms are up at the end of the 2021 year – these will be announced at our Zone 4 Zoom “Holiday” meeting scheduled for Wednesday 12/15/2021. We are hoping to go back to in-person meetings in 2022 – more to be announced at a later date. Take care, be well!

*Carol Krueger, Zone 4 Secretary*  
[kruegerc@springbrookny.org](mailto:kruegerc@springbrookny.org) | 607-287-7621

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

If you are interested in becoming a Zone 5 officer, please email or call me. My plan is to step down from my current position in the zone. Being a zone officer is a great way to get involved. You not only get to know Zone 5 members, you will also get to meet members from other zones through your membership on the NYSIDDDNA Board.

*Madlyn Vaillancourt, Zone 5 Secretary*  
[rtgomd@optonline.net](mailto:rtgomd@optonline.net) | 845-825-1305

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

Hi to all Zone 6 members as well as those across the state. We hope that everyone has had a great and fun filled summer. We can't believe that it is fall and quickly moving into the winter season. Due to the Covid 19 situation, we have not had any

## Zone Reports (Continued)

in-person meetings but have hoped that members have taken advantage of the webinars being offered by the DDNA as well as NYS ID/DD Nursing Association. We will try and have an in-person holiday party at some point in December and pray that Covid does not impede our future meetings and events in 2022. Glad to hear that October 2022 we will be holding our annual NYS ID/DD Nursing Association meeting in beautiful Albany. If any Zone 6 members are interested in Board positions, please reach out to us for available positions. Happy and safe holidays to all.

*Patty Brunetti, Co-Chair, pbrunetti@lifesworc.org*  
*Pat Ruckel, Treasurer, pruckel@phpcares.org*

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

Hello to all Zone 7 members. Please reach out to me to say hello and whenever you have questions. Due to the pandemic, we have not had in-person or virtual meetings. We hope that will change in the future.

*Asuncion Muyalde, Zone 7 Treasurer*  
*amuyalde@sinergiany.org*

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

Zone 8 is reviving itself! We have contacted members and participants to see if we are interested in having in-person or virtual events. Although we all look forward to seeing each other, there is still ambivalence, and we fully respect that!

We will resume in-person meetings in 2022. The calendar will be the first Tuesday of odd months at noon with a "Lunch and Learn" feel. Meetings will now take place at the WNY DDSO Library for lunch and in-services beginning on Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. Our first presenter will be Lilly on Baqsimi intranasal glucagon. We will attempt to set up a Zoom link for those unable to attend in person.

Thank you nurses near and far for the tireless efforts serving the folks we care for! You are valued and appreciated.

*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**

We have held online meetings due to the Covid pandemic and restricted guidelines. We met

October, 2021 via ZOOM to discuss agencies transitioning to in-person programs, vaccine hesitancy among staff, and corrective plans. Zone members continue to support the webinars that are being provided by the Association. We plan to meet January 2022 via Zoom, but we are looking forward to planning in-person meetings in the future.

We are currently looking for zone members who are interested in being an officer. MaryEllen Stammersky retired and stepped down from her position as President. Anyone interested in a zone officer position can contact Edie Smith, zone secretary.

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

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

Zone 10 is not currently active. We encourage members in Zone 10 to reach out to other zones to join them for educational presentations and networking opportunities. We know you will be welcomed by your colleagues in other zones. Would you like to become a zone representative for Zone 10? Email Edie Smith, NYSIDDDNA President at [edie.smith@cayuga-cc.edu](mailto:edie.smith@cayuga-cc.edu) to let her know you are interested.

## Not Receiving Emails From Us?

If you have not been receiving email messages from NYSIDDDNA, please let us know by writing to [information@nysiddna.org](mailto:information@nysiddna.org). Generally email messages are sent to members every one or two weeks. If you do not recall seeing messages from NYSIDDDNA, it could be our email address is being blocked by your agency's IT system. If your email address has changed, please let us know.

We recommend contacting your agency's IT office to ask to have our email address added to your agency's "Safe Sender" list. Our email address is [information@nysiddna.org](mailto:information@nysiddna.org). Thank you.



## Carol Krueger Awarded Joyce Binder Memorial Award

*Thank you to Springbrook for providing this press release to share with our members.*

Oneonta, NY: Springbrook, a leading provider of supports for people with developmental disabilities is pleased to announce that Carol Krueger has been awarded the Joyce Binder Memorial Award by the New York State Intellectual Disability and Development Disability Nurses Association (NYSIDDDNA).

This award “is given to an outstanding NYS ID/DD Nurses 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, and education/research.” The purpose of the NYS ID/DD Nurses Association is “the establishment of intellectual and developmental disability nursing as a recognized nursing practice specialty,” which provides a “recognized standard of care” for their beneficiaries, as well as activities, seminars, and an annual conference for their nurses to maintain this standard of care in their practice.

The Joyce Binder Memorial Award recognizes a nurse of the association who has made a significant contribution to advancing the practice of supporting the people they serve.

Carol started her full-time career at Springbrook as a child development aide in 1987, became a licensed practicing nurse from 1991 to 2002, and has been a registered nurse since then. Carol has held many different positions within Springbrook, from LPN to lead LPN and lead RN, and now RN trainer for employee health. She has served on Springbrook’s Informed Consent Committee, Incident Review Committee, and Human Rights Committee; she has also held health clinics for residents and staff and has helped to shape policies and procedures by offering her extensive knowledge of medical health. While continuing to work full time for Springbrook, Carol offered her advice and services to Joshua House and the ARC Otsego, where she assisted with medication certification and specialized training for employees.

Carol has been and continues to be a role model for outstanding care in the field of nursing. Carol is proud of her life’s work and practice: “My heart is committed, and always has been, to serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, as well as to training our staff and leading our teams! This unique field of nursing is



very rewarding, and there’s always a lot to do. We are constantly thinking outside the box and using our critical thinking skills. Because it’s not just one specialty we’re dealing with – it’s a holistic type of nursing – it’s all specialties together. There is always something new to learn about and to research, so that we gain more knowledge and, in turn, share this knowledge with others in the form of training and holistic approach, so that we can provide the best quality nursing care to those that we serve.”

Carol has been an active member of the NYS ID/DD Nurses Association since 2006. As a member of the association, she has been a Zone 4 representative for three years, Zone 4 chairperson for four years, and co-chair for four years. Of the zones of the association, Zone 4 is the largest. Additionally, Carol has served as chairperson for the Nominating Committee, a member of the Conference Planning Committee, and has been co-chairperson for the Joyce Binder Memorial Award Committee. Currently, Carol is the association’s recording secretary. She has been recognized for her many years of service and for her dedication to the people in her care, but also for her mentorship and compassion. Carol was nominated for this prestigious award by Karen J. Bazan, RN, BSN, Director of Nursing and Health Services at the Arc Otsego, and a 2017 award recipient. Karen is a fellow member of NYSIDDDNA.

The award ceremony and reception for Carol took place at the Springbrook Family Engagement Center on November 11, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.



## In Memory of Kathy Keating, Our Colleague and Our Friend

*Written by Mary Jean Keegan*

For many of us, Kathy will be remembered as “the force” that formed us into nurses better prepared for the work we do. She inspired us to believe in our competence and was always willing to provide any guidance we sought.

Kathy was a strong advocate for manageable nursing caseloads. I recall Kathy coming to the agency I work for, instructing us that RNs needed to “visit each program weekly” and provide “24 hour nursing coverage” and, of course, “document” all of this. At the time the agency had 2 part time RNs with 44 hours total FTE. We had 9 programs across four counties requiring significant travel time. Kathy did not bat an eyelash when I inquired whether it was OK to just note “the RN crossed the doorway.” We may still be struggling for nurses, but we have come a long way because of Kathy’s dedication.

I recall Kathy piloting the first “Quarterly Nurse Update” during one of our Zone 4 meetings in Schoharie. Kathy then went on to “video-conference” her regular “Quarterly Nursing Updates” until she retired. I think every nurse who attended those updates longed for them to continue.

When I was the Chair of Zone 4, Kathy came to my house at the end of her workday to meet with an informal focus group of nursing leaders from several Capital District non-for-profit agencies. Kathy encouraged discussion, answered questions in “detail,” and happily mentored those leaders. This was intended to be a commitment of three meetings over a year, but due to popular demand and Kathy’s willingness, this group continued on for 3 years.

Kathy offered presentations for our Association conferences, even after her retirement. Kathy also presented regularly for the national DDNA conferences. She was truly dedicated to developing expertise in IDD nurses across the country.

At her wake, her husband, John, told me that up until a few weeks before she passed away, Kathy continued her work on a presentation for the national DDNA conference.

In her personal life, Kathy was also a world traveler. I used to kid her, that she needed to do a conference presentation for the nurses around where and how to travel in retirement because this would allow the rest of us to see the world through the pictures and stories of her travels with her family.

I feel fortunate that I was able to attend Kathy’s wake. The video played was full of Kathy’s travels with her family.

Kathy decided not to share her final journey details with many of us because she did not want us to worry about her. Kathy was one fine lady always looking out for us.

*Written by Darlene Langkau*

Kathy was a Nurse's Nurse. She never forgot what it was like to be on the frontline. She worked long and hard (while battling her own health issues) to improve the nursing and medical care for our individuals with ID/DD. Her contributions went a long way to improving their lives.

Kathy was always willing to share her knowledge and her time. She would help nurses work through issues they might be experiencing in providing care.

On a personal note, Kathy became a treasured friend. She supported me through my husband's illness. She cooked special meals that adhered to all of his special diets. She was a strong supporter of Our Steve's Warriors Team that rode/walked in the Tour de Cure. She and her family assisted at the fundraising event as well as making generous contributions. It was my honor to spend time with Kathy during her last days and final journey home. I miss her as I'm sure do many others.

*Written by Carol Krueger*

I can recall attending the quarterly trainings that Kathy held that were extremely valuable for myself who was new to this field while trying to make sense of the regulations. It was great that she happened to be in our zone as she would share all the OPWDD updates with us.

I can recall her sharing her adventures while visiting the continents she traveled to. Not many people are able to do this in their lifetime, but she did with her family.

Kathy would offer to run for an officer position in Zone 4 if no one else offered - even earlier this year when our treasurer resigned!

Kathy was always asking about my Saint Bernard dogs and enjoyed the pictures I shared on social media of them.

We truly lost a great person who we could contact for clarification. Kathy would explain things clearly plus she would respond quickly to our many questions! She is definitely missed. We need to keep her legacy going. Thank you for supporting this tribute article on Kathy!

## In Tribute to Kathy Keating (*Continued*)

*Written by Fred Wetzel*

I have been offered the opportunity to give my remembrances of my Dear Friend Kathy Keating. I could go on forever about her skills, knowledge, compassion, camaraderie, and willingness to give her friendship and share information with anyone who asked, but I'll keep things brief.

Kathy and I worked as a team, although we were from different divisions at OPWDD. We were so known as a team that people called our presentations "The Kathy and Fred Show." We travelled around the State providing education and consultation. We spent countless hours on the phone, problem solving and commiserating. Kathy's paramount interest was for the Individuals and the Nurses who supported them.

I referred to Kathy as my "work wife," and I was her "work husband." She was always interested in the DQI perspective. We worked collaboratively on many projects. Kathy added me to the Nursing Management Team, and I added her to the DQI Health Care Committee.

We were invited to speak at each Nursing Conference and many Zone meetings, and we tried to make informative presentations that included a measure of "fun." I SO enjoyed working with her!

I must admit, I dreaded the calls that started out "WETZEL! Do you know what your people (surveyors) are doing NOW?" She always found a way to work the issue out cooperatively.

During Diana Ritter-Jones' administration, I had the opportunity to nominate someone for an OPWDD "Woman of the Year" award. I wrote the nomination for Kathy, focusing on her skills and abilities, but also noting that, prior to Kathy, the director of Health Services was always a physician. The Director of Nursing was a separate position. Kathy filled both positions AND chaired the Medical Directors Committee. The Medical Directors respected her as one of their own! Kathy raised the level of respect for our profession in OPWDD.

Kathy won the Award! I had the honor of presenting it to her before the administration at Holland Ave.

I could go on and on, but I'll close by saying she was one of our best and brightest! Kathy Keating will never be forgotten.

*Written by Vicki Schultz*

We all know and love Kathy Keating as a Nursing Leader, ok... Legend, in the field of Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities.

She had compassion, undeniable skills, outstanding judgment, passion, and the chutzpah to get things done. She stood tall with her petite "little self" and fought every fight that needed to be fought for our individuals, staff, and, of course, our nurses! We all know this and she will forever have our appreciation, respect, and yes, our love.

But I want to tell you about Kathy, my friend... She started out as my "boss," quickly became my mentor, and just as quickly became my friend. She supported me through good times and bad, professionally and personally. She was ALWAYS there ready to help in any way possible.

I was the beneficiary of her sage advice, her delicious cooking, vegetables from her garden, her infectious smile, her amazing sense of humor, and the absolute BEST Christmas cookies baked every year by her and her beautiful daughter, Beth.

I will always consider her one of my most respected colleagues, but honestly, it is the endearing friendship I will miss the most.

Rest easy and fly high, KK, you are missed and will forever be loved... Bless you for being my friend.

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*Written by Trish Potocar*

I have been a member of NYSIDDDNA for a long time, and it is hard to remember a time when Kathy was not a big part of the group. I knew her from the conferences, her valuable updates, her willingness to respond to questions to her office, and her travel to our zone to present at meetings.

Her pep and energy were infectious and made you want to do better. She truly cared about the nurses and the people we support. When I would email her a question or concern, she always took it seriously and gave a prompt answer but added in a personal note of friendship.

I would look forward to sitting down with her at the conference for a few minutes to catch up on what's new. She always had time. As others have said she will be missed.

## New Members Since July 2021

Welcome to our 15 new members who joined since mid-July 2021. The names of the new members who joined from January through July 2021 were listed in the summer newsletter. In addition to our new members, 28 individuals renewed their membership since July 1, 2021.

<b>ZONE 2</b>	Tammy Ellinger	
<b>ZONE 3</b>	Mark Ziobro	
<b>ZONE 4</b>	Caitlin Corns	
<b>ZONE 5</b>	Yonna Alvarez Rene Fahey Jamie Belding Gail Armstrong	Jill Krieger Dyanne Martinez Cynthia Specht Rachel Torgersen
<b>ZONE 6</b>	Jessica Colon	
<b>ZONE 8</b>	Kristin Wolf	
<b>ZONE 9 &amp; 11</b>	Mary Davis Kristen Nolle	

## Becoming a NYSIDDDNA Member

The 2022 membership year will begin on April 1, 2022. You will receive notification in February to remind you it is time to renew your membership.

The annual membership fee is \$50. The \$30 fee for associate membership is available for full time nursing students and inactive nurses (unemployed or retired). Membership dues can be paid by check (agency or personal) or by PayPal.

If you have colleagues who are not members, please encourage them to join NYSIDDDNA.

### 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.

## An Update About a Special Friend

In our Summer 2021 newsletter, Marty Gleeson wrote an article about Jessica Patterson. Some of you will remember meeting Jessica at the NYSIDDDNA 2014 Annual Conference. She was completing her reign as Ms. Wheelchair NYS 2013 at the time.

In the article below, Marty is giving us an update on Jessica and her family.

*From Marty:* Happy 12-year wedding anniversary, Jessica and Jason Patterson. They celebrated at Ichiban, with Joi Littay, their 4 month old daughter!



*In Jason's words:*

This year looks a little different...our annual anniversary dinner tuned into a lunch with a little one in tow! This tall, light brown beauty is the absolute best wife a guy could ever ask for and the most amazing Mom ever. I post all the fun pics on my days off, but my wife is the true hero. She works with Joi every day to help in her development. The world will be a far better place if this little one turns out half as amazing as her mom.

Jess is an amazing mother, best wife ever, and she listens to all my jokes (even though she laughs at none of them). Twelve years of zig zagging across the country on adventures and after a dozen years we are starting our biggest adventure yet, and I couldn't be happier about it! Our "little Joi" is 4 months old and growing like a weed! She loves to listen to David Bowie, sit in her highchair so she can watch mommy cooking, and go for rides in Daddy's truck!

Thank you to our viewers on "9 Months with Courteney Cox" available on Facebook watch.

*From Marty:* Thanks to Jess and Jason for sharing this story with us. You can also see Jessica's link on Facebook. There are many other cute pictures on their Facebook pages.

*Submitted by Martin Gleeson, Jr.  
NYSIDDDNA Corresponding Secretary  
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NOTE: This is Linda Dudman's cell phone #.



**NYS ID/DD Nurses Association**  
**Fall 2021**

We are pleased to provide you with this Fall 2021 Newsletter. This newsletter is filled with articles, announcements, and updates just for you! Be sure to notice the announcement on Page 1 about the 2022 Annual Conference. **We are making plans for a 2-day in-person conference on October 17 & 18, 2022!!**

**Save the Date Announcements**

- Fall/Winter Webinar Series (Dec.-Feb.) — Page 1
- 2022 Annual Conference —Oct. 17-18, 2022 — Page 1

**NYSIDDDNA Membership News**

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- Membership by Zone 2021—Page 3
- Zone Reports—Pages 6 & 7
- New Members Since July 2021—Page 11

**Messages from Our Officers**

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- From Your President Elect—Page 4

**Scholarship & Award News**

- Scholarship Recipients —Page 5
- Joyce Binder Memorial Award—Page 8

**Other Articles of Interest**

- DDNA Report—Pages 2-3
- Thank You to Webinar Series Presenters — Page 3
- Thank You to Our 2021 Officers — Page 4
- Welcome to Our 2022 Officers—Page 4
- NYSIDDDNA Website/Social Media — Page 5
- Tribute to a Colleague and Friend — Pages 9-10
- An Update About a Special Friend — Page 11