



NYS ID/DD NURSES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Vol. 28, Number 3

Winter 2022

President's Message

As we continue to hopefully move beyond the current COVID pandemic that has so challenged everyone over the past two plus years, the Association remains committed to the support and education of nurses in our field of IDD nursing.



To that end we hope to hold an in-person, one-day State Board meeting in Syracuse on April 29th. Several of you requested the opportunity to be away from the many interruptions that occur during virtual meetings at the office. However, we also recognize that Omicron has created an additional strain on many nurses. Therefore, we are working on a hybrid plan where officers can choose to attend either in-person or virtually. Look for the final details about the spring Board meeting to arrive in your email.

The Conference Committee along with our conference planner, Linda Dudman, have been diligently working to engage expert speakers for relevant presentations at our conference on October 17 and 18. The Conference Committee remains committed to the exceptional quality training that has always met our expectations for continued development. Because of the increased complexity in newly revised requirements for CEUs, the Board made a very difficult decision to not offer CEUs for our 2022 conference. The Board and the Conference Committee remain committed to finding the most fiscally responsible path forward to provide CEUs for the 2023 conference.

Recently our Association hosted a Zoom meeting with Susan Prendergast, the Director of Nursing for OPWDD. This meeting was well attended and very informative relative to COVID, quarantines, the revised RN orientation, SLMS nurse trainings, and the progress made toward the long anticipated

revised med course curriculum. Thank you, Sue, for your commitment to continue to work with our Association. We anticipate hosting additional virtual meetings with Sue, where she will address nurses' questions and respond to concerns.

Despite multiple challenges, we continue to move forward toward coming together in-person as well as utilizing Zoom to network and educate nurses who work in this specialized area of nursing practice.

Please consider the opportunity to learn from this Association's seasoned nurses by offering to serve as a committee member, a Zone officer, or as a Zone Representative to the State Board. If you are interested in getting involved, you can email me or our Association (information@nysiddna.org) to learn more and get connected.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. I personally have learned from the best through becoming involved with our amazing group of nurses.

I look forward to seeing all of you soon!

*Mary Jean Keegan RN CDDN
NYSIDDDNA President
mkeegan@wildwoodprograms.org*

Congratulations to Our Nurses!!

Nurses were ranked #1 in the Gallup Poll's annual "Most Honest and Ethical Professions Poll" that was conducted in December 2021.

Nurses' honesty and ethical standards were rated as "very high" or "high" by 81% in the poll. This ranking is higher than other professions, that included physicians, grade school teachers, and pharmacists. Nurses have ranked as the most trusted profession every year for the past 20 years!

Congratulations to our nurses for their commitment and for the outstanding care and services they provide their patients every day.

Want to read more about this poll? Google "Gallup Poll Results—Nurses" to see the announcement.

DDNA Update — February 2022

DDNA will be holding their 30th Annual Education Conference from May 20 -23, 2022. The conference will be held at the Grand Hyatt San Antonio River Walk in San Antonio, Texas. There will not be a virtual option for attending this year's conference.

On Friday, May 20th concurrent pre-conference education programs will be offered which include the Certification Boot Camp, focusing on key concepts in certification preparation, and a presentation entitled "Shining a Light on the Dark Side of DD," focusing on topics such as sexual assault, sex trafficking, suicide, social media and internet impact, and Thought Field Therapy.

Throughout the next 3 days, presentations will focus on "DDNA – Shaping the Future of DD Nursing." The keynote speaker will address "Challenges Remain – DD Nurses Still Needed." Barb Bancroft (on her farewell tour) will discuss "COVID-19 – Past, Present and Future." Other topics include an update on medication management presented by Diane Moore, psychiatric disorders associated with epilepsy, and an update on psychotropic medication presented by Nanette Wrobel. Breakout sessions will be offered within tracks: Accelerating Advocacy, Advancing Education, Empowering Clinical Practice, and Neurodevelopmental Syndromes. Gabriel Cobb will present "Self-Advocacy – A Personal Message" and Temple Grandin will present "My Story."

The certification exam will be offered on Monday afternoon, May 23rd. As always, a Meet & Greet, Membership Meeting and Recognition Luncheon are planned. There will be additional evening CE programs, as well as sponsor-hosted events.

Registration fees will be discounted in celebration of the 30th Anniversary! Member registration will be \$500.00, with non-member registration \$650.00. Pre-conference registration will be \$85.00.

For more information on the conference, registration and certification, please visit the DDNA website at www.DDNA.org.

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

To Receive OPWDD Updates

It is easy to get OPWDD Updates. Just go to OPWDD.ny.gov. Click on "Sign Up For Updates." This link is in a box right on the home page.

Conference Committee Chair

As the chair for the conference committee, I am delighted to report how pleased we are with the monthly Zoom calls held. Attendance has been positive, and it appears that we have hit the mark on the topics presented.

Thank you to the committee members who have worked so hard and made time available to run practice sessions to make the webinars run smoothly. This team has been tireless! Our last session with updates from Susan Prendergast was very well received with over 90 attendees. We appreciate all that Sue has done to advocate for our programs these past few years.

We continue to move toward with our in-person 2022 conference planning and are open to suggestions for speakers, vendors, and ideas to make this year great!

Hats off to everyone for more great things to come!

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

Save the Date

NYSIDDDNA 2022 Annual Conference October 17-18, 2022 | Albany Marriott

You might want to put a **Save the Date** on your calendar for the Annual Conference, which will be held October 17-18 at the Albany Marriott.

The conference page on the website has been updated. The Call for Proposals form and the Exhibitor Registration Form are now posted on the website. We will continue to update the website as new information becomes available.

We encourage you to consider submitting a proposal to present. If you have questions about completing the Call for Proposals form, please email information@nysidddna.org for assistance. We welcome your suggestions for topics you would like offered and the names of speakers you would like us to consider.

Registration fees will be posted in early May. The fees will include a Member Registration Fee for everyone who is a 2022 member by August 1. In addition, we will offer an Early Bird Registration Fee. The timing for the Early Bird cutoff date will be announced well in advance to give everyone an opportunity to register at this lower rate.

Membership Committee Update

Greetings and Happy New Year to all! As you can see from the chart below, our membership numbers are trending upward. Please remember the 2022 membership year begins on April 1st.

Membership by Zone — 2021			
Zone	Returning	New	Total
1	21	2	23
2	16	3	19
3	7	1	8
4	31	8	39
5	19	11	30
6	17	4	21
7	9	3	12
8	6	1	7
9&11	21	9	30
10	2	0	2
12	2	0	2
DNK*	0	6	6
Total	151	48	199

* DNK members paid their dues through PayPal but did not send in their membership application. Without the application, we do not know which zone they are in.

Welcome to our new members who joined since December 5, 2021: Tara Donohue, Kim Laviolette, Melina Mezzanotte (Zone 6), Ellie Mertz, Tabitha Purcell (Zone 4), Leanne Rogers, Kelly Smith, Sandra Webber (Zone 12), and Robin Wisman.

We hope that you will reach out to your colleagues who are not members of the Association and share the benefits of membership!

Personal and professional development is a key benefit, with many opportunities for networking, continuing education, and leadership opportunities. It is always helpful to broaden your perspective with other nurses who face the same concerns and challenges that you do in your agency or in your part of the state. You will find that you are not alone at a time when it seems like changes and challenges are coming at us every day!

Whether you are a new nurse in this field or are “seasoned,” there is always an opportunity to grow and learn, and the Association has been diligent with their efforts to provide ongoing webinars and committing to an annual conference this year.

Becoming involved in a committee or an elected position on the Board can help to increase the potential for advancement in your nursing career. Participation in the Association at this level can help nurses to demonstrate to their employers their passion for this field and their ability to work within a team outside of their current work setting.

These opportunities will help you enhance your communication and leadership skills. The leaders of this organization have a lot to share and are excellent role models and mentors!

We would love to publish your reasons for being a member and what you feel is the major benefit for you! Please send to information@nysiddna.org.

Thank you in advance for sharing!

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

Thank you to our December-February Webinar Series Presenters

Thank you to the last three webinar presenters for sharing their expertise and their time with us. We were pleased with the success of this webinar series. We could not have offered this series without the interest of our presenters to share their knowledge with our members and the support of our members who joined us for these webinars. Thank you to everyone who participated.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

The Science of Cannabinoids

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

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

A Discussion with Susan: Current Guidance Documents and Updates

Susan Prendergast, RN, BS, Director of Nursing and Health Services, Statewide Services, NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities

Introducing Our NYSIDDDNA 2022 Officers

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

Collaboration With Nursing Programs

Thank you to Dr. Fred Wetzel and Dr. Vincent Siasoco for always thinking of ways to collaborate with our nursing association. Promoting education about the ID/DD patient population is one way to expose new nurses and students to this nursing specialty. As ID/DD nurses, we can help promote this field by taking advantage of opportunities when they present.

Dr. Wetzel and Dr. Siasoco provided an opportunity for Cayuga Community College nursing students to take part in Health Promotion-Healthy Athletes at this year's winter Special Olympic Games held in Syracuse, NY. About fifteen senior nursing students took part in the health screening event, giving them the opportunity to interact with special needs' individuals on a 1:1 basis.

In addition to Cayuga nursing students, medical residents from Upstate University Hospital and students from the Golisano Institute for Developmental Disability Nursing at St. John Fisher College in Rochester also took part.

If anyone is interested in finding ways to collaborate with nursing education programs within your agencies, please feel free to contact me at edie.smith@cayuga-cc.edu.

Edie Smith MSN, RN, CNE
Associate Professor of Nursing
Cayuga Community College

Not Receiving Emails From NYSIDDDNA?

Generally email messages are sent to members every one or two weeks. If you have not been receiving emails from NYSIDDDNA, it could be our email address is being blocked by your agency's IT system. We suggest you contact 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. If your email address has changed, please let us know.

NYSIDDDNA Website

www.nysiddna.org

Keep checking the website for updated information. We are lucky to have the services of **[h3webdesigns](#)** to quickly fix any web concerns or update programs/content.

We are constantly working to keep items up to date and user friendly. If you run into any concerns, let us know. Watch for conference information being posted. New material can be added by Trish Potocar papotocar@thearcjslc.org or Linda Dudman information@nysiddna.org.

*Submitted by Trish Potocar, RN,
Website Chairperson, papotocar@thearcjslc.org*

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

NYSIDDDNA Social Media

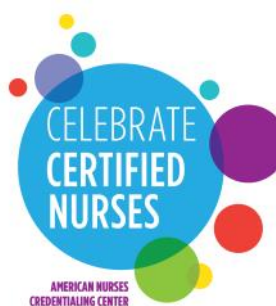
Facebook: NYSiddna

Facebook is an addition to our other ways of keeping in touch. 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 papoto-car@thearcjslc.org or kejarvis@thearcjslc.org (Note the new email addresses.)

For twitter and LinkedIn accounts contact Tara Sandford-Briggs at tsandford@cwinc.org.

*Submitted by Trish Potocar, RN,
Website Chairperson, papotocar@thearcjslc.org*
PLEASE NOTE: This is a new email address for Trish.



MARCH 19

**Certified Nurses
Day!**

**Congratulations
CDDNs!**

NYSIDDDNA Zone Reports

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

With a possible in person Board meeting and a plan for our annual conference in Albany this fall, these are encouraging signs. Numbers being hospitalized are down, but Omicron does spread easily. Hope you have enjoyed the webinars as I have. Some of these differences may remain after the Covid precautions are stopped, but there is a lot to be said for face-to-face interaction. Hoping to restart zone meetings also. Zone 1 includes St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, and Essex counties. We would like to hear feedback from anyone in our zone.

Current Zone 1 Officers:

Chairperson: Trish Potocar, QS RN/Medical Coordinator, The Arc Jefferson St. Lawrence, Inc. 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

Secretary: Karen Jarvis, Supervisor of Nursing, The Arc Jefferson St. Lawrence, Inc. Karen has been involved on the zone level and is currently State Treasurer. kejarvis@thearcjslc.org | 315-353-6618

NOTE: The email addresses for Trish and Karen changed to these new addresses recently.

Trish Potocar, Zone 1 Co-Chairperson
papotocar@thearcjslc.org | 315-353-6618

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

If you want to learn more about Zone 2, please email Melissa.

Melissa Britton
Zone 2 Acting Chairperson and Secretary
mbritton@liberty-resources.org

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

Zone 3 has not been able to meet this quarter. We would like to meet when the rates of COVID-19 infections decline. Zone 3 is always seeking new members. If you are interested in participating in Zone 3 activities or if you wish to be added to the zone email list, contact Tara or Sean.

Sean Casey and Tara Sanford-Briggs
Zone 3 Co-Chairpersons
scasey@caparcny.org or tsanford@cwinc.org

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

Our Zone members connected via Zoom for our Holiday Party. At that time, we reviewed the success and struggles of 2021. We look forward to in-person educational programs in the coming year. Lindsay Parker and Carol Krueger were elected as Co-Chairs of the Zone and Cindy Pross as Zone 4 Secretary/Treasurer.

Cindy Pross, Zone 4 Secretary
Cynthia.pross@justicecenter.ny.gov

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

If you would like to learn more about Zone 5, please email Sandra.

Sandra Mellion, Zone 5 Representative
smellion@campventure.org

ZONE 6: Nassau and Suffolk Counties

Hi, to all Zone 6 members. This winter has been harsh with the cold and snow, but a warming is in the air. We hope that everyone has been safe and staying well. So, with Covid 19 still lurking its ugly head, we have deferred a March meeting until the spring. Details to be forthcoming. We welcome suggestions for a meeting theme or topics.

We recommend all members to take advantage of the DDNA and NYSIDDDNA offered webinars, which are free to members. Some of the webinars provide CEU credits for those who need them.

Just a reminder that annual dues are effective April 1st. We encourage all current members to renew their membership and share with their colleagues who may not be members but wish to join our wonderful association. This association is one of a kind in sharing and providing information to those working with the ID/DD population and is a great resource.

If anyone is interested in the following positions in Zone 6, please reach out to either myself at pruckel@optonline.net or Patty Brunetti at pattybrunetti@yahoo.com.

- Secretary – Open
- Zone 6 Representative – Open

Our NYSIDDDNA Annual Conference for 2022 will be held October 17-18, 2022 at the Albany Marriott. More information will be posted on our website in April. If you have never attended a conference, it is a wonderful opportunity to meet

Zone Reports (Continued)

fellow nurses and network. If you have attended in the past, please consider joining us again this year.

Be safe everyone and spring will be upon us before we know it.

Pat Ruckel, Treasurer, pruckel@phpcares.org
Patty Brunetti, Co-Chair, pattybrunetti@yahoo.com

ZONE 7: New York, Richmond, King & Queens

If you would like to learn more about Zone 7, please email Asuncion.

Asuncion Muyalde, Zone 7 Treasurer
amuyalde@sinergiany.org

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

Greetings All! Zone 8 has attempted to restart in person lunch meetings yet continue to get pushed back due to COVID's presence throughout our region. We are trying to use caution and be respectful of everyone's personal and professional limitations. In the meantime, we encourage folks to actively engage and network within since there is a lot going on and this is our proven strength! As soon as we see an opportunity and have the technology figured out, we will be back in action.

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

ZONES 9 & 11: Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Steuben, and Allegany, Monroe, Ontario, Wayne, Cayuga, Yates, Seneca, and Livingston

As with most of the Zones, we have held online meetings and decreased the number of yearly meetings due to the Covid pandemic and restricted guidelines. The Association webinars have helped to bridge the gap for decreased zone meetings. Our next meeting will be held later in April. An email will be sent to all Zone members.

We are currently looking for zone members who are interested in being an officer. Zone Chair is vacant since MaryEllen Stammersky retired from nursing practice and resigned. Anyone interested can contact Edie Smith, Zone Secretary.

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

ZONE 10 & 12: Schuyler, Tompkins, Cortland, Tioga, Chenango, Broome, Chemung, and Outside New York State

We encourage you to reach out to other zones to join them for networking opportunities. We know you will be welcomed.

NYSIDDDNA Scholarship

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 ID/DD 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.

Applications are due **April 15, 2022**. Announcements about the scholarship opportunity were sent to nursing programs throughout New York State.

Please share information about the scholarship with nursing students you know. Guidelines for applying for the scholarship are posted in the Awards section of our web site.

Linda Dudman
NYSIDDDNA Planning Manager

Renewing Your Membership for 2022

The new membership year begins on April 1st. You can use the membership application in this newsletter to renew your membership.

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

If paying by PayPal: Remember to email or mail in your membership application.

As a member, you will receive the member rate when you register for the Annual Conference in October. If you are interested in getting involved with NYSIDDDNA on the zone or state level, email information@nysiddna.org.

Ways to Contact NYSIDDDNA

- **Email:** information@nysiddna.org
- **Mail:** Box 25832, Rochester, NY 14625
- **Facebook:** NYSiddna
- **LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/new-york-state-iddnurses-association-4618b691/>
- **Website:** www.nysiddna.org
- **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/nysiddna>

Membership Application/Renewal Form

Membership Year: April 1-March 31

NEW MEMBERS: Complete all information. **RENEWING MEMBERS:** Complete only name and changes.

Annual Membership Fee: Full Membership \$50 Associate Membership \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> New Member (\$50) <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member (\$50) <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Member* (\$30) <small>* Associate members are full time nursing students or inactive nurses (retired or unemployed) and are non-voting members.</small>
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Name: _____ Date: _____

RN LPN RN Student LPN Student Transfer (Requesting transfer from Zone _____ to Zone _____)

Nurse License #: _____ Do you hold CDDN? Yes No

Home Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ County: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Work Site/Agency Name: _____

Work Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ County: _____

Work Telephone: _____ Email: _____

School Attending (Associate Member only): _____

I would like to receive mailings and other information at my:

HOME ADDRESS WORK ADDRESS

Send email messages to my:

Personal Email Work Email

Paying Your Membership Dues: You can pay by check or by PayPal.

- *By check (agency or personal):* Make checks payable to the NYS ID/DD Nurses Association, Inc. Include this membership application with your check.
- *By PayPal:* On our website (nysiddna.org), click on the "Join NYSIDDDNA" tab. The link to pay by PayPal is in the blue "Join NYSIDDDNA Today!" box in the right column. You must complete this membership application and email or mail it to information@nysiddna.org.

Sending in Your Membership Application & Payment:

- *By Mail:* NYS ID/DD Nurses Association, PO Box 25832, Rochester, NY 14625
- *By Email:* Send to information@nysiddna.org. (Please note on your membership application form if payment is being paid through PayPal.)

FOR OFFICE USE:

Membership #: _____ Zone #: _____ Payment Received: _____ Date Processed: _____

Agency Check Personal Check PayPal

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



NYS ID/DD Nurses Association
Winter 2022

We are pleased to provide you with this Winter 2022 Newsletter. This newsletter is filled with articles, announcements, and updates just for you!

Save the Date!! NYSIDDDNA 2022 Annual Conference | October 17 & 18, 2022 | Albany Marriott

Here is a quick look at the some of the topics included in this issue:

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