



NYS ID/DD NURSES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Vol. 29, Number 3

Fall 2022

President's Message

It seems impossible that my first year as president and 2022 are rapidly coming to a close. 2022 has been a productive year for our Association. We held our annual conference for the first time since 2019. We not only exceeded our expectations for attendance, but we also had a significant number of "first time" attendees, many of whom decided to become members during the conference.



I want to recognize and thank the Conference Planning Committee, who worked diligently to bring us a two-day conference with a broad variety of topics aimed to expand knowledge for nurses with different levels of experience.

The keynote speaker, Lise Deguire, certainly held a very captive audience when she spoke about her own resilience. Her address made me think about the resiliency of the individuals that we support through all the craziness throughout COVID. It also reminded me of the dedication and resilience of many wonderful nurses who provided mentorship during the time I have had the privilege of being an Association member.

Thank you to Susan Prendergast, Director of Nursing and Health Services at OPWDD, who brought us together for another virtual update to a "sold out" audience in November!

By the time this Newsletter reaches you, we will have held our virtual fall Executive Board meeting. My hope during the Executive Board meeting is that we find Zone officers willing to volunteer on either of two committees: (1) a committee to further clarify equitable distribution of Association funds to membership for educational activities at the local (Zone) level and/or (2) a committee to begin to address recruitment and retention of nurses in this field. If you were not able to attend the December Executive Board meeting but are

interested in participating on either of these committees, please feel free to reach out to me.

Please consider becoming a member of our Conference Planning Committee for the 2023 conference. The committee meetings are virtual. The Association will be looking to recruit a Conference Chair as Linda Cultrara moves into her role as our President in January 2024.

Zone Officers, please be on the watch for the dates of our Spring Executive Board meeting in Syracuse and plan to join us in person during those two days.

This Association relies heavily on the generosity of those who are willing to volunteer to keep everything going well. I feel fortunate to have been involved with many wonderful seasoned nurses as well as those who are relatively new, but who bring a renewed energy and new perspectives. We need "you" to consider volunteering because collectively we create the energy necessary to challenge and empower each of us to become stronger better nurses.

I wish all of you a wonderful holiday season and a blessed and happy new year!

Hope to see you in the spring!

Mary Jean Keegan
NYSIDDDNA President
Mjkeegan74@gmail.com or
mkeegan@wildwoodprograms.org



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.

Membership Committee Update

As 2022 is quickly drawing to a close, many thanks to all of you who continue to recognize the value of the Association by renewing your membership and encouraging other nurses to join.

If you have also taken on a leadership position within your Zone or at the state level, congratulations! Your commitment is noted and appreciated! The skills you will acquire in such roles will have a positive impact on your nursing career!

We currently have 203 members, with the breakdown of the number of members by Zone as follows:

Membership by Zone As of November 22, 2022	
Zone	TOTAL
1	26
2	23
3	8
4	36
5	23
6	20
7	17
8	7
9/11	31
10	3
12	2
DNK*	7
TOTAL	203

* DNK members paid their dues through PayPal but have not sent in their membership application yet. Once their applications are received, they will be added to their zone.

Thirteen nurses who came to the Annual Conference as non-members joined the Association after attending the Annual Conference. Welcome!

Please continue to spread the word to your colleagues who may not be members – there is strength in numbers and dues enable the Association to continue to provide and support opportunities for growth through activities such as the Annual Conference, zone activities, and the newsletter.

*Cathy Engel, BSN, RN, CDDN
Membership Committee Chairperson
engelcathy12@gmail.com*

DDNA Update

The Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association (DDNA) will be holding their 31st Annual Conference in New Orleans April 14 – 17, 2023. The conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans, with rooms at a conference rate of \$209/night.

Over 20 hours of nursing CEs will be available to attendees. Nurses interested in becoming certified will also have an opportunity to attend the Certification Boot Camp. More information on this great networking opportunity will be forthcoming on the DDNA website (ddna.org).

In addition to the annual conference, DDNA also offers “Webinar Wednesdays,” educational presentations that are part of the commitment to ongoing continuing education for DDNA members.

Nurses interested in presenting on topics in areas related to clinical care, education, administration, research, patient education, or consulting in all areas of DD nursing can find more information on proposal submissions on the DDNA website.

Free to DDNA members courseware is also available on the website. DDNA members also have an opportunity to subscribe to the DD Nursing E-News for full access to timely and informative articles.

*Prepared by Cathy Engel, BSN, RN, CDDN
engelcathy12@gmail.com*

From the Nomination Committee

Congratulations to our two new elected officers, Cynthia Pross – Corresponding Secretary and Karen Jarvis – Treasurer. Cynthia will join the Board of Directors and Karen Jarvis will continue as a re-elected member on January 1.

Thank you to everyone who submitted your nomination ballots either by e-mail, mail, or at our Annual Conference this year.

Also, I would like to say thank you to Julie Heneka who assisted and served as part of the nominating committee this year and assisted with counting of the ballots during our Annual Conference.

*Carol Krueger
Chair, Nominating Committee
kruegerc@springbrookny.org*

From the Conference Planning Chair

I am overwhelmed with joy and gratitude to discuss the success of the 2022 conference at the Albany Marriott this past October. We exceeded our expectations in attendees and new memberships.

The keynote speaker, Lise Deguire, was well received. Folks enjoyed the personal triumph story of “The Flashback Girl.”

We are grateful to our sponsors, vendors, speakers, those who attended, and everyone whose hard work and dedication certainly paid off. Of course we can not exist without the conference committee members, executive board members, volunteers, and last but not least, our conference planner, Linda Dudman.

The Albany Marriott did an exceptional job meeting our needs in every aspect from technical support to amazing food and exceptional rooms.

We welcome any ideas, suggestions or thoughts moving forward as we plan for our 2023 conference, which will return to the Albany Marriott. We did attempt to move the 2023 Annual Conference to Saratoga Springs, but due to some unforeseen difficulties, a decision was made to return to the Albany Marriott in September 2023.

*Linda M. Cultrara
Conference Planning Chair
Linda.m.cultrara.@opwdd.ny.gov*

Save the Date

NYSIDDDNA 2023 Annual Conference

September 11-13, 2023 | Albany Marriott

Note: At its recent meeting, the Board voted to return to the Albany Marriott in 2023.

Not Receiving NYSIDDDNA Emails?

Generally, email messages are sent to members every 2-3 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.

If you are not receiving email messages, 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 our Planning Manager know by sending an email message to information@nysiddna.org.

NYSIDDDNA 2023 State Officers

Your 2023 Board of Directors includes:

- Mary Jean Keegan, President (Zone 4)
- Linda Cultrara, President Elect (Zone 8)
- Pat Ruckel, Recording Secretary (Zone 6)
- Cindy Pross, Corresponding Secretary (Zone 4)
- Karen Jarvis, Treasurer (Zone 1)

Thank You to Marty Gleeson

We want to thank Marty Gleeson for serving as the Corresponding Secretary for the past three years. In February 2020, Marty volunteered to step up when the person in this role resigned. Then, in 2021, he again stepped up when the person elected to the position changed jobs and was no longer available to fill this role. Marty, we appreciate your interest in the Association and your willingness to offer your services when they were needed.

For everyone who has had the opportunity to meet Marty, you know he brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his work with NYSIDDDNA. We all appreciate the wisdom he shares at every meeting and through regular correspondence with Board members and the Planning Manager. *Thank you, Marty.*

NYSIDDDNA Website

www.nysiddna.org

The website was quite beneficial in disseminating conference information, providing handouts from presenters, and allowing smoother paths to enrollment.

We hope to be able to upgrade these possibilities even more in the future. Keep tuned for changes.

New material can be added to the website by Trish Potocar at papotocar@thearcjslc.org or Linda Dudman at information@nysiddna.org.

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

For more information about the NYS ID/DD Nurses Association, check the website at:

www.nysiddna.org

Joyce Binder Memorial Award

Do you have a colleague you would like to recognize? If your answer is YES, then consider nominating your colleague for the Joyce Binder Memorial Award. You will find the nomination form for the Joyce Binder Award on page 7 in this newsletter.

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

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

You all have the opportunity to recognize an outstanding colleague by submitting a nomination for the Joyce Binder Memorial Award. Nominations will be accepted throughout the year.

Not sure if your candidate is a member? Send an email to information@nysiddna.org to check.

Renewing Your NYSIDDDNA Membership

The 2023 membership year will begin on April 1, 2023. Members will receive an email reminding them that it is time to renew their membership. When you receive this reminder email, please let your colleagues who are not currently members know it is a good time to join NYSIDDDNA for 2023.

The annual membership fee is \$50. An associate membership (\$30) fee is available for full time nursing students and inactive nurses (unemployed or retired).

To Renew Your Membership or to Become a New Member:

- **Complete the membership application**, which is available on our website (www.nysiddna.org).
- **Pay by check or PayPal.** Links to pay by PayPal are on the website. If paying by PayPal, be sure to send in your membership application.
- **Mail or email your membership application.** Mail your check with your application form. If you are paying by PayPal, please note this on your membership application.

Your membership card will be mailed to you within a week or two after receipt of your application and payment.

Requesting Your Help

Hello, my dear friends. Since this is the last newsletter that I will be helping to produce in my role as Corresponding Secretary, I want to introduce an idea to you. It might prove helpful to many.

One of the issues that we talked about specifically in producing last year's conference was gaining efficiencies in practice, as well as implementing changes that were required to help safely continue our practice in light of the COVID pandemic. As a result, a number of issues have changed. Many of us believe for the better looking at exactly what is required to do our job and the procedures to train others to help us complete safely the care of the individuals that we serve. At our last board meeting we discussed issues and how we found efficiencies in continuing to implement new ways of recording our tasks and completing them as well as training others to help us complete those tasks of care.

I would like to invite you to write to me about some of the changes that you have implemented, looking for original ideas that we can share. I would like to be able to document some of these efficiencies and be able to publish them in future newsletters, as well as share some of that information on our new Facebook page that is currently under development.

We also felt it was important that we share some of the information that we have found to be helpful in changes that our administrations have made in the delivery of healthcare through healthcare products for documentation. We do not want to influence commercial viability of any of these products as an Association, but we realize some of us have been exposed to products introduced to us by vendors exhibiting at our Annual Conference and others have not.

We would hope that the information you share will be useful to agencies that have not yet completed some of these changes that we find so helpful.

While I will continue to serve the Association on the executive board as a member of several state level committees, I appreciate everyone's help while I've served as an officer. I will continue to be available to serve and be reachable by e-mail or phone. Thanks again, Marty.

Marty Gleeson
mart4950@gmail.com / 315-323-6868

Certificates for Contact Hours

Certificates were mailed to conference attendees who completed the evaluation packet. If you did not receive a certificate and think you should have, please email the Planning Manager at information@nysiddna.org.

Zone Reports

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

Sept 22, 2022 was our first in-person zone meeting since the pandemic. Jennifer Warren, RPH, spoke on what is new for seizure and behavior drugs.

We were pleased to see zone member attendance was good for the state conference in Albany.

We hope to keep moving forward with regular zone meetings in 2023. Please contact one of the officers below if you would like zone information or to suggest presenters or programs for our meetings.

For those who are new—Zone 1 includes St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, and Essex counties.

You can contact us at:

- Trish Potocar, Co-Chairperson
315-353-6618 / papotocar@thearcjslc.org
- Joanne Carkner, Co-Chairperson
315-353-6618 / jmcarckner@thearcjslc.org
- Karen Jarvis, Secretary
315-353-6618 / kejarvis@thearcjslc.org

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

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

If you are a member of Zone 2, please consider becoming a zone officer. The positions of chair, secretary, and zone representative are currently open. You can reach out to Mary Jean Keegan, President, or Linda Dudman, Planning Manager, to share your interest. Getting involved on the zone level is an excellent way to become involved in NYSIDDDNA.

Interested in becoming a Zone 2 officer?
Email Linda Dudman, NYSIDDDNA Planning Manager at information@nysidddna.org

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

Do you have colleagues in our zone you think would be interested in joining NYSIDDDNA? If you do, please encourage them to join. Zone 3 is always looking for members. We are also looking for one or two members to offer to fill our open zone officer positions. Becoming a zone officer will provide you with the opportunity to meet colleagues from our part of the state and to meet members from other parts of NYS at the state Board meetings.

Tara Sanford-Briggs, Zone 3 Chairperson
tsanford@cwinc.org

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

Our zone members met following Day 1 of the Annual Conference at the Albany Marriott. Some new members were welcomed, and we set out goals for our 2023 educational meetings. Our goals will include educational presentations in person, inviting Zones 3 & 5, and dividing our meeting locations between southern and northern areas to share travel burdens. We had good support for open Zone Representative positions and will be having election results for our December meeting.

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

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

We are looking for members who would like to join us as officers for Zone 5. If you are interested, please email us. Being a zone officer is a great way to get involved in NYSIDDDNA. In addition to getting to know your zone members, you will also get to know members from other parts of the state through your participation at NYSIDDDNA Board meetings.

Joy Fojtlin, Secretary
joyann56@aol.com
Sandra Mellion, Zone 5 Representative,
smellion@campventure.org

ZONE 6: Nassau and Suffolk Counties

Hi, Zone 6 members. After attending the NYS ID/DD conference in October, we have been able to revive the Zone 6 counsel.

Patricia Ruckel will remain the Zone 6 chair along with new members, which include Co-Chair Terry Entler; Zone 6 Representative Sheila Thurman; Secretary Amy Kessler; and Recording Secretary Heidi Schmidt-Storic.

We will be coordinating quarterly meetings with our first meeting held on 12/7/2022. This meeting was hosted by DDI and sponsored by Ingrezza.

We hope everyone has a Happy Holiday!

Amy Kessler MSN, RN
Secretary, Zone 6
Amy.Kessler@ddiny.org

Zone Reports (cont'd)

ZONE 7: New York, Richmond, King, and Queens

The NYC chapter of NYSIDDDNA is in a transition but looks forward to regular meetings and engagement in 2023. Having met many new members at our Albany conference, it seems like we have nurses ready to rebuild our zone. To that end we have scheduled a Zoom meeting for late November to discern what zone members would like to have as a local professional nursing association in the city.

NYC nurses wish all our colleagues in New York State a happy and healthy holiday season and great new year!

*Robert Peters, Zone 7 Chairperson,
Robert.peters@ahrcnyc.org*

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

Zone 8 did not meet this period due to continued struggles with COVID and in person meetings. Our former treasurer, Maureen Brown, has assumed the role of Zone rep since the treasurer position shifted back to the organization. It was great to see some of our members at the recent conference. We are also excited to have a few new members and look forward to beginning 2023 with a holiday gathering. Details will follow.

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

ZONE 9: Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Steuben, and Allegany

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

Zone 9&11 plans to resume in-person meetings with a zoom component for 2023 to benefit all members. We have held online meetings and decreased the number of yearly meetings since the Covid pandemic and increase to work caseloads. The webinars provided by the Association and other organizations have helped to bridge the gap for decreased zone meetings. Many of our zone members attended the NYSIDDDNA Annual Conference in October.

We are currently looking for zone members who are interested in being an officer. Zone Chair is vacant since MaryEllen Stambersky has retired from nursing practice and resigned. We are always looking for members to participate with zone meetings/suggestions for topics. Anyone interested, please contact Edie Smith at edie.smith@cayuga-cc.edu or Deb Hill at dhill@pathwaysforyou.org

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

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

ZONE 12: Members from Other States

We appreciate your interest in NYSIDDDNA and want you to feel welcome. If you have colleagues who would like to join the NYS ID/DD Nurses Association, please let them know they are welcome to become members. If they join by July 15, they will be eligible for the member registration rate for the 2023 Annual Conference that will be held September 11-13, 2023 at the Albany Marriott.

You are welcome to reach out to another zone to ask to attend their educational presentations and participate in their networking opportunities.

Important 2023 Dates

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Jan. 31 | Call for Proposals and the Exhibitor Registration Form for the 2023 Annual Conference will be posted on the website. |
| Feb. 15 | Articles are due for the Winter 2023 newsletter. |
| April 20-21 | Two-day NYSIDDDNA Board Meeting in Syracuse. This meeting is for state officers, committee chairs, and zone officers. |
| July 15 | Date to renew membership or become a new member to register for the Annual Conference at the member rate. |
| Sept. 11-13 | NYSIDDDNA 2023 Annual Conference will be held at the Albany Marriott. |

TO CONTACT NYSIDDDNA

By Mail: Box 25832, Rochester, NY 14625

By Email: information@nysiddna.org

Please Note: If you are not receiving email messages from the NYSIDDDNA Planning Manager, email information@nysiddna.org.

Nomination Form for the Joyce Binder Memorial Award



Every year, the Joyce Binder Memorial Award is given to an outstanding member of the NYS ID/DD Nurses Association who has made a significant contribution to advancing the practice of supporting individuals with ID/DD.

This award is named in honor of Joyce Binder, one of the founders of our Association. It was her intent to give ID/DD nurses a place to share information and network. Throughout her career, Joyce made outstanding contributions to the field of ID/DD and to the individuals she served.

The Joyce Binder Memorial Award recognizes an outstanding NYS ID/DD member who has made a significant contribution to advancing the practice of supporting individuals with ID/DD through demonstrated attributes such as:

- caring/compassion
- advocacy
- mentoring
- leadership
- dedication
- education
- research

Nominees must be members of NYS ID/DD Nurses Association for the current year. If you are not sure if your nominee is a NYSIDDDNA member, email information@nysiddna.org.

Joyce Binder Memorial Award

NOMINATION FORM

Please send your nomination to the NYS ID/DD Nurses Association at information@nysiddna.org.

Nominations are accepted throughout the year.

Name of Nominee/Title: _____

Experience of Nominee: _____

Information about the Nominee: *(Add separate page for your responses.)*

1. Describe how this nurse has/will change the quality of life and has made a positive impact for the people he/she supports.
2. What are the attributes this nominee has demonstrated? *(In at least 150 words)*

Nominating Person: _____

Relationship to Nominee: _____

Your Contact Information: _____

Date Submitted: _____

This form is available on the NYSIDDDNA website under Awards heading.

NYS ID/DD Nurses Association

PO BOX 25832

Rochester, NY 14625



NYS ID/DD Nurses Association
Fall 2022

This newsletter is filled with articles, updates, and announcements just for you! Here is a listing of the topics included in this issue:

Page 1	President’s Message
Page 2	Membership Committee Update
Page 2	DDNA Update
Page 2	From the Nomination Committee
Page 3	From the Conference Planning Chair
Page 3	NYSIDDDNA 2023 State Officers
Page 3	Website Update
Page 4	Joyce Binder Award
Page 4	Renewing Your Membership
Page 4	Requesting Your Help
Page 5 & 6	Zone Updates
Page 6	Important 2023 Dates
Page 7	Nomination Form for Joyce Binder Award

— Save the Dates for 2023 —

NYSIDDDNA Spring Board Meeting

April 20-21, 2023 | Syracuse, New York

Note: This meeting is for state officers, zone officers, and committee chairs.

NYSIDDDNA 2023 Annual Conference

September 11-13, 2023 | Albany Marriott

Note: At its recent meeting, the Board voted to return to the Albany Marriott in 2023.