



NYS ID/DD NURSES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Vol. 31, Number 1

Winter 2024

President's Message

Hello everyone and, "Happy New Year!" I'd first like to say how excited I am to be taking on this new role. I have big shoes to fill following our outgoing President, Mary Jean Keegan! Thank you, Mary Jean, for taking the time to onboard me and offering your wonderful support and guidance. We certainly have a lot of ground to cover.



In general, in 2024, we have a lot to look forward to from setting new goals to reflecting on the old. We are looking to take our strategic plan and fast track it forward. I strongly believe we have the best team possible to launch this organization in great new beginnings!

So, as this transition begins, let's talk about what great work we are doing:

Promotion of our organization. We were able to begin with moving forward our Facebook, website, and marketing changes. With our contract approved, we added a line item for a "facelift." Over the next few weeks, I anticipate our new logo and slogan will be ready to be voted on. Not only will our Facebook and website reflect these changes, but we will work toward creating tools such as brochures that will be sent to agencies to promote our organization. We obtained a list of all agencies in New York State serving ID/DD and will begin outreach when the tools are ready! We believe this can touch all our goals: Marketing, Membership, Recruiting and Retention, and Sustainability.

Conference Planning and Membership Management platform. We have worked tirelessly reviewing and interviewing platforms to streamline and interconnect our membership and planning processes. The vote for the H3 platform was approved and should be ready by our membership enrollment period! Not only can it support new member/returning member sign up, it will allow complete conference registration, selection of

sessions, evaluations, and CE certificates, all in a real-time platform! This will bring us to a new level of efficiency.

Zoom Platform. We looked at the feasibility of increasing the capacity of this system to support any initiative that requires more than the current cutoff. The cost seemed prohibitive based on our past utilization. Currently we have a schedule of "Roundtable" topics we are hosting to provide networking and support to members. If that attendance limit poses an issue, we can look at increasing our capacity. See Page 5 for more Information about the Roundtable Virtual Webinars.

Scholarships: We have expanded our scholarship opportunities. We now have two scholarships: RN to BSN and LPN (Direct Care) to RN. Announcements with the application form have been emailed with a cut-off date of April 1. Additional information about the scholarships is on Page 5 in this newsletter.

An OPWDD Update. Susan Prendergast is hosting this webinar, which will be held on Tuesday, March 5 at 1:00. An email announcement with the link was sent to all members. A reminder will be sent prior to the webinar.

Conference Planning. I can't say enough good things about this committee and the great plans for our 2024 event! The conference will be held Sept. 9-11 at The Queensbury Hotel in Glens Falls, NY. What a wonderful experience this will be! Look on Page 3 for an update from our Conference Chair.

I have more agenda items to share with you. You will find these additional items on Page 3. As you can see, 2024 is off to a good start.

With the passing of our dear friend, Marty Gleeson, we collectively mourn. He was not only a respected member of NYSIDDDNA, but also a warrior and friend. He made a difference and impacted many. As we contemplated how to celebrate his life, we recognized a need to do more for our members at the end of their life's journey. In his honor, we donated to the Nurses Honor Guard. Their motto is "No Nurse is Forgotten." This rings true for Marty. He will be greatly missed.

Linda Cultrara, NYSIDDDNA President
Linda.M.Cultrara@opwdd.ny.gov

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

It's that time again! Membership renewals will be due April 1, 2024. Please remember that ALL renewals (and new memberships) must be done ONLINE – the process is quick and easy, and payments can be made by check or PayPal. You will receive a message from our Planning Manager when it is time to renew your membership.

Membership will allow you to register for our annual conference at a reduced rate. Mark your calendars now to join us at The Queensbury Hotel in Glens Falls. The dates are September 9-11, 2024!

Renewing your membership will also ensure that you continue to receive e-mail announcements regarding educational opportunities as well as information related to regulations and other areas of interest. There is a lot of news to share!

We currently have 193 members – as always, members are our best marketing tool! Please continue to reach out to other nurses in the field, as well as the leadership in your place of employment, and spread your enthusiasm for membership. Your assistance in helping to promote ID/DD nursing as a specialty is so important!

Full membership is open to all registered and licensed practical nurses. An associate membership is available for nursing students, as well as nurses who are retired or not currently working.

We always welcome and encourage your involvement! Please consider submitting an article to the Newsletter, serving the Association on a state level committee or appointed position, or in an elected position at the state or Zone level. They are great ways to gain experience and leadership skills to take your professional career to the next level.

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

NYSIDDDNA 2024 State Officers

Your 2024 NYSIDDDNA State Officers are:

- Linda Cultrara, President (Zone 8)
- Cindy Pross, President Elect (Zone 4)
- Pat Ruckel, Recording Secretary (Zone 6)
- Karen Jarvis, Treasurer (Zone 1)
- Meghan Miskinis, Corresponding Secretary (Zone 3)

DDNA Update

Registration is now open for the Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association's 32nd Annual Conference, which will be held in Orlando, Florida April 18-21, 2024.

A "Certification Boot Camp" will be offered on April 18, 2024. Nurses will have the opportunity to take the certification exam at the conference on Sunday, April 21. Nurses who have completed the application process by February 16, 2024 are eligible and must submit a completed registration form by March 18, 2024 to take the certification exam at the conference. For more information on the certification process, please visit the DDNA website at ddna.org.

A Pre-Conference regarding Health Disparities in IDD will also be offered on April 18th.

The conference offers 20+ hours of nursing CE's for nurses attending all sessions and completing all evaluations for sessions attended. These CE's may be used for CDDN/DDC renewals. Topics to be offered at the conference include:

- Sports – Changing Lives Through Meaningful Inclusion
- Danger Ahead – Early Recognition and Management of Metabolic Syndrome
- Dietary Strategies for Effective Weight Management
- Concept to Core Work
- Move It or Lose It
- Elevating Your Professional Practice
- Impacting the Culture for Better Care
- Genotypes and Syndromes
- A Team Approach to Mental Wellness
- Mortality Review – Root Cause Analysis
- Mental Health Support in the Pediatric Population
- Laugh and Learn – the Fatal Five Plus
- Medication Management – Nurse's Role and Responsibility and Staff Preparation & Education
- IDD Across the Lifespan: The Nurse's Role
- The Magic of Music

The reservation deadline at the Hyatt Regency Orlando is March 27, 2024. The conference rate is \$225 + \$10 resort fee per night. Please check the DDNA website at ddna.org for more information about conference registration fees, cancellation policy, speakers, etc.

Please Note: Membership in DDNA is separate from membership in the NYSIDDDNA.

Cathy Engel, BSN, RN, CDDN
DDNA Liaison, engelcathy12@gmail.com

More Agenda Items From the President

We have been busy! I have a few more agenda items to share with you.

- We are working with Key Bank to improve the process for adding/removing officers seamlessly when elections occur. We are looking at more paperless transactions and less check writing. This year our Treasurer position will come up, so the incoming person should have a smooth transition.
- Our Corresponding Secretary position will also be available this year. This is certainly a nice forum to get to know our members while supporting the organization.
- We will be working on recommendations from our Standing Rules and Bylaws Committee, too!
- We have initiatives to work more closely with the Nurses Honor Guard to increase chapters to support our fallen colleagues across the state.

Linda Cultrara
NYSIDDDNA President
Linda.M.Cultrara@opwdd.ny.gov

Save the Date. Mark Your Calendars.

Webinar: OPWDD Update for Nurses

March 5, 2024 1pm | via WebEx

Note: This webinar will be hosted through the OPWDD Webex system. There is no limit on attendance. The link was sent to all members in early February. A few days before the webinar, the link will be emailed again.

NYSIDDDNA Spring Board Meeting

April 25-26, 2024 | Syracuse, New York

Note: This meeting is for state officers, zone officers, and committee chairs. The meeting will begin at 11:00 on Thursday, April 25. Information about the meeting will be sent to all officers prior to the meeting.

DDNA 2024 Annual Conference

April 18-21, 2024 | Orlando, Florida

Note: Check www.ddna.org for more information.

NYSIDDDNA 2024 Annual Conference

September 9-11, 2024

The Queensbury Hotel, Glens Falls, New York

Note: We have reserved the entire hotel for our Annual Conference. When we open the registration site in May 2024, we will provide information about reserving your hotel room.

From the Conference Committee Chair

Our Theme:

Turning the Page: Honoring Our Successes and Looking to the Future of ID/DD Nursing

Join us to refresh your energy and enthusiasm for your professional practice!

This year our conference will be held in the historic Queensbury Hotel in Glens Falls 45 minutes north of Albany. The hotel offers an indoor pool and jacuzzi, complimentary Wi-Fi and parking, and two restaurants.

The area boasts walkable downtown with shops and great restaurants, outdoor recreation, and nearby tourist destinations including Lake George and Saratoga Springs.

One of our conference goals is to encourage each of us to take time for our own health and wellness.

We have identified an engaging, humorous keynote speaker to kick things off. Meg Soper will spend some time with us and will share her joyful and encouraging message, "Thriving in Times of Change."

We are also planning for both practical information sessions emphasizing pro-active steps for wellness for the people we support and sessions about avoiding risks to our practice. We will cover updates from OPWDD and have our annual update on a diabetes topic. We are planning on having new presenters on clinical care subjects and our favorite returning speakers with new topics.

We are planning optional evening activities to help you relax and spend time with colleagues. We will again have our annual meeting, our raffles, and Nurses Honor Guard remembrance ceremony for colleagues and friends.

I hope you will set aside the time now to join us at The Queensbury Hotel!

Cindy Pross
Conference Planning Chair
cynthia.pross@justicecenter.ny.gov

Save the Date

NYSIDDDNA 2024 Annual Conference

September 9-11, 2024

The Queensbury Hotel, Glens Falls

More Dates for 2024: See pages 5 and 6 for more dates to add to your calendar.

Looking for Our Retired Colleagues

We are asking for your help. We would like to “find” our retirees and welcome them back to NYSIDDDNA. We know some retirees have continued their membership, but we are sure there are many more who are not currently members. We value the experience, knowledge, and wisdom our retired colleagues have and want to welcome them back to NYSIDDDNA where they can continue to share their wisdom.

If you are approaching retirement, best wishes to you. We hope you will continue as an Associate Member of our Association. Please know you will always have a home in the NYS ID/DD Nurses Association.

Members, here's how you can help. If you are retired, are anticipating retirement, and/or have former colleagues who are retired, please share names with us. Sharing an email or a mailing address will enable us to reach out to welcome them back to NYSIDDDNA. Thank you. We appreciate your help.

Linda M. Cultrara, NYSIDDDNA President
Linda.m.cultrara.@opwdd.ny.gov

Website Update

www.nysiddna.org

Having conference registration online is underway and will be ready for this year's registration process. Stand by for updates. In coordination with H3 Web Designs, a new Facebook page will be put in place. Membership will be notified when this is activated.

The **What's New** page material has been updated. Check it out. If you have any items for addition to the website send to Trish Potocar papotocar@thearcjslc.org or Linda Dudman information@nysiddna.org. Be sure to identify pictures (i.e., the event, those in the photo, and who is sending it in case we have questions).

Trish Potocar, Website Chair
papotocar@thearcjslc.org

A Few Notes About Membership

We have a few points to share with you.

- You will be notified when it is time to renew your membership. Please wait until you receive an email in March letting you know it is time to renew.
- If you have a recurring payment through PayPal, please cancel this payment arrangement. You pay your dues when completing the online application.
- Everyone needs to complete the online application.

Special Olympics Health & Wellness Forum

Special Olympics is excited to announce their March Virtual Health & Wellness Forum:

Taking Charge of My Health & Wellness
Tuesday, March 19 - 6:30 - 7:30pm

The speakers are Karleen Haines from Partners Health Plan and Carrie Delong, RN from Care Design NY.

The Special Olympics New York Virtual Health & Wellness Forums are a space for individuals with ID, families, caregivers, health professionals /students and SO coaches to engage with health-focused individuals/organizations such as Healthcare Providers and Fitness Specialists. The Forums provide information and resources related to the health of Special Olympics athletes, while also focusing on bettering access to health care, education and inclusive activities for people with intellectual disabilities. Often, the health struggles that those with ID face are directly related to the lack of education and resources available to the population and their caregivers. We aim to cover topical issues that our community wishes to learn more about, and in turn positively impact the health of people with ID across the State.

To Register: Register by visiting specialolympics-ny.org/events. Click on the Forum calendar event on March 19 to access the Zoom registration link.

About the Joyce Binder Award

Every year, a member of our Association is chosen to receive the Joyce Binder Memorial Award. This award is named in memory 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.

This award is given to a member of the Association who has made significant contributions to advancing the practice of supporting individuals with ID/DD through demonstrated attributes, such as caring, compassion, advocacy, mentoring, leadership, dedication, education, and research.

The nomination period is now open. Nominations are welcomed from all members of the Association at any time. Nominations received by July 31 will be eligible for the 2024 Joyce Binder Memorial Award. The nomination form is on the last page of this newsletter. Check the [Awards](#) page on the NYSIDDDNA website for more information about this award and the list of previous recipients.

Scholarship Opportunities

The NYS ID/DD Nurses Association is offering two \$1,000 scholarships this year. The first scholarship is for LPNs, DSPs, and other staff members who are currently working, or have worked, in the ID/DD field to explore or remain in the field of ID/DD nursing. This year a new scholarship for RNs pursuing a BSN will also be offered.

To be eligible, candidates must be New York State residents and must meet these criteria:

- **Scholarship for DSP/LPN to RN.** An LPN, direct care support staff (DSP), or other non-nurse staff member who is currently working or has previously worked in the intellectual/ developmental disabilities field, is currently matriculated in an accredited basic RN program, and plans to work as an ID/DD nurse in New York State upon graduation.
- **Scholarship for RN to BSN.** An RN who is currently working in the intellectual/developmental disabilities field, is currently matriculated in an accredited BSN program, and plans to work as an ID/DD nurse in New York State upon graduation.

To apply for a scholarship, candidates must complete the fillable application form that is available on the NYSIDDDNA website at <https://www.nysiddna.org/scholarship/>.

In the application, candidates are asked to introduce themselves and their interest and experience in the ID/DD field, describe their future educational and professional goals, and provide a list of their education and work experience relevant to their work in the ID/DD field. Candidates are also asked to provide proof of current matriculation in an RN or BSN program. Candidates do not need to be members of the NYS ID/DD Nurses Association to be eligible.

Applications for both scholarships are due **Thursday, April 1, 2024**.

The two scholarships will be awarded in June 2024. The scholarship winners will be chosen from the eligible applicants by a selection committee of the NYS ID/DD Nurses Association.

You can help!

If you have colleagues who are eligible for either one of these scholarships, please let them know about they can apply. Applications are due April 1. For more information, check the NYSIDDDNA website at <https://www.nysiddna.org/scholarship/>

Candidates do not need to be members of the NYS ID/DD Nurses Association to be eligible.

Roundtable Virtual Webinars

You are invited to join us for a 3-part Roundtable Virtual Webinar series with open discussion as an educational networking support opportunity on current nursing topics. These sessions are open. The links will be re-sent to members a few days prior to each session.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 12:00 noon

Hospital Trials and Tribulations: *Is it safe, what to expect and how to promote good outcomes.*

Join Zoom Meeting:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89878023188?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89878023188?pwd=WcmqDrXk3C2xYbeI8TOQbnrK8WFOvD.1)

[pwd=WcmqDrXk3C2xYbeI8TOQbnrK8WFOvD.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89878023188?pwd=WcmqDrXk3C2xYbeI8TOQbnrK8WFOvD.1)

Meeting ID: 898 7802 3188 / Passcode: 987395

TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 12:00 noon

Pros and Cons of Nursing Home Placement: *Is it safe, how to move forward.*

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86842789440?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86842789440?pwd=7ZmeMhZCJohJkQhkViSYIADRKZ0bsW.1)

[pwd=7ZmeMhZCJohJkQhkViSYIADRKZ0bsW.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86842789440?pwd=7ZmeMhZCJohJkQhkViSYIADRKZ0bsW.1)

Meeting ID: 868 4278 9440 / Passcode: 259490

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 12:00 noon

Delegation and Advocacy: *The nursing role in scary times.*

Join Zoom Meeting:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87983902930?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87983902930?pwd=TP5hgVMTEfSHEzxiZEaZ6pDu79EUFC.1)

[pwd=TP5hgVMTEfSHEzxiZEaZ6pDu79EUFC.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87983902930?pwd=TP5hgVMTEfSHEzxiZEaZ6pDu79EUFC.1)

Meeting ID: 879 8390 2930 / Passcode: 967349

Accessing OPWDD Training Site: SLMS

We are repeating this article to help you access SLMS.

Statewide Learning Management Service (SLMS) is an on-line system allowing voluntary and state employees to access training from OPWDD. Nursing Orientation and other courses relevant to nursing are in this system.

For instructions on how to use SLMS, there is a page on the OPWDD website that fully explains creating a user ID and searching for a class. To find the SLMS instructions, search "SLMS" from the OPWDD home page rather than searching for training or other terms.

Email TalentDevelopment@opwdd.ny.gov for further assistance with finding OPWDD-sponsored training in SLMS.

The *SLMS Troubleshooting Guide* was included in the Fall 2023 newsletter. The Guide provides information to help you better navigate through common technology/ programming problems. If you need another copy of the Guide, email information@nysiddna.org.

Fred's Column — New!!

Thank you to Fred Wetzel for saying yes when we asked him to share his wisdom with us. This is the first of Fred's articles.

Empowering Direct Support Professionals: Training as Healthcare Advocates

Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) play a crucial role in supporting individuals with disabilities or special needs in various settings, including healthcare environments. As frontline caregivers, DSPs are well-positioned to advocate for the health and well-being of their clients. Training DSPs as healthcare advocates not only enhances the quality of care provided but also promotes a culture of empowerment and inclusion within the healthcare system.

One of the primary goals of training DSPs as healthcare advocates is to equip them with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to effectively communicate and collaborate with healthcare professionals on behalf of their clients. This includes understanding medical terminology, recognizing signs and symptoms of health issues, and advocating for appropriate medical interventions and treatments.

Furthermore, training programs focus on fostering strong advocacy skills, such as active listening, assertiveness, and problem-solving. DSPs learn how to effectively communicate their clients' needs, preferences, and concerns to healthcare providers, ensuring that their voices are heard and respected during medical consultations and decision-making processes. Moreover, training DSPs as healthcare advocates involves educating them about their clients' rights within the healthcare system, including informed consent, confidentiality, and access to appropriate medical care. This empowers DSPs to advocate for the rights and dignity of their clients, ensuring that they receive equitable treatment and support in healthcare settings.

Additionally, training programs emphasize the importance of cultural competence and sensitivity when advocating for clients from diverse backgrounds. DSPs learn to recognize and respect cultural differences, beliefs, and practices that may impact healthcare decision-making, thereby promoting culturally responsive care for all clients.

Ultimately, training DSPs as healthcare advocates benefits not only individuals with disabilities or special needs but also the healthcare system as a whole. By empowering DSPs to advocate effectively for their clients, we can enhance patient outcomes, improve communication and collaboration between caregivers and healthcare providers, and promote a more inclusive and compassionate healthcare environment for all.

Submitted by Fred Wetzel, RN, PhD, LNC, NCC

Important 2024 Dates

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| March 15 | First reminder about renewing membership |
| April 1 | Beginning of the 2024 membership year.
NOTE: Everyone needs to complete the online membership application to renew their membership for 2024. Please wait to be notified that it is time to renew. |
| April 25-26 | NYSIDDDNA Board Meeting in Syracuse |
| May 15 | Conference registration site to open. |
| July 1 | Must be a member to vote in elections. |
| July 15 | Nominations for state officer positions due. |
| July 31 | Nominations for Joyce Binder Memorial Award for 2024 due. |
| July 31 | Must be a member to receive member rate for the Annual Conference. |
| July 31 | Last day to receive Early Bird rate. |
| Aug. 28 | Last day to receive a refund if cancelling conference registration. |
| Sept. 9-11 | Annual Conference at The Queensbury Hotel in Glens Falls, NY. |

OPWDD Staffing Updates

With Susan Prendergast's promotion to Deputy Director, State Operations Clinical Services, OPWDD has announced two new staff for OPWDD Health Services.

- George Shaw, BSN, RN
Director of Nursing and Health Services
George.b.shaw@opwdd.ny.gov
- Parish Ogunjana, BSN, RN
Registered Nurse 3 Consultant
Parish.x.ogunjana@opwdd.ny.gov

For questions, email:

nursingandhealthservices@opwdd.ny.gov

This the best email for questions. This email is closely monitored by George, Parish, and others.

Welcome to George and Parish. Best wishes for our continued effectiveness working together to support nurses in the ID/DD field.

In Memory of our Beloved Marty Gleeson

On the day Marty passed, many of you wrote to express your shock and sadness upon hearing Marty was so seriously ill. Thank you to everyone for sharing your thoughts about Marty, the wonderful man we all knew. Here are a few comments we would like to share.

From Trish Potocar:

Martin Gleeson, or Marty as he was known, was a long-time advocate for the ID/DD population. In the 20 plus years he worked for NYSARC and then The ARC Jefferson-St. Lawrence he was a friend to all our residents. After he was hired, I introduced him to the NYS ID/DD Nurses Association and from that point on he remained a steadfast part of the group. He was active on the Zone level as zone rep and the state level holding offices of Corresponding Secretary, President Elect, and President plus assisting various committees. Even after his retirement a few years ago, Marty never missed a Zone meeting, Board meeting, or a State conference. He was always willing to help in any capacity. His presence will be missed.

From many of our members:

Sending love and prayers for Marty and his family.

From Linda Cultrara:

Thank you all for the kind words, prayers, and love to support Marty and his family. He passed peacefully today in the presence of his family. Heaven has gained an angel.

From Cathy Engel:

I worked alongside Marty for many years on the Board as he served in various capacities. I always found him to be willing to do anything that was needed and research legal, financial, and practice issues when they would arise during our meetings. He was always cheerful with a kind word and a great smile. He will be missed!

From Tracy Mohrmann:

So sorry to hear this news. I only knew Marty from the annual conferences, but he was an unparalleled asset to the ID/DD community. He will be missed. Thank you for your years of dedication Marty.

From Linda Dudman:

Marty will be missed. Marty was one of the first people I met. He was always so kind and was a great support to me during my first years with NYSIDDDNA.

Seeking Nominations for Elections

We are seeking nominations for the position of Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary. The term for both positions is two years beginning on January 1, 2025. The elected officers will serve as members of the Board of Directors for the Association.

If you would like to recommend yourself or someone else for one or both of these positions, please send your recommendation and a brief statement of support by email to information@nysiddna.org by **July 15**.

Self-nominations are welcome and are encouraged.

Your statement of support should include your name and your relationship to the person you are recommending. Providing information about the person's work experience and their NYSIDDDNA experience will be helpful to the nominating committee. Recommendations of nominees will be reviewed by the nominating committee, which includes a chair person and two members at large, who are appointed by the nominating committee chair person.

To be eligible to vote in the election you must be a 2024 member as of July 1, 2024. *Note:* Associate members are not eligible to vote in elections. Associate members who are retirees are eligible to vote.

Open State Office Positions

Descriptions of the Open Positions:

Treasurer:

- Has responsibility for the care and custody of all funds of the Corporation.
- Signs all checks.
- Makes an annual financial report to the membership.
- Reviews Zone Expenditure Reports/Requests.

Corresponding Secretary:

- Is responsible for the correspondence of the NYS ID/DD Nurses Association.
- Solicits articles for the newsletters and works with the NYSIDDDNA Planning Manager to finalize each issue.

Ballots with statements from the candidates will be emailed to all eligible members in August. Votes can be submitted by email or dropped in the ballot box at the Annual Conference.

The results of the election will be announced at the annual meeting, which will be held on the second day of the Annual Conference.

Zone Reports

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

A zone meeting is being planned for March. Members will be notified when the details are known. Items can be donated at this meeting for people who need the services of Renewal House when domestic violence is an issue.

Please contact one of the officers below if you would like zone information or to suggest presenters, programs for our meetings.

- Trish Potocar, Co-chairperson
papotocar@thearcjslc.org 315-353-6618
- Joanne Carkner, Co-chairperson
jmcarkner@thearcjslc.org 315-353-6618
- Karen Jarvis, Secretary
kejarvis@thearcjslc.org 315-353-6618

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

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

Zone 2 is working towards establishing a group meeting for our members to get together. We will be reaching out to Zone members with the meeting information once it is finalized. If you are interested in participating at the zone level, please email me.

Jacinta Ramczyk, Zone 2 Chairperson
jacinta5576@gmail.com

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

Warm Wishes this Winter!! Zone 3 is actively looking for new members to join our Zone! Tara Sanford remains the Zone 3 President. Meghan Miskinis is the Zone representative and now the NYSIDDNA Corresponding Secretary, and Courtney Bacon continues with her role as the Zone Secretary. Tara, Meghan, and Courtney all attended the NYS ID/DD Nurses Association board meeting in the fall and plan to attend the Spring Board Meeting in April.

Zone 3 will be working towards setting up a Zone Meeting in the coming months to help collaborate and share information across the Zone!

Zone 3 continues to recruit, so if you or any of your colleagues are interested in joining, please reach out to Meghan!

*Meghan Miskinis, Zone 3 Secretary
and NYSIDDDNA Corresponding Secretary*
miskinm@thearclexington.org

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

Zone 4 has two new co-chairs for 2024, Carrie DeLong and Karen Bazan. We plan to hold our initial Zone 4 meeting for 2024 on Wednesday, March 27 at Wildwood Programs. We will have a pharmacist present. Please look for further details via email. Any members in Zones 3 or 5, who are interested in joining us on March 27 should email Zone Secretary Mary Jean Keegan at mkeegan@wildwoodprograms.org.

We plan to hold additional Zone meetings in the summer, the fall and to have our usual holiday gathering sometime in December.

Mary Jean Keegan Zone 4 Secretary
mkeegan@wildwoodprograms.org

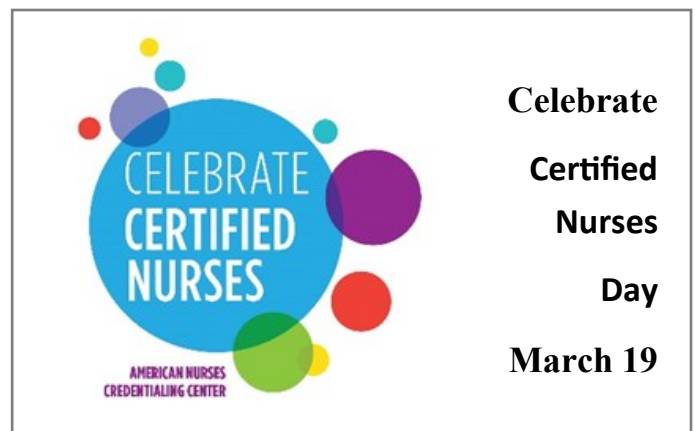
ZONE 5: Sullivan, Ulster, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester

Joy Fojtlin, Zone 5 Secretary
joyann56@aol.com

ZONE 6: Nassau and Suffolk

Hi All, Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season! We are beginning to plan our next zone meeting, which will be sometime in March or April. We are actively looking for presenters along with times / dates that will yield the best participation for the meeting. Look out for upcoming polls that will be sent to all zone members to vote on times / dates that would best. All suggestions on locations / presenters are welcome!

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



Check out: [Certified Nurses Day 2024 - AACN](#)

Zone Reports (cont'd)

ZONE 7: New York, Richmond, King & Queens

Rob Peters, Zone 7 Chair
Robert.Peters@ahrcnyc.org

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

We have been a bit slow in getting moving this year, but we do have a new Zone Rep, Connie Tambacas! I am excited to say she is breathing a bit of fire in me to get us back on track! Plans will be moving forward. We anticipate a LifeVac presentation and demonstration in March as well as some educational pieces soon. We will keep you posted!

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

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

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

Members in Zone 10 are always welcome to reach out to other zones to join them for educational presentations and networking opportunities.

ZONE 12: Members from Other States

Zone 12 members are encouraged to reach out to other zones to join them for educational presentations and networking opportunities.

Planning Committee Members

We have an excellent group of individuals who are taking the lead to identify topics and speakers to meet the interests and needs of our members. The committee started by reviewing recommendations from the evaluation and feedback forms submitted by 2023 Annual Conference attendees. The committee is well on its way to finalizing the list of programs for the 2024 Annual Conference.

Thank you to our committee members! They are essential to the success of the NYSIDDDNA 2024 Annual Conference.

Members include:

- Cindy Pross, Conference Chair (Zone 4)
- Karen Jarvis (Zone 1)
- Laurie McGrath (Zone 1)
- Jacinta Ramczyk (Zone 2)
- Tara Sandford-Briggs (Zone 3)
- Anne Campbell (Zone 3)
- Courtney Bacon (Zone 3)
- Meghan Miskinis (Zone 3)
- Mary Jean Keegan (Zone 4)
- Pat Ruckel (Zone 6)
- Fred Wetzel (Zone 6 & 7)
- Robert Peters (Zone 7)
- Linda Cultrara (Zone 8)
- Cathy Engel (Zone 9 & 11)
- Edie Smith (Zone 9 & 11)
- Linda Dudman, Planning Manager

2024 Annual Conference

The Queensbury Hotel

Glens Falls, NY

September 9-11, 2024

We are excited to host our 2024 Annual Conference at The Queensbury Hotel in Glens Falls, New York. The Queensbury Hotel is a charming historic hotel centrally located in Glens Falls.

A visit and tour of the hotel last May convinced us that the hotel is perfect for us. We will have the entire hotel just for us. We think you will agree with us that The Queensbury is the right hotel for us!

Check the [Annual Conference](#) page on the NYSIDDDNA website for up-to-date information about the Annual Conference.

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. To check 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.)*

- Describe how this nurse has/will change the quality of life and has made a positive impact for the people he/she supports.
- 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 the Awards tab.