



President's Message

Time is really flying! I can't believe we have come so far in just these past few months. I attribute all the positive and exciting changes to our Board of Directors, Executive Board, our members and of course, our planning manager.

We held our Executive Board meeting 4/25-4/26 in Syracuse. Minutes from that meeting have been distributed to the Board members.

Highlights included:

- Finalizing our new logo which will be officially "unveiled" in all of our literature, the website, Facebook, and correspondence. With the logo, we will have a new brochure that will be distributed to our statewide mailing of agencies serving OPWDD individuals. We also now have a QR code for quick access of information.
- We developed a subcommittee: marketing team to look at distribution of information as well. We reviewed the value of our presence at other affiliated conferences. A big thank you to Edie Smith who prepared our PowerPoint and Mary Jean Keegan who presented it to promote us at the NYAII conference.
- We looked at platforms to manage data and have developed a subcommittee: document storage team to look at saving information.
- Our scholarship subcommittee chose winners for our DSP/LPN to RN and our RN to BSN scholarships. We voted to continue offering these scholarships for next year!
- We chose a subcommittee for our Joyce Binder Award which we are currently accepting nominations for through 7/31/24.



- We appointed our nominating committee for the two open positions: Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.
- We launched our new membership platform and conference management platforms, too!
- We reviewed our Standing Rules, Bylaws and Strategic Plans. The Bylaws anticipated changes will be shared prior to the Annual Meeting for voting.

The conference committee has so much to share as well...definitely look at that section to see all the excitement!!!!

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

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 nursing 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.

Check the [Awards](#) page on the NYSIDDDNA website for more information about this award, the nomination form, and the list of previous recipients.

Membership Committee Update

Our membership numbers are steadily increasing – thanks to everyone who renewed their membership and spread the word to encourage other nurses to join our association. We currently have 203 members with 153 renewed memberships and 50 new members! There are still 55 nurses who were 2023 members and have not yet renewed – it’s not too late! Renewals and new memberships must be done ONLINE and is a quick and easy process, with payments made by check or PayPal. Please visit the website for more information.

Zone membership numbers are as follows:

- Zone 1 – 21
- Zone 2 – 28
- Zone 3 – 7
- Zone 4 – 43 (Kudos!)
- Zone 5 – 21
- Zone 6 – 18
- Zone 7 – 20
- Zone 8 – 9
- Zones 9 & 11 – 26
- Zone 10 – 9
- Zone 12 – 1
- Zone 12 – 1

Many thanks to the Zone Officers who keep things running! Everyone is busy and these volunteer officers deserve a big THANK YOU for their efforts.

There have been some great educational offerings and networking opportunities at the Zone meetings! Please let us know when things are happening in your Zones and Linda Dudman will send out the details.

Membership ensures that 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!

Membership will allow you to register for our annual conference at a reduced rate – registration will be opening soon, and we hope to see everyone at the Queensbury Hotel in Glens Falls. September 9-11, 2024!

Please keep up your efforts to reach out to other nurses in the field. Share your enthusiasm with your agency leaders – your membership allows you to stay on top of what is going on in this specialty nursing field which is a benefit to your agency and most of all benefits the individuals you care for.

Full membership is open to all registered and licensed practical nurses. An associate non-voting membership is

available for RN or LPN students enrolled in recognized nursing programs leading to eligibility to become RNs or LPNs and for nurses not currently licensed or inactive.

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

DDNA Update

Plans are underway for the Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association’s 33rd Annual Conference, which will be held in Baltimore, Maryland on May 2-5, 2025. The conference will be held at the Renaissance Harborplace Hotel.

A “Certification Boot Camp” will be offered on Friday, May 2nd and nurses will have the opportunity to take the certification exam at the conference on Monday, May 5th. Nurses who have completed the application process by February 21, 2025 will be eligible and must submit a completed registration form by March 31, 2025 in order to take the certification exam at the conference. For more information on the certification process, please visit the DDNA website (ddna.org).

A Pre-Conference will also be offered on May 2nd – more information will be coming on the website.

The conference will offer 20+ hours of nursing CEs for nurses attending all sessions and completing all evaluations for sessions attended and may be used for CDDN/DDC renewals. Opportunities to network with DD nurses and interact with sponsors and exhibitors are also an important part of the conference.

If you are interested in speaking at the conference, please visit the website to complete a proposal application. Please note the deadline is September 1, 2024. Poster proposals are also being accepted with a deadline of March 31, 2025.

Information regarding presentation topics and hotel registration will be coming soon – please check the website for updates and more information regarding the conference!

*Please Note: Membership in DDNA is separate from membership in the NYSIDDDNA. For more information on membership please visit the DDNA website.

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

Email Scams Identified and Avoided

Several Board members received emails from scammers pretending to represent someone in the Association and asking for money to be sent by gift card or a bill to be paid by electronic means. We were able to protect the Association funds through good systems and good follow-up. Scam emails were identified, people checked with the supposed sender, and followed our rules for getting bills paid. The Executive Board met to ensure we were doing as much as possible to protect members and the Association funds from these scams. We have a few plans to implement in the next quarter to enhance knowledge and security. Our first step is to increase awareness of the issue.

Scammers can easily look up information on the internet – our website, past posted Newsletters, and even with a Google search. We cannot erase our names and emails and prevent scammers from trying. We must identify and deny scammers success.

Here are some things to tip you off to a scam email request:

- Unfamiliar email – like one with gmail, outlook, yahoo (as they offer free accounts)
- Impersonation of leadership, i.e. on behalf of the President
- Grammar and spelling errors
- Urgent request / plea for help
- Requiring bill-pay rather than routine invoicing process
- Insisting this be a private request/matter

Please be alert to any email asking for you to make payments or purchases by someone impersonating our board or staff. No Representative of the Association would ask you to do this. Do not open any attachment unless you know the sender by email address.

Report any suspected scam email to the Association at information@nysiddna.org.

Reference: [Imposter Scams](#) | [consumer.gov](https://www.consumer.gov)

Cindy Pross, President-Elect

Cynthia.pross@justicecenter.ny.gov

Save the Date

NYSIDDDNA 2024 Annual Conference

September 9-11, 2024

The Queensbury Hotel, Glens Falls

Note: We have reserved the entire hotel for our Annual Conference but be sure to reserve your room early.

From the Conference Committee Chair

Our Theme:

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

The 2024 Conference Committee is getting prepared to welcome you to the Lake George Region of New York State and the historic Queensbury Hotel. We boldly ventured 45 minutes north of Albany and reserved the entire hotel for this year's event! We planned great sessions to draw you north to join us. The conference will be from September 9th through September 11th. For more information, go to the Annual Conference tab on the Association website. I am so thankful for speaker recommendations, ideas for social activities, and schedule improvements from this committee.

We hope you will make the journey and treat yourself to this great setting and brilliant line-up of speakers!

Cindy Pross, Conference Planning Chair
Cynthia.pross@justicecenter.ny.gov

Lobby of the historic Queensbury Hotel



Looking for Our Retired Colleagues

Hello, everyone. Our President, Linda Cultrara, is asking for your help. Linda 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 have not. We value the experience, knowledge, and wisdom our retired colleagues have and want to let them know we would like them to know they will always have a place in the NYS ID/DD Nurses Association.

Here's where you can help. Do you have the names of colleagues in your zone who have retired in the past 5-6 years? If you have an email and/or a mailing address, please include that information. Linda would like to reach out to them by email or mail.

Please send names and contact information to information@nysiddna.org. We appreciate your help. Thank you

Website Update

www.nysiddna.org

The website is your first resource for information about our Association and the 2024 Annual Conference. Complete your membership if you have not done so already. Be ready to sign up for the fall Annual Conference. Watch for postings of program information as we get closer to the start of the Annual Conference.

Trish Potocar, Website Chair
kpotocar1@twcnv.rr.com

Facebook

Our new, improved Facebook page is now running. To differentiate the new page from the previous page, the name is New York State ID/DD Nurses Association.

Here is the url:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/nysiddna>

You can access it from your personal Facebook page by doing a search, from the link on the NYSIDDDNA website (www.nysiddna.org) in the header and footer on the home page, or under the Resources tab on the website.

Please leave comments, questions, zone business/ photos, and news of interest. Once you are accepted as a member of the Facebook group you can post. An administrator can also post items for you. Send items to Trish Potocar at kpotocar1@twcnv.rr.com.

NYS Nurses Honor Guard

No Nurse is Forgotten.

Many of you will remember the Nurses Honor Guard. They joined us for our 2022 and 2023 Annual Conferences and performed the Nightingale Tribute service in memory of nurses who died during the previous year.

The Nurses Honor Guard has grown since we first met them in 2022. The Central New York Nurses Honor Guard was the first chapter in New York State. Now there are now 23 chapters across the state. Some of you have become members after meeting them at our conferences. You will have the opportunity to speak with members of the Nurses Honor Guard again this year. They will join us in our Exhibit Hall and will perform a Nightingale Tribute for nurses who have died during the past year.

When the link to the Nurses Honor Guard website is available, we will share the link with you. You will be able to reach out to the chapter coordinator in your region to learn more about the Honor Guard, to arrange for a Nightingale Tribute for a nurse who has died, and/or to learn about becoming a member of the chapter in your region.

NYSIDDDNA Roundtable

Virtual Webinar Series

The Roundtable Virtual Webinar series is presented as an educational networking support opportunity on current nursing topics. The first webinar in the series was held in April. The second and third webinars will be presented in June and August. These sessions are open to anyone interested in attending. Reminders will be sent to all members prior to the webinar.

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?pwd=7ZmeMhZCJohJkQhkViSYIADRKZ0bsW.1>

Meeting ID: 868 4278 9440 / Passcode: 259490

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 12:00-1:00

Delegation and Advocacy: The Nursing Role in Scary Times

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87983902930?pwd=TP5hgVMTEfSHEzxiZEaZ6pDu79EUFC.1>

Meeting ID: 879 8390 2930 / Passcode: 967349

Important Dates

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 register at member rate at 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	NYSIDDDNA 2024 Annual Conference

If you have questions about the NYS ID/DD Nurses Association, email:

information@nysiddna.org

NYS ID/DD NA 2024 Scholarship Winners

DSP/LPN to RN Scholarship

Congratulations to **Emily Hjalmarson**, who is enrolled in the ADN program at Trocaire College, studying nursing. Emily has been chosen to receive the \$1,000 NYSIDDDNA 2024 DSP/LPN to RN Scholarship.



Emily has been attending Trocaire College to obtain her nursing degree, all the while providing care to the residents of People Inc. She plans to finish her A.A.S. in Nursing in May 2025 and hopes to continue her work at People, Inc. as a nurse. In the future Emily plans to pursue her education further and earn her master's degree in nursing.

Emily's younger brother is disabled and this personal experience is what motivated her to serve the ID/DD population with her ultimate objective to work in advocacy for the disabled, ensuring that they receive appropriate care while also achieving a great level of autonomy and decision-making power over their daily life.

RN to BSN Scholarship

Congratulations to **Keisa Williams**, who is enrolled in the BSN program at Binghamton University, studying nursing. Keisa has been chosen to receive the \$1,000 NYSIDDDNA 2024 RN to BSN Scholarship.



Keisa currently works for OPWDD as PASRR Coordinator, RN. She feels her passion for making sure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities receive the required care and assistance in the least restrictive setting is not only fueled by her profession, but also complements it.

Keisa's objective is to advance in her current role and forge a lasting career with OPWDD. She committed to using both her professional background and life experiences to support and uplift the ID/DD community and believes this next phase of her career will allow her to codify her clinical expertise and pave the way for advanced practice positions where she hopes to make a bigger difference.

Keisa sees a future where she will be assuming leadership roles in OPWDD, where she could impact policy, enhance care guidelines, and champion the rights of those with ID/DD.

About the NYSIDDDNA Scholarships

Each year, the NYS ID/DD Nurses Association offers a \$1,000 scholarship for DSPs/LPNs who are pursuing their RN degree to encourage them to explore or remain in the field of ID/DD nursing.

This year the NYSIDDDNA Executive Board offered a second \$1,000 Scholarship. This scholarship is for RNs who are pursuing their BSN with the goal to continue working in the ID/DD nursing field. Each year, announcements about the scholarship are emailed in February with applications due by mid-April. Recipients were notified at the end of May.

Thank you to the Scholarship Committee. Members included: Co-Chairs Pat Ruckel (Zone 6) and Heidi Schmidt-Storic (Zone 6) and members, Connie Tambacas (Zone 8), Robert Peters (Zone 7), Carrie DeLong (Zone 4), and Sheila Thurman (Zone 6).



Amateur Photographer Wanted for Conference

Are you attending conference this fall? Great at catching just the right angle for a photo? Able to get the subject in the center? Pictures are not blurry when you take them?

Then you are just the person we are looking for. Photographs from the conference are always great for the website, newsletters, and other publications, but the conference leadership is too busy doing the work of the conference to take them.

If you are willing to be our photographer, please contact us at information@nysiddna.org.

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)

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 second of Fred's articles.

Why Employed Nurses Should Carry Malpractice Insurance

As an LNC, when I present to nurses on protecting ourselves from liability, I'm often asked "Why do I need malpractice insurance? Doesn't my agency cover me?" My answer is always "it depends." We play a crucial role in the healthcare system and carry significant responsibilities. Despite our best efforts to provide excellent care, mistakes can happen.

Here's why it is prudent for employed nurses to carry their own malpractice insurance:

1. Individual Protection

Employer Coverage Gaps: Employer-provided malpractice insurance might not fully cover the nurse in all situations. For instance, it may not cover acts outside the scope of employment or off-duty incidents ("Back-Fence Nursing").

Exclusive Interest: Employer insurance is primarily designed to protect the interests of the employer, which might conflict with the nurse's individual interests during a claim.

2. Legal Defense Costs

Personal Legal Representation: Malpractice insurance provides the nurse with personal legal representation. This ensures that the nurse's specific interests and reputation are robustly defended.

Comprehensive Coverage: Policies typically cover legal fees, court costs, and other related expenses that can be substantial. EXPERT WITNESSES are EXPENSIVE!

3. Financial Security

Settlement or Judgment Payments: Even a minor claim can result in significant financial liability. Personal malpractice insurance helps safeguard against potential financial ruin due to settlements or judgments.

Income Protection: In some cases, claims can impact a nurse's employment status. Malpractice insurance can provide income protection or indemnity during such periods.

4 Professional Reputation

Risk Management: Without coverage, nurses risk greater exposure to lawsuits, which could affect their professional reputation and licensure status. Insurance can help manage and mitigate these risks.



Presentation of the 2023 Joyce Binder Award to Fred Wetzel, RN, PhD, LNC, NCC

Licensure Defense: Many malpractice insurance policies offer coverage for legal expenses related to defending against board of nursing complaints, which is not typically covered by employer policies.

5. Peace of Mind (Sleeping through the Night)

Reduced Stress: Knowing they have comprehensive coverage helps nurses focus on their duties without the constant worry of potential personal liability. This peace of mind can enhance job performance and professional satisfaction. And reduce risk of ulcers! (Yours!).

6. Employment Gaps

Coverage During Job Changes: Personal malpractice insurance provides continuous coverage even when changing jobs or during periods of unemployment. This ensures that nurses are not left unprotected during transitions.

7. Scope of Practice Variations

Clarification and Coverage: Nurses sometimes perform duties that can be beyond the specified scope of their role in the context of their employment. Personal malpractice insurance can provide additional protection in such instances.

Conclusion:

While employer-provided malpractice insurance offers some level of protection, it often has limitations that may not entirely cover the nurse's individual risks. Carrying personal malpractice insurance helps bridge these gaps, offering comprehensive protection, legal and financial security, and peace of mind, enabling nurses to perform their duties with confidence and assurance. Practice safely. Be knowledgeable about scope of practice and the regulations we practice under. Need help? Reach out to me.

Good Luck in your practice. You should be proud of the services and supports you provide!

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

How to Become Involved with the NYS ID/DD Nurses Association

Whether you are a new member or a renewing member, you might be thinking you would like to get more involved with NYSIDDDNA. Getting involved can provide you with many opportunities to get to know colleagues in your zone and from across the state.

Here are some ways to get involved:

- *Start at the zone level.* Your zone is listed on the confirmation email you received when you completed the online membership application. You can also check the zone map on our web site. You can contact an officer in your zone and let them know you are interested in becoming a zone officer or getting involved in another way.
- *Nominate yourself to run for one of the open state positions.* Self-nominations are welcome and encouraged. See the article about nominations below.
- *Let Linda Cultrara, NYSIDDDNA President, know you are interested in getting involved.* You might be tapped to become a member of the Conference Planning Committee, the Scholarship Committee, the Nominating Committee, or another committee.
- *Offer to help at the Annual Conference.* We will be asking for volunteers to introduce speakers, to welcome the exhibitors and help them get settled, to help with our AV equipment needs, and more. Helping at the Annual Conference can be a good way to take a first step at getting involved with NYSIDDDNA.

Not sure where to start?

Write to our Planning Manager at information@nysiddna.org to explore opportunities.

Seeking Nominations for Elections

We will hold the election for state officer positions at our Annual Conference. At this time we are seeking candidates for **Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary**.

Self-nominations are welcome and encouraged. If you are nominating someone else, please submit your nomination with a statement of support. Your statement of support should include your name and relationship to the person you are recommending. Include information of the person's work experience and their affiliation with NYSIDDDNA.

Recommendations will be reviewed by the nominating committee. **Deadline for nominations: July 15, 2024**

You will be able to vote by: Email ballots sent to members in August 2024 or at the Annual Conference in September. **To be eligible to vote you need to be a member by July 1, 2024.** Note: Associate members are not eligible to vote in elections. Associate members who are retirees are eligible to vote.

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.

Open State Office Positions

Open Positions

Treasurer: Oversees all association accounts, will review balances of the savings and checking. Will review fund requests and send approved form to the bookkeeper for payment. The treasurer will process invoices and will write a summary for the board meetings.

Corresponding Secretary: Responsible for the correspondence and preparation of information for the newsletter that is prepared three times a year. Requests articles from zone members. Reviews and approves external information to share with members.

Nominations may be sent to the following:

information@nysiddna.org
bazank@arcotsego.org
connie.k.clinetambacas@opwdd.ny.gov
jmcarkner@thearcjslc.org

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

Joanne Carkner, Chairperson
Connie Tambacas and Karen Bazan
Nominating Committee

Zone Reports

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

Zone 1 had a meeting in March with a presentation from the NYS Justice Center. They shared tools for identifying medical emergencies. The tools can be utilized for staff training. We are exploring options for the summer meeting and hope to secure a guest speaker who can present on topics of interest such as polypharmacy, thyroid conditions, or dementia as the topics were requested by members attending the last meeting. If you have suggestions for topics or speakers, please contact Joanne Carkner.

Joanne Carkner, Zone 1 Co-chairperson
jmcarkner@thearcjslc.org

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

Jacinta Ramczyk, Zone 2 Chairperson
jacinta5576@gmail.com

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

Don't you just love the summer months! We do here in Zone 3! Tara Sanford-Briggs remains the Zone 3 Chairperson. Meghan Miskinis is the Zone 3 representative and the New York State Corresponding Secretary. Courtney Bacon continues with her role as the Zone 3 Secretary.

Meghan and Courtney attended the NYSID/DDNA Spring Executive Board Meeting in April. Zone 3 recently held an informational lunch and zone meeting! It was a big success. The team is currently working on planning another meeting for August/September! Courtney and Meghan will be attending the Annual Conference in September. Anne Campbell from Zone 3 will be presenting!! Please join us!

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 Representative and NYSIDDDNA Corresponding Secretary
miskinm@thearclexington.org

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

We held our first 2024 Zone 4 meeting in March at Wildwood Programs. Our next meeting will be **June 26 hosted by ARC Otsego at Brooks BBQ in Oneonta**. Lunch will be provided. There will be a presentation around treatment for GERD along with suggestions on how to taper medication. **RSVP to Karen by 6/21/24 at bazank@arcotsego.org**.

We plan to hold a brief Zone meeting toward the end of the day on either Monday or Tuesday during the Annual Conference in September to discuss the Zone officer positions for 2025 and schedule a December meeting. We want to gather in December before the holidays for some relaxing, fun "self-care" activities along with lunch.

This year Zone 4 will be electing two Zone Representatives for 2025. Zone Representatives attend the Board meetings, with an opportunity to become involved in various committees at that level. The role is to ensure the information flow between the State and local Zone. It is a position that encourages involvement in the Association without a great deal of additional responsibilities. If you are interested in becoming a Zone Rep, please reach out to Mary Jean at

Have a great summer!

Mary Jean Keegan, Zone 4 Secretary
mkeegan@wildwoodprograms.org or
mjkeegan74@gmail.com

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 is enjoying this beautiful warm weather! Zone 6 had members attend the DDNA conference along with the board meeting in April. We are actively looking for presenters and locations along with times / dates that will be most convenient for all zone members. Please feel free to reach out with any ideas for zone meetings that will best interest our group. All suggestions are welcome!

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

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

Zone 8 has offered a few lunch and dinner opportunities to its members over the past few months. We did plan a Valtoco presentation that was cancelled unexpectedly. The presentation will not be rescheduled at this time. Our Zone 8 Rep, Connie Tambacas is always looking for ideas and topics to present. In the interim we attended the Executive Board meeting in April and continue to participate in the NYS ID/DD Nurses Association (NYSIDDDNA) as opportunities arise. If anyone is interested in information sharing or ideas, please reach out to Connie at connie.k.clinetambacas@opwdd.ny.gov

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

ZONE 9: Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Steuben, and Allegany

and

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. If you would like to get involved in your zone, email information@nysiddna.org.

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.

Check page 10 for the schedule of programs for the Annual Conference.

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 have reserved the entire hotel just. We think you will agree with us that The Queensbury Hotel is the right hotel for us!

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



NYSIDDDNA 2024 Annual Conference — Programs At-A-Glance

The NYSIDDDNA 2024 Annual Conference will open on Monday, Sept. 9 with pre-conference sessions followed by the keynote presentation. Concurrent sessions and general sessions will be offered each day. For each concurrent session, you will choose the program you would like to attend when you register. Check the Annual Conference page on the website for the list of programs with abstracts.

PLEASE NOTE: Our new online registration site is due to open soon. All members will receive an email notification as soon as the site opens.

Schedule of Programs

MONDAY, SEPT. 9

9:00-10:30 Pre-Conference Sessions

- Dysphagia 201: Beyond the Basics
Steven Asofsky, MA, SLP-CCC/TSHH
- Reducing Stigma to Reduce Harm
Heather Mattison

12:45-2:00 Keynote Presentation, GEN-1

- The Secret Sauce...Thriving in Times of Change
Meg Soper, RN

2:30-3:45 Concurrent Sessions, MON-2

- The Evolving Science of Food Allergy
S. Shahzad Mustafa, MD
- Identifying, Treating, and Preventing UTI and Urosepsis in ID/DD
Anne Campbell, RN, BSN, MSN-Ed, FNP-BC
- NYS Justice Center Mortality Reviews — The Anatomy of a Death Assessment
Tara Kenney, RN and Sara Del Marter, MS

4:00-5:15 Concurrent Sessions, MON-3

- Environmental Allergies, Asthma, and Atopic Dermatitis: Relationships and Therapeutic Considerations
Allison Ramsey, MD
- Safe Practice in ID/DD Nursing: What a Prudent Nurse Would Do — *Fred Wetzel, RN, PhD, LNC, NCC*
- Utilizing Palliative & Hospice Supports for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Agency Settings — *Ashley Keagle, LMSW*

A Few Notes About Registration

To register at the member rate, you must be a 2024 member by July 31, 2024. The Early Bird rate is available for members and non-members through July 31, 2024. The registration fee includes Opening Lunch on Monday; breakfast & lunch on Tuesday; breakfast on Wednesday. To reserve your hotel room, click on the Annual Conference tab on www.nysiddna.org and scroll down to Hotel Accommodations.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 10

9:15-10:30 General Session, GEN-2

- OPWDD Update — *Susan Prendergast, RN, MS and George Shaw, RN, BSN*

10:15-11:30 Concurrent Sessions, TUE-4

- Wound Prevention, Assessment, and Care in the ID/DD Population — *Karis Davis, MSN*
- Treating Common Mental Health Challenges in ID/DD in Primary Care
Anne Campbell, RN, BSN, MSN-Ed, FNP-BC
- Advanced Care Directives with ID/DD: NYS MOLST Process — *Ashley Keagle, LMSW*

2:15-3:30 Concurrent Sessions, TUE-5

- Big Red Rash — *Judith Mysliborski, MD*
- IDD Tailored Health Care — *Steven Merahn, MD*
- Prevention Toolkit: Responding to Medical Emergencies — *Tracey Sosa, MA & Brandi Young, MA*

3:45-5:00 Concurrent Sessions, TUE-6

- Review of GI Medications in Patients with IDD
Harsh Kothari, Pharm D
- Behavioral vs. Medical: If we don't play together, patients lose! — *Stacey Tripani-Barber, Psy.D.*
- OPWDD Division of Quality Improvement Findings, Regulatory Expectations and Best Practices
Mary Jane Vogel, RN, and Brian O'Donnell, BS

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 11

8:00-9:15 General Session, GEN-3

- Why Nursing Education and Empowerment May Be the Solution to the Polypharmacy Crisis In People with Developmental Disabilities
Michael Cummings, MD

9:40-10:55 General Session, GEN-4

- Diabetes: What it is, Types, Causes, Symptoms & Treatments — *Jennifer Grant, BSPHarm*

11:05-12:20 General Session, Capstone, GEN-5

- Positive Exposure: Seeing Beyond Diagnosis
Rick Guidotti, MFA

Registration Fees

	Through July 31	Beginning Aug. 1
Member	Early Bird: \$340	Regular: \$365
Non-Member	Early Bird: \$405	Regular: \$430

One-day fees are available. Check fees on the website.