



NYS ID/DD NURSES ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 32, Number 2

Fall 2025

President's Message

A Time of Reflection and Gratitude

Today, is a day of reflection and contemplation. I have spent two incredible years leading this organization with some of the most talented nurses I know. We have evolved as an organization moving our technology forward and streamlining the work we do. Our treasurer, Sheila Thurman, has led our banking in great directions with many of our paperless systems. She has accepted and excelled in that challenge. Pat Ruckel, our recording secretary, has grown alongside us in her role and continues to offer great passion in her role. We have been blessed with new Executive Board members with fresh ideas and enthusiasm. I cannot say enough about the successful transition of our conference planning and business management leader, Dee Greco. She has been a force to reckon with and the while providing a source of joy and voice of reason. Our conference committee, led by president-elect, Karen Jarvis, continues to offer insight, resources and collaboration that is unparalleled. Our conference simply gets better every year, and I am always amazed at the dedication and flexibility to pivot where needed. Our footprint remains a strong and positive presence in the field of nursing and our entire membership is the reason for that, thank you. Our 40th next year will be an event you won't want to miss!

Admittedly, I feel sadness as I leave my role as president of the association, especially because so many of our members have become like family. I know I am not leaving, but change is hard, which we all can appreciate. I am thrilled that Cindy Pross has the vision and dedication to continue to move us forward as incoming president. I will pass the baton to her with pride and confidence.

We have so many things to be thankful for as we approach the holidays, for me it begins with gratitude, faith and family. Thank you all for being a part of my NYS ID/DDNA family.

Respectfully,
Linda Cultrara

Strength in Service, Grace in Care.



Nominating Committee

Chairperson: Robert Peters

Robert.Peters@ahrcnyc.org

Committee: Trish Potocar (Z1) & Sheila Thurman (Z6)

NYSID/DDNA is an all-volunteer nursing association dedicated to our mission of educating and supporting one another in the field of IDD nursing. Through remote learning opportunities, local zone-based events, and our annual three-day statewide conference, we provide spaces for nurses to grow and thrive in our discipline.

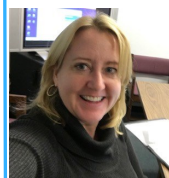
To fulfill this mission, our association depends on nurses who step into leadership roles as outlined in our bylaws. Recruiting and mentoring one another to lead at various levels is essential to our continued success.

Having just concluded another successful conference and election cycle, I'm pleased to share that our incoming president, Cindy Pross, and president-elect, Karen Jarvis, bring outstanding leadership and experience to NY-SIDDNA. In 2026, additional executive board positions will be open for election.

I encourage every member to consider taking an active role in the association. The knowledge and skills we gain, and share, strengthen not only our workplaces and the people we support, but also our professional community. Your ideas, energy, and passion are vital to the future of NYSID/DDNA. Please consider becoming an association leader. Thank you for all that you do.

Submitted by: Robert Peters (Zone 7)

Newly Elected Leadership Spotlight



Cindy Pross
Incoming Presi-



Karen Jarvis
President-Elect



Linda Cultrara
Conference Chair

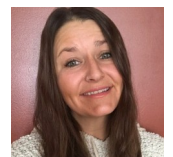


Carrie Loubier
Co-Chair Zone 2

Jessic Wheeler
Secretary Zone 1

Roseanna Carey
Co-Chair Zone 7

Christine Church
Co-Chair Zone 6



Rachel Polmanteer
Secretary Zone 2

Christy Hubbard
Co-Chair Zone 2

Patti Geary
Representative Zone 2

Cristina Vasile
Co-Chair Zone 7

Membership Update

Chairperson: Carrie Loubier
Carrie.Loubier@ccany.org

As we approach the end of 2025, we'd like to remind all members that membership renewals are due by January 1st. Renewals must be completed online, with payment made via credit or debit card through our Stripe platform.

For agencies wishing to submit a group payment on behalf of multiple members, we now offer a convenient lump-sum payment option. To learn more, please contact our Associate Manager, Darlene, at information@nysiddna.org.

Membership Categories and Benefits

Full Membership is available to all registered professional nurses and licensed practical nurses. A Retired Full Membership, offered at a reduced rate, is available to nurses who have maintained Full Membership for a minimum of five years and have retired from active practice. Associate Non-Voting Membership is open to: Students currently enrolled in accredited nursing programs leading to RN or LPN licensure.

Nurses who are not currently licensed, are inactive, or have retired without meeting the five-year Full Membership requirement.

Membership Benefits

Joining the Association provides access to a range of professional advantages, including:

- **Networking and Peer Support:** Connect with fellow professionals who share your interests and can offer fresh perspectives and guidance.
- **Continuing Education:** Stay informed about the latest developments in nursing, including regulatory updates, new products and resources, and upcoming professional events.
- **Leadership Opportunities:** Engage in leadership roles at both the Zone and state levels.
- **Members also receive discounted registration for the Annual Conference and notifications about additional educational presentations throughout the year.** Zone meetings may offer further learning opportunities.

We sincerely thank all members for their ongoing enthusiasm in promoting membership and for their unwavering dedication to I/DD nursing.

Submitted by: Carrie Loubier (Zone 2)

Welcome New Members!



Oyetayo Akindele Zone 7

Delores Bardell Zone 6

Mary Bartell Zone 2

Erica Beer Iman Zone 4

Tonya Brown Zone 7

Elizabeth Caplan Zone 5

Mary DiPasquale Zone 5

Solange Edouard-Delva Zone 7

Tina Fountaine Zone 9 & 11

Alice Galinko Zone 5

Theresa Gentile Zone 9 & 11

Shelley Gibbons Zone 1

Sashoi Grant Zone 7

Dhanmattie Harricharan Zone 7

Shalaiha Jones Zone 7

Rachel Lawson Zone 5

Arlene Leyba Zone 7

Current Members

Zone	Members Fall 2025 Newsletter	Members Fall 2024 Newsletter
1	10	15
2	26	34
3	8	10
4	31	48
5	37	32
6	18	25
7	29	26
8	4	9
9 & 11	34	32
10	11	13
12	1	2
Total Members	209	246

DDNA Update

DDNA Liaison:

Patrici Ruckel RN,MSN,MHA, CDDN, DCP

2026 DDNA Annual Education Conference Preview

Location: Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass, Phoenix, Arizona

Dates: May 15 to 18, 2026

CE Hours: 20+ available

Join colleagues from across the country for the 34th Annual DDNA Education Conference, a four-day event focused on professional growth, networking, and continuing education. The conference will be held at the Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass, set against the scenic Sierra Estrella Mountains.

Program Highlights:

- Certification Boot Camp and Pre-Conference Program
- Keynote Speakers and General Sessions
- Breakout Discussions and Networking Opportunities
- Group Certification Exam (pre-registration required)

Attendees can also enjoy resort-style amenities including the Aji Spa, championship golf, and fine dining at Kai, Arizona's only AAA Five Diamond restaurant.

Mark your calendars and plan to be part of this outstanding professional development experience.

For full details and registration updates, visit www.ddna.org.

DDNA Election Update

Congratulations to **Mary Pelletier**, who has been re-elected to serve as **Secretary/Treasurer** on the DDNA Board of Directors for the term **January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027**.

Mary is a **Certified Developmental Disabilities Nurse (CDDN)** with more than 40 years of nursing experience, including 24 years dedicated to the I/DD field. She has served on the **Connecticut DDNA Board** for over 15 years, is a **Past President**, and continues to be a strong advocate for advancing education and professional development within the field of developmental disabilities nursing.

Submitted by: Pat Ruckel



New NYSIDDDNA Pro-Shop

Show Your Love for the Association Merch!

Wear It, Share It, Love It!

<https://nysidddna.ourproshop.com/>



What's New in the Pro Shop

The Marketing Committee is expanding the Pro Shop with new holiday merchandise and apparel, including designs that feature awareness colors and updated graphics. Promotional materials are also being developed for **Nurses Day in May** and for use in future membership recruitment efforts.

If you have comments or suggestions, please reach out to **Courtney Bacon**

NYSIDDDNA 2025 State Officers

Your 2025 NYSIDDDNA State Officers

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

**Elections nominations coming this June
for Corresponding Secretary & Treasurer**

Executive Board

**You are simply the best. Thank you for your
dedication and leadership.**

Executive Board Recognition

Karen Jarvis · Robert Peters · Mary Jean Keegan · Carrie Loubier · Trish Potocar · Marla Duffy · Jessica Wheeler · Jennifer Payne · Christy Hubbard · Patti Geary · Rachel Polmanteer · Anne Campbell · Courtney Bacon · Karen Bazan · Carol Krueger · Jessica Morgan-Drummond · Krystal Ross · Dawn Blades · Joy Fojtlin · Christine Church · Amy Kessler · Heidi Schmidt-Storic · Cristina Vasile · Roseanna Carey · Deb Hill · Kristy Cornell

Website
www.nysiddna.org

Chairperson: Trish Potocar
kpotocar1@twcnny.rr.com

Did You Know?

- Organizations that pay for multiple members can now make just **ONE GROUP PAYMENT**? Reach out to Darlene at Information@nysiddna.org
- Our forms for Scholarship recipients are available under **Awards** <https://www.nysiddna.org/awards/>
- You can reach our Facebook page under **Resources** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/nysiddna>
- You can nominate your colleagues for the Joyce Binder award under **Awards** <https://www.nysiddna.org/awards/>

This is just a glimpse of the many great things our website has to offer!

Join Us on Facebook

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

Co-Chairperson: Trish Potocar
kpotocar1@twcnny.rr.com

Co-Chairperson: Karen Jarvis
kejarvis@thearcjslc.org

Facebook Community Update

Our Facebook group continues to grow and now includes 107 members from across the state! It's a wonderful space for nurses involved in the care of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to connect, share ideas, and celebrate the great work happening in our field.

Engagement has been strong since the conference, with members posting photos, updates, and zone activities that keep everyone inspired and connected between events. We encourage all members to join the conversation and be part of this supportive community.

Please note, an old Facebook account with our former logo is still visible online. If you come across it, that's not our current page. We've made several attempts to have it removed. If you're unsure whether you're in the right place or need help finding the correct page, please don't hesitate to reach out, we're happy to help!

Submitted by: Trish Potocar (Zone 1)

NYSDDDNA Virtual Webinar Series

Behavioral Education Series – Coming in 2026!

We're excited to announce our new webinar series from Crescent Behavioral Health Services, LLC. This virtual learning program focuses on recognizing behavioral presentations of medical diagnoses. The presenters will be Ley Linder, a Board-Certified Behavioral Analyst and Anita Linder, an Adult Nurse Practitioner specializing in the psychiatric care for people with IDD. The content blends medical and behavioral approaches, offering valuable insights for nurses at every experience level. These will be 1-hour sessions over the next 18 months. The sessions will be offered free to members. Non-members are welcome and will be charged a per-session fee. Contact hours will be provided. Dates and session topics will be announced soon!

Submitted by: Cindy Pross

Joyce Binder Recipient



It is with great pride that we announce **Linda M. Cultrara** as the recipient of this year's **Joyce Binder Memorial Award**, honoring her exceptional leadership, compassion, and dedication to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Named in memory of Joyce Binder, one of the founding members of the NYS ID/DD Nurses Association, this award recognizes those who exemplify the values of advocacy, mentorship, and excellence in nursing practice. Linda Cultrara has consistently demonstrated these qualities throughout her more than 30-year career as a Registered Nurse.

Linda's impact spans hospitals, nursing homes, and OPWDD-certified residential programs. She has led initiatives in training, compliance, crisis intervention, and policy development, always with a focus on person-centered care. Linda's leadership of DDAWNY and her role as hospital liaison highlight her commitment to improving systems and outcomes.

As President of the Association, Linda has guided our community with integrity and vision, continuing the legacy Joyce Binder began. Her mentorship and tireless advocacy have inspired countless professionals and elevated the standard of care across New York State.

We are honored to recognize Linda's contributions and celebrate the profound difference she continues to make.

Submitted by: Meghan Miskinis (Zone 3)

2025 Conference Recap –“Laughter is the Best Medicine”



The 2025 Conference in Albany, themed **“Laughter is the Best Medicine,”** reminded us how essential humor is in our daily lives. **Keynote speaker Kate Davis** set the tone with a powerful and uplifting presentation on the importance of keeping our “daily laugh count” high.

The committee delivered a **powerhouse lineup of speakers**, covering topics such as the **Fatal Five, OPWDD and DQI updates, end-of-life care, menopause**, and the **JC mortality review**. The event concluded with **John Dickerson of Quillo**, who inspired attendees to reflect on the lasting impact nurses have on the lives of those we support.

A special thank-you to **Darlene “Dee” Greco** for her incredible leadership and creativity in making this year’s conference so memorable. Dee added her signature flair with **new food options, interactive games**, and the popular **vendor passport challenge**, which kept vendors and attendees smiling all week long , *great idea, Dee!*

Heartfelt thanks to the entire **Conference Committee** for their dedication and teamwork in creating another successful event. As Helen Keller once said, *“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”*

Looking Ahead to Our 40th Anniversary Conference



Forty years of hard work, dedication, and growth have brought us to this incredible milestone! The team is already planning our **40th Anniversary Conference** at the **Embassy Suites in Saratoga Springs**, taking place **October 5–7, 2026**. This special event will celebrate our history while looking forward to the future of ID/DD nursing, **a conference you truly won’t want to miss!**

Here’s to 40 years, see you in Saratoga! Karen Jarvis



Upcoming Webinars with our Strategic Partners

Continuing Education Opportunities for I/DD Nurses

Nurse Recruitment and Retention in I/DD: “Release the Tension”

Date: Upcoming Session – Check for 2025–2026 Schedule

CE Credit: 1.0 Nursing CE / QIDP Credit

Cost: Complimentary

Register: [Tarrytown Expocare Events](#)

This engaging webinar from **Tarrytown Expocare Pharmacy** focuses on the challenges and opportunities of **recruitment, retention, workplace culture, and professional growth** in I/DD nursing. It’s designed specifically for nurses supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and offers practical strategies to strengthen the workforce and promote well-being in care environments.

New Advances in Alzheimer’s Disease Research

Date: Thursday, December 18, 2025 | 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. ET

CE Credit: 1.5 Nursing or Social Work CE Credits

Cost: Free

Register: bit.ly/DDSPNewAdvances

Tremendous progress has been made in understanding the science and biology behind **Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias**. This new webinar will highlight **recent research breakthroughs**, ongoing studies involving individuals **with and without I/DDs**, and how these discoveries are shaping the **future of prevention, diagnosis, and treatment**.

Join live via **Zoom** and take advantage of this opportunity to earn continuing education credit while exploring cutting-edge research in I/DD nursing and dementia care.

Top Challenges in Supporting People with IDD and Dual Diagnosis

Date: Thursday, November 13, 2025 | 1:00 – 1:45 p.m. ET

CE Credit: Not specified

Cost: Free

Register: [IntellectAbility Webinars](#)

Part of the **IntellectAbility IDD Perspectives Webinar Series**, this 45-minute session explores the challenges professionals face when supporting individuals with both intellectual/developmental disabilities and mental health diagnoses. Expert presenters will discuss **strategies for improving care coordination and outcomes**.

Avoiding Preventable Death in People with IDD Using the HRST

Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2025 | 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET

CE Credit: Not specified

Cost: Free

Register: [IntellectAbility Webinar Registration](#)

Also part of the **IntellectAbility Webinar Series**, this presentation reviews the **latest mortality research** and shows how the **Health Risk Screening Tool (HRST)** helps reduce preventable deaths among individuals with I/DD. Nurses and clinical staff will gain **practical insights for early detection and intervention**.

New Tools to Support Inclusive Research

Date: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

CE Credit: Not offered

Cost: Free for members; small fee for non-members

Register: [AAIDD Upcoming Webinars](#)



This session introduces **new research tools and inclusive practices** that enhance participation of individuals with I/DD in research initiatives. Ideal for nurses and professionals who want to expand their understanding of **inclusive health care and evidence-based practice**.

Fred's Column (In Fred's Chair)

8 Quick Wins for Safer, Smarter I/DD Nursing

1) Notes that pass DQI every time

Chart what you see, not what you think. Use objective verbs such as “ambulated 50 ft with gait belt” and avoid vague terms like “doing well.” Time stamp late entries, link PRN use to the symptom, include the response, and follow up.

2) Behavior data that drives care

Document behaviors using the ABCs: Antecedent, Behavior, and Consequence, plus setting and duration. Pair each entry with an actionable intervention such as offering a sensory break, initiating a calm-down playlist, or notifying the DSP lead.

3) Medication safety in 60 seconds

Use the Three Check routine when pulling, preparing, and at the bedside, and confirm the five rights plus reason. For crushed medications, document route and vehicle such as applesauce, pudding, or water, and verify the medication is crush safe. Always include indication and post-effect check for PRN psychotropics.

4) Airway, swallow, and seizure readiness

Keep individualized plans at the point of care. For dysphagia, note diet texture, fluid consistency, and positioning. For seizures, include rescue thresholds, timing device location, and notification plan. Practice these steps with your team.

5) Infection control that is realistic

Perform hand hygiene before and after each resident contact, clean stethoscopes between uses, and keep a small respiratory kit with masks, tissues, and sanitizer on hand. When symptoms begin, document onset time, temperature, oxygen saturation if available, and who was notified.

6) Stress less, think clearer

Take two minutes for box breathing, inhale four, hold four, exhale four, hold four, before writing notes to improve focus. Use a standard template for common events such as falls, seizures, medication errors, and behavior episodes to ensure consistency and completeness.

7) Shift reports that matter

Keep handoffs brief but structured, including diagnosis, recent changes, high-risk concerns, and upcoming appointments. Always close with “What is your biggest concern before I go?” to prevent missed details and build team awareness.

8) Early recognition saves time

Trust your clinical judgment. Small changes such as increased fatigue, new cough, or appetite loss often precede major issues. Document the first signs, notify promptly, and track trends. Early action reduces hospital transfers and keeps people safer.

Submitted by: the NYSIDDDNA Team

Looking forward to Fred's return in our Spring issue with more practical wisdom to share.

2025 Scholarship Winners!

Congratulations to Our 2025 Scholarship Recipients

The **New York State ID/DD Nurses Association** is proud to support professional growth in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities nursing through our annual **\$1,000 scholarships**. These awards encourage RNs, LPNs, DSPs, and other dedicated staff members working in the field to continue advancing their education and commitment to ID/DD nursing.

One scholarship is awarded to a **Registered Nurse (RN)** pursuing a **BSN degree**, and the other to an **LPN, Direct Support Professional (DSP), or other non-nurse staff member** currently enrolled in an accredited RN program.

Congratulations to this year's recipients for their dedication, compassion, and continued pursuit of excellence in ID/DD nursing.



Danielle Thompson



Brittany Ficchi

ZONE 1

St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton & Essex

Co-Chair: Trish Potocar

kpotocar1@twcny.rr.com

Co-Chair: Karen Jarvis

kjarvis@thearejslc.org

Zone Rep: Marla Duffy

Marla-duffy@citizenadvocates.net

Zone Rep: Jennifer Payne

jenniferbarcomb@citizenadvocates.net

Secretary: Jessica Wheeler

jlwheeler@thearejslc.org

Zone 1 is bringing education and connection together with a **luncheon meeting** at *The Lobster House* in Norwood! The event will feature a presentation by a **physician on Tardive Dyskinesia**, sponsored by **Neurocrine**, followed by lunch from the restaurant menu. November 7th from 11-12pm.

It's a wonderful opportunity to **learn, network, and enjoy a great meal** with fellow nurses in the I/DD community.

If you're interested in attending, please reach out to **Karen Jarvis** for details and registration.

Submitted by: Trish Potocar

Zone News & Reports

ZONE 2

Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, Oneida, Onondaga,
Madison, & Herkimer

Co-Chair: Carrie Loubier **Co-Chair:** Christine Hubbard
Carrie25RN@yahoo.com Christy.hubbard@arcofmc.org

Secretary: Rachel Polmanteer
Rachel.polmanteer@ccany.org
Zone Representative: Patti Geary
Patti.geary@ccany.org

Zone 2 is buzzing with energy and new ideas! The team is working hard to breathe **new life into the zone**, offering a mix of engaging **webinars and in-person educational opportunities**.

Most recently, they hosted the **Measles Presentation** with **Joseph Peters, M.P.H.**, Public Health Educator from the **Oneida County Health Department**, on **October 31st**. The event was broadcast **virtually across the state**, giving all zones a chance to participate.

Nov 18th Online presentation by Tara Kenney, RN from the Justice Center - End of Life - Death Reporting & Investigations Explain the process and required documentation.

Submitted by: Christy Hubbard

ZONE 3

Hamilton, Fulton, Washington, Warren, & Saratoga

Chairperson: Anne Campbell
hansona2001@yahoo.com
Secretary: Courtney Bacon
Baconc@thearclexington.org
Zone Rep: Meghan Miskinis
miskinm@thearclexington.org

Fall greetings from Zone 3! We hope this season finds you warm and well. Zone 3 leadership remains active and engaged in supporting our members and advancing our mission.

Last month, both **Anne Campbell** and **Meghan Miskinis** proudly represented Zone 3 at the **NYS ID/DD Nurses Association Conference**. **Courtney Bacon** has also been instrumental in supporting the **Pro Shop**, your go-to source for NYS ID/DD Nurses Association merchandise, be sure to check it out!

Upcoming Zone 3 Event:

At this time, no event is scheduled—but keep an eye out for future announcements. Exciting opportunities are on the horizon!

Join Us!

Zone 3 is actively recruiting new members. If you or a colleague would like to get involved or learn more about Zone 3's activities, please reach out to Meghan.

Submitted by: Meghan Miskinis

ZONE 4

Albany, Montgomery, Schoharie, Greene, Sch'dy,
Otsego, Delaware, Rensselaer, & Columbia

Secretary: Mary Jean Keegan
mjkeegan74@gmail.com
Zone Rep: Carol Krueger
kruegerc@springbrook.org
Zone Rep: Jessica Morgan
morganje@gmail.com

Ballots listing candidates for the 2026–2027 term, including an opportunity for “write-in” nominations, were mailed to Zone 4 members for the election of both **Co-Chairs** and **Zone Secretary**, with instructions to return them to Carol and the members of the Nominating Committee. Official results will be shared with all Zone 4 members in **December**.

The Zone Secretary also invited members to reach out to Zone 4 officers if they are interested in gathering before the holidays or hosting a meeting with a presentation during 2026.

The Zone extends heartfelt thanks to **Karen Bazan** for her many contributions and years of dedication to NYSIDDDNA. We wish her all the best in retirement as she takes time to focus on family and new beginnings.

Submitted by: Mary Jean Keegan

ZONE 5

Sullivan, Ulster, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam,
Rockland, & Westchester

Co-Chairperson: Krystal Ross
krystalRoss@outlook.com
Co-Chairperson: Dawn Blades
dblades@acd.org
Secretary: Joy Fojtlin
joyann56@aol.com

Zone 5 had a busy summer, and several of us were able to attend the **NYSIDDDNA Annual Conference** in Albany this September. We enjoyed expanding our knowledge on a variety of health topics and receiving valuable updates on **OPWDD regulations**. The networking opportunities were invaluable, and the vendors were both informative and engaging.

We're now planning our next **Zone Meeting for November 6**, which will be offered in a **hybrid format** (in-person and virtual).

If you're new to the zone and would like to join us, please email **Zone 5 Co-Chair Krystal** at kross@hrltcp.org or **Zone 5 Co-Chair Dawn** at dblades@hrltcp.org to be added to the mailing list.

Zone 7

New York, Richmond, King & Queens

Co-Chair: Christina Vasile

Cristina.Vasile@ahrcnyc.org

Zone Representative : Roseanna Carey

Carey.roseanna@gmail.com

Secretary: Maureen Gavin

Gavinmaur@aol.com

The Zone 7 leadership team had the pleasure of connecting at the recent NYSIDDDNA Conference in Albany. As we transition into our new roles, **Cristina Vasile** and I are grateful to have the support and mentorship of **Robert Peters** and **Maureen Gavin** as we move forward.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to **Robert Peters**, who is stepping down from his position after many years of dedicated service to the organization. His commitment and leadership have made a lasting impact, and we are so appreciative of all he has done for Zone 7 and NY-SIDDDNA.

We're also delighted that **Maureen Gavin** will remain on the leadership team as **Zone 7 Secretary**, bringing her experience and steady guidance as we continue to grow and strengthen our zone.

There's an exciting spirit of collaboration ahead, as Zone 7 is exploring opportunities to partner with **Zone 6** to host joint trainings and educational events in the coming year.

With such wonderful mentors and new energy in place, we're looking forward to an active and inspiring year for Zone 7!

Zone 8

Niagara, Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming, & Erie

Secretary: Linda Cultrara

Linda.m.cultrara@opwdd.ny.gov

Zone 8 has not been active this period, as our attention has been focused on conference planning and association business. Our Zone Representative recently resigned after moving out of the field, leaving this position open.

We are currently seeking a Zone Representative who is an active member and interested in helping bring our group back together. The Zone Representative serves as a member of the Executive Board, attending meetings and participating in the business aspects of all that we do.

If you're up for the challenge and would like to take a more active role, we'd love to hear from you!

Submitted by: Linda Cultrara

Zone 6

Nassau & Suffolk

Co-Chairp: Pat Ruckel

Pruckel@phpcares.org

Secretary: Amy Kessler

Amy.kessler@ddiny.org

Co-Chair: Christine Church

Churchc1968@gmail.com

Zone 6 is looking forward to bringing new energy into the year ahead! We're excited to welcome **Christine Church** as **Co-Chair**, and her enthusiasm is already inspiring renewed engagement within the zone.

Leaders are also exploring opportunities to **collaborate with Zone 7** on joint trainings and educational events to strengthen connections and share resources.

Exciting things are ahead for Zone 6!

ZONE 9

Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Steuben, & Allegany

Zone 11

Monroe, Wayne, Ontario, Yates, Cayuga, Seneca, & Livingston

Zone Rep: Debra Hill

dhill@pathwaysforyou.org

Deb Hill's steady involvement and commitment have brought fresh momentum to Zone 9. Her continued presence at Executive Board meetings reflects a strong dedication to reconnecting members and rebuilding the zone. The coming months promise renewed energy, collaboration, and exciting opportunities for growth and engagement.

Zone 10

Schuyler, Tompkins, Cortland, Tioga, Chenango, Broome, & Chemung

Chair person: Brandy Colburn

brandycolburn@gmail.com

Secretary: Amber Kerr

amberdavis51912@gmail.com

Zone Rep: Kristy Cornell

Kristy.cornell@opwdd.ny.gov

ZONE 12-Out of State

Zone 12 members are encouraged to connect with members from other zones to participate in educational sessions, presentations and networking opportunities.