



NYS ID/DD NURSES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Vol. 23, Number Three

Fall 2016

President's Message



Hello Colleagues,

I hope this letter finds you in good health. The Executive Board wishes to thank all of those members and non-members who participated in this year's annual conference of the NYS ID/DD Nurses Association held at the Crowne Plaza in Suffern New York. As we follow the success of the annual conference, great things continue to happen with

this amazing organization. Once again the conference facilitated exceptional educational opportunities with outstanding, relevant speakers, ample time for networking, collaboration and fun with other nurses who practice in the very special and unique field of ID/DD Nursing. We were pleased to offer the Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association (DDNA) Certification Exam (CDDN) at the annual conference this year. Several attendees sat for the exam, good luck with your test results!

The first Annual Joyce Binder award was presented at the annual conference to long time Association and Executive Board member Trish Potocar. This award is presented to an outstanding ID/DD Nurse who has made a significant contribution to advancing the practice of supporting individuals with ID/DD through compassion, caring, advocacy, mentoring, leadership, dedication, education and research. Congratulations Trish on this well-deserved honor! We continue to elevate the organization professionally, and pursue personal and professional growth.

Thank you for completing conference evaluations. We truly appreciate attendee's comments and suggestions. The conference planning committee works tirelessly each year to improve and elevate your conference experience. The planning committee has already begun planning for next year's 2017 conference that will be held at the Albany Marriott September 24th-September 27th. Please mark your calendars and we look forward to seeing you next year!

Currently we have 318 members and we continue to grow. Please encourage your friends and colleagues to join our organization and experience the many benefits of membership, both professionally and personally. Please be sure to visit our website and Facebook page.

It is with great sadness that shortly after the conference we learned of the unexpected passing of Roseann Hanley, a longtime member of the NYS ID/DD Nurses Association, 2014-16 Treasurer, a member of Zone 1, and has held many officer positions at the State and Zone level. She was an amazing, caring and dedicated nurse, and a strong advocate for the special ID/DD population. I am honored and blessed to have known her, and to have had the opportunity to be surrounded by the warmth and kindness she exuded. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband Michael, her family, and friends during this difficult time.

The Executive Board held our Fall meeting in Syracuse. In addition to a general meeting business, a strategic planning process is currently being developed with the assistance of R&R Healthcare Education Consultants. The development and implementation of a strategic plan is important work that will advance the organization and the specialty of ID/DD Nursing.

On behalf of the organization I wish you and your loved ones happy and healthy Holidays.

Kind regards,
Dr. Laura Sardinia-Prager RN, CDDN, CDCP

Bylaws Committee Report

The Bylaws and Rules are available on the Association's web page. There are no pending changes to the bylaws at this time. If you have a question or suggestion, or are interested in serving on the Bylaws Committee, please contact the Bylaws Chairperson, Darlene Langkau, at langkau@cfdsny.org.

*Darlene Langkau, RN
Bylaws Committee Chair*

The New York State Intellectual Disabilities/ Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association (NYSID/DDNA) 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.

President-Elect's Message



It was great to see so many of you at the conference and to meet many new colleagues. Congratulations to the conference planning committee on another wonderful conference.

Our Executive Board is working on a Strategic Plan to review our mission and to identify our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. One of the opportunities identified is making our association more visible in the community and possibly partnering with other organizations. To that end, I was invited to attend the fall Board Meeting of Parent to Parent of NYS. They were an exhibitor at the conference. They asked me to attend to educate them about NYSIDDDNA. They are a group of parents of special needs individuals who provide support to other parents of special needs individuals. This organization has requested to be offered the opportunity to attend your zone meeting to make themselves known and to discuss who they are and what assistance they may offer to parents of your individuals. Please contact me if you would like contact information for your regional office.

I would also like to encourage each of you to consider taking an active role in NYSIDDDNA either as a zone officer or a committee member. Please let your zone officers, President Prager or myself know if you would like to become more involved. On a personal note, I would like to thank you for your support and kind words during the critical health issue my husband experienced recently. It was very comforting to know so many people were thinking of us.

I hope you all have the happiest of holidays and a safe and healthy winter season.

Darlene Langkau, RN

Annual Scholarship

Scholarship applications are being accepted through April 1, 2017. Guidelines may be found and printed from the web site. From the Home page, click on 'About'. Then scroll down and under 'Mission', click on 'NYSIDDDNA Scholarship'.

Each year up to a \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to an LPN or Direct Support Professional who is currently matriculated in an accredited RN program in NYS, is a NYS resident and intends to work as an ID/DD RN upon graduation. Attendance at the annual 2016 conference will also be awarded.

Please encourage any qualified candidates to apply before the deadline of 04/01/17.

DDNA Update

D.D.N.A. will be holding their 2017 Annual Education Conference, "Celebrating Our Past Shaping Our Future" in Dallas, Texas at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, April 7 – 10, 2017. This will be the Association's 25th Annual Conference with a Gala Celebration on Friday, April 7 as well as a Surprise Event Night. The celebration includes a 25th Anniversary slideshow. If you have any photos you would like to see in the slideshow please send the files to photos@ddna.org. Rooms at the Hyatt Regency will begin at \$155.00/night and reservations must be made by 3/31/17.

The second annual "Certification Boot Camp" Pre-Conference will be held on Thursday, April 6, 2017. This is a CDDN/DDC exam prep with helpful tips, practice questions and exam insight from other certified Nurses. The certification exam will be offered at the conference. If you are interested in participating in the exam, please visit the website to review the requirements, costs and deadlines as soon as possible. For more details and conference registration information visit the website at www.ddna.org.

DDNA recently elected new board members – Deborah Tatum-Johnson, RN, NP, CDDN of Virginia was elected President-Elect and Sherrill Hayter, RN, CDDN of Massachusetts was elected Vice President. Congratulations!

Cathy Engel, BSN, RN, CDDN

Web Site/Facebook

WEB Address: www.nysidddna.org
It worked out well to post handouts on the website as feedback was favorable. Check the pictures of the 2016 conference already posted to our site and watch for more photos. If you have any news, events, milestones, etc. for your members or photos to post, please send to tpotocar@slnysarc.org.

Trish Potocar, RN, Website Chairperson

FACEBOOK- NY State ID/DD Nurses Association

The number of members who have found us on Facebook and posted a "like" continues to grow. Check it out. Comments, postings, photos are welcome. Parent to Parent posted on our page. They are an organization that can help families/caregivers with transitions, aging issues, etc. Check out their information on Facebook. They would be willing to explain about their function at a zone meeting.

If unsure how to comment, send your information to tpotocar@slnysarc.org.

Trish Potocar, RN

Zone Reports

Zone 1-(St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton and Essex Counties)

Zone 1 had a meeting Oct 26th at the Lobster House. Members attending the meeting are eligible for a drawing and the winner gets their lunch paid for. Speaker was Carol Lytle from Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center. She spoke on hypertension and sleep apnea concerns. CHMC has a Speakers Bureau which will provide speakers to community groups on various medical topics.

Discussion of areas of interest for future topics included hospice care, consent issues and psychologist interviews to determine ability to consent and Ethics in medical care.

Members brought in donations of toiletries to be delivered to the Renewal House, an organization helping victims of domestic abuse. This has become an annual event that the members enjoy and Renewal House really appreciates.

Trish Potocar, RN, Co-Chairperson

Zone 2-(Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, Onondaga, Oneida, Madison and Herkimer Counties)

Several Zone 2 members attended the September NYSIDDDNA conference in Suffern. In October we had a meeting at the Arc of Madison Cortland in Oneida. Our speaker was from Mental Hygiene Legal Service (MHLS). We discussed the MOLST, end of life care, Health Care Proxies and questions and concerns were reviewed. We also discussed latest survey issues, upcoming trainings, state conference reports and national DDNA conference reports.

Melissa Ostrander- Zone Secretary

Zone 3-(Hamilton, Fulton, Warren, Washington and Saratoga Counties)

Our last quarterly meeting was held on Thursday November 10th at the Raindancer Steak Parlor in Amsterdam, NY. An educational update regarding CDC recommendations for adult vaccination was provided by Anne Payette RN, BSN, MSN Ed, FNP BC, CDDN followed by lunch and two door prizes of books applicable to the field of ID DD.

Our next quarterly meeting will be held at the Logjam Restaurant in Lake George in early May with date, time and speaker to be announced. Anyone who would like to be added to the email list for Zone 3 events is welcomed to contact Anne, Zone chair at hanson2001@yahoo.com

Anne Payette, RN, BSN, MSN-Ed, FNP-BC, CDDN

Zone 4-(Montgomery, Schoharie, Schenectady, Albany, Otsego, Delaware, Greene, Rensselaer and Columbia Counties)

Our membership numbers continue to climb in Zone 4. We continue to have meetings quarterly with guest speakers and in December, we will be having our "Holiday Party." In June 2016 - Springbrook hosted a luncheon and guest speakers included Theresa Oelrich RN, Communicable Disease Coordinator and Kimberly Schlosser RN, Immunization Coordinator for Otsego County Department of Health. They presented on Zika Virus, Summer Safety including mosquito and tick borne illness prevention and immunization updates. It was a fantastic and lively discussion.

In August 2016 - ARC Otsego hosted a luncheon at Brook's Barbeque and guest speakers were from Community Care Rx. They discussed individualized medication dispensing options, as well as pharmacy services they provide. In December 2016 - Wildwood will be hosting our potluck Holiday luncheon this year. Additionally, we will be electing 2 new Zone Representatives for the next 2 year terms. Happy Holidays!

Carol Krueger, RN- Chairperson

Zone 5-(Sullivan, Ulster, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester Counties)

We are having our Zone 5 meeting on December 5th. The QA Executive at Venture is going to do a short presentation on the Justice Center and we are going to discuss the future of Zone 5 and review items discussed at the executive board meeting.

If anybody has any questions they can contact Madlyn Vaillancourt at 914-522-6722 or mvaillancourt@campventure.org. Thanks so much!

Madlyn Vaillancourt, RN

Zone 6-(Nassau and Suffolk Counties)

For information on Zone 6 activities, please contact Co-Chairs, Patty Brunetti RN, QDCP pbrunetti@lifesworc.org, 516 554-3012 or Mary Sherry RN, QDCP msherry01@familyres.org, 516-870-1600



Zone Reports Continued

Zone 7-(New York, Richmond, King and Queens Counties)

Several members of Zone 7 met for dinner at the annual NYS IDD conference. We are always interested in mixing and mingling with colleagues in the New York City metropolitan area. Offers of venues, speakers welcome. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Marcia Richman, RN

Zone 8-(Niagara, Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming and Erie Counties)

Zone 8 continues to have meetings every other "odd" month on the 2nd Thursday of the month. The meetings are held in the Aspire building at 7 Community Dr. in Cheektowaga. All meetings include a complimentary dinner at 4:30 followed by a 5 pm in-service topic and meeting agenda. Our last speaker was Respiratory services presenting on the "Afflo" chest oscillation vest. The product is battery powered offering complete mobility/portability freedom for our individuals. We continue to try to find ways to attract new members. Our next meeting is our "Holiday" celebration.

*Linda Cultrara, RN
Zone 8 Secretary*

Zone 9 & 11- Zone #9 (Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Steuben and Allegany Counties) and Zone #11 (Monroe, Wayne, Ontario, Livingston, Yates and Seneca Counties)

Zone 9&11 benefits from having several agencies "host" zone meetings and obtain guest speakers. This has provided for greater participation and networking. We meet 3-4 times a year. Tracy Harrienger Esq, from People's Inc., Buffalo, spoke regarding the Justice Center at our November meeting. This meeting was attended by nurses, administrators, MSCs, and agency QA staff who need information regarding this hot topic.

Speaker Topics for the early 2017 season will include recruitment and retention and Diabetes Updates. Our next meeting will be held in March, 2017. Time, Date, and Location are TBA.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or suggestions. We welcome you to our zone!!

Zone President; Mary Ellen Stambersky at Arc of Seneca Cayuga, mstambersky@arcsencay, 315-612-0100

Zone Secretary; Edie Smith at Cayuga Community

Zone Reports Continued

College, Edie.smith@cayuga-cc.edu, 315-209-7434

Zone emails and information also come from email of edie.smith@cayuga-cc.edu so please add this to your list of contacts.

*Respectfully submitted,
Edie Smith, MSN, RN*

Zone 10-(Schuyler, Tompkins, Cortland, Chenango, Broome, Tioga, and Chemung Counties)

Zone 10 members are welcome at the meetings and events of any other zone. Many attended conference this year and are anxious to see their zone active again.

Surrogate Decision Making Committee is in need of volunteers across NYS.

The Surrogate Decision Making Committee is a program authorized to provide consent for non-emergency major medical treatment and end-of-life decision making on behalf of qualifying individuals who do not have the capacity to make their own decision and do not have a legally authorized surrogate willing and available to make the decision on their behalf.

Each hearing is conducted with panel volunteers from the following categories:

- NYS Licensed Health Care Professionals (e.g., physician, nurse, licensed social worker)
- Advocate for persons with disabilities (e.g., persons with demonstrated interest in the care and treatment or individuals with behavioral health or developmental disabilities)
- Family member or former service recipient
- NYS Attorney

The SDMC program provides training free of charge to all volunteers at various locations around the state. Travel expenses for training and hearing participation are reimbursed.

Please consider this public service which assists New Yorkers with disabilities obtain quality medical treatment decisions. Your service can make a difference in someone's life.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming an SDMC volunteer, or would like to sign up for the next volunteer training in your region, please see the SDMC FAQ page on the NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs web site, <http://www.justicecenter.ny.gov> or contact SDMC at (518) 549-0328, or sdmc@justicecenter.ny.gov

Membership Committee Report

We currently have 318 members of our Association!

ZONE 1 – 38 MEMBERS
ZONE 2 – 43 MEMBERS
ZONE 3 – 13 MEMBERS
ZONE 4 – 50 MEMBERS
ZONE 5 – 30 MEMBERS
ZONE 6 – 50 MEMBERS
ZONE 7 – 21 MEMBERS
ZONE 8 – 20 MEMBERS
ZONES 9/11 – 47 MEMBERS
ZONE 10 – 6 MEMBERS

Welcome to our new members who joined during the summer and fall!

Zone 1 – Nora Collins, Shannon Greenwood, Katie Lalonde, Marc Peccolo II, Stacy Beldock
Zone 2 – Eduarda Bossers, Diane Hughes, Sandhya Farrington
Zone 4 – Rhonda Clune, William Griffith, Margaret Mukai, Felicia Weaver, Monica Hill, Mecca Andrades, Jessica Weston, Cynthia Holt, Sierra Collins, Kelly Hull, Julianne Brown, Dan Carson
Zone 5 – Lydia Macgopela, Maureen Oliver, Regina Becker, Lorraine Betts, Carol Rose
Zone 6 – Madeline Mos
Zone 7 – Raul Mayalde, Asuncion Muyalde, Yangchen Dolkar, Avril Marshall, Sharon Taylor
Zone 8 – Aubrey Fortunato, Kayle Schessl
Zone 11 – Douglas Sheffield (Scholarship Winner), Elaine Stickles, Natalie Welsh, Jennifer Welch

We have had 99 nurses join the Association since October 2015. Some of these nurses joined at the Lab Test Workshop that was held in Buffalo this past spring, and while some were previous members, most were new members to the organization. There were still 118 previous members who had not renewed their membership as of late August. We are always interested in learning why members do not renew, but often do not receive that information.

Ten Registered Nurses took the Certification Exam through DDNA at our Annual Conference. We wish the very best to all who participated in this event! Please let us know if you would be interested in taking the exam at our conference next year so that we can begin the planning process. PLEASE be sure to visit the DDNA website www.ddna.org to review the eligibility requirements, costs and deadlines put in place by DDNA.

The basket raffle raised \$228.00 to benefit the Scholarship Fund – thanks to all who participated!

Each member has the opportunity to be a part of a supportive network of peers at a local network level and at the state level as well. Given the challenges and changing landscape of ID/DD Nursing, being able to reach out to nursing colleagues who understand and speak the same “language” is an invaluable membership benefit. The leadership opportunities within the Association can help nurses to develop skills that may result in

career enhancements. Members have an opportunity to hold an elected office or appointed position at the Zone level, and to also consider participation at the state level to help to determine the direction of the Association. Our members are important promoters of ID/DD nursing as a specialty, and help to increase awareness in communities throughout the state! We hope that you value your membership and please know how much the Association values YOU as a member! Thanks for all you do as an ID/DD Nurse!!!

If you (or a colleague) are not a member, please visit our website www.nysiddna.org for more information.

** The NYS ID/DD Nurses Association is also a Network of the Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association (D.D.N.A.), a national organization of DD nurses. D.D.N.A. offers a national certification for both RN’s and LPN’s working in our specialty. More information about this organization and certification can be found on their website www.ddna.org

*Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Engel*

Executive Board Meeting

Executive Board Meeting

The Fall Executive Board meeting was held in Syracuse, NY on October 28, 2016. Please notify any of your Zone officers if you would like any information reviewed at their next meeting in the Spring of 2017



President-Elect Darlene Langkau presents the 2016 Joyce Binder Award to Patricia (Trish) Potocar at the Annual Conference

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