

NEW YORK DENTAL HYGIENISTS' ASSOCIATION

Mission

- Supports the *advancement of the art and science of dental hygiene* in order to ensure access to and delivery of quality preventive and therapeutic oral health care services to all New Yorkers in a cost-effective manner.
- Through education and outreach to the public, strives to increase awareness of the benefits of preventive dental hygiene services.
- Promotes the highest standards of dental hygiene education, licensure, practice and research
- Seeks to integrate dental hygiene as a component of interdisciplinary health care to improve the public's total health

Board of Directors Special Meeting

Friday August 18, 2026 – 7:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Roll Call:

Board:

President	Belangie Perez Torres	Present
President-Elect	Audra Haynes	Present
VP Govt Affairs	Donna Hickey	Present
VP Mem. Dv. & Eng.	Shaquantia Wyche	Present
VP Prof Dev	Janine Love	Excused
Treasurer	Jeff McMinn	Present
Secretary	Jen Baker	Present
Immediate Past Pres	Marlyce James	Excused

Directors:

NYC	Vermell Ford	Present
Westchester/Mid-Hudson	Kristen Hofer	Excused – Alt. Dir. Chetna Rana Present

Adiron. /Cap. Region	Jeff McMinn	Present
Central Region	Tiffany Kerns	Excused – Alt. Dir. Doris Stockton Present
Rochester/Finger Lakes	Bridget Turkington	Absent
Buffalo	Melisa Devaney	Present
Long Island	Jean Hall	Present
Executive Director	Beth Krueger	Present

Additional Attendees

Guests Robin Grasso

President Perez Torres noted that this special meeting is called to discuss membership process changes planned by ADHA, as well as its announcement of a pilot project that will include, for 10 constituents choosing to participate, a new dues structure. This meeting will discuss potential impact on NYDHA and the components. In addition, this meeting has been called to discuss means of reimagining NYDHA to enhance what it offers and increase engagement and membership.

ADHA Membership Pilot Project:

ADHA held a meeting last week, with multiple NYDHA board members present, to present the new membership structure for next year including fees, member impact, etc., as well as a pilot project.

ADHA is introducing several revisions to its membership process. Key changes will include: anniversary billing, credit card processing fee + ACH option, and introducing monthly autopay. There will be no more proration – members get 12 months of membership no matter when they join and there will be year-round renewals. There will be a 3% fee on all credit card transactions (with no fee for new ACH payments), and monthly autopay will replace quarterly (with annual autopay still being an option).

Transitioning for Existing Members:

- Single Self Payment: Final full renewal campaign this fall, renew before 1/1/27 – paid through 12/31/27, don't renew by 12/31/26, dropped 1/1/27, re- enter under new anniversary billing when they renew.

- Annual Autopay: Mid-November – notice will be sent alerting members to changes, new paid through 1/31/27, charged Jan 15 instead of Jan 1. Dropped Feb 1st if card doesn't go through and isn't updated.
- Quarterly Autopay: Current quarterly process continues through 2026, **then automatically moves to monthly** unless member opts out. Mid – November notice sent alerting members to change.

Member Categories:

Member types will now include: Professional, retired and new professional.

- Professional will pay 100% of dues, retired will pay 50% dues, and new professional will pay 65% of dues.
- Professional is an RDH licensed in the US, retired is age 62+, fully retired or working < 10 hrs./week, new professional is graduated within the past 2 years

Pricing Changes:

- The pilot would offer several levels of members including premium, standard and free levels. Current NYDHA portion of dues: \$75, proposed under the pilot project: \$84 in the standard level proposed for constituents and likely to be most frequently chosen by members. NYDHA would have to have 13 additional members to offset the loss of this dues schedule, and there will be an estimated revenue decrease. Component dues would come out of the constituent rather than be separately provided by ADHA. The fee schedule under the proposed pilot was shared that broke down NYDHA's share by component. This is a proposed idea and not going into effect immediately, with the pilot program starts September 1st 2026.
- Dues including national and constituent with component: A new professional would be \$216 (\$18 monthly), professional \$346 (\$28 monthly) and premium \$660 (\$55 monthly). ADHA would also introduce an "associate" level which would be free with limited benefits, and these free associate level hygienists would be included in constituent membership counts.

Board Discussion and Motion:

- Board members requested clarification on this pilot program restructuring and shared their feelings about the pilot and how it would impact NYDHA and components.
- The board was posed with the following questions:

1. What changes would help NYDHA grow while supporting our regions?
2. What fee structure would work best for NYDHA and our components?
3. If you could wave a magic wand, what is one thing you would change about how NYDHA and our components work together

- A table from ADHA was shared with a breakdown of benefits by tier. Numerous board members were concerned with the free “associate” tier which we would still be sustaining a cost for the constituent and components.
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- The board decided to take a vote to have a formal decision on whether or not to opt in to ADHA’s pilot project. Jean Hall made a motion (**Motion 8-14-26,1**) for NYDHA not to opt in to of ADHA’s pilot program, and Donna Hickey seconded. With a show of hands, all board members voted not to opt in to this pilot program. An answer would be due to participate by September 8 to ADHA. The pilot program will launch in ten states in January 2027 with anticipated pilot end and final assessment estimated for June 2029. President Perez Torres will take this answer and respond to ADHA with our declination to their invitation to participate in this pilot program.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.