

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 Meeting

October 26, 2025

Marriott Syracuse Downtown, Syracuse

President Marlyce James called the meeting to order at 10:54 a.m. and requested the roll call:

President	Marlyce James	Present
President-Elect	Belangie (Bela) Perez Torres	Present
VP Govt Affairs	Donna Hickey	Excused
VP Mem. Dv. & Engt.	Tia Wyche	Present
VP Prof Dev	Janine Love	Present
Treasurer	Dr. Laura Sleeper	Present
Secretary	Jen Baker	Excused
Immediate Past Pres	Harold Jennings	Present

Directors

NYC	Elizabeth Simpson (Alt.)	Present
Westchester/Mid-Hudson	Robin Grasso (Alt.)	Present
Adiron. /Cap. Region	Jeff McMinn	Excused
Central Region	Tiffany Kerns	Present
Rochester/ F. Lakes	Bridget Turkington	Present
Buffalo/Nia Fall	Melisa Devaney	Present
Long Island	Jean Hall	Present
Ex Dir	Beth Krueger	Present

Additional Attendees

Guests	Doris Stockton – Central Region Alternate Director; Loretta Mariano
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1. Approval of the agenda: Upon motion by Laura Sleeper and second by Harold Jennings and vote, the Board approved the agenda (**Motion 10-26-25,1**).

2. Approval of Sept. 13, 2025 Board minutes: The minutes of the September Board meeting were approved following motion by Melisa Devaney, second by Tiffany Kerns and vote **(Motion 10-26-25,2)**.
3. Empire Conference:
 - In an initial review, Board members noted positive feedback on course topics, speakers and interactions; positive experience of students in the poster presentation and follow-up celebratory luncheon; good feedback from the Current Issues luncheon program; and an overall “good vibe.” The course ambassador designation worked well. The conference ambassador tee-shirts were a hit, with appreciation to Melisa Devaney.
 - 2026 planning: It was noted that the conference will be held November 6-8 at the Hyatt Regency Long Island in Hauppauge. The Board made plans to review the conference formats and content to shape the program to maximize interest and participation at the Long Island location. A motion was made by Tiffany Kerns and seconded by Shaquantia Wyche to create a task force for this purpose. The motion carried **(Motion 10-26-25,3)**.
4. Planning for 2026
 - House resolutions: The Board discussed follow-up on the various resolutions approved by the House of Delegates at its October 26 meeting.
 - Governmental affairs and public policy: Beth Krueger report for Vice President Donna Hickey that the legislative agenda will continue to include block anesthesia as priority legislation, dental therapy and interstate compacts. NYDHA will continue to voice opposition to proposals for alternative pathways to licensure for foreign trained dentists for dental students and opposition to oral preventive assistant and similar proposals for positions by those not appropriately educated in dental hygiene functions. Also planned are initiatives to encourage use of teledentistry and the expanded collaborative practice. Vice President Hickey will be offering to present courses to components and schools on current issues as she did last year with positive feedback.
 - Membership development: Vice President Shaquantia Wyche cited the importance of reaching newer professionals and for building our community for every step of your career. She noted that encouraging membership is a role of everyone. She welcomes the opportunity to attend local events if she is available.
 - Professional development: Plans were made to combine the professional development committee and leadership task force. In addition to the conference, smaller in-person meetings as well as webinars are anticipated. The in-person

programs promote community. Possible topics include the current issues referenced in the governmental affairs report, follow-up on topics from the conference workplace course, and collaborative practice information.

- Social media: Marlyce James reported that the social media committee will work to promote the conference in Long Island as well as provide updates on NYDHA initiatives and encourage membership. Posting ideas are welcomed.
- Workforce: Shaquantia Wyche looked to the task force developing resource information as well as programs to help career advancement and office culture matters.

5. Finances

- Update on finances: The Board reviewed the financial report through September 30, which was circulated to the Board prior to the meeting. It was noted that income is up this year, including sponsorships and exhibitors; registration is down; membership is up a bit. Components were encouraged to use NYDHA for accreditation of courses. Expenses are up slightly, primarily because the conference is being held earlier in the fall this year. Upon motion by Jean Hall, second by Melisa Devaney, the financial report was accepted **(Motion 10-26-25,4)**
- As a new Treasurer has been elected and a new President takes office, beginning January 1, 2026, a resolution is needed to reflect these in bank signatures. A motion was made by Jean Hall and seconded by Robin Grasso to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the New York Dental Hygienists' Association Board of Directors authorizes the following to endorse checks and orders, for the payment of money or otherwise withdraw or transfer funds on deposit with the Association-designated financial institution, effective January 1, 2026.

- Jeffrey McMinn
- Belangie Perez Torres
- Beth Krueger

The motion carried **(Motion 10-26-25,5)**.

- Review of financial reimbursement policy: A motion to continue the reimbursement policy as written was made by Melissa Devaney and seconded by Jean Hall. The motion carried **(Motion 10-26-25,6)**.

6. President's update and component update: President James reviewed initiatives during the year. The Board expressed appreciation for her leadership. Components were advised to provide their reports to Secretary Jennifer Baker.
7. 2026 Board meeting schedule: The 2026 board meetings were set for January 10, April 18 and October 3 by Zoom and November 8 in person in conjunction with the Empire Conference at the Hyatt Regency Long Island. President-Elect Perez Torres will share a template to help achieve goals.
8. Review of NYDHA staff agreement; Upon motion by Jean Hall, second by Melisa Devaney and vote, the Board went into executive session to review the staff agreement (**Motion 10-26-25,7**). The Board came out of executive session at 12:55 p.m. and announced that that the agreement with the executive director will continue.
9. Unfinished business: There was no unfinished business.
10. New business matters: There was no new business,
11. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m. upon motion of Jean Hall, second by Tiffany Kerns and vote (**Motion 10-26-25,8**).