

NEW YORK DENTAL HYGIENISTS' ASSOCIATION, INC.
HOUSE OF DELEGATES – FIRST MEETING
Friday, October 24, 2025 – 9 a.m. – Marriott Syracuse Downtown, Syracuse NY

Board

President	Marlyce James	Present
President-Elect	Belangie Perez Torres	Present
VP Govt Affairs	Donna Hickey	Excused
VP Mem. Dv. & Engt.	Tiffany Kerns	Present
VP Prof Dev	Janine Love	Present
Treasurer	Laura Sleeper	Present
Secretary	Jennifer Baker	Excused
Immediate Past President	Marlyce James	Excused

Directors

NYC	Vermelle Ford	Present
Westchester/Mid-Hudson	Robin Grasso (Alt.)	Present
Adir/Capital District	Jeff McMinn	Present
Central Region	Doris Stockton	Present
Rochester/F.Lakes	Bridget Turkington	Present
Buffalo/Nia Fall	Melisa Devaney	Excused
Long Island	Jean Hall	Present

Executive Dir	Beth Krueger	Present
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Delegates (By District):

Audra Haynes	New York City	Present
Vermelle Ford	New York City	Present
Daughn Thomas	New York City	Present
Denice Brown	New York City	Present
Shaquantia Wyche	New York City	Present
Elizabeth Simpson	New York City	Present
Janine Love	New York City	Present
Harold Jennings	New York City	Excused
Danielle Murphy	Westchester/MidHud	Present
Elizabeth Kaylor	Westchester/MidHud	Present
Chetna Rana	Westchester/MidHud	Present
Robin Grasso	Westchester/MidHud	Present
Jeffrey McMinn	ADK/Capital	Present
Emily Murphy	ADK/Capital	Excused
Tiffany Kerns	Central	Present
Doris Stockton	Central	Present
Anne LaClair	Roc/FI Lakes	Present
Suzanne Bianchi	Roc/FI Lakes	Present
Chelsea Borsack	Long Island	Excused
Justine Rubi Coughlan	Long Island	Present
Dorothy Hamilton	Long Island	Present

Loretta Mariano	Long Island	Present
Isis Marsh	Long Island	Present
Ellie Hodownes	Student Delegate	Present

President Marlyce James called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m., and the pledge of allegiance was recited. A moment of silence was held in remembrance of members who had passed away in the past year.

Sergeant at Arms Daughn Thomas presented a crediting report, there were 22 seated delegates and thus a quorum was present. Laura Sleeper made a motion (**Motion 10-24-25, 1**) to adopt the standing rules, and the standing rules were adopted by a show of hands. Following motion made by Laura Sleeper and second (**Motion 10-24-25, 2**) to adopt the agenda, the agenda was reviewed and adopted as written with a show of hands.

President James then introduced the officers and directors present at today's meeting and the Annual Session Committee. President James recognized and thanked the individuals who contributed to making this event possible and their planning and organization. She then shared some program items and procedures for this weekend, and promoted our Ways and Means, NY HYPAC and ADHA Foundation fund raisers Notice also was given of the Greater New York Dental Meeting.

The minutes of the 2024 House of Delegates meeting were approved. (**Motion 10-24-25, 3**).

On behalf of the Harold Hennings, nominating committee chair, President James presented the 2026 slate of nominated officers and ADHA delegates:

- President- Elect: Audra Haynes
- Vice President of Governmental Affairs: Donna Hickey
- Vice President of Membership Development and Engagement: Shaquantia Wyche
- Vice President of Professional Development: Janine Love
- Treasurer: Jeffrey McMinn
- Secretary: Jennifer Baker

There being no additional nominations, nominations were closed with note that voting would take place October 26 from 8-9 a.m.

Marlyce James gave her President's address, citing the important role of the Association as the collective voice for the dental hygiene profession in New York State in working to enable RDHs to work at the top of their experience and education and to improve access to oral health care. She reflected on her journey as President over the last year and thanked board for their volunteerism and dedication.

Vermelle Ford made a motion (**Motion 10-24-25, 4**) to recess the House of Delegates until Sunday's second House meeting, The meeting was recessed at 9:35 a.m.

Reference Committee Testimony and the Candidates' Forum were held immediately after the recess of the first House meeting.