

NEW YORK DENTAL HYGIENISTS' ASSOCIATION

HOUSE OF DELEGATES – SECOND MEETING

Sunday, October 26, 2025 – 9 a.m. – Marriott Syracuse Downtown, Syracuse NY

President Marlyce James called the meeting to order at 9:15am.

Roll Call:

Board

President	Marlyce James	Present
President-Elect	Belangie Perez Torres	Present
VP Govt Affairs	Donna Hickey	Excused
VP Mem. Dv. & Engt.	Shaquantia Wyche	Present
VP Prof Dev	Janine Love	Present
Treasurer	Laura Sleeper	Present
Secretary	Jen Baker	Present
Immed. Past President	Harold Jennings	Present

Directors

NYC	Vermell Ford	Present
Westchester/Mid-Hudson	Robin Grasso (Alt.)	Present
Central Region	Tiffany Kerns	Present
Rochester/F. Lakes	Bridget Turkington	Present
Buffalo/Nia Fall	Melisa Devaney	Present
Long Island	Jean Hall	Present
Ex Director	Beth Krueger	Present

Delegates (By District):

Audra Haynes	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
Vermell Ford	New York City	Present
Harold Jennings	New York City	Present
Danielle Murphy	Westchester/MidHud	Present
Robin Grasso	Westchester/MidHud	Present
Elizabeth Kaylor	Westchester/MidHud	Present
Chetna Rana	Westchester/MidHud	Present
Jeffery McMinn	ADK/Capital	Present
Emily Murphy	ADK/Capital	Absent
Tiffany Kerns	Central	Present
Doris Stockton	Central	Present
Suzanne Bianchi	Roc/FI Lakes	Present
Anne LaClair	Roc/FI Lakes	Present
Deborah Henkel	Buffalo	Present
Melisa Devaney	Buffalo	Present

Chelsea Borsack	Long Island	Present
Justine Rubi Coughlan	Long Island	Present
Dorothy Hamilton	Long Island	Present
Loretta Mariano	Long Island	Present
Isis Marsh	Long Island	Present
Elmelinda Berrios	Student Delegate	Present

Sergeant at Arms Daughn Thomas presented the updated report of the credentials committee, stating that we have 25 seated delegates; a majority vote is 13 delegates, and we have a certified quorum present.

Report of Reference Committee A: Denice Brown (Chair), Danielle Murphy, Anne LaClair

Recommendations to the 2025 House of Delegates:

- Annual reports: Adoption as written
- PBY 1: Adoption as written with deletion of provisions for ADHA delegate section
- PR 1: Adoption as written
- PR 2: Adoption as written

Delegate Tiffany Kerns made a motion (**Motion 10-26-25,1**) to adopt all annual reports as written and Delegate Vermell Ford seconded. There was no discussion, and the delegates voted in the affirmative to adopt the submitted annual reports as written.

Delegate Audra Haynes made a motion (**Motion 10-26-25,2**) to adopt PBY 1 as written. Delegate Suzanne Bianci seconded. Delegate Anne LaClair asked for a point of clarification in light of the American Dental Hygiene Association's (ADHA) restructuring of their governing body. Discussion was had on how the ADHA restructuring will affect our delegation and organization. Delegates voted in the affirmative, and PBY 1 was adopted as written.

Delegate Doris Stockton made a motion (**Motion 10-26-25,3**) to adopt PR 1 as written, and Delegate Jeff McMinn seconded. There was no discussion. Delegates voted in the affirmative, and PR 1 was adopted as written.

Delegate Isis Marsh made a motion (**Motion 10-26-25,4**) to adopt PR 2 as written, and Student Delegate Elmelinda Berrios seconded. Immediate Past President Harold Jennings and Delegate Suzanne Bianchi asked for clarification on the proposed resolution. Delegates voted in the affirmative, and PR 2 was adopted as written.

Report of Reference Committee B: Justine Coughlan (Chair), Doris Stockton, Elizabeth Simpson

Recommendations to the 2025 House of Delegates:

- PR 3: Adoption as amended
- PR 4: Adoption as written
- PR 5: Adoption as written
- PR 6: Adoption as written

Delegate Tiffany Kerns made a motion (**Motion 10-26-25,5**) to adopt PR 3 as amended to add "periodontal therapy" to verbiage of the resolution. Student Delegate Elmelinda Berrios

seconded. Delegate Danielle Murphy clarified the grammar of the resolution. Delegate Shaquantia Wyche proposed an amendment to strike “licensed dentist.” Delegate Chetna Rana and Student Delegate Elmelinda Berrios provided testimony on the proposed resolution. Delegate Tiffany Kerns spoke in support of the amendments the reference committee recommended. Delegate Danielle Murphy also spoke in support of the amendments as the committee recommended.

Delegate Harold Jennings spoke in favor of inclusion of “dental therapists” in this conversation in the future for House of Delegate meetings. Delegate Denice Brown discussed the idea of making a motion to refer the proposed resolution back to the board, and Delegate Danielle Murphy shared that this proposed resolution could also be amended in the future. Delegate Janine Love provided testimony as to the point of this proposed resolution. Director Bridget Turkington spoke from the perspective of a dental hygienist now studying to be a licensed dentist.

Delegate Robin Grasso made a motion to call the question, Delegate Chetna Rana seconded **(Motion 10-26-25,6)**. The delegates voted in the affirmative to call the question. The delegates then voted in affirmative to approve the resolution with the amending language to add “and periodontal therapy procedures” as recommended by the Reference Committee.

Delegate Audra Haynes made a motion **(Motion 10-26-25,7)** to adopt PR 4 as written, Delegate Suzanne Bianchi seconded. With no discussion, the delegates voted in the affirmative to adopt this proposed resolution as written.

Delegate Danielle Murphy made a motion **(Motion 10-26-25,8)** to adopt PR 5 as written, Delegate Anne LaClair seconded. With no discussion, the delegates voted in the affirmative to adopt this proposed resolution as written.

Delegate Tiffany Kerns made a motion **(Motion 10-26-25,9)** to adopt PR 6 as written. Student Delegate Elmelinda Barrios seconded. With no discussion, the delegates voted in the affirmative to adopt this proposed resolution as written.

Report of Annual Session Committee

Executive Director Beth Krueger shared we had 160 attendees this year, with overall positive feedback being received so far. Executive Director Beth Krueger will continue to review feedback in depth.

Call to 2026 Annual Session

Executive Director Beth Krueger reported that our 2026 Annual Session will be held in Long Island (Hauppauge) November 6-8, 2026, with more details to come. Speaker or topic ideas can be submitted directly to Beth.

Report of the Tellers:

Treasurer Laura Sleeper read the report of the tellers:

- President-Elect: Audra Haynes received 25 votes
- VP Governmental Affairs: Donna Hickey received 25 votes

- VP Professional Development: Janine Love received 25 votes
- VP Membership Engagement and Development: Shaquantia Wyche received 25 votes
- Treasurer: Jeff McMinn received 25 votes
- Secretary: Jen Baker received 25 votes

Announcement of Elections by the President:

- President-Elect: Audra Haynes
- VP Governmental Affairs: Donna Hickey
- VP Professional Development: Janine Love
- VP Membership Engagement and Development: Shaquantia Wyche
- Treasurer: Jeff McMinn
- Secretary: Jen Baker

Announcement of Component Directors

- NYC: Director – Vermell Ford, Alt – Elizabeth Simpson
- Westchester/Mid-Hudson: Director – Kristin Hofer, Alt – Robin Grasso
- ADK/Capital: Director - Jeff McMinn, Alt – Emily Murphy
- Central Director: Director - Tiffany Kerns, Alt – Doris Stockton
- Rochester/Finger Lakes – TBD
- Buffalo/Niagara Falls – Director: Melisa Devaney, Alt: Deborah Henkel
- Long Island Director – Jean Hall, Alt: TBD

Installation of Officers and Directors

Immediate Past President Harold Jennings led the installation and swearing in of officers and directors for 2026. Photos were taken of incoming officers and directors.

Unfinished Business

Delegate Robin Grasso thanked the delegation for their donations to the ADHA Foundation, this weekend which raised over \$200 and will go to grants and scholarships. President Marlyce James thanked Robin Grasso and Beth Krueger for their dedication, and thanked the delegates for their attendance today. A round of applause was had for our president Marlyce James.

Adjournment

Delegate Denice Brown made a motion to adjourn today's meeting (**Motion 10-26-25,10**), and Delegate Doris Stockton seconded. The delegates voted to adjourn today's house of delegates meeting at 10:08am.