



**DHCC's nominating Committee asked the Chair-elect candidates to answer 3 questions – see responses here.**

## Dietetics in Health Care Communities

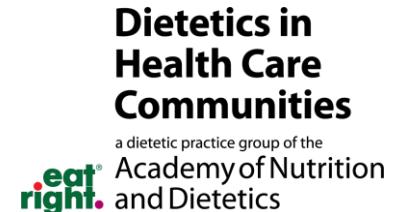
a dietetic practice group of the  
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics



Question	Krista Clark, MBA, RD, CSG, CD, FAND	Cindy Wolfram, RD, LD, FAND
<b>What motivated you to run for the DHCC chair elect position, and why is this role important to you?</b>	<p>I was motivated to run for the DHCC Chair Elect position by my passion for this amazing dietetic practice group, of whom I have been a member for 20 years and served as the Secretary for 4 years. I care deeply about the mission of this organization and believe I can help guide it forward during a time of opportunity and challenge. Through my experience of using the DPG for resources and guidance as a long-term care dietitian and being a volunteer on the committee, I've seen the impact strong leadership, collaboration, and clear direction can have, and I want to continue to contribute my knowledge to take the DPG further for our members.</p>	<p>I've worked in post-acute care for many years, and DHCC has been a vital source of information for me during my career. Serving on the DHCC Executive Committee in several positions, including as chair-elect, chair, and past chair, I have been an active volunteer leader, leading initiatives supporting membership with tools for success. With a depth of DHCC historical knowledge, and as the Academy is changing, I have the perspective as well as years of practice in post-acute care and leadership that can support what is next for DHCC members.</p>
<b>What unique perspective or expertise do you bring that will help DHCC achieve its mission?</b>	<p>I have been a dietitian for over 30 years and have a deep passion and understanding for the unique nutritional needs of the elderly and post-acute care population. I was a member of the Unintended Weight Loss in the Older Adult Evidence Analysis Library Project and more recently, Malnutrition in the Older Adult Evidence Analysis Library project, which brought about evidence-based research to help standardize optimal nutrition care across the country. I bring a commitment to listening, supporting diverse perspective, and working collaboratively to strengthen our programs, support our members, and ensure long-term sustainability.</p>	<p>It requires organization and openness to listen to the needs of our members, as well as the support of those around you to have a successful outcome. I worked in food service from a very young age, which ultimately taught me what a dietitian was, and launched my career that I am grateful to be experiencing. I currently serve as leader in unity in the community after identifying a need for service in the community, and along with several others, have developed a robust team to serve the community and the neighborhood where our church is located. With the mission to serve others, these tools will be important in achieving the steps for success.</p>



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Question	Krista Clark, MBA, RD, CSG, CD, FAND	Cindy Wolfram, RD, LD, FAND
<b>How do you see DHCC's role in advocating for dietitians in healthcare settings, and what would you do to strengthen that?</b>	<p>DHCC DPG plays a critical role in advocating for dietitians in post-acute settings by serving as a unified voice that represents our expertise, scope of practice, and value in long-term care. Through education, policy engagement, and collaboration with regulatory and professional partners, DHCC can help ensure dietitians are essential members of the interdisciplinary care team that support high-quality resident-centered nutrition care. To strengthen this role, I would support proactive advocacy by monitoring regulatory and legislative changes affecting long-term care and ensuring timely, clear communication to members; encourage DHCC to amplify the voices of practicing dietitians by gathering data that demonstrates our impact on outcomes, compliance, and resident quality of life, and work to expand partnerships with interdisciplinary stakeholders to increase visibility and influence.</p>	<p>The future of the profession is the younger generation. To have sustainability in the organization we need to encourage new practitioners to participate in DHCC DPG. DHCC must find ways to encourage our area of practice and educate others that we are an important part of the life cycle, especially with a rapidly growing population of seniors in this country. It is important for participation in the policy arena, providing our knowledge and information about our area, ensuring that the needs of those we serve are met. It is a challenging time, but as a group, we can support the needs of those we serve, as well as the members to provide the knowledge and skills to be successful. Having active members in this area will get our voice heard as we serve the post-acute care population.</p>