

NADE

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**NADE BIDS FAREWELL to
2016, LOOKS AHEAD TO 2017**



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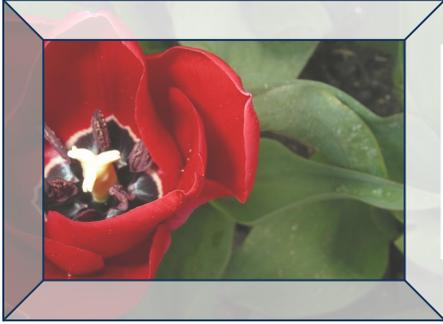
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Board members from around the country will meet in Baltimore, MD from February 23 to February 25th, 2017 for the annual mid-year meeting. They will address issues pertaining to NADE and disability. If you have any concerns you want addressed, either internally or with SSA, please contact your Regional Director as soon as possible!



*From the desk of NADE President,
Tonya Scott*



I am deeply humbled and honored to be serving in the role of president of NADE. Having served on the NADE board in a different capacity for the last several years, I thought I already knew exactly what to do! Wow, was I wrong! The last three months have been very enlightening and eye opening. Serving as the president is unlike any thing I have experienced and I love every minute. I enjoying hearing from each of you and I greatly appreciate all of the wisdom and the words of encouragement shared with me. I encourage you to continue to email/call me with all questions/comments/concerns that you may have.

We have experienced several changes in the past few months regarding our jobs. In the last few months, we have had revisions to various listings (Neurological Disorders Listing –September 19, 2016, Respiratory Disorders Listing – October 7, 2019, and Mental Disorders Listing – Effective January 17, 2017), in which we have had to become acclimated. We are responsible for serving some of the citizens with the most dire need in our states, the disabled citizens, and it is imperative that we remain up to date in all matters that will affect them.

As noted in past correspondences, we have an awesome new website, managed by our webmaster, Jake Schwartz. If you have not had the opportunity to review the website, I greatly you encourage you to do. You feedback is extremely important.

The Mid-Year Board Meeting in Baltimore is scheduled for February 23-25, 2017. As in the past, we will extend invitations to several SSA leaders to our meeting in order to keep us informed about ever changing matters regarding the disability program. The NADE Board will also, conduct extensive business discussions during this period. The executive leadership of NADE will be meeting with congressional leaders in March 2017.

Your voice matters! There is no SUCCESS with out **“U”**. If you have questions/comments/concerns that you want to share, please do not hesitate to contact me at President@nade.org. It is my goal to represent NADE and the interest of the members to the best of my ability and to continue the legacy of this great organization. I know there will be challenges along the way but I know that with your assistance, we will meet all challenges successfully.

As we approach the holiday season, I would like to wish each of you a wonderful holiday and a
Happy New Year!

Tonya Scott

SOAR WORKS

SOAR Works: Something for Everyone

By: Kristin Lupfer, Project Director, SAMHSA SOAR TA Center, Policy Research Associates, Inc.

SOAR works. We see it in the daily transformations of people's lives. It is in the excited emails on a Friday afternoon when a SOAR practitioner receives notice of her first approval. It is in the phone calls from consumers sharing their concerns, getting connected with a SOAR provider and soon locking the door to their first apartment. It is the email from Sheila, "The day my SOAR case manager reached out to me and showed me I existed is the happiest moment in my life." SOAR providers and the applicants they serve have received these notices of approval over 36,000 times. The work we do at the SOAR TA Center is focused on recreating these moments. We know SOAR works because we live it every day.

An Evaluation of SOAR

We now have even further confirmation that SOAR works. A new evaluation of the Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Outreach, Access, and Recovery ([SOAR](#)) model published online by Psychiatric Services has found that disability applications that used the SOAR model had a higher likelihood of approval than applications that did not follow the SOAR model. The study, [An Evaluation of SOAR: Implementation and Outcomes of an Effort to Improve Access to SSI and SSDI](#), was coauthored by Jacqueline F. Kauff and Elizabeth Clary of Mathematica Policy Research, Kristin Lupfer of Policy Research Associates and Director of the SOAR Technical Assistance (TA) Center, and Pamela J. Fischer of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

SOAR is a national program designed to increase access to the disability income benefit programs administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) for eligible adults who are experiencing or at-risk of homelessness and have a mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder. In this study, researchers examined how the SOAR program and TA provided through the SOAR TA Center impacted both implementation of the SOAR model within local communities and outcomes from this implementation.

The SOAR TA initiative evolved to address barriers to the receipt of SSI and SSDI among adults with disabilities who were experiencing homelessness and who were unable to work. Despite high levels of disability among people experiencing homelessness, many who are potentially eligible never apply for benefits. Among those who apply, the chance of being approved for SSI/SSDI is very low without someone taking an active role to assist with documentation of disability. Nationwide, initial approvals of SSI/SSDI applications, whether the applicant is experiencing homelessness or not, average 28 percent.

Key to accessing services and housing is access to entitlements. For persons with mental illnesses who are experiencing homelessness, the Social Security disability programs can provide a steady source of income and health insurance, making it possible for many to secure housing, treatment, and other needed supports.

The evaluation of SOAR concluded that SOAR clients achieved better application outcomes (i.e., approvals), when providers used the SOAR model to complete the application. Providers who used the SOAR model to complete disability applications achieved a 73 percent approval rating and initial applications using the SOAR model were approved almost twice as often as disability applications for individuals experiencing homelessness that did not use the SOAR model (50 percent approval versus 28 percent approval).



SOAR Addresses Challenges

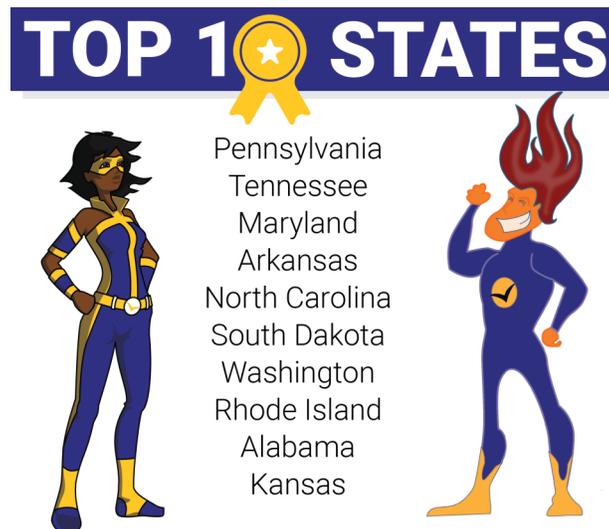
The SOAR approach is designed to address many of the challenges that SSA and DDS face when serving people who are experiencing homelessness. SOAR providers maintain ongoing communication with the applicant; serve as the applicant's appointed representative using the SSA-1696; provide transportation and accompany applicants to appointments; complete the online Social Security Disability application (iClaim) and Disability Report (i3368); provide complete documentation and signed paperwork, medical records, and a detailed medical summary report; and provide timely follow-up to SSA and DDS's requests for additional information.

All of this helps shorten the application processing time by providing complete information and avoiding consultative examinations (CEs). Focusing on "getting it right the first time" avoids re-applications and appeals, which put additional burdens on the system.

DDS offices across the country have collaborated with SOAR providers in a number of mutually beneficial ways: Ongoing communication between the medical or professional relations officer and SOAR steering committees promotes improved processing of claims from homeless applicants. DDS liaisons attend SOAR trainings when possible. SOAR applications flagged in the SSA field office are quickly assigned to an examiner or routed to a designated examiner or group of examiners who process claims from persons experiencing homelessness.

When SOAR staff provide complete medical records and detailed functional information there is a decreased need for CEs, saving processing time and money. With more complete applications, DDS examiners are able to make more accurate and better documented decisions than otherwise possible. Society as a whole benefits from addressing homelessness in a more effective and systemic manner and the applicant can begin his or her journey on the road to recovery.

Visit the SOAR website to learn more about how SOAR is making a difference in your community.
www.soarworks.prainc.com



SOAR TOP 10 FACTS:

Total Number of persons served 9.464 (cumulative decisions from 2006-2016)

82 percent approval rate on initial applications

Approval rates are highest in places where some SOAR critical components are implemented.

2017 CONFERENCE INFORMATION



DETROIT, MICHIGAN 2017 NATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE

When: August 12-16, 2017

Where: Sheraton Hotel Detroit Metro Airport

8000 Merriman Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174

Room Rate: Single \$115, Double \$115, Triple, \$125, Quad \$135

Hosted by: Michigan Association of Disability Examiners (MADE)

NADE Members \$200 Non-Members \$260

Please visit the website: Still under construction and we will continue to update.

<http://www.madeindetroit2017.org/>

Chapter News From Around the Nation

MONTADE (Montana Association of Disability Examiners)

By Belinda Terrill

The chapter had a Halloween party and gave out prize money of \$20 to first place costume and \$10 second place costume winners. A \$10 prize was given to the best decorated door.

Non-members of NADE were included in the festivities, hoping that those individuals would consider joining in the future.



The first place costume was Joey Gaither, Aka Chewbacca, and Nadine Neighbor, AKA Chicken Little. They won \$20 and \$10 respectively. Honorable mention went to Jennifer Nottingham who made a great Princess!! Rachel Spatz, Chapter president, won the door decorating contest.



CADE(Capital Area Disability Examiners)-DC CHAPTER

CADE hosted a very successful School Supply Drive. We teamed up with the office's social committee to co-host our first school supply drive. Our Regional Director and coworkers in the office were very supportive of our initiative. The Boys and Girls Club of Greater DC was the recipient of our donations. We thought it appropriate to donate to the children of our community. The Event was hosted from August 8, 2016 to September 6th, 2016. Funny meme posters about back to school were strategically posted around the office to drum up interest and add some humor to the event. The donations were quite abundant for the size of our office. Some of the items we collected were backpacks, notecards, pens, pencils, crayons, paper, notebooks and much more. The items were taken to The Boys and Girls Club of Greater DC. The organization was very appreciative of the donations given.



CADE has partnered with a library group and will be hosting an ongoing book drive for children in DC.

AADE in Action!

By Maria Whiting AADE President

The Mobile Alabama chapter, a subsidiary of the Alabama Association of Disability Examiners, (AADE) would like to highlight the success of our chapter that is over 200 miles away from Birmingham. The chapter only has seven members at this DDS branch, but there is nothing they cannot accomplish.

In August, this chapter held a school supply drive for Moffett Elementary School in Mobile, AL. In November, the chapter collected over 308 pounds of food to donate to the local area food bank. The food drive boxes were labeled with Alabama, Auburn, and LSU signs. The team box with the most weight was the winner of the Food Drive. In December, Mobile AADE gave two bikes for the Marines Toys for Tots program from monies donated from their chili fundraiser.

This chapter's giving does not stop there. The chapter also raised \$460.00 for the American Cancer Society this year and made a donation to help a NADE member during a difficult time.

Below are just a few examples of our Mobile DDS Chapter at work and AADE would like to say thank you to those members for all they do.



2015 Toys for Tots
Toy Drive



LOUISIANA STRONG!

By Courtney Oliver,
BRADE (Baton Rouge Association of Disability Examiners)

Louisiana has suffered several tragedies in 2016. The most recent and widespread event is the “Great Flood” in August 2016. In the Baton Rouge DDS office, over 30 people either had damage to their house or their car as a result of this flood. The recovery has been extremely slow and most employees are still not back in their homes.

So many members of NADE have blessed the Baton Rouge office and we are forever thankful. LADE (Louisiana Association of Disability Examiners, Shreveport chapter) collected gift cards to home improvement stores, grocery stores, and restaurants to help those affected by the storm during the recovery phase. SLADE (Southeast Louisiana Association of Disability Examiners, New Orleans chapter) brought cleaning supplies and clothes to the Baton Rouge office. THADE (Tar heel Association of Disability Examiners, North Carolina chapter) just overwhelmed the Baton Rouge office with all of the donations they sent (money, cleaning supplies, food, water, towels, sheets, first aid supplies, personal hygiene items, and so much more!). Whenever donations were collected, they were placed in our large conference room and those who were affected by the flood were able to come and get whatever they needed. The looks on the faces of our fellow employees whenever they wanted into that room is priceless. The generosity of all of those in NADE is something I will never forget. BRADE has been active for less than a year but we instantly felt welcomed and a part of the NADE family.

Since the flood, BRADE has tried to get back on our feet and active again. We have gone from 1 member in January to 8 members as of October. Although we are still a small chapter, we are all passionate about BRADE and hope to continue to grow. Since the flood, we have held two fundraisers to cover the costs we incurred reestablishing BRADE with our Secretary of State’s office and raise money for future events. We sold Domino’s Slice the Price cards, which cost \$10 per card and enabled the buyer to buy one large pizza, get one large pizza free with unlimited use through 6/2017. We also hosted a dessert cook-off where employees entered a homemade dessert and other employees paid to taste the desserts. Both were a huge success! We plan to host a “lunch and learn” training session and a membership drive in the near future.

BRADE is committed to the vision of NADE and to helping others. We will rebuild and we are stronger together!



Assisting One of Our Own

Teresa Thompson, TADE (Tennessee Chapter) President

Within the local chapters associated with NADE, we often find ourselves involved in a bake sale, car wash or other activity to muster up funds for an event or activity, but things become especially meaningful when someone you know has a need and you want to do something to help. This happened a few months back when a TADE member was hit with devastating news.

Anlaesha Bryan is the Parliamentarian of the Tennessee chapter. Earlier this year, her husband began to experience swelling on one side of his face. After a trip to the doctor, it was one of those things that you just think will never happen to someone close to you. Stage 4 cancer! Instant devastation for a young family married for 5 years with 2 young children. Some of us, unless we have been there, cannot even begin to think of the ways this kind of news can affect your life. Treatments to discuss, prognosis – unsure; “how do we tell the kids?”

Active TADE members brainstormed ideas on how we could help. We decided on a Silent Auction and began the process. A date was set, and flyers went up asking for donations of items. The first person to come to me was a season ticket holder for the Tennessee Titans football team. I was amazed when he told me he wanted to donate two tickets to a future game for the auction. Not only that, but he had some signed Titan merchandise he was willing to donate among other items. That started the ball rolling. I must tell you, I was pleasantly overwhelmed with the outpouring of participation from the employees of this office. Boxes and boxes of items were piling into my office until I barely had room to work. Autographed “Walking Dead” books, local theatre tickets, yoga class certificates, small appliances, employee art work, books authored by employees, people who owned small business donated items, a local country music artist donated CD’s and T-shirts, Longaberger baskets, hand carved wooden bowls, designer purses, hand-made jewelry, and the list goes on.

The Events Planning Committee sat down and put a starting price on all these items, made sheets for participants to sign to give their bids, we set everything up on tables with bidding sheets and gave 3 hours for everyone to place their bids. People lined up at the door the day of the action way before time to begin. There were a few interesting bidding wars that took place, all in fun! Many were not even interested in purchasing items, they just came to give donations for the family. All of the hard work paid off. At the end of the day, including the items auctioned and donations given, just under \$2,000 was given to the Bryan family to help with bills, groceries, whatever was needed.

This article is not to brag or say, “look what we did”, though this was one of the most successful efforts the TADE organization has ever had. But we are proud of the fact that this office came through for one of our own in a major way. We know it is only a drop in the bucket compared to what the family will need. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to express our compassion to a TADE member and show her and her family that this organization and the Tennessee DDS office can accomplish good things. The benefit is not just for those receiving the blessing, but those doing the giving are equally blessed. Isn’t that what this organization is all about as we work with individuals with disabilities?

Recently the Bryan family has received more bad news. The treatments have not worked as they had hoped and medical personnel have given the husband mere weeks to live. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. As I commented in an email to the members just this week, “as we look forward to additional holidays and see the many tragic things going on all around us, I hope you will be mindful and grateful for what you have and for those close to you. If you see a place where this organization can make a difference in someone’s life through education, appreciation, quality of life, change in policy, or otherwise, let’s talk about it; and change the world one individual at a time”.

NADE FAMILY

By: Sara Winn, Communications Director, CADE member

I have heard “NADE is a family” so many times in 12 year career with the DDS. I worked at some DDS’s that did not have active chapters, but when I began working at the DC DDS, I was happy to hear they had a NADE chapter. I was excited to renew my membership and become active again. I learned what the slogan “NADE is a family” truly meant after tragedy struck my family on May 30, 2016. My family was returning from a short vacation when we arrived, fire trucks were on scene fighting a fire that had been blazing for several hours. We had traveled 3 hours to NJ to have fun at Six Flags. This particular vacation, we decided to take our dogs with us. After we pulled up and saw fire trucks, we quickly realized it was our home that was on fire. We soon realized that it was destroyed, I counted my blessings that my family, and my pets were safe. It has been a long road and we are still not back in our home, but the outpouring of support from my “NADE Family” is something I will never forget. I received donations from so many chapters throughout the nation that had held fundraisers for my family. Seeing the overwhelming support made me realize that NADE is truly a **family** and we have members that care about each other, not just the work we do. One of the cards that I received at National conference summed it best. “You will fall down in life, but you have to get back up. You only fail when you quit “. I don’t have a “quitting” bone in my body. The support truly helped me to remain strong for my children. My children learned that there is goodness in this world and people ready to help. I know that I will teach them to always pay it forward. I want to say **“thank you”** to all the chapters and members that donated. Happy Holidays from my family to yours!





MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CHALLENGE

By: Melissa Williamson, Membership Director, AADE member

As I sat down to write this article, I began to try to think of quotes about membership. Of course, I consulted our old friend Google and found one that was very appropriate for our organization...."Being a member is about knowing that you're not on your own and that you share experiences with other people." Although there is no named author to associate this quote to, I feel that this person could have very well been a NADE member. The DDS business and processes are very unique from other organizations which I think sometimes makes us feel that we are alone in the big picture. However, with being a NADE member, you are able to come together to share experiences, enjoy each other's company, celebrate the ups and grieve the lows. We build strong bonds, share work ideas that have had positive impacts, build future DDS/NADE leaders and become family. That is what membership is truly all about.

NADE membership provides many opportunities to become more educated about the disability program. We offer training conferences that focus on medical, vocational and policy issues. These conferences also give members the opportunity to hear SSA officials speak and ask them questions regarding upcoming SSA changes.

NADE also provides leadership opportunities. These are available either through the local chapters, regional or national levels, NADE encourages everyone to be active and take leadership roles. Committee chairs, board members, are always in high demand, as we must work together for the common goal.

Our January membership drive is an amazing opportunity for everyone to reach out to someone about becoming a member of the NADE family. Anyone new to NADE or those who have not renewed their membership in the past 2+ years, will get 18 months for the price of a 12 month membership. Membership dues would not be due again until June 2018.

I encourage each chapter, no each member, to set a goal to increase your chapter's membership by adding at least 5 new members during January. Educate the non-members in your DDS about NADE. Encourage them to go to the NADE website so they can see first-hand all that NADE has to offer. Show potential members *The Advocate*, especially the recent Conference edition. There are also many past editions of *The Advocate* available to use for recruitment.

Chapter Presidents, please remember that you can request a Membership Grant to assist you in your recruiting efforts. To request the grant, please email Melissa.Williamson@ssa.gov or Membership.Director@nade.org with information about your recruitment plans or activities.

With a NADE membership, you are never on your own and there are many wonderful experiences to share.



CORRECTION TO PREVIOUS ADDITION:

It was noted in the previous issue that the Jim Lefler Memorial award was only given to Vicki Johnson. The Lefler award was given to the DDS Director serving the longest and to the newest DDS director. The Lefler award was also given to Judy Speer, CA DDS Director, the newest director. I apologize for the oversight.

Congratulations to Judy Speer!

Please email your submissions and any requests for correction to communications.director@nade.org

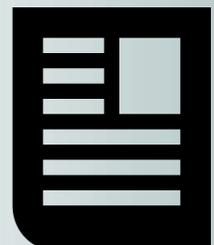
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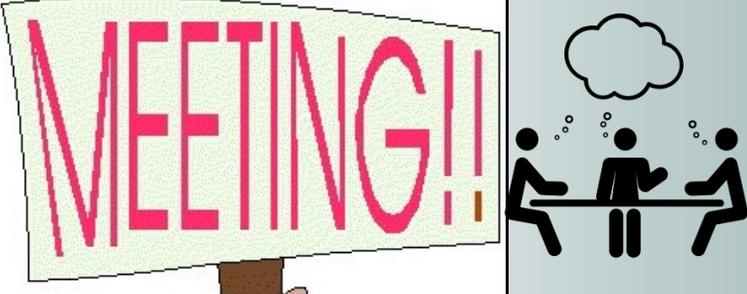


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Meeting
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