

the NADE ADVOCATE



A Publication of the National Association of Disability Examiners Volume 29, Number 1 Winter 2013

Social Security Commissioner Michael J. Astrue has formally stepped down after the end of his six year term.



Michael J. Astrue

Carolyn W. Colvin is serving as Acting Commissioner until President Obama appoints the new Social Security Commissioner.

The SSA press release regarding this change can be found at this link:

<http://www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/pr/comm-returns-to-ma-pr.html>

NADE would like to thank Commissioner Astrue for his support of NADE and his recent appearance at the NADE National Conference in Columbus, Ohio.

We wish him all the best in this new chapter in his life.

Inspector General Patrick P. O'Carroll and President R. Todd Deshong pause for a photo after Inspector General O'Carroll discussed current and future OIG initiatives with the NADE board.



**The National
Donate Life
Month
Contest**

Read more on pages 12 and 13

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President's Message

ONCE AGAIN, WE FIND OURSELVES in a particularly confusing time. Between political debate over debt management, budget objectives, and sources of revenue, Disability Examiners/Adjudicators increasingly find ourselves demonized from all quarters. We are accused of being the stereotypical bureaucrat who cares little for the person behind the file. As the Past President Tom Ward wrote last year, "the airwaves and print media are full of advertisements these days on just how difficult it is for the average person to navigate the Social Security Disability application process."



This has paved the way for the urban myth, "everyone is denied the first time." All of us on the front lines, actually completing SSA disability determinations on a daily basis, know this to be folly. We are the professionals who carefully analyze medical and vocational information to

compare with Social Security Disability rules. Daily, we must wade through hundreds of pages of medical records, field telephone calls from anxious claimants, request medical records not specifically identified on applications, and deal with not only SSA rules and requirements, but those placed upon us in our respective states.

We are also chastised for being the decision-maker that allows improper payments. My current work with the Seattle CDIU provides me with unique insight into the program shortcomings, administrative errors, and human mistakes that allow improper payments. Through my work on the NADE Board, I hope to be able to query policy-makers about perceived disability policy limitations. Additionally, all of us on the NADE Board anticipate that we will be able to assist policy-makers with practical ideas to resolve these policy deficiencies.

Our workloads continually increase because of resource shortages, yet between state and federal hiring freezes, most DDSs find themselves with less and less staff. The US Census Bureau reports that the average growth rate for disability applications is 6.3% per year. This is a much faster rate than the growth rate of the working population or the overall measured incidence of morbidity and disabling health conditions in that population. In addition, the SSA, Office of Budget reports for fiscal year 2010 to fiscal year 2012 funding from Congress decreased by \$938 million. Further, according to SSA's Office of Human Resources and Office of Disability Determination, as of October 2012, the actual net employee losses in fiscal year 2012 were 2,709, which include both SSA and DDS employees. So, as anyone who has watched the nightly news, read newspapers or internet blogs can easily tell, these problems are very complex and difficult to manage.

We are just returning from our annual Midyear Board meeting, which was scheduled for February 28 through March 2 in Baltimore, Maryland. This is our opportunity to meet with SSA Disability policymakers to let them know your concerns and offer practical ideas to resolve those concerns. NADE's strength comes from members like you. The more voices we can take with us the better for the organization, so any member who is able to attend is encouraged to do so. The success of our professional organization depends upon the strength of our membership. When we speak to policymakers, our voice grows when our membership grows. Any increase in membership provides the needed resources for the organizations continued involvement in numerous projects. NADE's members continually make important contributions to not only our association but in their communities as well. Please do not forget, one of your duties as a member is to keep others informed on changes in the disability program.

continued on next page

The **NADE Advocate** is the official publication of the National Association of Disability Examiners.

It provides a forum for responsible comments concerning the disability process. Official NADE positions are found in the comments by the NADE President and NADE Position Papers.

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Letters to the Editor are welcomed and may be selected for inclusion in future issues. Please forward ideas for future **Advocate** topics to the editor or your Regional Publications Representative.

The next issue will be **Spring 2013**. All correspondence should be directed through your Regional Representative or the NADE Communications Director by **April 15, 2013**.

With that being said, I urge all of you local chapter presidents and members to begin fundraising for the upcoming National Training Conference in Oklahoma City. Any amount of fundraising that you are able to accomplish will help offset travel expenses to the conference. As always, I encourage strong membership drives to help increase our numbers. I also want to give a great big shout out to those who have worked very hard on the January membership drive. The last numbers I have seen indicate that we have made at least a 50+ membership increase for the month. Way to go everyone!!

R. Todd Deshong

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Remembering Pacific Regional Director Joe Rise

by R. Todd Deshong



JOSEPH "JOE" ODEN RISE BECAME a member of NADE in 1994. From that time, Joe was always an active member in the local chapter. He was the local chapter president on several occasions. He frequently attended not only Pacific regional conferences, but also the National Training Conferences. He continued his participation by moving through the regional offices to become the Pacific Regional Director. Not only was Joe considered the "go to guy" in the Seattle DDS office, but he was the one to contact in the Pacific region.

Past president Georgina Husky wrote, "Joe and I go back to at least the early 2000's. In many ways, Joe was my NADE soul mate. He was always there for me. When I ran for Pacific Regional Director it was his vote that got me there. He was always there for me when I needed a friend during difficult times. He was the most capable, kindest, generous, decent and wonderful person in his quiet and reserved ways that I knew. He was also a true friend who never wavered with his loyalty and his friendship. We had an agreement that he would protect me and comfort me during difficult times with NADE. Likewise, I encouraged Joe to run for Pacific Regional Director and brought him into the NADE Board as the Constitution and By-Laws Chairmanship during the first year of my NADE Presidency. I still remember and miss his frequent calls to check up on me and his words of encouragement. He would never say an unkind word about anyone, and I so appreciated this incredible quality about Joe."

I met Joe when I moved to the Seattle DDS in 2005. Joe was always very encouraging to people new to the office, as well as new to NADE. He participated in planning committees for not only regional ones conferences in Seattle, but also national ones. At the first national conference he and I attended, we started a tradition that lasted through our most recent conference in Columbus, Ohio. Joe and I would get to the conference early, and scope out the nearest sports bar. On the Sunday before the conference, we would watch NFL football and eat chicken wings. There was another member of our group, whom we lost earlier, Marty Blum. Therefore, between Joe's Packers and Marty's Jets, my "poor" Seattle Seahawks were usually not on the TV.

I do not think that saying Joe was the "go to guy" in the Pacific is an overstatement. Joe was always available for meetings on how to increase membership, what are the best fundraising ideas, are we going to plan another conference in this region, and how to set up a hospitality room. Joe always encouraged new members to become first-time attendees. Joe always supported the first-time attendee breakout sessions and encouraged new members to attend.

On the board, Joe could always be counted on for historical knowledge. He could always be counted on for the necessary "second", with any motion. As my mentor, and friend I will truly miss Joe Rise.

The
2013 NADE National Training Conference
is to be held in Oklahoma City, OK from August 19th - August 22nd

Mark your calendars and save the date!

Additional information will follow in the Spring **Advocate**.

Please notify the Communications Director Megan Rolloos of any email address changes when they occur. Questions on distribution may be directed to the Communications Director or your Regional Director.

National Disability Professionals Week – June 10-14, 2013

by David Kramer, NDPW chair

THE MORNING RUSH: WAKE UP, morning grooming, no time to iron but that shirt looks okay. Wake the kids - no you can't wear that to school, please put your socks on - sit down for breakfast, why did you take your socks off? Apple juice or grape juice? Where are your socks? Grandpap will take you to school today, no you can't wear your church shoes because it's physical education day, hugs and kisses, then it's off to work (oops!), run back inside to comb two little heads of hair, then eat breakfast in the car or just have coffee at work.

Then the work day - a long day of combing through medical records for that key piece of information that will allow that aging case to close with an accurate decision, punctuated by ringing phone calls, followed by forms to complete, amplified by intent buzzing half-conversations with claimants in nearby cubicles, flavored by not-fresh-enough-coffee, and where-has-the-time-gone, and how-many-receipts-today? Plus the I-really-do-not-have-enough time.

Deep breath.

You make a positive difference in the lives of countless Americans. The citizens of your state or territory are better off because **you** bend your energy and will to work with excellence to make wise decisions, which will provide for the care of those who lack the resources to fully care for themselves – the disabled. You do not just work a job - you have a worthy career.

And so, once a year, NADE takes time to celebrate, recharge and reconnect with friends and coworkers. That time is National Disability Professionals Week (NDPW), to be held during the week of June 10-14, 2013.

As in past years, NADE will recognize the chapters with the best NDPW events upon submission of a few paragraphs about their activities by the end of June.

If the NDPW committee may be of service, please contact me.

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THADE Treasurer and Past President
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Membership Recruitment and Retention

by Donnie Hayes, NADE Member Director



THESE FOUR WORDS SHOULD BE foremost in each current NADE member's thoughts. My challenge to each of you as the National Membership Director is to rescue at least one new member this year. As you know, NADE's success depends on its members. NADE is a member driven and member led organization.

Now is the time that NADE chapters and NADE members should begin to think about making a big push for membership. I would also like to encourage every member to urge his or her co-workers to join NADE today. This is an especially great time to become a new member because individuals who have never joined or individuals who have not renewed their memberships in the last three years or more, receive not only the usual 12 month membership but, if they join any time after January 1, 2012, they become members immediately and renewal of their membership is not due again until June 2014.

This essentially means that new members who join now receive an extended membership status through June 2014.

There are still a few months before the renewal period begins in May. I hope that you, as a current member, will decide to review your membership at that time. All of you should consider taking advantage of renewing your membership online. You can go to the NADE website at www.nade.org and renew your membership; new members can also join the organization using this easy method. You just fill in the necessary information and you will receive an email confirming the transaction.

Join NADE now and help us create and shape your professional future. NADE offers opportunities for members to network with other disability professional nationwide, opportunities to build lasting friendships, and opportunities to meet and share idea with others who share similar concerns. NADE also offers opportunities for increasing one's knowledge of the disability program and how it operates, and extends to our members the opportunity to actually meet the policy makers and to express concerns or ideas. NADE also offers local professional activities at the state, regional, and national levels, as well as opportunities for community service, attending social events, and much more.



Membership grants: Don't forget that there are membership grants available to assist your chapter's recruitment efforts. Grants are available once every 12 months. Remember, the more members we have, the stronger our voice.

Please join me in continuing to work on retention of existing members and recruitment of new members.

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Mid Year Board Photos

Associate Commissioner Linda Dorn, with NADE President R. Todd Deshong, President-elect Jennifer Nottingham, and Dr. Tony Jones, DC DDS.



The NADE Board paused for a photo while at their mid year meeting in Baltimore, Maryland.

Front Row from the left are Sharon Summers – Southeast Regional Director, Debi Chowdhury – Northeast Regional Director, Malcolm Stoughtenborough – DDS/Administrators and SSA Liaison, Leesa Chalmers – Mid-Atlantic Regional Director, Julie Kujath – Treasurer and Legislative Director, Patricia Chaplin – Great Plains Regional Director, Rodney Roth – Great Lakes Regional Director, and Tonya Scott - Secretary.

Back Row from Left are Donnie Hayes – Membership Director, Jennifer Pounds – CCP Chairperson, Jennifer Nottingham – NADE President Elect, Tom Ward – NADE Past President, and R. Todd Deshong – NADE President.

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WADE Members Organize Annual Holiday Food and Clothing Drives

WADE members happily volunteer time and labor to organize and support charitable events. Two of their holiday events are the annual food drive and cold weather clothing drive. Donations are given to local food pantries to make the season a little brighter for those in need. Pictured here, around the "Mitten Tree" are the WADE board members.



From left to right are Janet Geeslin, Patricia Metcalf, Beth Glauert and Marianne Guilfoyle.

**NADE IS A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION WHOSE MISSION IS TO
ADVANCE THE ART AND SCIENCE OF DISABILITY EVALUATION.**

Our membership base includes members that represent a broad perspective of interests regarding the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability programs.

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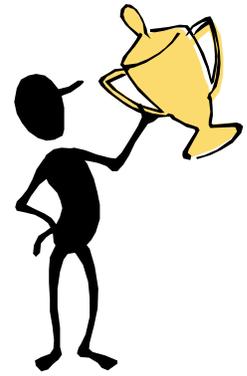


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2013 NADE National Awards

THE NINE NATIONAL AWARDS, TO be presented at this year's National Training Conference in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, celebrate those NADE members who make a difference through their exceptional leadership, innovations, and commitment to the National Association of Disability Examiners.



Is there someone in your office who exemplifies professional excellence?

Take a look around you. Is there someone in your office who exemplifies professional excellence? Who inspires you and your office with their hard work? Who consistently stands out for their dedication and determination?

If you've recognized their outstanding qualities, we want the chance to recognize them, too!

Complete criteria for the awards is available at nade.org. Nomination forms will be available 4/1/2013, and nominations will be accepted through 7/1/2013.

Don't miss the chance to show your appreciation for your fellow NADE members through your nominations!

NADR's 13th Annual Social Security Law Conference



NADR will host our 13th Annual Social Security Law Conference at the Grand Hyatt in Seattle, WA. We have an excellent agenda planned so you won't want to miss this event. You can visit our website to register. We hope to see you in Seattle!

What/Who: NADR's 13th Annual Social Security Law Conference

When: May 1st – 4th, 2013

Where: Grand Hyatt, Seattle, WA

Contact:

www.nadr.org admin@nadr.org 202.822.2155

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Ovarian Cancer

by Donna Bradshaw, St Louis, MO DDS



SEPTEMBER IS OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS month. To help increase our knowledge of this issue, our local MADE chapter sponsored a lunch and learn on 09/25/12 with speakers from the St. Louis Ovarian Cancer Awareness (SLOCA) organization.

SLOCA is an all-volunteer, non-profit ovarian cancer awareness organization located in the metro St. Louis area. They are committed to increasing ovarian cancer survivorship by promoting awareness of early warning signs and standards of care, funding ovarian cancer research and supporting survivors.

Three women, Beth Hudson, Kathy Kline Schmidt and Deb Leonard, provided information and shared their personal stories with DDS staff.

Ovarian cancer is the deadliest of all gynecologic cancers. This is because the disease is most often detected in its advanced stages, when it has spread outside the ovaries. There is no diagnostic test for ovarian cancer. Most of the diagnosis occurs at Stage 3C which is when symptoms begin to become evident. Approximately 90% of ovarian cancer is random and not associated with a family history of the disease. A woman's lifetime risk of developing ovarian cancer is 1 in 71.

They shared the symptoms with staff and stressed to seek treatment if they persist:

- Bloating
- Pelvic or Abdominal Pain
- Urinary urgency or frequency
- Difficulty eating or feeling full quickly

Other possible symptoms include fatigue, indigestion (often misdiagnosed as a GI problem), back pain, and unexplained weight loss or gain. They stressed that "you know your own body" and if something does not feel right, they urged staff to have it checked by a medical professional. If the doctor is not receptive, be persistent and seek additional follow-up.

Each of the women presenting had first-hand knowledge of the effects of ovarian cancer. Beth Hudson lost a sister to the disease and when she tested positive for BRCA-1 and had genetic testing confirming she inherited the genetic mutation, she opted to have a complete hysterectomy. She had no symptoms, her CA 125 was within normal range and there was no evidence of cancer. However, when they did surgery, she did have ovarian cancer and received chemotherapy. Kathy Kline Schmidt had a history of breast cancer at age 35 and had lost a sister to breast cancer. She was cancer free for 17 years and was diagnosed at 48 years old with ovarian cancer. She shared that her only symptom was difficulty urinating. She reported she was fortunate to have a knowledgeable doctor who made the appropriate follow-ups. She received chemotherapy and shared that she has had a reoccurrence and is currently receiving ongoing treatment. She provided insight into the effects of chemotherapy including extreme fatigue and sickness. Deb Leonard was recently diagnosed with Stage 4 Ovarian cancer in 11/2011. She reported she had gas and continual bloating in April 2011, but thought it might be IBS. Her doctor did not pursue any additional treatment, but instead referred her to a GI specialist. At her annual OB exam, her pap test showed some dysplasia, and additional testing found her cancer. She had surgery and had a 7 pound tumor removed. She received chemotherapy, but has had a reoccurrence and is still in treatment.

The women stressed to be persistent if you have the symptoms and act promptly:

- See a doctor, preferably a gynecologist, if symptoms are new, occur almost daily and persist for two weeks.
- Ask for a pelvic and rectal exam (to feel ovaries), a CA-125 blood test, and a transvaginal ultrasound and/or a CT scan.

The presentation provided useful information and personal insight into ovarian cancer disease process.

For more information on the SLOCA organization, view their website at www.sloca.org

Are you Certified through NADE?

Certification applications are available at nade.org, or you may contact

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OADE Fundraiser Benefits Children's Home

by Jennifer Maxson, Columbus, OH DDS

THE OHIO ASSOCIATION OF DISABILITY Examiners (OADE) has raised money for the United Methodist Children's Home (UMCH) for several years. UMCH assists with placing children with foster and adoptive parents as well as providing counseling and other services to children in need. Rather than having clients come to one central office, the staff goes out into the community in order to better understand the individual circumstances of each child.



In December 2012, OADE sold holiday cookies, hot chocolate and candy to benefit UMCH. All of the items sold were donated by OADE members. The candy was sold in the form of candy grams. Staff donated money to send candy grams to their colleagues. This event served as a fundraiser as well as a morale booster for staff. The Director of UMCH came to speak to the OADE membership the week following the fundraiser and we were able to present him with a \$250 donation.



Start thinking about **RUNNING FOR A POSITION** within NADE.

Elections will take place at the 2013 National Conference in Oklahoma City. Watch for more information regarding each position in the Spring *Advocate*.

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It's All About Life

by Julie Mavis, Organ Donation/Transplant Chair

Greetings, it's that time of year again! April is Organ Donor Awareness Month. This year our main focus will be recruitment of organ and tissue donors. So chapters let's get busy as we want an overwhelming response in the number of donors registered this month. You have the power to change someone's world by being a donor. It is about living. **It is about Life.**

Thanks to living kidney donors, I have spent 25 years of living as a kidney recipient and I am a strong organ donation advocate. I have registered on my State's Donor Registry list and I have a sticker on my driver's license indicating my donor status. My family has been informed of my wishes. The gift of life is the greatest gift one can ever give. You may have the power to give that priceless gift to a relative, a friend, or someone you do not even know and may never meet. Families of the donors indicate this gift turns their tragedy into life for another family facing challenges and imminent death of a loved one.

The need for organ and tissue donations is tremendous. Organ and tissue transplants offer patients a new chance at healthy, productive, normal lives and return them to their families, friends and communities. One organ donor can save the lives of 8 recipients and one tissue donor can SAVE / ENHANCE the lives of up to 50 people. It can also help our returning soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan who require tissue for reconstructive surgery.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO SAVE A LIFE:

1. Register with your State's organ & tissue donor registry. To learn how: www.donatelife.net
2. Speak with your family, friends and colleagues about your decision to be a donor.
3. Encourage your workplace, church, schools, neighborhood organizations, and city to adopt donation as a mission.
4. Encourage your elected officials to support donation legislation.
5. Speak at your local High School, College or University. Ask them to participate in the National Donation Campus Challenge. www.organdonor/campus.gov
6. Participate in events sponsored by your local organ procurement organization.

Please Go To Donate Life Links Below To Learn More About How To Become A Donor In Your State.

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Statistics show that as of February, 8 2013

UNITED STATES ORGAN WAIT LIST (CANDIDATES) are:

TOTAL CANDIDATES 116, 919
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HEART/LUNG: 53
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**An organ transplant can save a life. You have the power to SAVE up to 8 lives.
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NADE's National Donate Life Month Contest Is Recognized in April



The National Donate Life Month Contest

A chance for the NADE Chapters to compete based on their efforts in:

1. Increasing awareness of the need for more donors
2. Educating members and the community about donation/transplantation through informational speakers
3. Providing educational seminars or training activities.
4. Recruitment of Donors

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An increase in the awareness of the need for more donors,

Increased education for our local NADE chapter members about donation/transplantation

To provide local NADE chapters resources and tools to educate their members to effectively hold activities during National Donate Life Month

To recognize local NADE chapters that has provided a variety of educational, informational and training activities to their members during National Donate Life Month.

NADE Board Members 2012-2013

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DISABILITY EXAMINERS
PO BOX 50006
SPRINGFIELD MO 65805-0006

Address Service Requested

True Colors: The Keys to Personal Success

by Edward Tyszka, Connecticut DDS

Have you ever wondered...

"Am I a kindhearted individual?"

"On the other hand, you may be more of a person who is accountable."

"Perhaps you are a spur-of-the-moment soul."

"Is it feasible that you could be a theoretical type?"

"Or do you perceive yourself as a combination or all four bundled into one?"

...then consider this...True Colors.

The True Colors Test, based on the Myers-Briggs Personality Test model, is a personality survey designed to help understand your personality and behavioral type, as well as those around you. The True Colors Personality Assessment provides easy to understand insights both into your behavioral style, and of those with whom you interact. The goal of the survey is to help the test taker to better communicate and build rapid rapport, with those like them and those of other color types. The True Colors wheel has four basic types: Blue – Compassionate, Gold – Responsible, Orange – Spontaneous, Green - Conceptual. This simple three to five minute test allows an individual to better understand personality and behavioral styles.

Kim Price, Certified True Colors Trainer, gave a brief description of the test taking. After figuring out one's personality color, groups are formed based on the colors mentioned above and personality types are discussed within the specific group and then among the other groups. The test breaks down how a specific personality type views themselves; and how the color type is viewed and often "stereotyped" by the other color groups perceiving them. Ms. Price further reviewed how the model for identification is easy to understand, recall, and relate to daily interactions. The color wheel simplifies the intricate concepts of personality theory into a user-friendly and practical tool. The audience was able to understand that True Colors helps an individual to realize and build upon their strengths, while bring the best out of each member in a group. The model also helps an individual to learn to view the world through other personality types. Ms. Price believes, "with True Colors, you can enable understanding, increase communication, and create harmony."

The audience had some fun with tongue in cheek comments, while they fostered a healthy and productive rapport. The audience laughed, grinned, and even giggled while discussing themselves. In the end, however, no "Blue" personality type feelings were hurt.

To quote 80's pop star, Cyndi Lauper, "But I see your true colors, shining through, I see your true colors, and that's why I love you, so don't be afraid to let them show. Your true colors, true colors, are beautiful like a rainbow." Because in the end the audience agreed, each personality group plays a role and everyone has an aspect of each color within their personality.

