

# the NADE ADVOCATE



A Publication of the National Association of Disability Examiners

Volume 26, Number 4

Fall 2010

## NADE National Award Winners

*by Jennifer Pounds, 2010 Awards Chair*

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL of the nominees. The award selection was especially difficult this year because every individual was worthy of the award for which they were nominated. They each bring a dedication to their profession and to our professional association.

### EARL B THOMAS AWARD

**Marc Young, Delaware**

Treat the claimant like you would expect to be treated if you applied for disability. This is the motto of Marc Young and one that is drummed into every new class of Disability Adjudicators who enter through the Delaware DDS portal. Marc is caring, dynamic and leads by example. There is no job too large or too small in the agency that he hasn't performed. On any given day you can find him scanning documents when a clerical support person is out, repairing a computer, moving furniture to set up a

new office, working on cases to meet agency goals, or providing valuable input as a member of the steering committee for the Disability Case Processing System.

Young is a strong supporter of NADE and the Delaware chapter. When he became Director, he made an administrative decision to continue the tradition of paying NADE membership dues for every full time state employee in his DDS. To further his staff's involvement with NADE, he also pays the full cost for those who are selected to attend NADE conferences. This extraordinary individual agrees with NADE's mission. As a result, he makes sure that new trainees understand the importance of NADE. He accomplishes this by including a training session on NADE as part of the curriculum for every new class. Congratulations to Marc Young on receiving the Earl B. Thomas Award!

### ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARD Deborah Wright, Alabama

Deborah Wright is an amazing new NADE member. Due to her leadership and hard work, the Alabama chapter has been extremely successful in every endeavor that she has had a hand in. There are not enough words to describe her enthusiasm and commitment to each and every task or event the chapter has undertaken. Deborah has successfully implemented numerous chapter fund raising events and charitable endeavors with imagination and vigor. She spearheaded the Get On Your Soap Box campaign to collect food and supplies for a local homeless shelter for women and children. This amazing individual was in charge of the chapter's bake sale to benefit local homeless shelters for men. Multitalented, she also hand painted and donated items for the chapter to send



*NADE members proudly pose with their national awards: from left, Marcia Golden (NC), Rosalyn Walton (MS), Cherilyn Hebert (MS), Tom Ward (MI), Marc Young (DE), Sammuell Bell (MS), and Kandy Forester (AL).*

*Awards, continued on page 8*

### In this Issue:

Corporate Member Profile	p. 6
Membership Meeting	p. 12
DCPS Simplified	p. 15
SSA Commissioner Astrue	p. 16
Lumbar Disc Disease	p. 19

## President's Message

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN Albany was a great opportunity to connect with friends and colleagues from around the Nation. I want to thank ESADE and all those NADE members who worked to make this conference a success.



The past year has been a difficult time for many NADE members. Due to the economic crisis, budget cuts, furloughs and natural disasters, it has been a challenging year. Despite all the challenges, NADE and our members have continued to strive to support the purpose of NADE, which is:

- To develop the art of science of disability evaluation.
- To enhance public awareness about disability evaluation.
- To further professional recognition for disability evaluation practitioners.

In addition to the National conference, the Regions held very successful conferences in Charleston South Carolina, Little Rock Arkansas, Columbus Ohio and Boise Idaho. These conferences not only served as training for the attendees but were an opportunity to continue to show the professionalism and dedication shown by the NADE membership.

As NADE President, I look forward to representing the membership and to working with you as we face the challenges of this coming year. In serving the organization, I will strive to maintain a high level of professionalism and to continue to support the purpose of NADE.

I would like to encourage all of the membership to look at NADE's purpose and think about ways you can help to meet NADE's purpose statement. One thing all members can do is offer comments and feedback when it is solicited by the NADE Board. Currently, members of NADE are preparing to participate in the Symposium of the Effectiveness of Medical Listings and will be using the responses which were received from the membership as part of their presentation. We have also asked for comments on the revision of the mental listings, and in the future, will be asking for more comments as members of the Executive Board prepare our Spring meetings on Capitol Hill and with the Social Security Administration. Comments from the membership are important as they help to define the issues which are impacting the individuals who are directly involved with evaluating disability claims.

I would also encourage all members to talk about NADE with your co-workers and invite them to join NADE. Let them know NADE is a way to share issues and concerns, and as members, NADE will act as their voice when we present information and comments regarding the disability evaluation programs to SSA, Congressional Leaders, and others who are concerned with the disability evaluation programs.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to share your questions and concerns. I am looking forward to working with you all as we face the challenges of the coming year.

Sincerely,

*Andrew Martinez*

*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.*

### Advocate advertising rates are as follows:

Size	Single Run	Multiple runs
1/3 page	\$100.00	\$75.00 per issue
1/2 page	\$150.00	\$125.00 per issue
Full page	\$225.00	\$200.00 per issue

**Professional Opportunities:** Brief 1-2 lines on related occupational information (\$35.00)

**Chapter Networking/Fund Raising:** "Chapter Bulletin Board" (\$15.00)

**Membership Networking:** Exchange or request for information, such as computer information (\$10.00)

**Advertising:** Contact Donna Hilton 417.678.4001 or Malcolm Stoutenborough 405.419.2573.

## ADVOCATE STAFF

### Editor

**Donna Hilton**

1117 Sunshine Drive  
Aurora, MO 65605  
417.678.4001  
Fax 417.678.4538  
drhilton@suddenlink.net

### Regional Representatives:

#### Great Lakes

**Sharyn Perry**

1274 Berkeley Rd  
Columbus, OH 43206-3220  
614.438.1317  
Fax: 302.324.7698  
sharyn.perry@ssa.gov

#### Great Plains

**Sandy Heck**

2205 9th Avenue SE  
Mandan, ND 58554  
701.328.8737  
Fax 701.328.4053  
sandy.heck@ssa.gov

#### Mid-Atlantic

**Mickey Goldberg**

5 Montgomery Road  
Owings Mills, MD 21117  
410.308.4327  
mickey.goldberg@ssa.gov

#### Northeast

**Debi Chowdhury**

4 Derby Ct  
Loudonville, NY 12211  
518.473-2231  
Fax: 518.786.1141  
debichowdhury@yahoo.com

#### Pacific

**Karen Beyer**

2610 50th Ct SE  
Olympia, WA 98501  
360.664.7459  
Fax: 360.586.4159  
karen.beyer@ssa.gov

#### Southeast

**Maya Delion**

590 Georgia Loop  
Woodstock, AL 35188  
205.989.2192  
maya.delion@ssa.gov

#### Southwest

**Cynthia Henderson**

9801 Kelly Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73131-2433  
405.419.2532  
Fax: 405.419.2785  
cynthia.henderson@ssa.gov

**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 published in **Winter 2011**.

All correspondence should be directed through your Regional representative or NADE editor by **January 5, 2011**.



*Past President Susan Smith was presented with a plaque of appreciation for her year as President and Andrew Martinez received the president's gavel. Martinez took over as head of the Association on the closing day of the 2010 National Training Conference in Albany NY.*



*2007-2009 Past President Georgina Huskey was also honored with a plaque for her past service to the Association.*

## Notes To The Membership

*by Donnie Hayes, Membership Director*

WE ARE BACK FROM another very informative National Training Conference. Hope everyone that was able to attend had a nice time. As the new National Membership Director, my challenge to each of you is to rescue at least one new member this year.

I would like to congratulate all of the 2010 winners of our annual Membership contest. Cash prizes and certificates are awarded every year to the large, medium and small chapters who have attained the highest membership increases over the past year. This year at the National Training conference in Albany, New York, first prizes were awarded to Chapter 28 Michigan (large), Chapter 4 Arkansas (medium) and, Chapter 1 Alaska (small). Second place prizes were awarded to Chapter 42 Ohio (large), Chapter 70 South Carolina (medium) and, Chapter 15 Iowa. The third place winners were Chapter 2 Alabama (large), tied for third place in the medium Chapter category was Chapter 31 Mississippi and Chapter 41 New York-West and tied for third place in the small Chapter category was Chapter 5 Arizona and Chapter 69 West Virginia-Clarksburg.

As you know, NADE's success depends on its members. Everyone wins when membership increases. NADE is a member driven, member led organization.

I hope that all of you will consider taken advantage of renewing your membership online. You can go to the NADE website and renew your membership and new members can join the organization using this easy method. You just fill in the necessary information and you will receive an email confirming the transaction.

Keep in mind that NADE members come from all different backgrounds and professions. Our organization proudly boasts members in not only the Disability Determination Offices, but also the SSA field Offices, SSA Headquarters, ODAR and others. This diversity helps us to view problems in the disability program from a broad perspective. Please continue to work on increasing NADE's membership.

### NADE CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Great Plains/Southwest Regional Conference	Sheraton	Oklahoma City OK	April 19-22, 2011
Great Lakes Regional Conference	Doubletree Hotel	Dearborn MI	May 1-4, 2011
Northeast/Mid-Atlantic/ Southeast Tri-Regional Conference	Newport Harbor Hotel	Newport RI	May 3-6, 2011
Pacific Regional Training Conference	Harvey's Resort	Reno NV	May 16-17, 2011
2011 National Training Conference	Wilshire Grand	Los Angeles, CA	August 27 – September 1, 2011



## PRO Break Out Session at NADE Training Conference



*NADE PRO Chair Mimi Wirtanen (MI) and Ruth Trent (SSA/NADE Liaison) led the discussion of PRO issues at the break out session for Professional Relations Officers..*



## Go Green with NADE!!

**Contact Publications Director Donna Hilton to receive notification when the Advocate is posted online. Faster than postal delivery, photos in color, and save NADE some green!**



**To report fraud,  
waste, abuse or  
mismanagement.**

**You hold the key.....**



**Letters to the Editor  
can be sent to:  
Donna Hilton  
Publications Director  
1117 Sunshine Drive  
Aurora, MO 65605**

**Request for Newsletter  
Grants should  
be submitted to  
Donna Hilton,  
Publications Director.**

**For information on  
Membership Grants,  
contact Micaela Jones,  
Membership Director**

**Are you Certified through  
NADE?**

**Certification applications  
are available on the  
NADE website:  
[www.nade.org](http://www.nade.org)**

**Or You May Contact The  
Professional Development  
Committee Chair**

**Margaret Yeats  
711 S Woodrow St  
Columbia, SC 29205  
803.896.5662  
[margaret.yeats@ssa.gov](mailto:margaret.yeats@ssa.gov)**

**Call: 1.800.269.0271**

**Write: SSA Fraud Hotline  
P.O. Box 17768  
Baltimore, MD 21235**

**Fax 410.597.0118  
e-mail  
[oighotline@ssa.gov](mailto:oighotline@ssa.gov)**

## National Disability Professionals Week Competition Draws on "Power of Belonging"

by Marcia Shantz, NDPW committee chair

THE 2010 NDPW COMMITTEE'S hard work is now complete. The Chapters that made best use of the theme "NADE-The POWER of Belonging" and provided the most activities, varied according to the guideline categories, were presented prize money and certificates at the NADE general membership meeting in Albany, NY. The following are the honored recipients:

### Large chapter

Firstst-\$50 North Carolina chapter, THADE

Second-\$25 Alabama Chapter, AADE

### Medium Chapter

First-\$50 New Mexico chapter, NewMADE

Second-\$25 Buffalo NY Chapter, WNYADE

### Small Chapter

First-\$50 Maine chapter, McADE

Second-\$25 South Dakota Chapter, SoDADE

The 2011 NDPW is now asking for your help. The work of the committee starts long before the week of June 13-17, 2011 and we must have a theme prepared. If you have an idea for a NDPW theme, please submit it to the committee chair for 2011 at [marcia.shantz@ssa.gov](mailto:marcia.shantz@ssa.gov) by February 14, 2011. Please submit a theme and a logo to accompany the concept of the theme as well as the state/chapter from which you belong. The Chapter that formulates the winning theme will be recognized with an award certificate.



**NADE wishes to thank  
the following basic corporate  
members:**

**Bertha Litwin  
& Associates**

**Sherman Oaks, CA**

**Iron Data**

**St. Louis, MO**

**Izzi Medical Associates**

**Los Angeles, CA**

**Ralph S. Lazzara MD**

**Rochester MI**

**Kevin Linder**

**Springfield, IL**

## Thanks To ESADE Volunteers For Hosting And Working The 2010 National Training Conference In Albany!



*Front row: Debi Chowdhury (Conference Chair) and Thomas Martin (Treasurer). Back row, from left: Mariruth Brown (Hospitality/IT), Ann Rymski (Registrar), Donna White, Jeff Bloom.*

*Missing ESADE conference committee members are: Martin Blum, John Yarbrough, Genette Bonville, Martin Merado, Deborah Bostic, Carl Rymski. Thanks also to out-of-state assistance from: Eugene Jerry (GLADE), Cindy Brooks (TN), Chuck & Sharon Shinall (VA), Julie Ann Watson (Spokane WA), and Todd Quire (KY).*

### Gold Corporate Member

## National Association of Disability Representatives, Inc.

**1615 L Street NW Suite 650  
Washington DC 20036  
Contact: [Julie@nadr.org](mailto:Julie@nadr.org)  
800.747.6131**

### Gold Corporate Member

**HUMAN ARC**  
25 YEARS OF MAKING AMERICA HEALTHIER

National Headquarters  
1457 East 40th Street  
Cleveland, OH 44103  
Fax - 216.431.5201

[www.humanarc.com](http://www.humanarc.com)

## NADE Corporate Member Highlight



DISABILITY CLAIMS SPECIALISTS (DCS) is a Division of L & S Associates, Inc., third party eligibility specialists that started in a spare room of Lynnette Rhodes', founder, home in Williamston, MI, in 1990. The Company has grown to 200 employees strong, with many working from remote locations. The home office is now located at the Michigan State Corporate Research Park, Lansing, MI.

L&S Associates, Inc., assists patients who are hospitalized in obtaining medical coverage. DCS, a division currently consisting of 40 employees, assists individuals in applying for TII/TXVI Social Security Disability Benefits from the initial application through the appeals process. Our experienced staff, consisting of many prior SSA Claims Representatives, Disability Examiners, DDS Management staff and attorneys, work cohesively with SSA to ensure eligible individuals are awarded benefits they are entitled to. We work with the most vulnerable population and guide them through the process.

DCS continues to be a growing entity. We take pride in the expertise our staff possess as well as our cutting-edge technology. Our electronic files position us to be able to offer opportunities to work from home and offer flexible schedules for our staff making DCS the employer of choice for many individuals with prior SSA experience!

For more information about DCS, please contact Judy Schraft, DCS Manager, at: 1-877-444-1327 or [jschraft@ssdcs.com](mailto:jschraft@ssdcs.com).



*Put your experience in adjudicating disability claims to work!*

**Gold Corporate Member**

*Contact our office for job opportunities helping the disabled at our corporate headquarter or from your home office location.*

P.O. Box 25128 • Lansing, MI 48909  
Phone 517.203.7600 • Toll-Free 877.444.1327 • Fax 800.416.4609  
Website [www.lsaservices.com](http://www.lsaservices.com) • E-mail: [recruiter@lsaservices.com](mailto:recruiter@lsaservices.com)

## Conference Happenings



*Newsletter Publication awards went to Oregon (J.Scott Pritchard, PhD), Alabama (Donnie Hayes - SE region); back: Oklahoma (Cynthia Henderson), Missouri (Julie Kujath), & Tennessee (Penny Dahl).*



*Barbara Young of The IMA Group draws a name for door prizes from her company, as Debi Chowdhury assists and Domenica Lewter of MASH looks on. MASH also gave away a special door prize.*

**NADE Corporate Member Highlight**

CLAUDE EARL FOX IS President and sole owner of Med Plus Disability Evaluations. Dr. Fox established the company 16 years ago and now operates in 13 states. He has personally performed more than 70,000 evaluations for Social Security and state disability over the last 30 years. In addition to his activities with Med Plus, Dr. Fox is Research Professor with the Miller School of Medicine at the University of Miami. Previously he was Professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and founding director of the Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute. He also served in the federal Department of Health and Human Services as Director of the U.S. Public Health Service Regional Office in Philadelphia, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Health in Washington, D.C. and finally as Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Agency. From 1986 to 1992, Dr. Fox was State Health Officer for the Alabama Department of Public Health. He is a Fellow in the American College of Preventive Medicine, an Honorary Fellow in the American Academy of Pediatrics and in addition to his medical degree, has a Masters in Public Health from the University of North Carolina.

**Gold Corporate Member**  
**Med Plus Med Val**  
**Claude Earl Fox, MD MPH**  
**41 Fort Royal Isle**  
**Ft. Lauderdale FL 33308**  
**800.293.1304**

Med Plus Disability Evaluations presently performs exams for Social Security and state disability in 13 states in over 70 sites. They are also available for insurance and other types of exams. Physicians who work with us are provided a local office, staff and training. Online training is provided through our secure online web site at [www.medplus-medval.com](http://www.medplus-medval.com). If you are interested in working with Med Plus, please contact the appropriate state representative. If you reside in another state and would like to explore working with Med Plus in your state, contact Dr. Fox at [claudeearlfox@aol.com](mailto:claudeearlfox@aol.com).



PDMG, INC. WAS FOUNDED in 1986 to provide advanced technology and information management for medical providers. However, instead of simply duplicating the paper process, PDMG has worked to create new and efficient processes for providers. It is only through efficient processes that true gains in COST and QUALITY can be achieved!

**Gold Corporate Member****Professional Data Management Group, Inc.**

PDMG, Inc. has developed a full range of medical products from Medical Office billing, HIPAA compliant Electronic Billing, Electronic Prescribing, Electronic Medical Records and Disease Management.

PDMG, Inc. has been involved with EDI and Medical Software development for over 25 years and we have extensive experience in HIPAA, ANSI X-12 transaction processing, Medicare, Anthem and Maine Medicaid EDI services. We have extensive experience with integrating systems and data transfer.

PDMG, Inc. has made their programs available as OUTSOURCED Services - this frees up providers from the burden of software purchases and support and backup and recovery headaches. Providers

simply use the services and pay a monthly fee - all the updates and technical work is done for them!

We at PDMG, Inc. focus on solving YOUR PROBLEMS so that you can manage your information - with less headaches and less work - AND INCREASE YOUR REVENUE.

PDMG, Inc. has created a suite of Software services especially for SSA, DDS and DES CE providers. This allows them to manage their information electronically and save time and money.



## **Awards, from page 1**

as door prizes and Non Dues Revenue Silent Auction items for National Training Conferences. Deborah Wright is very deserving and valued as the NADE Rookie of the Year.

### **DIRECTOR'S AWARD Sammuell Bell, Mississippi**

Sammuell Bell is currently the SOLE support staff person in our medical unit. For over two years now, he has been the sole person responsible for managing the flow of cases (paper and electronic) in and out of the medical unit. With a staff of over 30 part time contractual medical consultants, he must coordinate the assignment of cases based on the consultants' expected work hours.

To ensure the consultants have enough work to do when they are here, Sammuell has to balance the assignments to see that cases are reviewed as expeditiously as possible. This is not an easy task but one he manages so effectively, no one ever sees a buildup or delay of cases. This essential task is vital to the success of his Mississippi DDS and is a baseline reason for the continued success in his Agency. What this nominee does to keep the agency flowing goes beyond the medical unit - he is the "Heartbeat of Morale".

### **JOHN GORDON AWARD Rosalyn Walton, Mississippi**

Rosalyn Walton began her career at the Disability Determination Services on April 25, 1989. Since that time, she has served the agency as an examiner, hearing officer and case consultant. In November 2005, she was promoted to the position of Division Director, to supervise the newly established Training unit. Rosalyn takes her role as a mentor and leader very serious. She leads by example. She will work as long as it takes and spend much time with her team members as they need. Not only is she willing to do what needs to be done, she does it with a smile and positive attitude. Anyone working with her can say they are uplifted by a smile, eagerness to serve others and positive attitude. She encourages free, open exchange from

her team members, always soliciting their input, and considers that input heavily when making decisions.

At the time she assumed the position of Supervisor of the Examiner training unit, the Agency was experiencing a 19% Examiner attrition rate. Under her leadership, this attrition rate has been cut in half. Rosalyn is respected for being a great leader who is open, honest and committed to do the best job not only for her unit but the agency as well. Her leadership skills are respected and admired among her staff, as she does what is best for the agency and those she serves. As Chapter President this year, Rosalyn has had a very successful year. She began her year with 14 new members joining. She possesses all the qualities and consistently demonstrates the character of the person deserving of the John Gordon Award.

### **FRANK BARCLAY AWARD Roberta Hawley, North Carolina**

Roberta Hawley has been employed at the DDS for 31 years and there is not a more caring, more compassionate individual at this agency. She has served as an initial examiner, a recon/CDR examiner, and for the past 22 years as a vocational specialist. She has consistently demonstrated a passion for her vocation and a strong professional demeanor that has endeared her to the entire DDS staff. Roberta is well regarded throughout the agency as a person and well respected as a professional for her immense knowledge of vocational matters. The vocational staff was recently asked to design an ongoing training program for new and experienced examiners to re-educate them to the need to pursue accurate vocational development. Roberta accepted the responsibility of overseeing this task during its development and implementation. This training program was very well received in the agency. She was awarded the 2009 Regional PRIDE Award for Creative Achievement by the SSA Regional Commissioner. For her expertise in vocational matters and how she utilizes that expertise for the benefit of processing

disability cases.

Her expertise in vocational matters is well known both regionally and nationally and she receives calls and e-mail inquiries from other DDSs throughout the country regarding complex vocational issues. Her insight and knowledge is sought after by those who have the responsibility to review and critique federal DQB returns and no action is taken on such returns involving vocational issues unless she concurs. Roberta is very active in the local NADE chapter, symbolizing her dedication to her profession and her commitment as a professional. Her expertise in vocational issues and her value to the Agency is such that the DDS leadership persuaded her to delay her own retirement plans to help the DDS through these difficult economic times.

### **CHARLES O BLALOCK AWARD Cherilyn Hebert, Mississippi**

This recipient is a great humanitarian. She is always going to great and unusual efforts on behalf of the claimants. She has a true humanitarian heart and is overtly compassionate in her treatment of the disability claimants. Cherilyn Hebert is a specialist in Internal Medicine with an emphasis on Oncology. She has been with the DDS for over 20 years. She will go to great lengths to make sure the correct decision is made. She has maintained 100% accuracy on our internal audit. She has one of the highest allowance rates in our medical unit. When examiners, supervisors, or QA have a difficult case that they need help on, it is her that they call on for help. Our Director often asks her to look at difficult cases and give her opinion. Dr. Hebert always promotes good relations within our agency and with other offices outside the DDS. She works with Vocational Rehabilitation on cases one afternoon a month. She attends chapter meetings and participates in all activities that her local NADE chapter has. She is a dedicated NADE member and supports the Mississippi chapter and NADE. She

*Awards, continued on next page*



appreciates the benefits of being a NADE member and is deserving of the Charles O. Blalock Award.

### **LEWIS BUCKINGHAM AWARD**

**Tom Ward, Michigan**

Tom Ward has been a NADE member since 1993. He has accepted increasingly responsible positions within the organization since that time. He has held the State Chapter positions of President and Vice President multiple times over the years, most recently, two years in a row in 2007 & 2008 as President. He had been in charge of the annual State Training conference in 1994, soon after joining. He has also served as the Regional Treasurer in 2007. In the past, he has served as Great Lakes Region's representative on national NADE committees. Recently, he has been on the NADE Board in the position of Council of Chapter Presidents Chair and, currently, serves as Great Lakes Regional Director on the NADE Board. His humanitarian efforts are unprecedented and exemplary, with two mission trips to Haiti. Tom can be seen sporting NADE gear in photos of his humanitarian efforts to repair and refurbish medical clinics in impoverished communities in August 2009. Although he was absent from a Regional Training Conference for the first time in May 2010, he was present none-the-less. He left for a second time to volunteer in the earthquake relief efforts in Haiti. His chapter is grateful for his leadership, dedication and hard work. Congratulations to Tom on receiving this award.

### **NADE AWARD**

**Marcia Golden, North Carolina**

Marcia Golden served as co-chair of the Chapter's National Disability Professionals Week Committee in 2008 and 2009. The Chapter won first place in the national NDPW award competition in 2008 for her ingenious idea to take chapter members on a murder mystery tour through Europe via the Orient Express. She is not a "One Trick Pony" and she does not confine herself to just one activity but is equally involved in other Chapter activities, including serving on the

Chapter's Ways & Means Committee the past three years, the Chapter's Community Service Committee the past three years and the Chapter's Employee Appreciation Committee the past three years.

Coincidentally, she has only been a member of her chapter for the past three years, having transferred to the North Carolina DDS from a neighboring DDS where she had been equally involved. The North Carolina chapter is the very fortunate recipient of her relocation! Marcia developed and then implemented one of the chapter's many Community service projects - the Care Package Community Service Delivery. She organized the packaging of the care packages for our troops overseas and then, using her own vacation time, delivered the packages to specific service delivery points for subsequent delivery overseas. The Chapter subsequently received letters of appreciation from our troops who were recipients of these packages. She is a vital member of the Chapter but, even more so, is a vital member of her case processing unit where she is much beloved and respected. Not only expressing concern for the claimants, she is very concerned about her co-workers. For example, she quickly organized support for two members of the unit who, on separate occasions, were suddenly caught up in situations that required critical medical care. Through her efforts, the families were not left uncared for as she arranged for the delivery of magazines and books, food and beverages, to their families waiting in critical care waiting rooms.

She brings a positive attitude to the chapter that is captivating to others. As shown in her ability to organize events like the Chapter's NDPW celebrations, she stands alone as someone who finds joy in helping others while shunning the spotlight herself. Because of her commitment to her fellow man, because of her dedication to her work as a Disability Examiner, and because she truly exhibits the ideals expressed in NADE's Code of Ethics, we congratulate her on receiving the 2010 NADE Award.



*Past President Dr. Van Hayne holds the NADE President's Award. The chapter's entry was based on his leadership last year.*

### **PRESIDENT'S AWARD**

**Alabama Association of Disability Examiners**

This chapter is steadfastly leading the way to increased membership having recruited 26 new members since August 2009! The chapter president and board members are always encouraging new members to get involved with NADE at every level, stressing NADE is 'their' organization and this is the best way for your voice to be heard. The Alabama chapter sponsored several charitable fundraisers throughout the year, raising money for Breast Cancer Awareness, local homeless shelters, local Salvation Army, Alzheimer's research, State Organ Donor System, and Sister Chapter, Tennessee for flood relief efforts. The chapter sponsored Lunch N Learn sessions for the agency throughout the year on topics such as ADHD, POMS and disability ratings, Visual Field Efficiency and Observations of Serum Albumin Levels in Disability Adjudication. This chapter also participated in NDPW week with going with the theme the "Power of Belonging" in conjunction with a baseball, a team sport, using the added theme, "Play Ball".

This chapter supported Organ Donation Month with activities for the

*Awards, continued on next page*

**NADE Committee Reports****Certifications Grow!***by Ellen Cook, Professional Development Chair*

The following members have been recently Certified as Disability Professionals under NADE's Certification Program. Congratulations to:

Laura Black	(IL)	Jun 2013
Milee L. Butcher	(IL)	Jun 2013
Robert Hughes	(IL)	Jun 2013
Quinetta Jackson-Hale	(IL)	Jun 2013
Rebecca Miner	(IL)	Jun 2013
Rob Richards	(IL)	Jun 2013
Trina L. Sherrod	(IL)	Jun 2013
Marcus Sherrod	(IL)	Jun 2013
Jacquelyn Staff	(IL)	Jun 2013
Gina L. Tinsley	(IL)	Jun 2013
Kevin Vost	(IL)	Jun 2013
Steve Gragert	(IL)	Jun 2013
Angela Gaffigan	(IL)	Jun 2013
Dorothy Homeier	(IL)	Jul 2013
Rhonda Pratt	(IL)	Jul 2013
Chris Woodrum	(IL)	Jul 2013
Danielle Fry	(MO)	Aug 2013
Dana Dominguez	(NM)	Aug 2013
Cybill "Dru" Slaton	(NM)	Aug 2013
Carol Lemeh, M.D.	(TN)	Aug 2013

These members have successfully met the requirements for Re-Certification as Disability Professionals.

Mary Lynne Powell	(GA)	Aug 2013
Lori Myers	(OH)	Aug 2013
Laura M. Dockham	(OH)	Aug 2013
Kristen (Reigler) Caldwell	(OH)	Aug 2013
Amy G. Likens	(OH)	Aug 2013
Allison R. Lynch	(OH)	Aug 2013
John Szabo	(OH)	Aug 2013
Cassandra "CJ" August	(MD)	Aug 2013
Patricia Chaplin	(MO)	Aug 2013
Fulvio Franyutti, M.D.	(WV)	Jan 2013
Janie R. Vale, M.D.	(MO)	Jan 2013
Cassandra Quinn	(WI)	Jan 2013
Lindsay Tjugum	(WI)	Jan 2013
James Biddison, M.D.	(MD)	Jan 2013
Roxanne Garcia	(NM)	Mar 2013
Karen E. Wasson	(NM)	Mar 2013
Stephen Abbott	(NM)	Mar 2013
Diane Blate	(MA)	Apr 2013
Annie-Kay Pierre	(NJ)	Apr 2013
Jamie B. Simpson	(AL)	Apr 2013
Carol Fundane't	(WA)	Apr 2013
Karen Billings	(FL)	Oct 2012
Marjorie E. Garcia	(OR)	Oct 2012
Amy Blattel	(MO)	Nov 2012
Harriet C. Koppelman, MD	(MD)	Nov 2012

William D. Hakkarinen, MD	(MD)	Nov 2012
Michelle D. Perkins	(MO)	Nov 2012
Christy A. Parker	(MO)	Nov 2012

These members have successfully met the requirements for Re-Certification as Disability Professionals.

Jeanette Hawkins	(AR)	Jan 2013
Crystal Bach	(SD)	Jan 2013

Please see the NADE website under Careers, then Certification to obtain complete information about NADE's Certification Program.

**Awards, continued from page 9**

agency and a testimonial speaker from a member's sister sharing her life before and after receipt of a transplant. This chapter kept members informed with the Quarterly Newsletter. Chapter members serve on several national NADE committees as has been the case in years past. The AADE chapter made a major effort to meet and greet all new employees having gatherings and snacks with chapter and NADE materials handed out in three (3) gatherings in the past 12 months to garner new members. The AADE Board Liaison member in their other DDS office promotes NADE through bulletin board materials, casual days and involvement there with Organ Transplant Week as well as NDPW to increase membership. This chapter has been extremely active this fiscal year, promoting NADE and working to enhance awareness of the benefits of becoming a member.



**Congratulations to all of the nominees for these awards as well as the recipients. The strength of NADE is in its membership and the caliber of our members shows...**

**NADE is STRONG!**

*Oak Transcription, Inc.*



**Gold Corporate Member**

Medical  
Transcription

Specializing in  
Disability  
Determinations

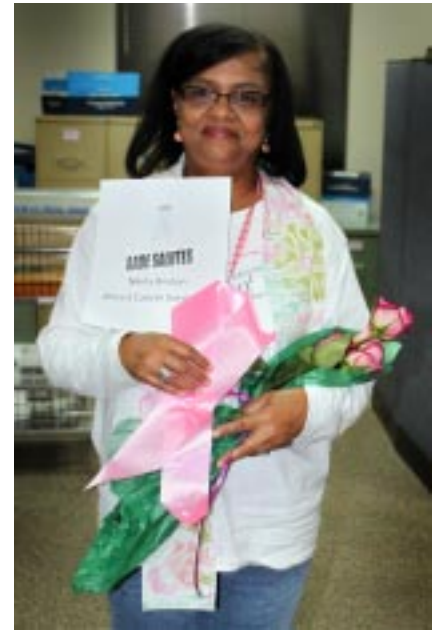
508.765.0067  
fax 508.765.1273

## Alabama Chapter Promotes Breast Cancer Awareness



### ***Men in Pink***

*The men of Alabama DDS wore pink as a show of solidarity in the effort to raise awareness for a Breast Cancer Cure.*



*Breast cancer survivor Nikita Roston*



*Breast Cancer Survivors Shelia Bledsoe, Quel Moulds, and Debbie Blackwere honored.*

**Alabama took the President's Award, as well as first place in the Photo Competiton and 2nd place in Large Chapter Newsletter Competition.**



*AADE Chapter President Kandy Forester shows off the NADE President's award and Deborah Wright proudly displays her Rookie of the Year Award.*



*AADE takes in a side trip at the NADE National Conference*

## NADE Membership Meeting

### 2010 National Training Conference - Albany, NY

by Tonya Scott, NADE Secretary

THE MEMBERSHIP MEETING of the national training conference is one of the most informative meetings of the entire training conferences; however, it is generally one of the most under attended. A brief survey of members show members fail to attend the membership meeting due to various reasons: "I didn't think it really applied to me." "I didn't think I needed to attend." "That's just for elected officials." There were a few more reasons

noted (shopping, anyone?). These reasons are so off base. The General Membership Meeting is the time to really find out firsthand about what's going on within NADE, as well as within other chapters. This is an opportunity to voice any opinions or concerns from your chapters and/or take back valuable information to your chapters.

---

Here are a few highlights of the General Membership Meeting: Proxies were reviewed and approved. Reports were summarized by the elected officers, appointed directors, and standing committee chairs. Membership, Publications, and National Disability Professional Week committees announced their annual contest winners.

**Membership awards** for increased membership were recognized. The membership award winners are:

Large Chapter:	1 <sup>st</sup> Place - Michigan
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - Ohio
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place - Alabama
Medium Chapter:	1 <sup>st</sup> Place - Arkansas
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - South Carolina
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place - Mississippi and New York (West)
Small Chapter:	1 <sup>st</sup> Place - Alaska
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - Iowa
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place - West Virginia (Clarkston) and Arizona

The **Publications Awards** Committee reviewed submissions for the newsletter contest and the winners are:

Large Chapter:	1 <sup>st</sup> Place - Missouri
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - Alabama
Medium Chapter:	1 <sup>st</sup> Place - Tennessee
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - Oregon
Photo Contest Winner:	1 <sup>st</sup> Place - Alabama
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - Oklahoma

**National Disability Professional Week** contest winners were announced. The following contest winners were:

Large Chapter	1 <sup>st</sup> Place - North Carolina
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - Alabama
Medium Chapter	1 <sup>st</sup> Place - New Mexico
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - Buffalo NY
Small Chapter	1 <sup>st</sup> Place - Maine
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - South Dakota

#### Old Business

- A very entertaining and informative DVD was present, highlighting the Los Angeles area. The 2011 National Conference will be in Los Angeles at the Wilshire Grand Hotel, August 27-September 1, 2011.
- The 2012 National Conference will be held in Columbus, Ohio at the Hyatt on Capital Square on September 8-14, 2012.

#### New Business

- NADE approved a new chapter in Stockton, CA. They presently have eight members and the chapter has been very active over the last eight months. Welcome Stockton!
- In the past, when renewing membership online, the only available option was "new member." A "renew" option has been added to the choices when renewing online.



- The Corporate Membership Committee was established as a standing committee.

### Motions

An amendment to NADE's Constitution & ByLaws was approved as amended concerning conference calls. The change was to Amendment V, section 4, paragraph 2. It now reads:

*"Whenever any matter of business requiring Board action is presented to the President, and if a special meeting of the Board in person is not deemed advisable or possible, the President may hold a special meeting of the Board by mail, conference call, video conference, teleconferences, and other technology, and/or email, if deemed appropriate, setting forth the specific issue or proposal on which a decision is sought. Such meeting shall be conducted under the regulations of the Board, and the results shall be deemed an official act of the Board. Forty-eight (48) hours notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Board shall be given by the Secretary."*

### Election of Officers:

President Elect:	Tom Ward (Michigan)
Secretary:	Tonya Scott (Georgia)
Treasurer:	Sharon Belt (Missouri)

Jennifer Pounds (North Carolina) was elected the Chairperson of the Council of Chapter Presidents (CCP) at the annual CCP meeting and luncheon.

On the last day of the conference, President Susan Smith (Ohio) passed the gavel to Andrew Martinez (California) as he becomes the NADE President for 2010 - 2011.

These are just a few of the highlights of the General Membership meeting. All NADE members are encouraged to read the entire General Membership Minutes when posted to the website.



## What Nade Means To Me (personally & professionally)



I am a member of the support staff at the AL DDS and I process ODAR assistance requests. NADE and my local AADE Chapter promote belonging to an organization where you as an individual count and your voice can be heard. Through our organization, I have had the opportunity to learn more about my job and why it's important to stay connected with NADE in the ever changing SSA Disability Program. I am honored to be a part of this well respected organization with a voice that has the ability to help structure the disability program and how it affects our jobs. I am also proud of our organization's nonprofit community services programs locally and nationally.

On a personal note, through NADE I have made friends across the nation who share my enthusiasm about being involved in NADE. I have had the opportunity to attend training conferences to many wonderful locations where the NADE family members meet, greet, learn and socialize. I recommend everyone attend a training conference and become involved in your organization.

- Tena Fleming, Alabama DDS

NADE is more than just an organization. NADE is about reaching out. NADE reaches out to those who work in the disability evaluation process for feedback on how to better enhance the procedures. NADE reaches out to SSA, Congress, state administrators, and other stakeholders in order to help assure positive changes to the program. NADE reaches out to claimants, helping to streamline processes and create realistic expectations and measures that add value to the disability program rather than obstacles. NADE reaches out to communities through various charitable campaigns and support. NADE reaches out to make sure working a disability claim is more than just a job – it is both an art and a science.

- Mark Bernskoetter MO  
Western Missouri Regional Manager

*What NADE Means, continued to next page*

***What NADE Means, continued from page 13***

NADE is a professional organization. I firmly believe that anyone who works in the field of SSA disability should become a member to enhance their personal skills and help demonstrate that this is truly a profession to be equated with teachers, nurses, social workers, therapists, and other professions. Through NADE, whose focus has always been on training, I have learned a great deal about medical conditions, their diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis. In addition, I have seen the “big picture” of the disability program through the presentation of innumerable SSA speakers. I have met and had an opportunity to speak with the leadership in the Social Security Administration and many of the DDS administrators. I have interacted with new and experienced adjudicators from many parts of the country to learn how they deal with common problem areas in this type of work. I have been inspired by some of the speakers brought in to do just that; I have also been inspired by many of the members.

On a lighter side, I have had a lot of fun at NADE functions. NADE members work hard and also know how to have a good time in the off hours. Laughter is good medicine! I have made many long-time friends, who have served at times as a support group, especially when my older son was very seriously ill. NADE has become almost a family for me. NADE conferences have taken me to many marvelous parts of this great nation. Off hour features have been wineries in California and Missouri, bourbon distilleries in Kentucky (of course), buffalo farms and corn mazes in South Dakota; rose gardens in Oregon, fiestas in Puerto Rico, bats taking flight in Texas, and many more. NADE has given me wonderful memories and that is priceless.

*- Anne Graham, retiree*

***A Clerical's Story...***

I joined the National Association of Disability Examiners (NADE) and the Alabama Association of Disability Examiners (AADE) in 1994. I had been employed at the DDS since 1985 and was aware of the Association but had not been interested. I thought the association was for examiners and supervisors; but when a clerical friend became President – elect, I joined to support her. I was an officer a couple of times during the late nineties but did not participate outside of my own chapter.

A change occurred in 2001. I attended the Austin National Training Conference. I really saw how important NADE was, what respect it generated, and how we (clericals, examiners, supervisors, etc.) are alike nationwide. We are all a part of NADE, the body is only as strong as its individual members.

After that trip, I became very involved in my local, regional and national associations. I have attended three additional national conference and six regional conferences. I have served in every office in my chapter, on numerous local, national and regional committees, and chaired regional registration committee during our conferences.

My DDS career has mirrored my involvement in AADE/NADE. I began in the mailroom, moving to our Intake/Outgo and Attachment units during my first years. In 1991, I was placed in the position of unit clerical. Following my supervisor in 1993, Ms. Laraine Warren, we faced a difficult challenge, training disability specialists. It was my pleasure to assist Ms. Warren in setting seventeen training classes on their career paths.

In 2001, I was selected to become the Agency Leave clerk relocating to the Administrative Suite. I also had a caseload of OHA/ODAR hearing cases. The training I received at the conferences was invaluable; suddenly, I was ordering CEs and MER not just explaining how to do so.

I have been certified through NADE and am looking forward to assisting other clericals in this endeavor.

I now serve my DDS as the Personnel Secretary and guess what; NADE is still assisting! I recently returned from the Albany, New York, Conference and I am happy to report that the NADE Executive Board passed the Ad Hoc Committee for Clericals!

My favorite part of AADE/NADE is that everyone is equal. The more experienced members mentor those with less knowledge, and they do so with grace.

Many thanks to the current and past AADE/NADE members for their ongoing assistance with my personal and professional growth. Thank you for sharing my story.

*- Leslie Medlock, Alabama DDS*

## Disability Case Processing System Simplified

by Doug Willman, Nebraska DDS Director



Tom Paige,  
South Carolina DDS Director

TOM PAIGE AND DOUG WILLMAN, Administrators of the South Carolina and Nebraska DDSs, spoke on the subject of the Disability Case Processing System (DCPS). This is an initiative to replace the five existing "legacy systems" being used in the DDSs with a common system to be used by all DDSs as well as federal case processing units.

Paige and Willman began by explaining the historical strengths and the developing weaknesses of the existing systems. Although they continue to enable DDSs to process cases, they are the product of an aging technology. The existence of so many dissimilar systems causes problems in moving data back and forth between DDSs and SSA. These dissimilarities greatly complicate the process of installing new features onto the legacy systems, and sometimes more than a year is required for a nation wide

roll out. The "green screen" presentation to the user is becoming increasingly rare in the greater IT world and is not pleasing to a new generation of users.

Paige and Willman explained that the objectives of a new system include a modern graphical interface (more like what we see on the internet), much more effective and efficient functionality, much quicker implementation of changes, and improved ability to share work among states.

Special attention was given to explaining the role of DDSs in the creation of the new system. SSA made a decision to go forward with DCPS only after having gained support from a preponderance of DDS Administrators. The project is being overseen by a Steering Committee, and 13 DDS Administrators serve on this committee. Nearly all of the substantive functional requirements are the product of a large group of DDS "subject matter experts" (SMEs).

Paige and Willman displayed and explained an abbreviated list of all the sequential steps in the process of moving DCPS from concept to reality. These steps were divided into the categories of "already done", "now being worked on", and "still to come". They explained that the next big step is the selection of a software vendor, that this selection is being made a specialized component in

central office, and that a decision is now expected by the end of September of 2010.

Once the vendor is selected and the SMEs complete a comprehensive set of requirements, the vendor can begin construction of the software code. When this is done, the code will be subjected to testing, will be improved as necessary and then will be implemented sequentially in five DDSs. These DDSs are called "beta sites". They are Idaho, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, and New York.

Willman provided what he called an imaginative and hypothetical example of how DCPS could work with Health Information Technology to streamline the identification of important information contained in MER and CEs. That example is too detailed for this summary, but Willman says that it will be the subject of an article in the next edition of the DCPS Newsletter and all readers are invited to view this on the DCPS web site.

The target date for beta site implementation of DCPS is late in 2011, but Mr. Paige emphasized that DCPS is not "timeline driven", that it will not be rolled out until it is ready, and that, paraphrasing the Paul Masson motto, "we will release no new software before its time".

Social Security Disability Representation ~ Medicare Advisor



**Gold Corporate Member**

Allsup--the nation's premier Social Security disability claim services company

300 Allsup Place, Belleville, IL 62223 | (800) 854-1418

**the MASH<sup>®</sup> program**

**Gold Corporate Member**

**Attention, Retirees:**  
Interested in a new career path that uses your DDS experience and knowledge? Please contact us!

**Tim Lacy, Director Human Resources**  
800.880.MASH (6274) ext. 2426  
Fax: 817.924-1681  
tlacy@mashinc.com  
www.mashinc.com

## SSA Commissioner Addresses NADE Conference in Albany

*by Jeff Price, NADE Legislative Director*

THE HONORABLE MICHAEL ASTRUE, Commissioner of Social Security, delivered the keynote address at NADE's 2010 National Training Conference held September 13-16 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Albany, New York. Speaking on Monday, September 13, the Commissioner began by expressing his sincere appreciation to the DDS community for their achievements during what he termed, "an extraordinarily difficult year." The DDSs, in spite of furloughs in many states and many other obstacles, were able to process more than 3.1 million cases. This was 300,000 more cases than the DDSs had processed in FY 2009. The Commissioner also praised the DDSs for the fact that processing time on initial claims had improved for three straight years until the Agency was smacked in the face with the tremendous increase in claims that resulted from the current recession.

SSA had witnessed unprecedented growth in the number of new claims filed in the past two years. With the weakened economy, more people opted to file for retirement and/or disability claims than ever before. This growth in the number of applications was unanticipated. SSA had responded quickly to allow the DDSs to expand their hiring. "This was one of the most extraordinary events in the agency's history, and I am proud SSA quickly recognized the problem and set in motion a specific plan to address it," Astrue stated. The Agency is continuing to take appropriate actions to insure the Field Offices, DDSs and Hearing Offices are fully staffed to absorb the increase in claims.

The Commissioner immediately chose to address the issue of furloughs, calling these actions "non-sensical." The furlough actions make the performance of the DDSs "even more remarkable." He described SSA's efforts to convince State Governors of the harsh impact these actions have on their disabled citizens as well as the harsh impact the actions have on their employees. SSA hopes to introduce legislation into Congress early in

2011 that would make it illegal for State Governors to furlough federally funded state employees without the Commissioner's prior authorization. There is widespread support for this legislation already in Congress and in the Executive Branch. The news media are reporting stories of how furloughs have affected people awaiting decisions on their disability claims, and SSA is hopeful this ongoing pressure from the media, from Congress, from the White House and from SSA will convince Governors to abandon this shameful practice. The Commissioner encouraged NADE to continue to relay the negative impact of these furloughs.

The Commissioner addressed several internal issues, including the appointment of a new Deputy Commissioner for Legislative Issues and the hiring of 2800 new employees in the DDS since the close of FY 2008. He commented on the Extended Service Teams, or ESTs, now operating in four states that were helping the agency to absorb the increasing number of initial applications and to handle the growing backlog of disability claims in those states affected by the furlough actions. The ESTs, although only a recent creation, have already processed more than 18,000 claims.

National unemployment remains high so SSA is continuing to expect an increase in the number of initial claim filings in FY 2011. The Commissioner indicated a sense of pride when commenting on the fact that, in spite of the tremendous growth in initial applications in the past two years, and the expectation this will continue in the next fiscal year, SSA had still been able to make many process improvements. For example, the targeted number of cases projected to qualify for "CAL" processing (Compassionate Allowance), to increase from 4.6% in FY 2010 to 5.0% in FY 2011. It is commendable the DDSs are able to process so many CAL cases so quickly, speeding benefits to those afflicted with the worst disabilities.

In addressing other process improvements, Commissioner Astrue reported SSA's denial notices now contain helpful information directing claimants to various other governmental programs that may provide assistance and/or additional information about their specific impairments. The internet application was continuing to undergo changes to make it more user friendly for those seeking to apply for benefits online.

SSA was working to improve both the content of the Listings of Impairments and their timeliness. The Commissioner noted SSA's plan is to request public comment on the remaining listings by the close of FY 2011. Considering how far behind the Agency had been in its efforts to keeping the listings updated, the Commissioner noted this was a major achievement. At the same time the Agency is updating the listings, they are also working to improve the content to insure the listings reflect the current base of medical knowledge as well as current medical practices and treatment modalities.

The national roll-out of DCPS (Disability Claims Processing Systems) was continuing as planned and eCAT was proving to be an effective tool, particularly for less experienced disability adjudicators. The Commissioner noted SSA had witnessed eighteen (18) consecutive months of improvement in the pending backlog of claims at the hearing level until this process slowed during the summer months of 2010, coinciding with the hiring of a significant number of new judges and the opening of the new Hearing Center in St. Louis. This historic expansion required experienced judges to take fewer cases while assisting in the training of the newly hired judges. SSA is confident it will soon witness a re-emergence of significant improvement in the pending backlogs at both the initial and hearing levels. The Commissioner did observe that the processing time for cases pending at ODAR had improved to 398 days and the targeted

*Astrue, continued on next page*





*SSA Commissioner Astrue addresses the NADE Training Conference.*

goal was to continue to improve to an average of 270 days.

Other plans developed by SSA to help face the growing crisis of increased applications will be to expand the Single Decision-Maker (SDM) model (a goal long advocated by NADE) to QDD (Quick Disability Decision) and CAL cases. SSA's goal is to serve the public better and the SDM model has proven to be an effective tool in improving efficiency in processing certain cases without compromising quality. The regulation published by SSA allowing for this expansion of the SDM is now pending at the Office of Management and Budget. SSA remains hopeful SDM will be available for QDD and CAL cases sometime in FY 2011.

Perhaps the one single issue facing the disability claims process that must be addressed is the need for SSA to replace the outdated Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT). Even at the mention of the DOT, the Commissioner was greeted with laughter from the audience. These NADE members were well acquainted with the DOT and its increasing prominence as an antique book. The Commissioner noted the last updates to the DOT had been done in 1991 and the last major revisions were achieved in 1979, about the time many in the audience were born or just starting kindergarten. SSA has taken some major heat for accepting responsibility to update this volume of work that previously was the responsi-

bility of the Department of Labor. However, the Commissioner noted even the old DOT was only adapted for SSA use and was never specifically designed for SSA's purposes. A new Occupational Information System (OIS) is needed that would not only address the exertional and non-exertional demands of specific jobs but would also address the mental demands of specific jobs. Although it is a multi-year project to complete the new OIS, the Agency does not plan to wait until the end to roll out the new OIS but plans to phase in portions of the new OIS.

There has been some expression of thought among Members of Congress that there should be increased sharing of information between the Veterans Administration and the Social Security Administration, even to the point that veterans qualifying for disability benefits under the VA should automatically become entitled to SSA disability benefits.

Although the two agencies have very different definitions of disability, the Commissioner reported there had been some initial communication between the two agencies as to how they could achieve such a goal. SSA is looking into the possibility of granting disability benefits to veterans qualifying for 100% disability from the VA and additional talks on this subject would continue. The Commissioner noted that, in some instances, the VA might be in a better position to judge the impact certain medical conditions may have in regard to rendering an individual disabled, especially those medical conditions resulting from combat experience.

In addition to the possibility of shared disability decisions, there is communication ongoing between the two agencies regarding the sharing of medical records via electronic means. This is a critical matter as some DDSs have reported they often experience difficulties in obtaining VA records from some VA facilities.

"I wish I could tell you workloads are going to get better in the next twelve months," the Commissioner stated. "They're not." SSA is, however, hopeful its new business practices and response plans will help its various components absorb the impact of so many new claims coming in the door while still being able to provide quality service to the public. SSA is a service oriented agency to provide services to the American people. It is critical this service be delivered timely and accurately.



**The Shaw Group**  
A Division of Shaw Management Corporation  
"SOCIAL SECURITY & RAILROAD DISABILITY SPECIALISTS"

**Gold Corporate Member**

**(618) 235-9822**  
**(800) 755-1979**  
**(618) 235-8022 FAX**

**141 Market Place**  
**PO Box 1987**  
**Fairview Heights, IL 62208-1987**

## Hematological Update for Disability Determinations

**Presenter: Dr. Jennifer Pearce**

*By Julie Kujath, Missouri DDS*

DR. PEARCE BEGAN BY briefly discussing hemophilia. She indicated that with the great quality of treatment options available to young people to treat hemophilia, this condition is not universally disabling. She indicates that most do well with regular infusions. Rare cases will develop joint disease related to this condition, but the vast majority will do extremely well when compliant to treatment.

Dr. Pearce then went into a discussion on vonWillebrand Disease. vonWillebrand protein is important for the creation of a clot. This protein attracts platelets and helps them stick to the bleeding site. There are three types of this disease process. Type I is the most common, these patients make the protein but have a reduced (not absent) quantities making clotting difficult. Type II patients make an abnormally functioning protein. Type III patients make no protein at all and have severe bleeding.

Dr. Pearce was earnest in stating that it would involve unusual circumstances to consider vonWillebrand Disease alone as a disabling condition. Typically, these patients don't have joint bleeds or spontaneous bleeding. Primary symptom is mucosal bleeding like in nosebleeds, gum bleeding following dental treatment or after a procedure like a tonsillectomy. Patients suffering from vonWillebrand Disease are likely to have a significant iron deficiency due to bleed-

ing, but this is easily corrected. There are rare cases of incapacitating menorrhagia, but this would need to be well documented to detail loss of function related to the impairment. Treatments that are used for this condition include: DDAVP to raise vW protein levels, use of antifibrinolytics, infusion of blood derived vW protein and/or hormonal control of menses.

The final discussion topic was Sickle Cell Disease. This is a terrible, life long, incurable disease. This condition alone is greatly disabling. This disease process affects the hemoglobin and its ability to transfer oxygen and iron throughout the body. There are four variants of Sickle Cell Disease: SS, SC, S-Beta Thal and SD. This condition affects African Americans in higher numbers but can also occur in other ethnic groups. Patients with Sickle Cell Disease use to be quoted a life expectancy in the 20s due to overwhelming infectious deaths in early childhood. Currently, medical advancements have expanded the life expectancy in the 40s, and death is usually from end stage heart, kidney or lung disease or hemorrhagic stroke. Patients with Sickle Cell Disease are at an extremely high risk for vaso-occlusive crisis. When sickle cells deoxygenate their shapes change and if they are still in the capillaries they get stuck. This causes essentially deep pain from tissue death in the region where blood flow is occluded. This type of crisis can happen at

any time and can last from hours to days to a week. The patient will typically have prolonged pain and often require narcotics. Conditions that can lead to a crisis is basically anything that leaves the pliant red cell in the capillary long enough to undergo shape change and get stuck. This could occur with increased tissue demand (i.e. extreme physical exertion), which causes the oxygen to unload more quickly. This can also occur when the blood flow is decreased (i.e. cold temperature).

Factors that precipitate a crisis include: physical cold, hypoxia, acidosis, dehydration, weather changes, another illness or hormonal changes. A vaso-occlusive crisis is treatable, but needs to be treated immediately. Treatment includes correcting the inciting factors, pain relief and anti-inflammatories, hydration, heat and rest. Complications related to Sickle Cell Disease include anemia, overwhelming sepsis, stroke, cardiac strain, acute chest, chronic lung disease, renal impairment, avascular necrosis, and retinopathy. There is no cure for this condition; however, some patients have had significant response to bone marrow transplant.

The future holds some possibility for gene therapy, although this research is in its infancy. Most common methods of treatment include chronic transfusion therapy and a drug called Hydroxyurea.

**Gold Corporate Member**

**Stanley W. Wallace MD**

**PO Box 2059**

**Suwanee GA 30024**

**Internist/Cardiologist**

**a NADE Gold Corporate Member**

*Established in 1981*



**NATIONWIDE PROVIDER OF  
DISABILITY EVALUATIONS**

**21700 Copley Drive  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765**

**800.260.1515**

## Lumbar Disc Disease and Disability: The Role of Anterior and Posterior Stabilization and Fusion Maximize and Recovery

**Presenter Dr. Marshall Pederson, Bassett Health Care**

*by Joe Rise, Pacific Regional Director*

LOWER BACK CONDITIONS ARE both one of the most common sources of impairment and one of the least likely to see effective and long-lasting improvement with treatment. Dr. Pederson reports that in excess of \$80 billion in medical expenditures are made each year in treatment of low back disease, and much of it in pursuit of surgical interventions which provide little in the way of actual correction or improvement. The more complex or significant an injury is, the less likely it is to improve with the more minor surgeries that are frequently favored, and statistically, people who bypass these more conservative treatments and instead are treated with fusion.

The greatest advantage to fusion surgery is stability. The spine is a complex organization of nerves, bones, discs, ligaments, muscles, and fascia, any one of which can be involved in painful back conditions. Minor injuries which affect only one component do frequently respond well to simple procedures such as discectomy. However, when injuries are more complex, such as when both

disc and ligamentous components are involved, the increased stability of fusion surgeries may provide improved symptoms and post-operative function. Dr. Pederson described early fusion processes, which frequently resulted in continued or even increased pain. These early treatment options resulted in incomplete fusions, complications from misplaced or misaligned hardware, and pain and early degeneration of surrounding areas of the spine due to loss of normal spinal curvature.

Current methods of fusion are much more able to address disc herniation, facet pain, and ligament instability in combination, and with appropriate aftercare, including diligent orthotic use and post-operative physical reconditioning, a return to work is generally possible. Dr. Pederson lists, as a guideline, that three level fusions will generally limit patients to light or sedentary employment, but medium duty is reasonable after successful two level fusions, and a single-level cage fusion is amenable to a return to even heavy work.



***Are you Certified  
through NADE?***

**Certification applications  
are available on the NADE  
website:  
[www.nade.org](http://www.nade.org)**

**Or You May Contact The  
*Professional Development*  
Committee Chair**

**Ellen Cook  
4805 Greenbriar Drive  
Springfield, IL 62711  
217.741.8151  
[Ellen.Cook@ssa.gov](mailto:Ellen.Cook@ssa.gov)**



## **GMADE Sponsors Walk for the Cure and "Jules' Journey"**

*From right to left, GMADE President Kristina Burbank, her daughter Jules and Jules' best friend Olivia at the JDRF "Walk for the Cure" event to help find a cure for Juvenile (Type 1) Diabetes.*

*Jules was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes 2 years ago and GMADE decided to sponsor her walk team "Jules' Journey" in this year's Walk for the Cure. With GMADE's fundraising effort, Jules' Journey was able to raise over \$1000.00 to help find a cure for Type 1 Diabetes!*

## **PACIFIC REGION NADE TRAINING CONFERENCE** **“ONE FOR ALL AND ALL FOR ONE”**

**Kevin Marlow from the Idaho DDS has submitted an article on  
the 5/19/10-5/20/10 NADE Pacific Region Conference.**

THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE provided a very diverse group represented by regional DDS and FO personnel from administrators, managers, clerical staff and trainees.

Doug Williams, Nebraska DDS Administrator, gave a riveting history lesson and progress update on DCPS. Following DCPS, we were fortunate to have Mary Barros Baily, Ph.D. and John Own III, discuss in detail how the long anticipated replacement to the DOT was coming and the thought processes involved in establishing exertional and mental limitations. Dr Baily is Chair of the Occupational Information Development Advisory Panel. John Own is the Deputy Director, Division of DDS Operations Support, ODD, SSA. Ruth Lacey, Deputy Associate Commissioner, Office of Disability Determinations provided an ODD update. Nancy Vazquez, Idaho DDS Administrator provided the NCDDD report. Andrew Martinez, NADE President Elect, closed the first day out letting us know items of interest being present to Congress.

Also on day 1, we took time out for the awards luncheon recognizing the following for their exemplary service:

Longevity Award (active member since '88)  
Debbie Farrell, Oregon

Pacific Region State Agency Supervisor Award  
Aneesah Furqan, Oregon

Pacific Region Administrative Aide Award  
Gloria Sills, Oregon

Pacific Region State Agency Medical Consultant Award  
Dr. Scott Pritchard, Oregon

Pacific Region Examiner Award  
Erin Donnithorne, Oregon

Pacific Region State Agency Administrator Award  
Nancy Vazquez / Idaho

Pacific Region Increased Membership Award  
Eastern Washington Association of Disability Examiners /  
EWADE

Regardless of position, at some point most of us have asked, "What was the ALJ thinking?" On day 2, ALJ Jessica Pugrud was on hand to answer that and more. Her insightful comments regarding evidence, travel, ALJ scheduling, video hearings, and caseloads to name just a few examples provided a completely new outlook for what was on their plate.

Remember the last confrontational client you dealt with? You know the one, the guy/gal that called your boss and complained that you were rude despite your efforts to be nice to them after they diligently tried to exhaust your patience? If you need help dealing with difficult people, go to the experts. Lt Caryl Faraizer, Idaho Department of Corrections definitely has the credentials for dealing with difficult people and his goal is to keep situations professional and ensuring they do not escalate into a dangerous situation. Lt Frasier shared his version of Verbal Judo, a taste of what he teaches his officers. His overall message was be professional, positive and avoid confrontational traps.

With Military Casualty claims on the rise and PTSD as a consistent allegation, we requested help from our local Veterans' Hospital. Dudley Blake, Ph.D is Boise Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center Military Service Casualty Cases and PTSD Director. Dr Blake is nationally recognized and published author on PTSD and has developed tools utilized nationally by the VA in treating PTSD. Dr Blake noted that PTSD is a very treatable condition if the military member seeks treatment, with earlier treatment being more effective. All adjudicators have heard the horror story "they gave me a pamphlet to read"; however with persistence, help is available and they are seeing good results.

**Silver Corporate Member**  
**Tri State Occupational  
Medicine Inc**

Susan Gladys  
612 Sixth Avenue  
Huntington WV 25701  
304.525.4202

[susang@tsom.com](mailto:susang@tsom.com)

**Gold Corporate Member**



*Delivering Quality Disability Evaluations on a Timely Basis*

1701 W 2450 S  
Ogden, Utah 84401

Call: 1.800.548.9092  
Contact: Mike Powell

[www.mdsiphysicians.com](http://www.mdsiphysicians.com)



*Pacific conference, from previous page*

Are you adjudicating autism claims with greater frequency. Most likely you are. Insight to autism was provided by Dr Thomas Young, medical director, and Sharon Shedlock, Vice President for Caring Technologies. Sharon displayed and provided information on a product they developed and sell to enhance treatment for autistic children. This is a field where it might take up to six months to see a specialist, and the specialist will only have a short span of observation. The tool developed by the Shedlocks is video monitoring and capturing that allows behaviors to be captured real time and shared with treating physicians and therapists. This in turn allows better diagnostics and treatment intervention. Dr Young noted that currently approximately every one out of 100 children is diagnosed with some form of autism.

Ever wonder what the best part of being a Doctor is (besides the fancy car and primo parking spot)? What Dr Robert Friedman, Neurologist, enjoys most is telling the patient that they were misdiagnosed and that they do not have Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). Dr Friedman is the local ALS specialist and provided very good insight into his patients' expectations and experiences with the disease.

Overall, the conference provided new staff with a dizzying number of acronyms to research, but more importantly, it gave us all a very good look at what is coming down the road short and far, directions SSA is heading; and tools for adjudicating claims and improving our ability to cooperate and serve the public.

*Smith's Address, from page 24*

President Smith highlighted the direct benefits that all NADE training conferences provide such as allowing staff to build a personal sense of professionalism and to participate interactively in truly superior training.

Attending such conferences makes each of us more knowledgeable and a more skilled employee. President Smith stated,

*"The current workloads and strained budgets will be nothing compared to the problems we will have in the near future if public service is performed by a staff that is poorly trained and unmotivated. The best defense for 21<sup>st</sup> century workloads is a well-trained, adequately compensated staff that is committed to public service."*

She went on to say,

*"We have broadened NADE's horizons this year. Our relationships with other stakeholder groups within the disability program have expanded. We have continued to hold meetings with leaders from the professional groups that represent the Administrative Law Judges and the Field Offices. We continue to meet with claimant advocate organizations. We continue to be a strong voice on Capitol Hill and, I am proud to say, NADE's voice and expertise is widely sought after and respected. These relationships are important if we are to continue to serve the interests of the claimants who seek assistance and the taxpayers who pay the bills. These opportunities to express our collective voice, to have our input implanted on disability policy and procedures, insure that NADE will continue to have an important role in the future design and implementation of disability policy. This is important because we bring to the table the collective expertise that is so necessary if that policy is to be successfully designed and implemented."*

As previously stated it was a rousing speech that was a great beginning to our national conference in Albany.



*From left: Ruth Lacey Deputy Associate Commissioner ODD, Roger Madsen Director of the Idaho Dept of Labor, Nancy Vasquez Idaho DDS Administrator, and Stanley Friendship Pacific Region Commissioner*

*On the town in Boise.*

*From left: Debbie Farrell, Pebbles Allen-Gentleman, Andrew Martinez, Joe Lynne Rader, Deborra Lawson, Marc Dupuis, and Barbara Qualls.*

## NADE Board Members 2010-2011

### OFFICERS



#### PRESIDENT

**Andrew Martinez**  
1599 Green Street #303  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
510.622.3385  
Fax: 510.622.3385  
andrew.martinez@dss.ca.gov  
Team Manager



#### PRESIDENT ELECT

**Tom A Ward**  
9841 S 6th Street  
Schoolcraft, MI 49087  
269.337.3509  
tom.a.ward@ssa.gov  
Professional Relations Officer



#### PAST PRESIDENT

**Susan Smith**  
5781 Coldcreek Dr  
Hilliard, OH 43026  
614.438.1879  
Fax 614.438.1305  
susan.x.smith@ssa.gov  
Disability Adjudicator III



#### SECRETARY

**Tonya Scott**  
PO Box 2200  
Stone Mountain, GA 30086  
678.639.2411  
Fax: 678.639.2450  
tonya.scott@ssa.gov  
Unit Supervisor



#### TREASURER

**Sharon Belt**  
1500 Southridge Drive Suite 100  
Jefferson City, MO 65109  
573.526.2219  
Fax 573.526.3788  
sharon.belt@ssa.gov  
Hearing Officer



### REGIONAL DIRECTORS



#### GREAT LAKES

**Jennifer Nottingham**  
781 Ficus DR  
Worthington, OH 43085  
614.438.1777  
Fax 614.785.5049  
  
jennifer.nottingham@ssa.gov



#### GREAT PLAINS

**Patricia Chaplin**  
7545 South Lindbergh, Suite 220  
St. Louis, MO 63125  
314.416.2805  
Fax: 314.416.2846  
patricia.chaplin@ssa.gov  
Disability Counselor II



#### MID-ATLANTIC

**Leesa Chalmers**  
754 East Shannon Road  
Bridgeport, WV 26330  
304.624.0268  
Fax 304.624.0235  
leesa.chalmers@ssa.gov



#### NORTHEAST

**Susan LaMorte**  
675 Joralemon Street A-10  
Belleville, NJ 07109  
973.648.7728  
Fax: 973.648.2580  
susan.lamorte@ssa.gov  
Administrator of HR, Systems,  
Budget & Bldg Management



#### PACIFIC

**Joe Rise**  
23601 112th Ave SE  
Apt A103  
Kent WA, 98031-5400  
206.654.7206  
joe.rise@ssa.gov  
Supervisor



#### SOUTHEAST

**Sharon Summers**  
200 Athens Way  
Plaza Tower II  
Nashville, TN 37228  
615.743.7360  
Fax: 615.253.0015  
sharon.summers@ssa.gov  
Hearing Officer



#### SOUTHWEST

**Mary Dumars**  
2920 Knight Street Ste 232  
Shreveport, LA 71105  
318.869.6497  
Fax: 318.869.6406  
mary.dumars@ssa.gov  
Unit Specialist

### CHAIRPERSON-COUNCIL OF CHAPTER PRESIDENTS



#### Jennifer Pounds

1004 Shae Court  
Garner, NC 27529  
800.662.1852 ext 6295  
Fax 800.851.3065  
jennifer.pounds@ssa.gov

### APPOINTED DIRECTORS



#### LEGISLATIVE

**Jeff Price**  
PO Box 243  
Raleigh, NC 27602  
919.212.3222 ext 4056  
jeff.price@ssa.gov  
Quality Assurance Specialist



#### MEMBERSHIP

**Donnie Hayes**  
3301 Terminal Dr  
Raleigh, NC 27604-3896  
919-212-3222 ext. 4371  
Fax: 888-222-5763  
donnie.hayes@ssa.gov



#### PUBLICATIONS

**Donna Hilton**  
1117 Sunshine Drive  
Aurora, MO 65605  
417.678.4001  
Fax: 417.678.4538  
drhilton@suddenlink.net  
Disability Consultant

### NADE Ad Hoc Committee

Chairs yet to be named:

PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS  
OFFICERS

SYSTEMS

## NADE Committee Chairpersons

**AWARDS**

Lorenzo Moultrie  
4054 Sandy Ridge DR  
Columbus, OH 43204  
614.438.1749  
Fax 614.785.5066  
lorenzo.moultrie@ssa.gov

**ELECTIONS AND NOMINATIONS**

Leola Meyer  
106 Linfield Circle  
Forest, MS 39074  
800.962.2230 ext 5487  
Fax 877.745.5458  
leola.meyer@ssa.gov

**MEDICAL CONSULTANT**

J. Scott Pritchard D.O.  
3150 Lancaster Dr. NE  
Salem, OR 97305-1350  
503.986.4962  
Fax: 503.373.7202  
scott.pritchard@ssa.gov

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Ellen Cook  
4805 Greenbriar Drive  
Springfield, IL 62711  
217.741.8151  
ellen.cook@ssa.gov

**CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS**

R. Todd Deshong  
2226 Elliot Ave, #109  
Seattle, WA 92121  
206-654-7151  
Fax – none  
richard.deshong@ssa.gov

**HEARING OFFICER**

Kerry Vander Bloomer  
2706 Burnock Dr.  
Portage, MI 49024  
269.337.3459  
Fax: 269.337.3090  
kerry.vander.bloomer@ssa.gov

**NATIONAL DISABILITY PROFESSIONALS WEEK**

Marcia Shantz  
1134 Claremont St.  
Dearborn, MI 48124  
313.456.1604  
marcia.shantz@ssa.gov

**RESOLUTIONS**

Ella E. Timm  
811 E 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Dept 24  
Sioux Falls, SD 57103-1650  
605.367.5492 ext 108  
Fax 605.357.5485  
ella.timm@ssa.gov

**CORPORATE MEMBER AD HOC**

Barbara Young  
The IMA Group  
660 White Plains Road  
Tarryton, NY 10591  
800.245.4245 ext. 319  
Cell: 518.527.8487  
Vice President of Business Development

**HISTORIAN**

Susan LaMorte  
675 Joralemon St, A-10  
Bellevue, NJ 07109  
973.648.7728  
Fax: 973.648.2580  
susan.lamorte@ssa.gov

**NON-DUES REVENUE**

Malcolm Stoughtenborough  
11129 Springhollow Rd. Unit 126  
Oklahoma City, OK 73120  
405.419.2573  
malcolm.stoughtenborough@ssa.gov

**RETIRES**

Anne Graham  
1316 Glenmont Rd.  
Baltimore, MD 21239  
bluwindow@verizon.net

**DDS ADMINISTRATORS/SSA LIAISON**

Susan Smith  
5781 Coldcreek Dr.  
Hilliard, OH 43026  
614.438.1879  
Fax 614.785.5013  
susan.x.smith@ssa.gov

**LITIGATION MONITORING**

Edie Peters-Ligouri  
35 Van Ryper Place  
Bellevue, NJ 07109  
973.648.6983  
Fax 973.648.3238  
edie.peters-ligouri@ssa.gov

**ORGAN DONATION/TRANSPLANT**

Cynthia A. Henderson  
9801 N Kelly Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73131-2433  
405.419.2532  
Fax 405.419.2757  
cynthia.henderson@ssa.gov

**STRATEGIC PLAN**

Jerry Prior  
3691 Bogota Drive  
Westerville, OH 43081  
614.438.1871  
jerry.pryor@ssa.gov

Check the appropriate  
box in each section.

<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	
<input type="checkbox"/> Full	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Support	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Retiree	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	\$200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Corp.	\$350.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Corp.	\$500.00

## NADE Membership Application

(Please print name, title & designation as desired  
on your Membership Certificate)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Prefix First Middle Last Suffix

Professional Designation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Local Chap # \_\_\_\_\_ Wk Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ @ssa.gov

NADE's membership year runs from July 1st through June 30th each year. Your membership will expire on the June 30th following your join date.

Exception: All new memberships received between January through June will receive an expiration date of June 30th of the following year. NADE does not prorate dues.

**Mail to: National Association of Disability Examiners Whitaker Bank NADE Account PO Box 599 Frankfort KY 40602**  
**(Make check payable to NADE)**

**CHANGES: (ONLY ENTER CHANGED DATA)**

### Change Of Information Form For: (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Professional Designation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\*Local Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ @ssa.gov

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail or email to: Membership Chair**

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

Address Service Requested

PRSR STD  
U S POSTAGE  
PAID  
SPRINGFIELD MO  
PERMIT # 616

---

## Opening Ceremonies And President Smith's Address To The 2010 Nade Training Conference Attendees

*by Tom Ward, President Elect*

A CIVILIAN COLOR GUARD KICKED off the 2010 NADE Conference followed by an outstanding a cappella vocal of the Star Spangled Banner by Malcolm Stoughtenborough, NADE member from Oklahoma. The Pledge of Allegiance concluded the opening ceremonies. The New York Deputy Commissioner for the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance and the Division of Disability Determinations Gloria Toal, welcomed all of the conference attendees. Ms. Toal thanked Commissioner Astrue for his efforts to stem the furloughing of DDS employees and for the additional hiring, which has taken place in the past year. The New York Executive Director for the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, Elizabeth Berlin also gave her personal welcome to New York and the city of Albany. New York Region Area III Director Paul Brown also brought a welcome from SSA Regional Commissioner Beatrice Disman.



President Susan Smith then took the podium and gave a rousing speech on the influence NADE continues to have with SSA and its many components, other governmental agencies, professional medical organizations, and members of Congress. Rhetorically she asked the audience,

*"Where do we get this (our NADE) credibility and expertise?"* She answered by pointing out the varied occupations represented within the audience. That is, disability adjudicators, medical consultants, administrative support staff, supervisors, administrators, advocates, and attorneys. *"This is representative of our membership and our perspective. No other professional association can provide such a similar, broad-based perspective. This is why it is so important that*

*our voice be heard and why we must work even harder to make our voice even louder."* She went on to state, *"NADE's voice is the one demanding that Steps 4 and 5 of Sequential Evaluation be switched. It is our voice demanding the 15 year vocational work history be reduced. It is our voice demanding the five- month and twenty-four month waiting periods be abolished or reduced, if not for all cases, at least for the Compassionate Allowance and QDD cases. Our voice is being heard. Changes are coming and we will continue to advocate for the others because life is full of challenges that test our strength and determination. I believe these challenges strengthen our character and ultimately define who we are. We cannot run away because we lack the courage to move forward."*

*Address, continued on page 21*