
the NADE ADVOCATE



A Publication of the National Association of Disability Examiners

Volume 27, Number 2

Spring 2011

NADE's Top Issues for 2011

(This list does not reflect level of importance – all issues have equal importance)

- Continued support for a unified, or single, process for performing disability evaluations across the nation. While NADE does support the Single Decision Maker (SDM) concept and reconsideration process, we feel the most important issue is to have all DDSs using the same methods and procedures as they perform the disability evaluations. With SSA currently equalizing cases from state to state, and utilizing the Extended Service Teams (ESTs) and Federal Disability Processing Units to assist with the current backlog of cases, the differences in how DDSs process claims is becoming more and more apparent. Having a unified process for how the DDSs process claims will ensure that all citizens who apply for disability benefits will be treated fairly and receive the same consideration during the evaluation process.
- Continued support for appropriate level of funding for SSA and DDSs to ensure that sufficient resources, including staffing levels and funds to expand SSA's IT initiatives, purchase medical evidence of record (MER) and consultative examinations (CE's), are available to process the increasing workloads.
- Continued support for improvements in customer service, including improvements in processing time and significant reductions in pending backlogs at the initial, reconsideration and hearing levels. Furloughs of DDS employees should be eliminated as they contribute to the backlogs of claims at the initial and reconsideration levels and may also impact on the accuracy and timeliness of decision-making.
- Continued support for a national roll-out of the Single Decision-Maker (SDM) model, coupled with the establishment of national standards for qualifications of Disability Examiners to become SDMs. NADE seeks the enhancement of the role of the DDS Medical Consultant as a true consultant, especially on the more complicated disability cases.

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- Continued support for eliminating the need of disability decision makers having to consider Step 4 in Sequential Evaluation when the claimant would still be a denial at Step 5. Continued support for a reduction in the 15 year relevant vocational period. Either and/or both of these changes would expedite case processing, save administrative costs, save processing time and aid in reducing the backlogs of claims.
- Continued support for Disability Program Integrity initiatives, including revisions in the Continuing Disability Review (CDR) process and expansion of the Continuing Disability Investigation (CDI) units. The financial impact would produce significant savings in administrative and program costs.

Top Issues, continued on page 4



Celebrate NDPW, June 13-17th

President's Message

Spring is here and as usual, this is a busy time for NADE. The season started with the Mid-Year Board Meeting which was held in St. Louis Missouri on March 3-5, 2011. This was a departure from years past when the Mid-Year Board Meeting was held in Washington DC in conjunction with NADE's visits on Capitol Hill. This year's meeting was very productive and the Board Members had the opportunity to discuss many different issues during the three days they were together in St. Louis. The minutes from the Board Meeting can be found on the NADE website.



During the week of April 11 – 15, 2011, I traveled to Washington DC with Tom Ward, the President-Elect, Susan Smith, the Past President and SSA/DDS Administrators Liaison and Jeff Price, the Legislative Director. This year, we scheduled five days of meetings on Capitol Hill with staff from Congressional offices, Social Security, The Institute of Medicine and other groups involved in with the disability programs. A summary of the trip to Capitol Hill will be placed on the NADE website and begins on page 24 of this issue.

We held three Regional Conferences scheduled this year. The Southwest/Great Plains Regional Conference was held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Great Lakes Regional Conference was held in Dearborn, Michigan and the Northeast/Mid-Atlantic/Southeast Regional Conference in Newport, Rhode Island. The Regional Conferences are an excellent opportunity for NADE members to receive training and to share experiences and network with fellow NADE members. I would encourage all NADE members to consider attending a Regional or National conference in the future

This year, as President, I have created three Ad-Hoc Committees. The first Ad-Hoc Committee is the Support Staff Committee and they working on issues which are unique to the Support Staff. The second is the Conference Ad-Hoc Committee. This committee will be reviewing our process for hosting our National Conferences. The last Ad-Hoc Committee will be developing NADE's vision of the perfect disability evaluation process. This group is charged with writing a statement which will clarify NADE's position on the Single Decision Maker, Reconsideration and the Vocational Rules. Reports from all three committees will be presented during the General Membership Meeting at the 2011 National Conference which will be held August 27 – September 1, at the Wilshire Grand in Los Angeles.

As we are all aware, this is a challenging time for the Federal and State Governments. Budgets are tight and we are still facing furloughs and budget shortfalls. And to be honest, it is not an easy time to be a government employee. I would like to commend all the NADE Members for the professional service you continue to give to the most vulnerable citizens in the United States, especially with all of the challenges we are currently facing.

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.

Advocate advertising rates are as follows:

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NADE is an incorporated, nonprofit organization.

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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 published in **Summer 2011**.

All correspondence should be directed through your Regional representative or NADE editor
by **June 6, 2011**.

I am also happy to tell you NADE's membership, even in these hard economic times, has continued to grow. I would like to encourage all members to keep up their recruiting efforts and continue to introduce your co-workers to NADE. It is the strength of our membership which gives NADE a voice on Capitol Hill and with SSA. The more members we have, the louder and stronger our voice will be when NADE is advocating for the disability evaluation profession.

It is an honor to serve as the NADE President and look forward to meeting many of you at the upcoming Regional Conferences.

Sincerely,

Andrew Martinez

Andrew Martinez
NADE President



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!



Are you Certified through NADE?

Certification applications
are available on the NADE
website:
www.nade.org

If Not Now, When? Or You May Contact The *Professional Development* Committee Chair

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

NADE CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

2011 National Training Conference	Wilshire Grand	Los Angeles, CA	August 27 – September 1, 2011
Great Lakes/Great Plains South east/Southwest Quad Regional	Embassy Suites	Raleigh, NC	April 23-25, 2012
Pacific Regional Training Conference	Harvey's Resort	Reno, NV	TBA, 2012

Top Issues , continued from page 1

We have also identified the following top issue for the organization.

- Continue to work towards increasing the NADE membership.
- Continue to provide training to NADE members at the local, State, Regional and National level.
- Continue to host training conferences at the local, Regional and National level.
- Continue to promote professionalism with the NADE membership.
- Continue to support the purpose of NADE
- To develop the art and science of disability evaluation
- To enhance the public awareness of disability evaluation
- To further professional recognition for disability evaluation practitioners



NADE Chapter News

Alabama

Since the National conference the Alabama chapter has kept NADE in the forefront of staff members through a variety of activities.

November 3 thru 5, 2010: Belk Charity Sale

AADE representatives sold \$5 Belk Charity Sale tickets to be used at any Belks on Saturday, November 6, for a four-hour special sale from 6AM to 10AM. With a ticket from AADE and presented to a Belk's sales associate, customers received \$5 off your purchase. This four-hour sale event offered special savings to benefit local charities (including AADE) and schools. 20%-70% savings storewide including special savings on rarely discounted brands.

November 17, 2010: Quarterly AADE Lunch & Learn

An AADE Lunch & Learn luncheon was held at Piccadilly's Cafeteria in Riverchase, Alabama. Doctor Valerie Harper spoke on Speech and Language in regards to the disability process. Those in attendance worked towards NADE certification.

November 22, 2010: Annual AADE Bake Sale

The theme was "Cook for a Cause" with the proceeds of the bake sale (\$200) benefitting Oak Mountain Missions. The Mobile office participated as well; the Penelope House benefitted from the proceeds of Mobile's sale (\$216).

November 14 thru 20, 2010: AADE & ASEA National Food Drive Week

AADE and ASEA (Alabama State Employee Association) teamed up again to collect nonperishable food items for those in need. Fourteen boxes of items were collected and split between the two chosen charities: AADE choosing Oak Mountain Missions and ASEA choosing Firehouse Shelter.

December 3, 2010: AADE Christmas Party

The AADE Christmas party was held at Ranelli's Italian Deli in Southside Birmingham from 6:30PM to 11:00PM. AADE representatives sold tickets for \$10 per person the week prior. Each ticket bought a delicious meal of lasagna, salad, bread, and soft drink. The AADE Social Committee provided free dessert. Ticket purchases also paid for live blues music. AADE members could bring one guest. AADE donated door prizes. All had a great time of fellowship and fun.

January 29, 2011: 7th Annual Brenda Ladun Conquer Cancer Walk

AADE set up table in break room and sent emails promoting the walk. AADE President, Kandy Flint Forrester, represented AADE/NADE and walked during the event. Kandy walked 8k in 94 minutes with her Yorkshire terrier, Ham.

February 10, 2011: AADE Casual Day Fundraiser

For \$1 donation, AL DDS employees who purchased a sticker could dress casual. The fundraiser added \$151 to the AADE banking account.

March 17, 2011: AADE St. Patrick's Day Casual Day Fundraiser

For \$1 donation, AL DDS employees who purchased a sticker could dress casual. The fundraiser added \$187 to the AADE banking account. Also during this fundraiser, AADE advertised that four lucky sticker purchasers would win their very own 'Tub O' Dirt' (a delicious cookies and cream dessert) made by AADE president, Kandy Flint Forrester. In addition to the four original winners of the 'tubs,' three Squares O' Dirt and seven Bowls O' Dirt were also made and donated by the President as a surprise to many of those who participated.

A "Meet & Greet" was held to introduce all new employees, including examiners, doctors, and clerical staff, to NADE/AADE. Ron Kilgore spoke on behalf of NADE, explaining our association along with how it is separate from ASEA (Alabama State Employee Association). Those in attendance enjoyed punch and assorted Pollman Bakery cookies.

Also on March 17, 2011: Quarterly Lunch & Learn

An AADE Lunch & Learn luncheon was held at The Fish Market in Hoover. Dr. Megan Sherod spoke on the cognitive and emotional effects of Traumatic Brain Injury. Those in attendance worked towards NADE certification.

- Maya Delion, SE Publications Representative

Michigan

There is momentum in Michigan! That is right, MADE has been busily planning the GLADE Regional Training Conference which will be held in the Motor City.

Despite the challenges of planning an entire conference, MADE has been very active increasing awareness of the need for organ donation. Two NADE members who have had kidney transplants will be present at a local business, Noodles & Company, to greet customers and provide information on organ donation. The company will donate 25% of sales for the day to the National Kidney Foundation. We have formed a team to participate in the Southwest Michigan Kidney Walk. A local business, Tempo Vino Winery, will provide a wine tasting event with 25% of the sales going to support "Team Bean." MADE is also having a book sale to support the team.

A Red Cross blood drive will be held at our worksite. Moreover, it does not end there. We have procured a speaker for the "Motor City Momentum" agenda from Gift of Life, Michael Hagan, a liver transplant recipient himself, who has gained nation recognition.

- Marcia Shantz, Michigan

Wisconsin

WADE is happy to report that NADE gained several new WI members thanks to a successful membership drive in January.

In February we held our annual soup sale. All soups sold at the sale are made by members, giving them a chance to show off "tried and true" recipes or experiment with new ones. Tried and true or new, the soups are always good and, typical of our soup sales, people were scraping the bottoms of the crockpots by the end.

In March we held a sloppy joe sandwich sale. Our intention was to have it coincide with the NCAA playoffs and that profits would be used to financially assist members who want to attend NADE conferences. We altered part of that plan – deciding to give all proceeds to the Red Cross, earmarked for aid to Japan. Our efforts, coupled with the generous spirit of WI public employees, raised \$426 in 45 minutes!!!

- Janet Geeslin, Wisconsin

Chapter News, continued from page 5

South Carolina

Community Benefits from SCADE Generosity

December 21, 2010

**Suzie Foley
Director, Greenville Free Medical Clinic
600 Arlington Avenue
P.O. Box 8993
Greenville, SC 29601**

Ms. Foley,

It is with great pleasure that the Greenville chapter of the South Carolina Association of Disability Evaluation Specialists (SCADES) presents to the Greenville Free Medical Clinic a check for \$900.00, for use as best determined by your administrative staff at your downtown Arlington Avenue location.

SCADES is a division of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Association and a member of the National Association of Disability Examiners (NADE). SCADES is comprised of employees of the Disability Determination Services and its purpose is to promote the advancement of disability evaluation specialists by encouraging training, education, and learning opportunities within the DDS.

We are part of an agency whose important mission is to provide quality disability determinations to South Carolinians in a responsive, timely, and cost-effective manner. Our SCADES members are also part of the community in which we serve, however, and in this holiday season, we sought an avenue for giving back in a way not possible in the course of performing our normal jobs.

In early December, we held a fundraiser at our North Main Street location. We challenged office teams to create gift baskets to be part of a silent auction. At the same time, we held a combination sale of used media, baked goods, and holiday-themed crafts. We announced that all proceeds would benefit a local free clinic.

We at DDS and SCADES are very familiar with the Greenville Free Clinic's mission to promote wellness and to provide caring, quality medical care and dental services, health education and prescription medications without charge to eligible low-income uninsured Greenville County residents. It is our hope that our donation may enhance your ability to fulfill your critical mission and to help those in need.

Sincerely,

**Christopher D. Porter
Greenville Regional Office Supervisor
Disability Determination Services
SCADES Past President**

**Dr. Gary E. Calhoun
Psychologist
Disability Determination Services
SCADES Greenville Regional Office Representative**



Greenville Free Medical Clinic



Chris Porter and Dr. Gary Calhoun present a check to Suzie Foley for the Greenville Free Medical Clinic.

Ohio

Ohio (Association of Disability Examiners) Triumphs Over Michigan!



January was OADE recruitment month, and we held two events at Crosswoods to promote the benefits of joining NADE (National Association of Disability Examiners).

The Membership Committee set a goal of “beating Michigan” by recruiting enough members to have the highest number in our region. I’m happy to report that we succeeded! Since the beginning of 2011, we have added 21 members, bringing our total to 110. We increased our membership by the highest percentage in the region and surpassed the Michigan chapter’s 107 member total!! (At the beginning of January, Michigan had 104 members and we had 89). The committee members deserve recognition for making this possible; they are: Rebecca Briggs, Christy Coon-Torres, Linda Crump, Fatimata Kamara, Maria Patterson, Meredith Rogan and James Savitscus.

Membership, which is open to all disability staff, gives us a chance to make a difference by advocating for positive changes. It offers educational and networking opportunities as well as recognition through certification and awards programs. The Ohio chapter participates in all of these activities as well as fundraisers for local charities and social events for members.

NADE’s mission is “to develop the art and science of disability evaluation, to enhance public awareness about disability evaluation and to further professional recognition for disability evaluation practitioners.” For more information, please see the NADE website at www.nade.org.

- Lori Myers, Ohio DDS

Tennessee

I am proud to say that our TADE chapter member, Tom Fussell, is the nominee from our state for the “Staff Supervisor of the Year” award. His nomination will be submitted at the Regional level for this year’s Atlanta Regional PRIDE Award. His nomination will be in competition for this award against seven other states. The Regional awards are held at the SSA Regional Atlanta headquarters. Tom is a long-standing member of TADE and NADE. He has served a Chapter President, Treasurer for two terms, and currently serves as a TADE Board Member. Tom is the supervisor of our PRO Unit. But, don’t think that is all he does.

Tom currently wears many hats at the DDSs. Tom was appointed as our ERE Subject Matter Expert in 2010, he has been involved with the National PRO Conference, the User-Needs Analysis Conference, and the National DDS Fiscal Training Conference. He was an exhibitor at the Rule Health Association Conference for 2010. He maintains our Fiscal Budget Report and supervises the ODAR Team where he played a big part in reducing the ODAR CE backlog by 75% the first year of this new assignment. Tom takes great pride in the work he does. He uses a very proactive and problems solving style. Moreover, as you can see, he has been very successful. We are very proud of Tom and his accomplishments and we congratulate him for this nomination as “Staff Supervisor of the Year”. We wish him the best of luck with his nomination against the other state submissions. Tennessee will hold its own celebration of the PRIDE AWARDS for all the nominees and regional winners from Tennessee later this year.

- Penny Dahl, TADE President

North Carolina



DDS collected 121 bunnies, ducks, chickss & various critters for local hospitals in the annual Bunny Drive.

Thank You!!!

THADE Community Service Committee



Former Michiganan Linda Dorn, now Associate Commissioner of Office of Disability Determinations gave President-Elect Tom Ward a warm welcome.

NADE On The Hill, from page 24

During these meetings, the NADE leaders engaged everyone in lengthy discussions and sought to build support for SSA's administrative budget needs and to increase the level of understanding with regard to the expected impact of potential budget cuts. NADE noted the 23% increase in disability claims since 2008 and the 15% growth in retirement claims over the same period. Members of Congress were warned of potential dire consequences that could result from significant budget cuts and how such cuts would impact the workload of the Field Offices, the DDSs and the Administrative Law Judges. The NADE leadership found strong support from SSA and Congress for our proposal to "reverse" Steps 4 and 5 of Sequential Evaluation. Everyone acknowledged this was a work efficiency offering the potential to save significant time and money while having absolutely no impact on the final determination in any case. Likewise, NADE found significant support for a nationwide roll-out of the Single Decision-Maker (SDM) model which would permit Disability Examiners to make final determinations in simple claims so as to reserve the time of the Medical Consultants in the DDSs for those complex cases where their medical expertise is truly needed.

NADE is on record as supporting an enhanced reconsideration appeal step but the NADE leadership discovered an over-riding concern among Members of Congress, the claimant advocate community and others was the question, "*Does reconsideration have a future?*" After lengthy discussions with SSA, with congressional representatives, and with others who have an interest on this issue, it was agreed NADE should investigate its long-standing position to determine if it was still relevant. The true value and effectiveness of this intermediate appeal step should be the subject of serious study to determine its role in the 21st century.

The week spent by the NADE leadership traversing the SSA and the Halls of Congress proved to be very productive. NADE will continue to pursue its legislative agenda in the months ahead and NADE members are urged to review NADE's Top Issues for 2011 and encourage their congressional representatives to be supportive.



NADE officers met with Congressman Xavier Becerra (third from left), Ranking Minority Member of the Social Security Subcommittee in the House of Representatives.



NADE officers Andrew Martinez, Jeff Price, Tom Ward, and Susan Smith met with Michigan Representative Fred Upton (center), Chairman of the Energy & Commerce Committee in the House of Representatives.

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Committee Updates

It's All About Life

by Cynthia Henderson, Organ Donation/Transplant Chair

GREETINGS TO YOU ALL! April is Organ Donor Awareness Month. This year our main focus will be recruitment of 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.**

I am a strong organ donation advocate. My driver's license is signed. My family has been informed of my wishes. I would like to donate everything from the skin on my body to the very eye that controls my sight if it is needed to aide another in a longer healthier life. 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.

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 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 LIVE

1. Register with your State's organ & tissue donor registry. To learn how: www.organdonor.gov
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.

ONE organ donor can SAVE the lives of up to 8 people.

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

www.unos.org

Statistics show that as of March 2011

UNITED STATES ORGAN WAIT LIST (CANDIDATES) are:

TOTAL CANDIDATES 110,506

KIDNEY: 88,068

LIVER: 16,142

PANCREAS: 1,396

KIDNEY/ PANCREAS: 2,244

HEART: 3,206

LUNG: 1,785

HEART/LUNG: 68

INTESTINE: 257

An organ transplant can save a life. You have the power to SAVE up to 8 lives. Register to be an organ donor today!

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

The Result of your efforts will be:

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place cash awards

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 have provided a variety of educational, informational and training activities to their members during National Donate Life Month.



Committee Updates

Call For Resolutions

By Ella E. Timm, Resolutions Chair

Resolutions are your way of helping our organization express an opinion or intent. All NADE members have the right as well as a responsibility to make recommendations to our board. Our membership is the strength and spirit of our organization and we want you to know your ideas are welcome.

The format for presenting resolutions is:

WHEREAS, resolutions are a clear statement of action or intent; and

WHEREAS, our membership has a valuable voice that can be shared by making recommendations;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NADE members will be encouraged to submit their ideas to the resolutions committee for consideration.

Please send your ideas and resolutions to:

Ella E. Timm, Resolution Chair
925 S Thompson Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57103

Email: Ella.Timm@ssa.gov

or contact Ken Krefft (Ken.Krefft@ssa.gov) also of the Resolutions committee.



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Calling For Candidates for 2011-2012 NADE Officers

by Leola Meyer, Nominations and Elections Chair

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF NADE who is committed to the growth of the Disability Determination Community? Are you willing to use your time, your energy and hard work to promote NADE's mission? Are you a NADE member in good standing who is ready to accept the CHALLENGE to REALLY become involved in NADE?

It is that time of the year – Springtime and time to give some thought to the above questions. The call for nominations for the following elective offices on the National Board – President-elect, Secretary and Treasurer is now open. The elections will take place at the 2011 National Training Conference in Los Angeles, California during the General Membership meeting.

NADE needs your creative ideas and your expertise to continue our long tradition of professionalism and advocacy. Are you that NADE member? If so, please express your interest by announcing your candidacy for one of the above offices. You may submit a brief resume and recent photograph to the Nominations and Elections Committee no later than May 10, 2011. If you are submitting a photograph, please make sure that it is larger than 300 dpi. While nominations will be accepted from the floor during the General Membership Meeting at the National Conference in Los Angeles, advance submission of your intent to run for office will afford you the opportunity to be published in the Summer Edition of the NADE ADVOCATE.

If you have questions, please contact one of the following members of the Nominations and Elections Committee:

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601-853-5487

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Lizbeth.Jameson@ssa.gov
Jan.Goehner@ssa.gov
Laquita.Brown@ssa.gov

Jennifer Pounds

Candidate for Chairperson of CCP

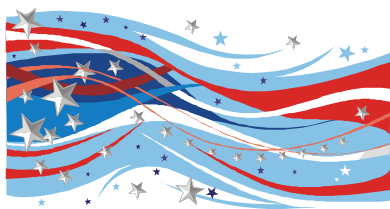
I would like to announce my candidacy for re-election to the position of Chairperson of the Council of Chapter Presidents (CCP). The new CCP Chairperson will be elected at the CCP meeting during the NADE National Training Conference in Los Angeles, August 27-September 1. I hope to see many of you there and have an opportunity to talk to you about the future of our professional association.

There are challenging times ahead for the Social Security disability program. These challenges will impact on all of us and will have a profound impact on our professional Association. Our leaders must continue the tradition of being willing and able to take the lead on these issues and search for practical solutions. The CCP is the active voice of the local leadership in the NADE Chapters. The CCP Chair is your voice on the NADE Board of Directors and it is imperative our voice continue to be heard. It is for this reason that I am seeking to serve again as CCP Chairperson in 2011-2012.

I have been an employee of the North Carolina DDS since 1999 and a NADE Member since 2004. I am currently the supervisor of a case processing unit in the DDS and serving a second term as President of THADE (Tar Heel Association of Disability Examiners). I previously served as President of our Chapter in 2008-2009 and THADE won the NADE President's Award as the most outstanding NADE Chapter that year. I was also honored to receive the John Gordon Award from NADE in 2009 as Supervisor of the Year. My experience includes service as Chairperson of NADE's Awards Committee in 2009-2010, Chairperson of the Southeast Region's Awards Committee in 2007-2008 and Chairperson of the Southeast Region's Membership Committee in 2009-2010. As the CCP Chair, I have worked closely with the NADE board to keep the CCP informed. I also worked with the National Membership Chairperson this year to ensure membership recruitment efforts were emphasized in January throughout the nation. One of the highlights of my term has been the privilege to work closely with other Chapter Presidents to strengthen our professional organization.

Since joining NADE, I have served actively at the Chapter, Region and National levels and believe I can continue to be an effective voice for Chapter Presidents and provide effective leadership while serving as CCP Chair. I ask for your support.





Proud to Serve

by Marcia Shantz, NDPW Chair

It is time to take PRIDE in celebrating accomplishments! National Disability Professionals Week, fondly known as NDPW, is just around the corner. Everyone mark your calendars for June 13-17, 2011. During this week, all Chapters are encouraged to promote disability professionals and make it the celebration of the year!

Several chapters submitted suggestions for this year's theme. After much deliberation, the NDPW committee chose "Proud to Serve", submitted by the Arkansas Chapter. There is no better way than NDPW to show how proud we can be that NADE serves to help us see ourselves as part of a profession, with best practices, ongoing learning, and career development.

NADE is proud to serve us, teach us, challenge us, value us, and celebrate us. In return, we can all find a way to serve NADE. NDPW has always been the way NADE can unleash purposeful energy in the workplace to bring a sense of pride and accomplishment to everyone.

So start planning with your Chapter, today, to make this the best NDPW ever!

Celebration efforts can include add campaigns, proclamations, certification announcements, fun training games, serious training seminars, morale building activities, recruitment drives, community and charity outreach. Everyone loves food and goodie treats, too. You name it. Get creative!

Do not forget there are cash prizes involved. Yes, \$50 and \$25 prizes, for the Chapters who submit a narrative and are deemed to have the "best celebration efforts." Prizes will be awarded and winners announced at the general membership meeting at the NADE National Training Conference. It will be held August 27 through September 1, 2011 in Los Angeles, California.

Your Chapter's narrative will need to be submitted to the committee chair, Marcia Shantz, at Marcia.Shantz@ssa.gov by Friday, July 8.

For questions regarding NDPW, please contact any of the following committee members (e-mail in SSA global list):

Marcia Shantz

Penny Dahl

Ellen Berg

Janet Geeslin

Heidi Defreese Burns

Tracey Sabree & Deb Thomas

Continued on next page



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Ideas for NDPW Categories for Chapter Nominations

1. Advertising for NDPW

DDS Agency
Off site (Press Releases, Internet, TV, Radio, Governor's Proclamation, etc.)

2. Recognition of Disability Professionals

Awards/Certification Ceremonies
Employee Appreciation Activities

3. Morale Building Events

Games, off site events, prizes, surprises, food, strengthening colleague rapport, stress reducing activities, etc.

4. Educational, Informational and Training Activities

NADE related
Medical, Vocational, SSA – related activities

5. Recruitment and Promotional Efforts for NADE

Recruitment Drives (% of membership increase)
New Members Events Recognitions

6. Planned Activity for Each Day

7. Community Outreach Activities

8. Charities

9. Incorporation of the Theme in the Weeks Events

10. Miscellaneous Category

Any other creative ideas your chapter uses to celebrate the week.

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2011 NADE AWARDS CRITERIA

by Lorenzo Moultrie, Awards Chair

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE who goes above and beyond for NADE, someone who deserves some recognition? Why not submit a nomination for a NADE national award?

The nominating procedures and criteria for each award are listed below. Please take time to nominate someone from your chapter for an award. The Awards committee, composed of one representative from each chapter, and the Presidential-appointed chairperson, will closely review, consider, and select the best nomination in each category to win the awards below. Nominations close July 1, 2011. Nominations received after the deadline will not qualify for consideration.

NOMINATING PROCEDURES

- 1) Each chapter is responsible for selecting and nominating its own members on the approved forms (available through your chapter president).
- 2) Nominations must be submitted no later than July 1, 2011 to the National Awards Chair.
- 3) The nomination form should be typed and should explain in detail how the nominee exemplifies the specific criteria for each award.
- 4) A one-page, typed attachment is permissible if needed.
- 5) Please, **do not** refer to the member or chapter by name in the nomination. If an award contains this information, **it will be disqualified**.
- 6) Each chapter is limited to one nomination per award. All nominations, as well as ballots for selecting winners, will be submitted to the Awards committee members (one from each region) by the Awards Chair. The results will be announced at the Awards Presentation at the 2011 NADE conference in Los Angeles, California.

Nominations must be received by July 1, 2011. Please email nominations to: lorenzo.moultrie@ssa.gov

If you have any questions, you can contact Lorenzo at 614-438-1749 or at the above email address.

2011 NADE AWARDS CRITERIA

The PRESIDENT'S AWARD is to be given annually and presented by the NADE President in recognition of an *outstanding Chapter*. The recipient will be any organized NADE Chapter which has enhanced interactions among its professional and community partnerships through:

- (a) Outstanding achievement in innovation of programs, such as panel presentations, speeches, publication and distribution of literature, other efforts to improve the quality of medical reporting and vocational assessments, etc., to promote the factual and effective documentation of disability determinations, AND
- (b) Exemplary outreach to community service and charitable organizations through activities such as promoting cause-awareness, volunteerism, charity benefits or fundraisers, donations, or any other philanthropic initiatives.

The CHARLES O. BLALOCK AWARD is a service award to be presented annually and on a continuing basis in the name of the founder of NADE. It is made in recognition of an *individual* who has made extended efforts and major contributions toward the organizational advancement of NADE. The recipient

- (a) May be any professional member of the National Association of Disability Examiners who is employed either full or part-time.
- (b) Shall have provided outstanding leadership in the development and substantial expansion of his/her State Chapter, Regional, and/or the National organization.
- (c) Shall have shown consistent efforts over a period of at least three years toward the organizational advancement of NADE.
- (d) May be a Committee Chairperson, a National Board Member, a Chapter President or any Member who has promoted the advancement of NADE to an outstanding degree.

The NADE AWARD is to honor and recognize the *disability professional of the year* who has made outstanding contributions not only to the service of the claimant in accordance with his/her expertise, but also has contributed substantially of his/her time and talent to promote harmonious and more effective working relationships among his/her immediate professional community. The award shall be presented annually at the National Conference. The recipient shall be:

- (a) Anyone who is professionally identified as a disability professional, employed full or part-time.
- (b) Any NADE member engaged as a professional in any capacity, i.e., Medical Consultant, Adjudicator, Vocational Evaluation Consultant, Supervisor, etc.
- (c) Anyone who has consistently shown outstanding achievement by the use of initiative and humanitarian efforts and ability to effectively assist in the Social Security disability process.

The JOHN GORDON AWARD is presented in the name of John R. Gordon, to a *supervisor* in the disability program, and is designed to honor and recognize superior performance in a supervisory capacity. The recipient shall be:

- (a) Any supervisor who is professionally identified as a NADE member.
- (b) Any supervisor who by his/her initiative and resourcefulness promotes cohesiveness in his/her work group.
- (c) Any supervisor who provides further incentive for personal growth and professionalism among the individuals he/she supervises.
- (d) Any supervisor who acts in his/her executive capacity in the promotion and maintenance of morale.
- (e) Any supervisor who exceeds the requirements of his/her role in facilitating the workloads of his/her Agency.

The LEWIS BUCKINGHAM AWARD recognizes a *leader* of the National Association of Disability Examiners at either the Regional or National level.

- (a) This person must consistently have shown outstanding achievement by the use of initiative and humanitarian efforts to further advance the professionalism and goals of the National Association of Disability Examiners.
- (b) The recipient must have contributed at least ten (10) years of continuous service to the organization.
- (c) The recipient should have served on the National Board of Directors.

The DIRECTOR'S AWARD is to honor and recognize an outstanding member of the *support staff* who demonstrates work performance efficiency and characteristics which contribute to the efficient operation of the unit and the morale of coworkers. The recipient shall:

- (a) Be any clerical or paraprofessional employee who is employed either full or part-time and is a member of NADE.
- (b) Have shown outstanding leadership and work performance among his/her peer group.

The EARL B. THOMAS AWARD is to be presented annually in the name of a charter member of NADE, who actively supported NADE as an association of disability professionals. The recipient must:

- (a) Be a member and active supporter of NADE.
- (b) Be (i) the *administrator* of a State or Federal agency OR (ii) the top *administrator* of a Regional or Satellite DDS AND (iii) must have been so for three years.
- (c) Have contributed significantly to the program in ways consistent with the policies of NADE, beyond the normal administrative duties of his/her position.

The FRANK BARCLAY AWARD is presented annually in recognition of an individual who has demonstrated exceptional ability to personally, or through the development and promotion of programs, motivate and challenge personnel in (1) a disability program and/or (2) personal and professional growth. The recipient must:

- (a) Be a member of NADE.
- (b) Be assigned to job duties on a full or part-time basis. Examples of potential nominees include, but are not limited to, training officers, civil rights office employees, human resource management personnel, etc.
- (c) Have *notable accomplishments in the area of human resource development*, consistent with policies and objectives of our professional organization.

The ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARD is to be given annually to honor and recognize a disability professional who has made a significant contribution on a local, regional, and/or national level to the National Association of Disability Examiners. The recipient must have:

- (a) Been a member of NADE for less than two years, at the time of nomination, regardless of the number of years of service in a DDS.
- (b) Made a significant contribution to his or her local, regional, and/or national level of NADE.

REMEMBER

Nominations must be received by July 1, 2011. Please email nominations to: lorenzo.moultrie@ssa.gov



Meet NADE's Newest Corporate Member



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Grants should
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donnie.hayes@ssa.gov

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**Or You May Contact The
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Ellen Cook
ellen.cook@ssa.gov

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Check the appropriate
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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
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CHANGES: (ONLY ENTER CHANGED DATA)

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NADE On The Hill

by Jeff Price, Legislative Director



NADE Executive Officers and the Legislative Director had a recent opportunity to meet with SSA Commissioner Michael Astrue. From left: Past President Susan Smith, Legislative Director and Past president Jeff Price, Commissioner Astrue, President Andrew Martinez, and President-Elect Tom Ward.

A GROUP OF NADE leaders (President Andrew Martinez, Past President Susan Smith, President-elect Tom Ward and Legislative Director and Past President Jeff Price) traveled to Washington, DC the week of April 11-15 for a series of meetings with SSA, Congress and Governmental oversight agencies. This group canvassed our Nation's Capital seeking support for NADE's Top Issues (see front cover) as well as general support for NADE and SSA. The message delivered by the NADE leadership was very specific and both political parties and both houses of Congress were receptive to NADE's message.

This year's meeting schedule featured over twenty separate meetings in four days, including meetings with SSA Commissioner Michael Astrue, the Social Security Advisory Board, the Office of Management and Budget, the Congressional Budget Office, the budget committees in both houses of Congress, the oversight committees in both houses

of Congress and various meetings with congressional staff. NADE had face-to-face meetings with Congressman Fred Upton of Michigan, Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee in the House of Representatives, and Congressman Xavier Becerra, Ranking Minority Member of the Social Security Subcommittee in the House of Representatives. There were detailed discussions held with staff from the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the National Association of Social Insurance (NASI), the National Academies' Institute of Medicine, and others. NADE also met with representatives from six claimant advocate organizations. In addition to these face-to-face meetings, the NADE leaders distributed packets of information to nearly 50 offices of Representatives serving on the Social Security Subcommittee, the House Appropriations Committee or the House Budget Committee. The leaders also distributed the packets, which contained information about NADE and our Top Issues, to the offices of nearly 35 Senators serving on the Senate Finance Committee, Senate Appropriations Committee or the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

Continued on page 8