

**NADE Board Braves the Elements For Mid-Year Meeting**



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Neither rain, nor sleet, nor gloom of night stays your NADE officers from the swift completion of their appointed tasks.

In February, board members from around the country met in Baltimore, MD despite below-freezing temperatures there. To keep abreast of all upcoming NADE activities and ensure that responsibilities for those are met, they reviewed reports from each elected and appointed officer, each regional director and each committee. They discussed the 2015 and 2016 national conferences, proposed changes to the NADE website, changes to the membership brochure, changes to membership processing and website management processes. Additional items included changes to the Chapter Services Handbook and the merging of several state chapters into one.

The board also met with several government officials. See inside for details!

## A Message From Your President

Jeff Price

Crack! Ah, the sounds of Spring! Was that crack the sound of a baseball connecting with a bat or the sound of some NADE member's back giving way after overdoing it that first day in their garden? Spring is a great season! There is so much opportunity! Before the reality of summer heat wilts those dreams away, every MLB baseball team believes they have a chance to play in the World Series and every home gardener thinks they have a chance to have a perfect garden.

Spring is a great season for NADE members and potential NADE members. First, and foremost, spring presents an opportunity for non-members to join and take advantage of the extended membership offer giving new members a few free months of membership – a terrific deal! For members, NADE offers the opportunity for recognition of personal achievement through our awards program, to participate in awareness campaigns for organ/tissue donation and transplant, to participate in National Disability Professionals Week, and to think of serving in positions of leadership within the association. We are also only a few months away from an exciting national training conference in the Pacific Northwest!

Spring launches the season of Regional and National awards. NADE will confer these awards later this summer but nominations are being accepted now. Take time to consider the achievements of your colleagues during the past year and don't let their efforts go unrecognized! Nominate them for an award. NADE's awards program is peer-based and winners have the satisfaction of knowing their peers are the ones who judged them to be the best of the best! A true honor!

It's an even greater honor to give the gift of life. NADE has a proud tradition of being a strong advocate for organ and tissue donation and transplants. That tradition was born out of an urgent need decades ago. The need remains great and NADE members are strongly encouraged to participate in our association's advocacy for organ/tissue donation awareness.

One benefit of membership in NADE is the opportunity to serve in leadership positions. New national officers will be elected during our national conference in Portland and most regions and chapters will elect new officers this summer. Get involved! There is always room for new leaders. And remember that not every leadership position is elected. Committees exist at the chapter, regional and national levels and they need members and chairpersons. Maybe that crack you heard was opportunity knocking on your door! Open that door and volunteer to serve!

In a few weeks, all NADE members will be asked to renew their membership with NADE. I hope all of you will renew. NADE is YOUR professional association! NADE is your voice when you want to be heard. NADE is YOUR opportunity to serve, to expand your skills and knowledge base. NADE is YOUR pathway to enhance your role within the professional community. NADE is YOUR opportunity to serve others and to accept positions of leadership. NADE is YOUR opportunity to make new friends and to be a friend to others across the country. Even if for members who proclaim they don't have the time to be as actively involved as they may desire to be, their support matters. These opportunities are the reason I chose to be a NADE member. When June arrives, please choose to renew!



**MID-YEAR MEETING PRESENTATION: ANN ROBERT, VAN ROLAND & JASON BAUER****BY JENNIFER NOTTINGHAM, HELENA, MT DDS & MEGGEN GLADUE, SEATTLE, WA DDS**

During the NADE Board of Directors meeting held in Baltimore, Maryland in late February, the Board welcomed Ms. Ann Robert, SSA Associate Commissioner from the Office of Disability Determinations, Ms. Van Roland, SSA Deputy Commissioner from the Office of Operations, and Mr. Jason Bauer, Division Director of the Office of Disability Determinations as special guest presenters.

Ann thanked NADE for the strength of its training conferences, the Association's leadership in the disability program and for NADE's efforts on behalf of SSA and the DDSs to convey the voice of our members and the needs of the program to Congress. She stressed the importance of our continued goal to get out and "tell our story". Given her longitudinal enthusiasm for NADE's purpose, the Board thanked her for her continued support. Ann also discussed the difficulties of setting nationwide goals with an ever-changing budget. Currently, SSA is about 21 weeks into the fiscal year. At this point, the DDSs and federal units nationally are 8.7% ahead on CDR processing compared to the target and behind the initial and reconsideration targets by 6.4% and 5.5% respectively. For fiscal year 2016, Ann indicated SSA expected to have an increased goal of 907,000 CDR claims.



With her Claims Representative background, Van was able to discuss the continued expansion of Workload Support Units (WSUs) across the nation. Right now, the focus of the WSUs is taking Title II Retirement claims submitted on the Internet. However, a few of the WSU's are piloting expanding their workloads to other claim types.



Ann and Van both stressed that they continued to advocate heavily for increased DDS hires as the DDSs are experiencing a 13.6 % attrition rate for disability examiners and a 10.2% attrition rate for all staff. At this point, we can expect to get one replacement hire for every two losses, which is estimated to be at least 325 additional hires for DDS' nationwide.

Jason was able to give us a bit of information regarding the Homeland Security Policy Directive #12 (HSPD-12) which targets credentialing of DDS staff employees. While the process is rolling out slowly, all DDS employees can expect that they will need to undergo the credentialing process in the near future.

**MID-YEAR MEETING PRESENTATION: PATRICK O'CARROLL**

By Todd Deshong, Seattle, WA DDS and Janet Geeslin, Madison, WI DDS



Patrick O'Carroll, SSA's Inspector General, graciously took time from his hectic schedule to meet with the NADE Executive Board during the mid-year meeting in Baltimore in February. The Inspector General described how his hectic week began prior to attending the NADE Midyear meeting. He reported that he had been involved with business in Washington, D.C. with local officials, attempting to engage a local law enforcement partner (LEA) for a Washington Cooperative Disability Investigations (CDI) unit, testifying before Congress, and consulting with the Social Security Advisory Board. He then flew to Puerto Rico, where he congratulated the officials and agencies involved in the Puerto Rico disability fraud case. (To remind everyone, in August 2013, there were 74 individuals indicted and arrested. Then, in January 2015, about 40 more individuals were indicted and arrested; one of the people indicted included a psychiatrist. Many have been sentenced anywhere from 30 days in jail to several years' probation. The fraud loss has been estimated at over \$100 million and the projected lifetime savings over \$160 million.) The Inspector General left the sunny shores of Puerto Rico to fly back to snowy Baltimore and meet with the NADE Executive Board.

A topic of great interest was the status of the CDI program. The CDI program's mission is to investigate potential fraud in SSA's disability programs. The success of the program relies on the joint efforts of SSA, OIG, state/local LEAs, and the state DDS.

While the ultimate goal is to have a CDI unit in every state, currently there are 28 units covering 24 states and Puerto Rico. To date, the units have saved the disability programs approximately \$3 billion and lead to over 36,000 claims being denied due to fraudulent activity. It has also proven to have a deterrent affect in the areas served by a CDI unit.

Mr. O'Carroll outlined the process followed to determine if a CDI unit is viable in a particular state. A state DDS can pursue the creation of a CDI unit in its state by working through its regional office. Factors that must be considered are whether there is an assurance of a workload for the unit and, equally important, whether there is a willing local LEA to work with the unit. Finding a LEA to partner can sometimes be the biggest hurdle; not because they aren't interested in the goals and mission of the CDI program, but because of funding and manpower issues in their own agencies. Currently, OIG is working with several states to establish a CDI, and recently, SSA's Acting Commissioner approved plans to pursue CDI units in 5 more states.

In addition to fighting fraud, the OIG also conducts audits to assess the effectiveness and integrity of various disability-related programs, policies, and practices. The subject matter of the various audits ranges from disability processing time to replacement of the DOT.

As always, the Inspector General provided an enormous amount of information in the time that he spent with the NADE Executive Board. One of the things that he knew our members would be interested in was the savings associated with medical Continuing Disability Review Claims (CDRs). Current numbers indicated that medical CDRs saved \$9-\$10 in lifetime savings per every one dollar spent on completing the CDR, including Medicare and Medicaid. The Inspector General advised that in December 2014, the Social Security Advisory Board, specifically the Disability Policy Panel, reported that "getting the disability determination right the first time" involved using tools such as "quality control," "pre-effectuation reviews," and "focused reviews," as well as CDI anti-fraud units. The point was once again made that SSA should strengthen CDR reviews as well as program integrity tools. Other ideas included strengthening the links between CDRs and the "return to work" supports for younger claimants.

To learn more about CDI, fraud investigations, OIG audits and so much more, please visit [oig.ssa.gov](http://oig.ssa.gov).

## MID-YEAR MEETING PRESENTATION: OFFICE OF LEARNING

By Julie Kujath, Jefferson City, MO DDS and Dean Crawford, Oklahoma City, OK DDS

The Office of Learning has its eye on the future! Lydia Marshall, SSA Associate Commissioner for the Office of Learning, and Evette Chapman, SSA Center Director for same met with NADE's executive board in February and outlined their vision for 2025.

They envision having technology infrastructure in place to facilitate nationwide training, including more storage for video content.

They envision trainings accessible beyond the SSA firewall, and the possibility of virtual classrooms. With nationwide training in virtual classrooms, the intent of policy makers, policy interpreters and those at the front line implementing the policies could be more consistent.

Their goal is to produce trainings that are concise, consistent, collaborative and creative, and appeal to different learning styles. Training decisions are data based and consider potential return on investment and/or return on expectation. How do they quantify return on investment? Through evaluations and feedback.

Currently, the Office of Learning offers interactive video teletrainings (IVTs) and video on demand trainings (VODs) every two months for the disability examiner community. Topics for these trainings are generated from ODP and viewer requests. They are considering more interactive functions in these trainings: quizzes or case examples, for instance.



Other current projects:

- The Disability Examiner Basic Training Program (DEBTP). This is coordinated with collaboration from ODP and ODD to update training materials. Course materials can be ordered via ePrint or at OL's Go Green site. Examiners can download lessons to their desktop, make personal notes and bookmark their favorite sections.
- Online lessons for Disability Hearing Officers (DHOs). In 2013-2104, the Office of Learning collaborated with ODP and ODD to create the DHO curriculum. The curriculum includes information from McGeorge School of Law and newly added SSA instructions.
- Disability Case Studies Online Lessons. There are 58 case studies and many are based on CAL cases. The goal is to instill the concept of case analysis for Disability Adjudicators. This encourages a more flexible approach versus a mechanical approach.
- Advanced DEBTP lessons for adult and child CDRs.
- Vocational Specialist Training. In 2009-2012, ODP presenters created VODs for the curriculum and there are 17 VODs currently available.
- CME certification credits via the Learning Management System. The Office of Learning has recently developed 12 brand new VODs on Policy in Practice for Medical and Psychological Consultants, allowing them the option to earn continuing medical education (CME) credits.
- VODs for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, TBI and mental impairment with DA&A.

NADE suggested notifying the DDS when specific IVT/VODs are released, and providing actual scripts of each VOD for trainers' use. This would facilitate pauses to discuss during the presentations. NADE also suggested indexing each broadcast for easy stops and starts during the training. Finally, NADE suggested smaller chunks of time for IVT/VOD, as many videos last an hour, which is a larger sacrifice of production time than some analysts are able to make.

NADE's executive board was honored to hear Mses. Marshall's and Chapman's presentation.

**MID-YEAR MEETING PRESENTATION: JENNIFER PECORA & MELISSA SPENCER**

By Sharon Summers, NADE President-Elect

During its recent mid-year meeting, the NADE Board of Directors received an update from SSA regarding a proposal to expand the Social Security Administration's list of Acceptable Medical Sources (AMS). Jennifer Pecora, Technical Expert, Office of Vocational Evaluation and Process Policy (OVEPP) from the Office of Disability Policy (ODP) and Melissa Spencer, Deputy Associate Commissioner for Retirement and Disability Policy, explained the proposed expansion was a concept promoted by many stakeholder groups, including NADE. It gained momentum in June 2013 when the Administrative Conference of the United States (ACUS) proposed that SSA should expand the list of Acceptable Medical Sources by including the following:



Jennifer Pecora

- Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners
- Audiologists
- Licensed Clinical Social Workers
- Physician Assistants

The Office of Disability Policy (ODP) established a cross-component workgroup in July 2013 to address these recommendations. Staff from the Office of General Counsel (OGC), Office of Disability Adjudication Review (ODAR), Office of Medical and Vocational Policy (OMVE), Office of Disability Determinations (ODD), Office of Disability Policy (ODP) and others are working together to develop the regulatory specifications for expansion of the AMS list.

SSA expects stakeholder groups such as claimant advocate organizations and NADE to support the expansion of the AMS list. The expected timeline for publication of the final regulation, after all internal rewrites, the public comment period, SSA response to public comments, etc., suggests the expansion of the list of Acceptable Medical Sources could occur as early as 2016. The Commissioner of Social Security and the President's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will give final approval for any expansion.

**MID-YEAR PRESENTATION: TERRIE GRUBER, LINDY QUICK, DEREK PULLIAM  
BY THOMAS GAUTIER**

Disability Case Processing System (DCPS) was a concept initially promoted in September 2007 as a means to improve effectiveness and efficiency within the disability adjudication process. The stated goal of the Social Security Administration (SSA) is to replace the various independent legacy systems in use throughout the country with a single, more modernized system that will enhance case processing time and better serve the program and the public.

Development has faced some hurdles, but DCPS Program Officers are energized and motivated to implement a system that incorporates all facets of the disability process to provide accurate decisions and good customer service. They described two major changes to the development process: designating one person as the ultimate decision-maker, and involving analysts in every step. Engineers seek regular feedback from analysts, checking and re-checking that the system is user-friendly, quick and efficient.

The Idaho DDS was the first agency to implement DCPS Beta Release 1.0 on September 24, 2012. On May 17, 2013, DCPS Beta Release 2.0 was started in the Illinois DDS as well as Idaho DDS. DCPS Beta Release 3.0 was released on December 9, 2013 in the Idaho, Illinois, and Missouri DDSs. The DCPS committee is getting ready to release Beta Release 5.0 to these three DDS's with hopes of expanding the list by two more DDSs.

The DCPS committee continues to strategize and work closely with the program's builders so that a finalized product will be available soon. The projected release of DCPS for most DDS's across the country is 2018, but there is anticipation an even earlier nationwide release could be possible.



Derek Pulliam, Lindy Quick, Terrie Guber

## RUN FOR OFFICE! NADE CALLS FOR CANDIDATES

By R. Todd Deshong, Seattle, WA DDS

It's that time of year again! Time to start thinking about increasing your participation in the greatest professional organization for disability determination employees in the United States.

Are you a NADE member and committed to the growth of the disability determination community? Are you willing to use your energy, dedication and hard work to promote NADE's mission? This is a call for all able-bodied members to step up and serve on NADE's Executive Board.

The Nominations & Elections committee will accept nominations from all eligible members for the offices of President-elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. If you intend to announce your candidacy for one of these offices, please submit a brief summary of your NADE experience, DDS experience and a recent photo. Please note that the photo should not be larger than 300 dpi.

Nominations will be accepted from the floor during the General Membership meeting during the upcoming 2015 National Training Conference in Portland, OR with elections to follow. Remember: advanced submission of your intent to run for office affords you the opportunity to be published in the summer edition of *The Advocate*.

Please review NADE'S website ([www.NADE.org](http://www.NADE.org)) for further information about the duties and responsibilities of each office.

The Nominations & Elections committee includes:

R Todd Deshong  
Janet Geeslin

Stephanie George  
Meredith Rogan



# NADE wants YOU!



## PUTTING A FACE TO A CLAIM: MY FATHER

BY CAROL HILTON, BIRMINGHAM, AL DDS

Richard Barnes was passionate. Even if he was wrong, he was passionately wrong. He was also the kind of man who did not like to talk about his health. He believed that you could ‘speak things into existence that be not as though they were,’ and if he talked about his conditions, it would cancel out all the good he was trying to speak. Besides, he didn’t have enough money to see a doctor, so he figured there was no sense in talking about it.

This is one of the ways, as I said, my dad was passionately wrong.

My dad was a United Methodist minister of a country church. His regular duties included writing sermons, conducting services three times a week, visiting the sick and elderly, arranging church events, cleaning the building, directing the choir, leading the local Boy Scout troop, and more. He was no stranger to stress.

He was born with one kidney. At a young age he developed a hernia that shaped his torso into what we affectionately called his “ski slope.” He was near sighted, night blind, and had severe migraines. Often, he would come in from cutting the grass, grabbing his left arm and gasping from chest pain. All of this, yet we could not get him to see a doctor unless a MD was sitting in the front pew.

A dozen years ago, my stepmother put her foot down. She drove him to an ER while he clutched his arm. They were filling out paperwork when a doctor walked by, saw my dad, and told a nurse to admit him immediately. He was in kidney failure.

“Skin is not supposed to be gold-colored,” the doctor said.

As the testing went on, they discovered that my father must have suffered several heart attacks years before, because some of his heart was already dead. His one kidney was out of commission. Doctors told him he would have to start dialysis as soon as possible. He would not accept a kidney from any of his children, so his name went on the donor recipient list.

He had to resign his position due to his health problems, but he continued to minister in the prisons and local nursing homes. He was determined not to waver in his calling, to serve God and His people, for something silly like his health.

When he learned that he’d been approved for disability benefits, he called me and said, “Hey, good news! I don’t have to spend what’s left of your inheritance on medical bills!”

“Dad, we’re watering down ketchup and stealing Sweet n’ Low packets from restaurants as it is,” I said. “I gave up on that trust fund a while back.”

Despite everything, Dad kept his positive attitude and sense of humor. He had that classic ‘dad humor.’ If you asked him how he felt, he would say, “A little tough but some meat tenderizer and I’ll come out just fine.”



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I'll admit, when I began as a disability specialist, I was tempted to look up his file. I knew I'd find ADLs in there; I wanted to see his handwriting again. I wondered whether his analyst had spoken to him on the phone, whether he'd made her laugh, whether that conversation would be in the narrative. I resist that temptation by gazing at a picture taped to the drawer where I keep claimants' records. It's a photo of my dad holding my newborn daughter in his arms.

My dad was probably on disability a year or two when I told him that I was pregnant with his second grandchild, his first granddaughter. She arrived on May 7, 2007. The next day, my father held her, despite the pain in his arm from the dialysis. Nothing would keep him from holding her. My husband took a picture of that moment, the bulge of the tender shunt in his arm clearly visible but a grandfather's look of love the more prominent feature.

On May 31<sup>st</sup>, the pain in his arm became intense, so he and my stepmother went to the ER again. He flirted with the nurses, proposed that the doctor get him a diamond ring before he stuck anything anywhere, and told my stepmother that everything was going to be fine. They began prepping him for surgery. He did not make it to the table. He was gone by early morning, June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Had he not been on disability, he would not have made it that far.

My dad was gone by the time I began my work here at the DDS. Yet, his influence stays with me. Whenever I feel myself growing cynical or impatient with my claimants, I look at that picture of my dad. If you saw him on a good day and he was wearing long sleeves to cover the shunt, you would not know how sick he was. When I saw him on good days, he was slimmer and paler, his fiery passion more subdued, but he never let his kids see how bad things were really getting.

Every one of our claimants has a story. We don't always get to know the whole story, as we read page after page of clinical exams. So, I ask myself, "If this claimant were my dad, my mother, my sister or my child, how would I see things differently?"



**IT IS TIME FOR THE 2015 AWARDS NOMINATIONS!**

BY LISA HAYES, AWARDS CHAIR, RALEIGH, NC DDS

Spring is finally here! Moreover, with those budding trees, fragrant flowers blooming, and the memories of the frequent snowfalls fading, it is that time for NADE members to acknowledge fellow NADE members who have gone above and beyond this past year in their service to NADE, their jobs and their communities.

See page 12 for the awards list.

***THE NOMINATING CRITERIA ARE AS FOLLOWS:***

- ◆ Each chapter is responsible for selecting and nominating their own members on the approved forms. Nomination forms will be submitted to the Chapters by March 23, or can be requested by the Awards Chair.
- ◆ Nominations must be submitted by May 1, 2015, to Lisa Hayes, NADE Awards Chair. These should be emailed to [Lisa.H.Hayes@ssa.gov](mailto:Lisa.H.Hayes@ssa.gov). Please be sure to include the middle "H" as there is more than one "Lisa Hayes" included on the SSA's global e-mail list. Award nominations must be submitted electronically.
- ◆ The nomination form should be typed and should explain in detail how the nominee exemplified the specific criteria of each award. It is preferred that only the nominee's identifying information be listed on the nomination form while an additional page (s) is submitted to include the narrative for the nomination.
- ◆ Please do not refer to the member or chapter by name in the nomination narrative. This could result in disqualification of the nomination! Attach the nomination form with the name of the award and the nominee to the written narrative contained on an additional page (s).
- ◆ Each chapter is limited to one nomination per award.

The Awards Chair will submit all nominations to the Awards Committee members. The results will be announced at the Awards Luncheon at the NADE conference in Portland, Oregon in August 2015.

Please visit NADE's home page at [www.nade.org](http://www.nade.org) for the awards criteria and nomination form.

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*LIST OF AWARDS TO BE CONFERRED AT THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE*

- ◆ The **FRANK BARCLAY AWARD** is presented annually in recognition of an individual who has shown exceptional ability to motivate and challenge or to develop or promote programs which motivate and challenge others toward personal and professional growth/human resource development.
- ◆ The **PRESIDENT'S AWARD** (NADE CHAPTER OF THE YEAR) is to be given annually and presented by the NADE President in recognition of an outstanding Chapter.
- ◆ The **Lewis Buckingham Award** is a professional award to honor and recognize a leader of the National Association of Disability Examiners at either the Regional or National level.
- ◆ The **EARL B. THOMAS AWARD** (DDS Administrator of the Year) is to be presented annually on a continuing basis in the name of a charter member of NADE totally committed to and actively supportive of all for which it stands. It is made in recognition of an administrator of a disability agency for constant contributions to the Social Security Disability program that far exceed the responsibility of the position and who is actively supportive of the advancement of NADE.
- ◆ 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 presented in recognition of an individual who has made extended efforts and major contributions toward the organizational advancement of NADE. This award is regarded as the second highest individual award presented by NADE for service to the national organization.
- ◆ The **NADE AWARD** (Disability Professional of the Year) 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 has contributed substantially of his/her time and talent to promote harmonious and more effective working relationships among his/her immediate professional community.
- ◆ The **JOHN GORDON AWARD** (Supervisor of the Year) is presented in the name of John R. Gordon and is made to honor and recognize superior performance of a supervisor.
- ◆ The **MARTY BLUM AWARD** (Rookie of the Year) 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.

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU: CHUCK JONES, DIRECTOR MICHIGAN DDS

By Dr. Sharon Bland-Brady, Detroit, MI DDS

**When & why did you join NADE?** I've been with the Disability program since 1974. NADE has always had a large presence in Michigan. I joined NADE as a professional development activity. I felt that NADE provided me with an opportunity to obtain information that I had no other avenue to obtain.

**What are benefits of membership to you as a director?** In the last 8 months, I have also had the opportunity to appear with Jeff Price on two panels pertaining to the disability program. NADE provides an important voice on Capitol Hill, with SSA and with other interested stakeholders.

**What are NADE's benefits to your agency?** The primary benefits that I think NADE and the local Michigan chapters provide are professional development and networking opportunities among our four DDS offices. As an agency we have not had the funding to bring large numbers of people together for medical lectures and discussion on program issues. Both the state and national conferences provide this professional development opportunity. Sharing among our Michigan DDS offices and nationally is an invaluable way to make Disability Examiner work a true profession. The knowledge exchange has been a great experience.

**How do you get involved with your local chapter? If your role is mainly supportive, how do you support the chapter?** I do attend a few local meetings, but mainly I have been supportive of MADE and NADE in other ways. My support is in the form of Administrative Leave and Financial Assistance. For the state MADE meetings, I have provided Administrative Leave for every in state conference since 2009. In this way, staff don't have to use their vacation time. That has helped boost attendance. Also, since 2009 I have allocated \$5,000 dollars every year to support the MADE statewide conference. This money pays for registration for all the attendees so that this become a low cost venture. For the National conference I provide Administrative Leave for the Michigan members that are National NADE officers and the President. I also reimburse for one person's attendance at the national conference.

**Have you ever attended a national conference? If so, how would you describe that experience? What were the benefits?** I have attended a National Conference as a NADE member. As the Director of the Redesign Project that brought the DDS world a number of changes, such as the prototype, which eliminated the Recon in 10 states, Single Decision Maker and Process Unification, I had an opportunity to attend several NADE conferences around the country. It was a great opportunity to find out how disability examiners felt about redesign and to gain their input and suggestions. Each state does things differently and our examiners have brought some great ideas back with them from the conferences.

**Anything you're especially proud of your local chapter for?** I have been pleased at the MADE's ability to recruit members and to have professional development activities for them. Last year MADE put on a State Conference and we had several members who received NADE certifications. The conference was very informative and interesting.

**What are your hopes for NADE and your local chapter, going forward?** My primary hope is that NADE and MADE can increase its membership to provide professional development opportunities for examiners. I believe that the examiner position is unique in the type of knowledge and skills needed to navigate the case development and adjudication process. I see NADE's certification program as serving to recognize and reward these talents.



## **NADE CERTIFICATION: YOUR TICKET TO GREATNESS**

**By Marcia Golden, DDS Raleigh NC**

All NADE members are eligible to become Certified Disability Professionals. Certification lasts for a three-year period. The requirements to become a Certified Disability Examiner, Certified Medical Consultant, and Certified Support Professional are specific to each type of disability specialty.

### **Requirements to become a Certified Disability Examiner include:**

- a minimum period of 3 years of successful practice as a Disability Examiner
- a minimum of a Baccalaureate degree, unless the employing agency permits other basic education as an equivalency
- 36 hours of medical training, 24 hours of vocational training, and 12 hours of technical training
- the applicant must be a full member in good standing, and will subscribe to the NADE Code of Ethics



### **Requirements to become a Certified Disability Medical Consultant include:**

- a minimum period of 3 years of successful practice as a Disability Medical Consultant
- a current medical license in the state in which they are in practice
- the applicant must be a NADE member in good standing, and will subscribe to the NADE Code of Ethics

### **Requirements to become a Certified Disability Support Professional include:**

- a minimum period of 3 years of successful practice as a Disability Support Professional
- a minimum of a high school diploma is necessary unless the employing agency permits other basic education as an equivalency
- a minimum of 6 hours of medical training, 12 hours of interpersonal Communication training, and 36 hours of technical training
- the applicant must be a full member in good standing, and will subscribe to the NADE Code of Ethics

The term “Successful Practice” is defined as the performance of at least satisfactory work, and the member may not be in a probationary or conditional status. Training hours should have been completed within the 3 years prior to the submission of the application for certification or recertification.

One of the easiest ways to obtain training hours is to attend NADE’s Annual Conference. Training hours are also available through SSA VOD training sessions, or through additional training hours provided by the appropriate state agency. The application for both certification and recertification are available on the NADE website.

## Fraud-Busters: Texas Woman Hides Father's Body In Storage Unit, Collects His Benefits for 20 Years

From OIG Newsroom, *Beyond the Numbers*

In 2011, the Social Security Office in Odessa, Texas, tried to contact Luther Broughton who, if still alive, would have been 103 years old. After several attempts failed, an SSA employee referred the case to the Office of the Inspector General for investigation.

When investigators initially contacted Broughton's daughter, she said he was traveling. Soon after, the SSA employee received a call from "Luther Broughton," but the employee was skeptical: the caller didn't sound like an older man, but had a high-pitched voice. The employee stopped Broughton's benefit payments and reported the strange call.

Special Agent Bianca Mendez found divorce records and earning records from 1988, but no records linked to him after that time. When Mendez contacted Broughton's sister, she said that no one had seen or heard from him in more than 20 years.



Photo: Shutterstock

Record searches revealed that Judith had made payments on a storage unit in Kentucky. The manager reported that Judith had first leased the unit in 1990, and had paid on time every month since then.



**Judith Maria Broughton**  
(Photo courtesy Brewster County Sheriff's Office)

Mendez contacted law enforcement in Lexington and coordinated efforts to have four cadaver dogs examine the unit in January 2014. When all of the dogs alerted, police had probable cause to execute a search warrant. Inside they found chairs, a dresser, and cardboard boxes full of magazines. In the back, wrapped in a tarp, covered in cat litter, blankets and a carpet, they found Luther's remains.

In October, Judith Broughton pled guilty to stealing more than \$245,000, forging her father's name and keeping his body in the Lexington storage unit to conceal his death. She was sentenced to the maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and ordered to repay the full amount she stole from SSA.

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## CHAPTER NEWS FROM AROUND THE NATION

### From THADE (North Carolina):

Cancer has touched us all, in one way or another. Each of us knows a friend or a family member who has or had cancer. Some of us are cancer survivors; some of us are currently undergoing treatment.

THADE member Dr. Betty Aldrige is one of the latter: she recently underwent surgery for treatment of her cancer. In response to this, THADE organized a community service project called, "Help Fight Cancer Together." A local businessman donated

\$150 to the project. \$50 of that money went toward a prize for the unit who raised the most money for the American Cancer Society. The other \$100 was spent on a reception to honor cancer survivors and caregivers in our agency. The reception was held on the day of Betty's surgery. Survivors told their stories and received care packages. It was wonderful to see and hear condition-workers bonding together, each of them having traveled down the same road.

In addition to cash donations, staff had the opportunity during the contest to buy \$1 hearts to honor and remember people affected by cancer. Approximately 625 hearts were sold and displayed throughout the agency. In all, NCCDS raised \$930 for the American Cancer Society. Most gracious of all was the unit who won the \$50 prize: they donated \$30 of their winnings back to the American Cancer Society.



### From MADE (Michigan):



Winners of Detroit's Chili Cook-Off

We all appreciate all of our Disability Examiners and staff. Our sub-chapters also love to show it! All of our offices showed our appreciation in different ways.

Our Detroit office held a Chili Cook-Off where there was a lot of enthusiasm! There were six contestants and prizes awarded!

The Lansing office had a Gifting Tree for Valentine's Day. Staff selected a sucker off the tree and depending on what was at the end of the stick, won items such as MADE stress balls, MADE lunch bags. There were also Booster certificates for drinks, gift cards for Subway, Meijer and Regal movie tickets! Fun was had by all! They also provided staff with a Shamrock Cookie for St. Patrick's Day!

## CHAPTER NEWS FROM AROUND THE NATION

### From MADE (Maryland):

MADE sponsored a Holiday Drive through December and collected a generous amount of toys and books for children. They donated a year's worth of soda pop tabs to the Ronald McDonald House Charities. MADE also sponsored an agency-wide Holiday Gathering at a local restaurant. Since the event was after-hours, they included family, friends, significant others, and past DDS employees. A group of staff members spread the holiday cheer by surprising us with their singing rendition of 'The Twelve Days of DDS', which included 'two DQB returns' and 'a marked on my MRFC'.



Photo: Shutterstock

### From VADE (Virginia):

The Virginia chapter hosted one "Lunch & Learn" session with Dr. Bert Spetzler, a DDS Medical Consultant whose specialty and former practice was as an orthopedic surgeon. He discussed orthopedic impairments, surgeries, and the impact of orthopedic impairments on the RFC. This event was hosted over Video Teleconferencing and all 5 offices within the Virginia DDS participated.



The Roanoke and Richmond offices hosted a successful blood drives through Virginia Blood Services. The Norfolk office held a clothing drive for a local women's shelter during Domestic Violence Awareness month. The Roanoke office also held a "canstruction" competition for the local food bank. In addition to a canned food drive, staff members were encouraged to form teams and build something with the cans. Afterwards, the office voted on the best "canstructions" and the winning team got a pizza party.

### From WVADE (West Virginia):

The Clarksburg WV chapter held a Halloween extravaganza in October, complete with a pumpkin-carving contest, Halloween party for children, pumpkin dessert contest, and "Pumpkin in your Pod" where a different person won a gift each day. In December, CWVADE held "Elf in your Pod", similar to pumpkin in the pod. They held a party for the holiday season with a hot cocoa bar, snacks, and games. They also held a unit-decorating contest where each unit decorated their supervisor's pod. In February, CWVADE held a valentine making party where they made valentines for the local nursing homes. The "In your pod" series was brought back with "Cupid in your Pod" for the month of February.

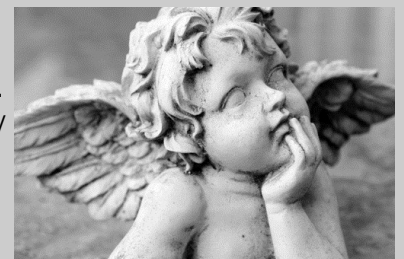


Photo: Shutterstock

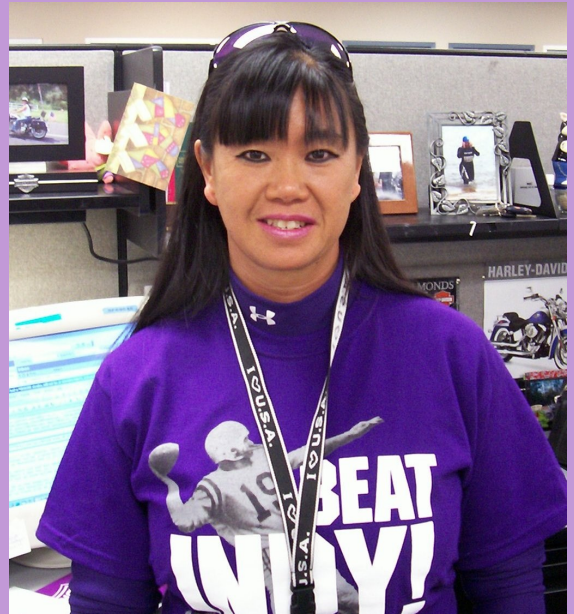
## CHAPTER NEWS FROM AROUND THE NATION

From MADE (Maryland):

The Maryland chapter was shocked and heartbroken to learn of their beloved co-worker's sudden death in September in a motorcycle vs. car accident. NyAnn Smith, a hearings officer for Maryland DDS, was riding her Harley-Davidson motorcycle when a car turned left across her path. Another motorcycle and a van were also involved in the crash.

Smith was one of the coaches for the Baltimore Road Runners Club's Couch to 5K program. She was also an ambassador for Charm City Run and started a group called Fitness Fanatics. From her 49th to her 50th birthday, Smith had the goal of running 50 races. She ran 53.

"NyAnn was grateful for each and every day and person in her life," one of her many friends said. "She loved people and accepted them right then and there for who they were, and she would never turn anyone away."



Nyann's friends at DDS had rubber bracelets made and organized a one-mile memorial walk in her honor. Everyone wore purple, her favorite color, and all the money raised from the event was donated in her name to Athletes Serving Athletes, a non-profit organization that encourages young people living with disabilities to live healthy, active lives.

The finish line was provided by Charm City Run, who also donated some raffle prizes for the event.

# NATIONAL DISABILITY PROFESSIONALS WEEK JUNE 15-19, 2015



## “Keys to Our Future”

NADE will recognize the chapters with the best NDPW events. Please submit a narrative indicating the activities that were held by your NADE chapter. Submissions should be sent to [Melissa.Williamson@ssa.gov](mailto:Melissa.Williamson@ssa.gov) no later than July 10<sup>th</sup>.

*The NDPW committee members are Jerry Bailey-DDS Little Rock; Crystal Bach-DDS Sioux Falls; Mayra Fernandez-DDS San Juan; Johnathan Marino-DDS Roanoke; Chante Tibby-DDS Columbus; Daniel Utech-DDS Raleigh; and Melissa Williamson-DDS Birmingham/NDPW Chairperson.*

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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.

Personal email \_\_\_\_\_

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