



THE ADVOCATE

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2018



NADE Mid-year Board meeting was held at the Royal Sonesta hotel inn Baltimore Feb 22-24th. The board meeting was a great success. The board met with SSA officials and discussed pertinent NADE business.

Upcoming Events:

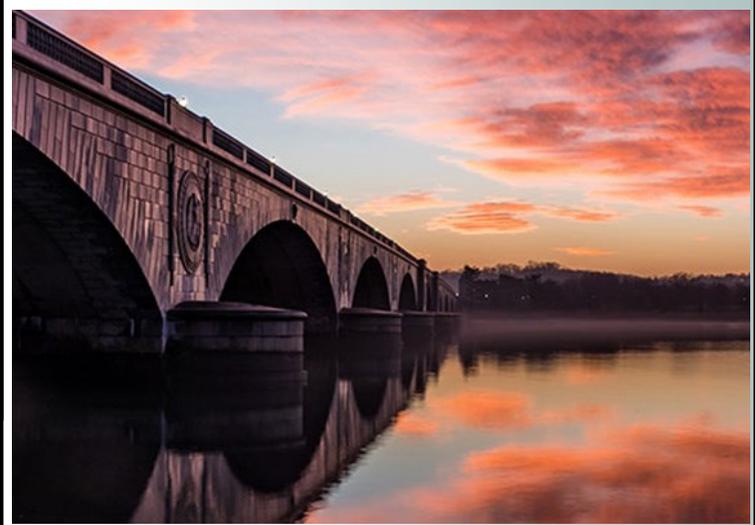
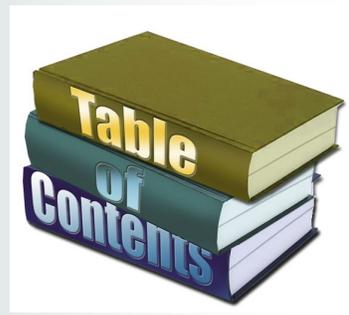
- April-** National Donate Life Month
- May 21-25-** Capitol Hill visit
- June 18-22:** National Disability Professionals Week
- August 11-15:** NADE 2018 National Conference (Arlington, VA)

Registration is available-ACT FAST TO GET EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT!!!

<http://www.nade2018.org/attend/register>

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NADE PRESIDENT

Dear NADE Family

It is hard to believe it is March already! NADE has been busy since the National Conference in August. The executive board has had the opportunity to have two conference calls with John Owen, SSA's Associate Commissioner for the Office of Disability Determinations (ODD), and several members of his staff to discuss pertinent issues involving the disability workforce. John also came to the NADE Mid-Year Board Meeting in Baltimore in February, accompanied by Ms. Mary Horne, SSA's Assistant Deputy Commissioner for the Office of Operations. The NADE Board also had the pleasure of meeting with Gina Clemons, SSA's Associate Commissioner for the Office of Disability Policy (ODP), and members of her staff and with SSA's Acting Inspector General, Ms. Gale Stone. NADE values the relationship with SSA and we are always grateful when they take time to come and speak with us at our meetings.



We continue to stress the importance of hiring within the DDSs. As you are aware, we have been working under a series of continuing resolutions. Due to this, many issues cannot be addressed as we do not have the funding to support them. This has not deterred us from continuing to remind SSA of what is needed at the DDS level to achieve budgeted workloads. We are hopeful that a permanent budget will be passed in the near future.

This year I created an Ad-hoc Committee to look into the different regions of NADE. This committee worked very hard and had several conference calls to address the issues brought forth at last year's membership meeting. The committee presented several recommendations to the Board at the Mid-Year board meeting. We discussed each thoroughly and came to the conclusion that we would look at all avenues before restructuring the regions at this time. I would like to encourage the regions to promote membership. We had a very successful membership drive in January and continued growth in February. It's not too late to join and receive a few extra months for the price of twelve.

Also at the Mid-Year board meeting, a new National Award was approved. It is the Medical Consultant Award. I encourage all chapters to nominate a deserving medical consultant for this new award that will be presented at the National Conference in Arlington, VA in August.

April is Organ Donation Awareness month. I hope your chapter has already begun making plans for fun and creative ways to bring this important cause to the forefront. If you are not already an organ donor, I encourage you to consider taking this step. You could save over 8 lives by just saying "YES".

You will be receiving more information soon about the National Awards. I hope each chapter nominates deserving members for an award. We have so many members that work hard promoting charitable actions as well as promoting NADE and sometimes we just do not take the time to nominate them.

The NADE Board is working collectively with the National Conference Planning Committee on this year's National Conference to be held in Arlington, Virginia August 12-15, 2018. Registration will be available online at www.nade2018.org. I am very excited about all the activities and wonderful training that this committee has worked hard to provide for us. I look forward to seeing many of you at the conference. It is an honor to serve you in the capacity. Thank you for this experience.

Jennifer Pounds

OIG Gale Stallworth Stone

The Acting Inspector General of Social Security, Gale Stallworth Stone, once again provided valuable information to the NADE executive board. She discussed the recently started Cooperative Disability Investigations (CDI) program reorganization. She reported that OIG was working to restructure the program, so resources could be better utilized. She reported that the CDI Team Leaders would fill different roles, but continue to leverage state/local investigative resources. She reported this would increase OIG's overall capacity to investigate the full range of disability fraud cases.



She reported that this reorganization would begin by merging the administrative functions of a current Team Leader with a Supervisory Special Agent. In this way, the Supervisory Special Agent would be able to assign disability fraud investigations to CDI unit investigators, as well as oversee those investigations. The CDI Team Leader would be able to investigate cases, while continuing to work with and mentor CDI unit members.

Acting IG Stone stated this would help utilize CDI Team Leaders, and expand their investigative functions. This would also reduce administrative duty redundancy. She also noted that OIG was able to sponsor Special Deputation of CDI unit state/local investigators. This granted the local law enforcement affiliate the ability to share federal authority, as well as liability protection while pursuing the full range of Social Security disability fraud investigations.

Acting IG Stone also noted that this increased capacity for disability fraud investigation could result in an increase in criminal prosecutions of Social Security fraud and monetary recoveries for the Social Security administration (SSA). She reported that this would consist of a focused approach on pursuing disability fraud cases and working with SSA's Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys across the country to prosecute offenders. This could create an enormous deterrent effect, preventing others from committing fraud and helping SSA promote the integrity of the Social Security disability programs.

She also referred to the legislative mandate from the *Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015* (BBA 2015) that required CDI coverage in all 50 states by 2022. Currently there are 40 CDI units covering 34 states. She reported that changing the CDI unit structure now would leave OIG better prepared to allocate investigative staff to support new CDI units established in the upcoming years.

She reported that beginning January 2018, OIG would pilot this reorganization in the following 11 locations: Miami, Boston, Providence, Detroit, Dallas, Houston, Baton Rouge, Kansas City, St. Louis, Iselin (NJ), and Oakland. By the end of calendar year 2018, the pilot would be reassessed for the effectiveness and future feasibility of a full implementation by January 2019.



What is the mission of the SSA Office of Disability Policy? ⁴

Submitted by Marjorie E Garcia

The [Office Disability Policy](#) plans, develops, evaluates and issues substantive regulations, policies and procedures for the SSA administered disability programs. Provides expert advice and supports SSA's disability determinations process. Develops and promulgates policies and guidelines for use by State, Federal or private contractor providers that implement the disability provisions of the Social Security Act, as amended. Evaluates the effects of proposed legislation and legislation pending before Congress to determine the impact on the disability programs and ensures that interrelated policy areas are coordinated. Provides medical reviews by medical consultant contractors for State Disability Determination Services, Federal disability adjudicators, the Office of International Operations, and the Federal quality review process.



Dan O'Brien, Sharon Bland Brady, Gina Clemmons, Cheryl Williams, Jamie Lucero, and Jennifer Pounds

Over the years, NADE has worked to maintain a close relationship with SSA. Of these relationships, one that is particularly valuable to NADE members is the one shared with the ODP and its current Associate Commissioner, Gina Clemons. Ms. Clemons was again invited to the NADE Mid-Year Board meeting to provide updates and progress reports on the topics near and dear to the NADE membership. Attending with her were some of the ODP leadership (Jamie Lucero Acting Deputy Associate Commissioner, Cheryl Williams Director of the Office of Medical Policy, and Dan O'Brien Director of Office of Vocational, Evaluation, and Process Policy) each who graciously listened to our experiences on the ground and answered questions related to their components and expertise.

These ODP representatives explained that SSA has taken significant steps in recent years to comprehensively update the Listing of Impairments for nearly all body systems and is currently working on completing the Musculoskeletal System (MSK) Listings of Impairments NPRM—the last remaining comprehensive listings update. SSA aims to publish the NPRM in the near future.

They also explained the reasoning behind the recent “combined listings” for cardiovascular, digestive, and skin impairments, as well as ODP's intent to provide support to the DDSs during the training and transition periods for these revised policies. Specifically, that by consolidating the listing updates and the release dates the ODP could advance regulations more expeditiously (a 3 to 5-year cycle of review) since many of the medical listings include common factors that impact function across the body systems. This strategy also provides for improved monitoring and consistency of the policy language across all listings as well as the associated Programs Operation Manual System (POMS).

In addition to this and other endeavors, ODP continues its work on the 2016 Failure to Cooperate policy changes, and the replacement of the DOT with a new vocational directory (Occupational Information System or OIS). Both are reported to be progressing as expected, with the draft FTC policy in inter-agency review and year-three data collection for OIS underway.

As mentioned in the ODPs mission statement, in addition to preparing and updating the medical listings, and associated disability regulations, ODP also evaluates the impact of the disability programs and the interrelated policies. As ODP completes projects, we will share with you more information regarding the specifics and the anticipated areas of impact, as well as the new resources available as result.

National Donate Life Month Contest in April for NADE

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Hello to all NADE members, my name is Penny Nowlin, chairperson for the NADE Organ Donor program. April is Organ Donor Awareness Month. As always our focus is to recruit donors so let's try to get as many people registered as we can during the month of April. Being a donor is a priceless gift to give someone. Most of the people on the donor list have been waiting for some time for a transplant worried that it may never come. The need for donation of organs and tissues are always overwhelming. With the gift of an organ or tissue a person can live a healthy, normal and productive life. There are many questions and myths regarding becoming a donor. Like,

1. I have a medical condition so I can't be a donor, right?

A: Anyone, regardless of age or medical history, can sign up to be a donor. The transplant team will determine at an individual's time of death whether donation is possible. There are very few conditions that would prevent a person from becoming a donor—such as HIV infection, active cancer, or a systemic infection. You should still consider registering. Even with an illness, you may be able to donate your organs or tissues.

2. I am too old to be a donor.

A: There's no age limit to organ donation. To date, the oldest donor in the U.S. was age 93. What matters is the health and condition of your organs when you die.

3. If they see that I am a donor at the hospital, they won't try to save my life.

A: When you are sick or injured and admitted to a hospital, the one and only priority is to save your life. Period. Donation doesn't become a possibility until all lifesaving methods have failed.

Right now there are 116,000 men, women and children on the waiting list for organ donation. Every 10 minutes a person is added to the waiting list. In the US 95% of adults support organ donation but only 54% are signed up as donors. In 2016 , 33,611 transplants were performed. Every year the organ shortage continues in that people are waiting longer and longer for a donor. And unfortunately 20 people die per day while waiting for a transplant. But 1 donor can save 8 lives.

Please go to www.organdonor.gov and sign up for your state registry.

You have the power to save a life!

Don't forget about the National Donate Life Chapter Contest, please send in your Donate Life activity to win money for your chapter at the National Conference. Deadline is June 30, 2018 to send your submissions.



MADE - Lansing Chapter HURRICANE RELIEF FUNDRAISER

The Lansing sub-chapter of MADE sponsored a Hurricane Relief fundraiser. The goal was for each of the units to collect as much spare change as possible. A prize was given to the unit who raised the most. The combined total was almost \$1,800.00! Funds will be going to the Houston Food Bank and the Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida.



Winning Team was Unit 1 with a grand total of \$400.35



Left to Right:
 Suzanne Endres O'Connell-Treasurer
 Michelle Ferris-President
 Marie Peterson-Vice President



The Grand total was 1775.25!!!

THADE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

In August 2017, the NC DDS partnered with Governor Roy Cooper's School Supply Drive to collect school supplies for needy children. The NC DDS THADE Community Service Committee organized the relief drive and our agency gave generously to this cause!



Donations were taken to local State Employee Credit Unions which served as drop off locations

THADE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

For the month of January 2018, the NC DDS THADE Community Service Committee planned and organized a project to make care packages for the homeless and less fortunate. The NC DDS donated items of winter clothing such as hats, gloves, scarves, socks, blankets and hygiene items for men, women, and children.

A total of 52 care packages were assembled and delivered to The Salvation Army in Raleigh on 1/12/18.

I would like to share a touching story as to how Community Service Projects such as this can impact the lives of many in special ways:

As I arrived at the Salvation Army in Raleigh and unloaded the care packages that we had assembled, I was approached by a homeless gentleman and he noticed the care packages I had. He said "Those care packages are really nice, is there any way you could spare some deodorant for me and do you have a pair of socks?" He shared that he had not had a bath in 7 days and that his socks were worn with holes in them. I told the gentleman that I had a care package just for him and gave him one that was packaged specifically for a man. I shared with him what items were in his bag including deodorant and a new pair of socks. He was OVERJOYED! I asked if I could take his picture and share it with everyone in our agency and others. He said "Yes indeed because this is such a blessing to me!" This gentleman did not realize actually the blessing he was to me! This is why we do the good deeds we do, to always help those in need!

Betty Emerson, Community Service Chairperson





MADE

Mississippi Association Disability Examiners

Madison, MS (MADE) - During the Christmas Holiday Donated to Compere's Nursing and Rehabilitation Center for Women. This Nursing home provides extended-stay nursing care to seniors with varying levels of disabilities in Jackson, MS. (M.A.D.E) members collected and donated gifts, gloves, hats, snacks, and other essential hygiene products for the women at this facility and distributed them as Christmas Gifts to show them they are not forgotten, but loved. The (M.A.D.E) chapter supports their local community throughout the year with community service to help their fellow man.



Compere's Nursing & Rehabilitation Ctr. - 865 North State St. ~ Jackson, MS 39202



The Opportunity Center - 845 W. Amite St. ~ Jackson, MS 39203

MADE Continued...

While enjoying holiday celebrations with friends and family, it is important to stop and reflect on the joy and blessings in our own lives while also being aware that not everyone is so fortunate. MADE decided to bless Zoe and Milla Davis with a Christmas that will long be remembered.

A number of greatly needed items were donated to this needy family. What would Christmas be without TOYS? MADE provided what the children had on their wish lists to Santa. The feedback was that this was their best Christmas ever. This donation had a powerful impact to not only the kids but the mother as well. MADE also gave financial assistance to the mom!

What better way to celebrate Christmas than by sharing what you have with neighbors who are in need of assistance to meet their basic needs? The generosity of MADE and its members will have a positive impact on this family for a very long time!

Thanks MADE!



Oklahoma Association for Disability Examiners (OKADE) hosted at the DRS-

Disability Determination Services a fun filled two days of entertainment for the division workers. For Halloween, workers were encouraged to dress up and enter a contest for cash prizes. Tons of employees joined in on the fun.

There was also a chili cook-off and seven employees entered the contest to win cash prizes. The remaining chili was served to employees and the proceeds from the event went to the Holiday Charities.



1st place went to McKinsey Hasting who was dressed as Little Miss Muffet (Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet, Eating her curds and whey; along came a spider, who sat down beside her, and frightened Miss Muffet away!)

2nd place went to Judy McColgan, Rosie the Riveter, (**Rosie the Riveter** is a cultural icon of World War II, representing the women who worked in factories and shipyards during World War II, many of whom produced munitions and war supplies, while the men were away at war.) **(WE CAN DO IT!)**

3rd place went to Roderick Kohl who was dressed as Day of the Dead. (Day of the Dead, or *Dia de los Muertos*, is the Mexican holiday when people celebrate and honor loved ones who have passed away. Celebrations typically run from Halloween, October 31, to All Saints Day, November 2.)



Trick or Treat Table for employee's enjoyment

Honorable mentions went out to all those who dressed for the occasion! The Infamous Monkey is believed to be Dr. Jason Gunter, although no one can prove it...



Our chili cookers from left to right were; Gloria Garrison, Ellen Young, McKinsey Hastings (3rd Pl. winner) Vivian Thompson, Kerissa Holsten (1st Pl. winner) and Michaelyn Bronaugh (2nd Pl. winner) of one out of two chili's she prepared.



Big thanks to all who stirred up some chili for us! However, there could be only three winners, which made it very hard for our judges! Special thanks to illustrious judges, Havered Hill, Leland DeSelle, Cindy Hall, and Chelsey Dumas. They did an awesome job!



OKADE CONTINUED....

November 1st was BEDLAM Day for OKADE and we hosted a BEDLAM Luncheon. Employees were able to dress in their favorite team gear. Every employee that participated got free nachos, and the line was long! It was great fun, great food, and great fellowship between employees at the DDS helped keep the work load flowing!



We fed over 300 people Chili Cheese Nacho's for lunch and everything was about the RED AND ORANGE!!!!
Thanks to all the employees that participated, we had an awesome time!

NADE's Strategic Plan

By Terri Klubertanz, Strategic Plan Chair



I hope this article helps members understand the importance of NADE's strategic plan and encourages members to provide our workgroup with feedback on how NADE can best work to meet their needs.

NADE's strategic plan is a document used to communicate our goals and the actions needed to achieve those goals. The plan is a blueprint for our organization, outlining those activities and actions necessary to achieve NADE's mission and purpose. The plan has been produced via a disciplined effort to identify fundamental decisions and actions that shape and guide what our organization is, who it serves, what it does, and why it does it, with a focus on the future. Within the strategic plan, there are many strategies outlined. These strategies involve setting goals, determining actions to achieve the goals, and mobilizing resources to execute the actions. The strategies define how the ends (goals) will be achieved by the means (resources).

What are the Strategies in NADE's plan?

NADE has identified five strategic goals to help us meet our mission and purpose as outlined in Article II of the Preamble to NADE's constitution. These five goals are:

- Professionalism;
- Legislative, Regulatory and Judicial Monitoring and Advocacy;
- Organizational Continuity and Service to Members;
- Membership Fraternity and Recognition;
- Chapter Development and Services.

Within each of these five strategic goals, various objectives and work plans have been established to help the organization meet our mission and measure our progress. NADE's strategic plan is reviewed on an annual basis and updated as needed.

It is hard to accomplish things without a plan and the NADE Board looks to its members to help them in determining how NADE is doing in meeting its strategic goals.

The Strategic Plan committee is seeking member input on our strategic plan. Please take time to review NADE's strategic plan which is posted on NADE's website. Provide any feedback or comments you have to your Chapter President, who will see that it gets forwarded to your Regional director and then on to our committee for consideration. In your comments, we would appreciate hearing from you specifics as to how the strategic plan could be improved to best meet NADE's mission and purpose.

Specific feedback in the following areas would be most helpful:

- How is NADE doing in meeting its goals? Please be specific in your feedback.
- Are there particular strategies and goals that NADE should be focused on more than others? Which ones and why?
- Is there a strategy that you feel doesn't reflect our current environment? Which one(s) and why?
- Are there strategies NOT in the plan that you feel should be included? Which ones and why?
- Are there strategies currently in the plan that you feel should be excluded? Which ones and why?

Our committee is looking forward to hearing from NADE members on the Strategic Plan. To facilitate full consideration of your thoughts and ideas, the committee would like to have any feedback by June 30, 2018.

NADE MEMBERSHIP NEWS!!!!!!

Melissa Williamson

to



Growth. We all work to grow each day in our personal lives, professional lives, religious beliefs, physical health, etc. We may face many knock downs, but we grow from these and get back up move on. Our NADE organization faces these same issues. Membership numbers increase and decline for various reasons. However, I want to tell you a story about one chapter's recent growth.

For a few years, the Idaho chapter has been inactive.

However, in 2017, they made the decision to change that. A group of people came together to rebuild their NADE chapter. By the end of the January Membership Drive, they had 43 members. Talk about a comeback! This just goes to prove that a few people working together can make a huge difference. Could you be the one to spark a difference in your chapter?

I am asking that each member come together to make a difference in your chapter or in this organization. If you know people in your office who are not NADE members, then talk to them about NADE and encourage them to join. Explain to them that NADE is their voice when dealing with SSA issues, such as policy and budgeting. Many of us know people in other DDS locations; let's talk to them about joining NADE. Maybe they need to hear about NADE from someone other than their immediate co-workers. Talk to those who are no longer active in your chapter. Find out why they are no longer members.....it could be something as simple as they forgot to renew one year and just never renewed. Until we open the dialogue, we do not know the answers.

Let us all take a page from Idaho's story. Come together, work together, and **GROW** together.





TO ORDER NADE MERCHANDISE, CONTACT:

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