

NADE



THE ADVOCATE

A PUBLICATION
OF THE NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
DISABILITY
EXAMINERS

VOLUME 33, NUMBER 3
2018

SPECIAL AWARDS ISSUE

Winners of the
2019
Recognition
Award for
hosting the
National
Conference,
Georgia
Association of
Disability
Examiners
(GADE)

*Special "Thank You" to
GADE for all your hard
work!*



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Lewis Buckingham Award Winner, Julie Kujath.....	P. 3
Charles O. Blalock Award Winner, Karin Pipkin.....	P. 4
Earl B. Thomas Award Winner, Trudy Lyon-Hart.....	P. 5
President's Award Winners, Oklahoma Chapter.....	P. 6
NADE Award Winner, Kandy Flint Pope.....	P. 7
John Gordon Award Winner, Melissa Williamson.....	P. 8
Frank Barclay Award Winner, Arnetta Willis.....	P. 9
Director's Award Winner, Cynthia Thompson.....	P. 10
Marty Blum Rookie of the Year Award Winner, Lyndsey Duncan.....	P. 11
Medical Consultant of the Year Award Winner, J. Scott Pritchard.....	P. 12

Lewis Buckingham Award

Julie Kujath, Missouri



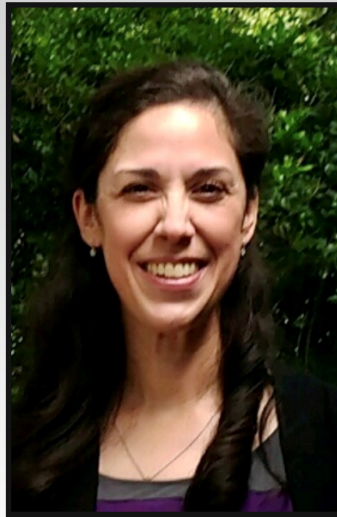
Julie started with the DDS back in 2006 and joined NADE in March, 2008. She works as a disability examiner and shows great compassion in making determinations.

Julie has never wavered in her commitment in NADE at all levels, local, state, regional and national. Julie has attended numerous state, regional and national conferences, some at her own expense. She has served as state and regional awards chair and helps deliver our national awards yearly. Julie also served as local State President as well as Regional President. Julie served as NADE Treasurer, then became a great mentor to the new treasurer. She also served as our Legislative Director in the past.

MADE's membership continuously grows under Julie's leadership with annual membership drives including fun activities for everyone. She leads National Donor Month by arranging for speakers from organ, bone marrow and plasma donation organizations. She organizes the yearly events for National Disability Professional's Week. She even obtained a proclamation from our state's governor declaring NDPW for our state! She gives to the local food pantry and coordinates the adoption of families and veterans in need for the holidays. She also coordinates our school supply drives for area schools. She helped with the supply and money drive for a local teen homeless shelter for girls. She helped organize a fundraiser for four foster children who had earned trips to Washington, D.C. for their academic achievements. Julie finds creative ways to raise funds to send members to the National Conference, including stocking the office snack bar all on her own. She is humble and generous, and encourages everyone to see their personal worth, the value of the work they perform, and their value to NADE.

Charles O. Blalock Award

Karin Pipkin, Alabama



Almost 10 years ago, Karin joined NADE and began to grow her sub-chapter. About eight years ago, after some conflict, most of the members left. The chapter was down to three members, but Karin stayed optimistic about her future. She singlehandedly recruited a whole new group of about 10 members. About five years ago, after an unfortunate loss of members, they back down to four. Through all of these ups and downs, Karin continued to be a positive force that kept her chapter going by spearheading new endeavors.

Karin has served in the role of the liaison with the parent chapter. She brought the group together to organize new fundraisers. She often secured items used in raffles and drawings. She contacted charities in the community to help the chapter choose where to donate the money they'd raised. She organized quarterly luncheons. She served as *de facto* treasurer until another could be elected. She used Microsoft Publisher to make flyers to post around the office to announce upcoming events. Through all this, she was upbeat but never pushy or dominating. She is a true consensus builder.

In February 2017, her chapter started presentations for all DDS employees. Topics ranged from strategies for coping with stress to learning more about disabling conditions like arthritis, multiple sclerosis and schizophrenia. Karin starts each presentation with some comments about NADE and invites non-members in the audience to join. In one presentation, her chapter presented a skit with DDS employees as actors. On the morning of the presentation, an actor called in sick. Karin stepped up, read the script, rehearsed in a quick run through, and did an excellent job in the presentation.

Although she is one of a few members located away from the parent agency and main chapter, Karin makes a huge impact on the success of her chapter as a whole. Day in and day out, she is a true representation of NADE in her dedication to and pride for her profession.

Earl B. Thomas Award

Trudy Lyon-Hart, Vermont



Trudy began her career with the State of Vermont Disability Determinations Services in 1981 as a Disability Adjudicator. She excelled and advanced her career over the years, holding roles as adjudicator, hearings officer, supervisor, operations chief, and in March, 2003 became DDS Director. With her unwavering commitment to the disability program and to optimal public service, she has led this DDS to consistently high national performance rankings for accuracy and processing time. She cares deeply about her staff, treating everyone with dignity and fairness. She goes to bat for her staff and even negotiated a salary increase to make sure her people were compensated across the board for the difficult job we all do. Her dedication to the program is evident in her work with NADE, NCDDD, Social Security administrators and state agencies. She is considered a national leader in the program.

Her educational credentials include a B.A. in psychology and an M.A. in organizational management. She is also a graduate of the state's Public Managers Program and the Social Security Administration Disability Hearing Officer Training Program conducted by the Institute for Administrative Justice at the McGeorge School of Law.

Currently, she represents her region on Social Security's National Disability Issues Group and the DDS Training Advisory Committee where she facilitates the management/leadership subcommittee. She has received various awards from Social Security, including the Disability Program Leadership Award and a Commissioner's Team Award. NCDDD has recognized her with the Andy Marioni Memorial Award, and her state has twice recognized her for Excellence in Management.

She has been a member in good standing in NADE for well over a decade. Additionally, she has been a member of the National Council of Disability Determinations Directors (NCDDD). In her work with NCDDD, she has served as President, President-Elect and Secretary. She currently serves on the Board of Directors and chairs the NCDDD Policy/Quality Committee.

Due to her involvement in NCDDD, she does not currently hold local or national office. However, she has consistently shown a remarkable amount of support to her local chapter. She recently helped push through a proposal to cover the cost of NADE memberships for her staff. As a result, her membership more than tripled! She has always been proactive in making sure her chapter is funded for travel to conferences and she has consistently spoken out for her NADE chapter in order to help gain and retain members. She is a member of her training committee and always has helpful insight on coordinating multiple trainings for her office.

Trudy embodies leadership, work ethic, fairness, compassion, commitment to claimants and commitment to the Social Security Disability program.

President's Award

Oklahoma Chapter, OkADE



OkADE is a robust chapter with 28 members. It experienced challenges during 2018 and 2019. For example, they transitioned to a 501C3 non-profit status and welcomed new board members. Despite their challenges, they upheld their commitment to improved transparency with the use of OneNote to document and deliver information to its members. They maintained traditional calendar activities with continued support from the chapter's Disability Determination Services (DDS) Administrator. Activities included serving lunches for 42 weeks of the year with specialty lunches every Wednesday. The chapter also served pizza every Thursday. In addition to the meals, the chapter held two bake sales in early spring and late fall, held a valentine's day basket raffle, and celebrated Mardi Gras and Easter. OkADE hosts Lunch and Learn sessions on topics like organ and tissue donation with outside presenters.

OkADE presents to the DDS its fundraising schedule in early January each year. The schedule for the year is divided into six parts: January membership drive; January to May fundraising for sponsored activities (the Toby Keith Foundation, the Infant Crisis Center and Bethany Children's Hospital); June to August fundraising for members to attend the NADE Conference; September to December fundraising for Christmas charities, November Veterans Day Celebration, and December Angel Tree. Last year, the chapter donated \$1,862 to Christmas charities. OkADE has strengthened its relationship with its DDS, this year and became the umbrella organization for all charities within the agency.

OkADE's crowning achievement of 2019 was hosting the first regional conference held in nine years.

NADE Award

Kandy Flint Pope, Alabama



Kandy began her career as a disability specialist and quickly saw the advantages of becoming a NADE member. She became was very active from the start, helping with chapter events and fundraisers. Kandy diligently recruits new members and volunteers personal time and resources for her chapter's activities each year. She served as President Elect in 2017, and President in 2018. Through the years, she chaired committees, served on committees at the local, regional and national level, and assisted committees to accomplish their goals. Her dedication and leadership to NADE at all levels, especially her local chapter, is exemplary.

At the end of 2018-2019 her term of office, Kandy's President-Elect resigned her position. Kandy filled the position herself with the unanimous support of the chapter board members. She will continue with previously planned NDPW events. She ensures that her chapter has participates in all NADE-sponsored events and celebrations, including award nominations at the regional and national levels.

With five- and three-year-old boys at home, Kandy is perpetually on the go, but she never fails to donate her time, money and food to her church's food pantry/ missionary program, and to her local hospital's food pantry for cancer patients. She also has volunteered her time to a local wounded veterans organization to help answer disability determination-related questions and clarify Blue Book listing criteria.

Kandy is cheerful, generous, hard working, and dedicated to promoting NADE's mission and message. She is an invaluable asset to her chapter and to the national organization.

John Gordon Award

Melissa Williamson, Alabama



Melissa Williamson, Senior Disability Supervisor for Alabama DDS, is a true leader. She has taken the lead on numerous projects for NADE at all levels. As long as she has been a member of NADE, her goal has been to introduce NADE to new examiners. She serves on her chapter's membership committee, assists the committee with receptions for new examiners, and is always available at other functions sponsored by her chapter to provide support and assistance. She regularly attends chapter meetings, board meetings and social functions where she offers input and suggestions to make the chapter successful. Through her actions, she has truly made a difference in the success of the NADE organization and her local chapter.

An examiner under her supervision reported, "Personally, I can say that Melissa is a leader in all aspects of the word. She leads by example. She provides timely, efficient assistance in all matters. She is always there to provide support and encouragement on difficult days in the office. She is fair and understanding. She knows how to empathize with the struggles of the job. She never hesitates to 'go to bat' for her workers. She emphasizes both production and quality and provides her employees with an atmosphere in which they can provide both."

Melissa has received her agency's Disability Examiner of the Quarter Award, PRIDE's Robert Hinrichs Humanitarian Award, PRIDE's Case Processing Supervisor of the Year Award, NADE Regional Staff Person of the Year Award, NADE National Charles O. Blalock Award and the NADE Southeast Regional Supervisor of the Year Award.

Outside of the DDS and NADE, Melissa actively supports shelters for homeless women, teens and children. She also supports the aged population through activities with local nursing homes. She is very active with the local Humane Society and serves as a lead volunteer there. She participates in Breast Cancer Awareness Week at DDS and other fundraising events such as Kid One Transport, which helps transport low income and disabled children to their medical appointments. She assists with her chapter's school supply drives, canned food drives, Heart Health Awareness Week and Organ Donation Awareness campaigns and fundraisers. Melissa Williamson is an outstanding supervisor, and a truly remarkable person.

Frank Barclay Award

Arnetta Willis, Alabama



Arnetta started working at the DDS in September of 1987. She has served in a number of positions within the DDS, from examiner to administrator. In April 2009, she served as a Basic Training Unit Supervisor to one of the largest classes hired by our agency. She now serves as District Supervisor with four case processing units under her auspices.

Arnetta demonstrates outstanding professional relations. She promotes adaptability, personal growth, and a positive attitude. She is dedicated to producing quality work and sharing her many years of experience. She is always willing to give a hand to help others and has a great work ethic. She uses every opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others.

She is active in her community in many ways. She is a Sunday school teacher and serves as a Youth Advisor at her church and is Superintendent of the Sunday school program. She also coordinates a tutorial program for school-aged children along with several friends. They provide tutoring in math, reading, and writing to elementary and high school students. In addition, she has participated in the Adopt-A-Senior/Grandparent Program, has adopted eight 'grandparents' over the years and affectionately refers to them as "my people." Along with her daughter, they call and visit with their church's senior members weekly and celebrate their birthdays and anniversaries. She and her daughter also provide transportation for the seniors when needed.

In addition to all of that, Arnetta is an adjunct instructor at a local Community College, where she teaches General Psychology. She is an active member of her University's Alumni Association and her sorority, Delta Sigma Theta.

She is very active within her local chapter. She has assisted with activities for NDPW, membership recruitment, and quarterly lunch meetings. Any time that we need volunteers, Arnetta steps up to help out.

Director's Award

Cynthia Thompson, Oklahoma



Cynthia services others above herself. Encourages others in a way that inspires confidence and sets the example for others to follow. As a leader, she promotes teamwork through her positive attitude and professionalism. She is committed and passionate about the programs that she participates in and follows through to the end.

One of the programs Cynthia is most passionate about is the children's programs. She coordinates every year for the past 8 years the Angel Tree project, which is a program that our agency does to provide Christmas gifts to children whose parents who are incarcerated. In the community, she is the Prison Ministry Director for the Hillwood Missionary Baptist Church, and the former Prison Ministry Director for the Greater Mount Olive Baptist Church. She is the director of Supporting Offenders in Achieving Reintegration (S.O.A.R.). This program in connection with department of corrections provides Plays Days for mothers and their children.

In 2004 Cynthia received Editorial Service Award. In 2009, received Outstanding Leadership Award presented by the Department of Corrections and in June of 2011 received a Resolution for Outstanding Service to the Community from the same department. She is also a member of the Governor's Interagency Council on Homelessness (GICH).

Recently from a Leadership Development Project has been a part of a team that implemented a new program to support achievement and morale in the office. The group RAGE - Resilient Accomplished Great Employee - has become a new development to promote positive incentive for employees in an office of 400 plus employees with heavy workloads. This is a much needed project to which our administration has whole heartedly allowing this group that Cynthia spear headed to be a part of our office.

Cynthia has served as NADE Organ Donor Committee Chair, President-Elect of her chapter, Chapter President, SWADE Treasurer, Chapter Treasurer, Non-Dues Revenue Chair. She has served on NADE's newsletter committee and the awards committee. Locally, she's served on the Picnic Committee, Awards Committee, Speakers Committee, Fundraising Committee and coordinates the Veterans Day Celebration at her DDS. She has assisted with regional and national conferences. Awards she has won include the Charles O. Blalock Award, and Regional and National Rookie of the Year.

Cynthia always manages to find a way to do what needs to be done and make it happen. Her tireless efforts and enthusiasm make it easy for others to want to become involved. She works constantly to improve the chances for many who need a helping hand.

Marty Blum Rookie of the Year Award

Lyndsey Duncan, Arizona



Lyndsey joined NADE and her local chapter in April 2018. She immediately sought to contribute to the chapter by volunteering to chair fundraising committee. She was elected Secretary of her local chapter in April 2019.

Throughout the past year, she has helped to organize several very successful, enjoyable fundraising events, including a bake sale, pie baking contest, egg hunt, raffles, and a Lunch and Learn/pizza sale. For the latter, she worked closely with a medical consultant to provide an informative presentation on evaluating cardiovascular disorders. Lyndsey has raised over \$600 for her chapter via her fundraising efforts, not including the material donations she solicited to help with the events and raffles.

For last year's National Disability Professionals Week, the Fundraising Committee handed out small tokens and messages of appreciation to every employee in our office each day. She has also volunteered to help with events outside of her own committee, such as community outreach events.

Lyndsey has contributed a great deal of her energy towards helping her chapter, all while exceeding her expectations as a disability evaluator. She has been a great representative of her local chapter and of NADE with her bright spirit and positive attitude.

Medical Consultant of the Year Award

J. Scott Pritchard, Oregon



Dr. Pritchard is always ready and willing to promote NADE and its mission. Locally, he has worked for Oregon DDS as a Medical Consultant (MC) for more than 20 years. For the last six years, he's been the Lead MC for a unit of 13 full and part-time MCs, training new staff and assigning workflow. He is also has conducted trainings for the State Commission for the Blind, and serves as the chief MC for the Pre-Medicaid Unit and the state Department of Transportation. He's served on local community committees to improve school facilities, reallocate resources and improve Oregon's environment. He's a Master Gardner and a Master Recycler.

Dr. Pritchard has provided many 45– minute medical trainings for analysts at DDS, and fostered other consultants' presentations, leading to a better understanding of medical conditions for all who attend. He participates in all OrADE events, and has tasked himself with gathering and depositing cans and bottles donated by DDS staff each week. This activity has been one of the chapter's most reliable sources of income. The money collected over the last 22 years exceeds \$20,000 and is used to support chapter events and national conference travel grants for chapter members each year. Dr. Pritchard also serves as the annual grill-master for the past nine years, cooking hotdogs and serving up laughter to raise money for the local Humane Society during Oregon's National Disability Professionals' Week.

During his 22 years as a NADE member, Dr. Pritchard has represented the region at no fewer than four Regional Conferences, presenting trainings at two of these. He also received regional recognition for his achievements as a Medical Consultant in 2005, 2008, 2010, and 2012.

On the national level, he has maintained uninterrupted service as the NADE Medical Consultant Chairperson for the past 13 years. He leads the Medical Consultants' Committee in the review of policy proposals and preparation of position papers. Dr. Pritchard also serves as a delegate for NADE, providing testimony at the Institute of Medicine in Washington, DC to discuss Cardiovascular and HIV disability in 2009. He then represented NADE in Baltimore at SSA's 2010 symposium on the "Utility of the Listings." He's been awarded with the state's Director Award, the Regional Commissioner's Team Award and the Associate Commissioner's Team Award, among others.

Dr. Pritchard leads by example. His passion inspires passion in others. His dedication to service inspires better service to Oregonians. His commitment to NADE inspires commitment from OrADE members. It would be difficult to find a single person at the DDS who hasn't crossed paths with Scott and not come away enlightened, in knowledge or spirit. He represents the essence of NADE.



TO ORDER NADE MERCHANDISE, CONTACT:

Cynthia Thompson
 9801 N Kelley
 Oklahoma City, OK 73131
 Phone: 405.419.2532
 Fax: 405.419.2760
cynthia.thompson@ssa.gov

NADE MERCHANDISE



DELUXE LAPTOP BRIEFCASE
 \$35.00



CARRYING CASE \$20.00



INSULATED COOLER BAG \$7.50



PENCILS 2/\$1.00



ABSORBENT STONEWARE
 COASTERS \$7.50



LAPEL PINS
 \$6.00 EACH



CAPS \$12.00



NADE LANYARDS \$6.00



NADE TRAVEL MUG
 \$11.00



EXECUTIVE PORTFOLIO
 WITH PAD AND PEN \$25.00

All proceeds to benefit NADE/Non-Dues Revenue
<http://www.nade.org/join-nade/nade-merchandise/>

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Visit <http://www.nade.org/about-nade/nade-corporate-members/> for information about becoming a corporate member.

