



To: NADE Board of Directors  
From: Melissa Williamson, Southeast Regional Director  
Date: August 16, 2021  
Subject: NADE Southeast Year End 2021 Regional Director Report

Since August 2020, I have:

- Communicated with the Chapter Presidents to encourage them to be active with their events and membership recruitment. Encouraged them to request their membership grant for recruitment purposes. Corresponded with them regarding requests or information from the NADE President and sent them the monthly Southeast membership report.
- Have continued conversations with the Kentucky chapter. Offered support and suggestions for the growth of their chapter. They have recently held elections for officers, which will be noted below.

The following are the individual chapter reports:

**Alabama:** No report.

**Georgia:** GADE's activities for the past year:

- GADE Represent in Pink Thursdays for Breast Cancer Awareness Month – October 2020
- GADE Virtual Halloween Costume Contest October 2020
- GADE Veteran's Day Virtual Wall of Honor – November 2020
- Virtual Ugly Sweater Contest December 2020
- Virtual Angel Tree December 2020 – Donated \$260 in matched cash and over \$400 in gifts to Wellroot Family Services (United Methodist Children's Home)
- GADE Virtual Food Drive December 2020 – Raised \$170. Donated to Atlanta Food Bank and St. Vincent de Paul
- 1<sup>st</sup> ever Virtual Membership Meeting via Zoom January 2021
- Go Red Virtual Challenge for National Wear Red Day – February 2021

**Kentucky/Kentucky Derby:** These chapters are currently working together as one chapter. They currently have a combined total of seven members. They recently held elections for officers. They are as follows:

President: Lesley Brown

Vice-President/President Elect: Jim Polivka

Treasurer: Jonathan Garrison

Secretary: Kristen Adams

They have also submitted three names to serve on the NADE National Committees.

**Mississippi:** No contact from Mississippi.

**North Carolina:** THADE has had an interesting year to put it lightly. The COVID-19 pandemic has pushed most of us here at NCDDS into a teleworking environment and unfamiliar territory. While there have been many new obstacles THADE has managed to keep in touch with each other through it all. While we look forward to more stability, I would like to take this time to tell you about our past year.

Last October our Employee Appreciation Week Committee hosted a virtual Employee Appreciation Week for NCDDS. The theme was a movie theme displaying how well we remembered both old and new movies alike. The committee held daily trivia and had a movie recreation challenge where the objective was to recreate a famous movie scene, movie poster, or iconic movie character/cast using household items. The committee held a Zoom call for anyone who wanted to come together and socialize with coworkers. The final activity for the week was a door decoration challenge where participants decorated one door in their house based on their favorite movie. While this employee appreciation week was far different from those of the past, everyone had a wonderful time.

Our Membership committee has continued to reach out to everyone at NCDDS and encourage them to become part of THADE. We were able to recruit a handful of new members this past January during our annual membership drive. As of today, we have 57 current members of THADE. We continue to meet with each new training class in effort to recruit new members into the organization. We hope to continue to grow our numbers into the 2021-2022 year.

One of our favorite times is April because of Organ Donation Awareness Month. Our Organ Donation Committee does a fantabulous job raising awareness. Throughout the month, they held informative sessions where others could learn about organ donation. For each week, they covered a different topic. From learning about types of donors and donations to myths and misconceptions about organ donation to learning about the process of organ donation. During the final week, the topic was an article about how a young boy who “always wanted to be a Super Hero” was able to save the lives of at least seven other children through organ donation. The committee also held a virtual bingo game and staff members of NCDDS submitted photos of their blue and green ensembles in support of organ donation.

In June, our NDPW committee put on a fantastic National Disability Professionals Week for the organization. The theme was “Back to the 80’s” and to focus on the NADE them of “Hit me with your best shot” the committee focused on medical issues and breakthroughs of the 1980’s as well as other aspects of the 80’s that filled our hearts with neon. The committee hosted trivia, a virtual scavenger hunt, one at home and one at the worksite, held a virtual 80’s trivia game, which included trivia categories of music, TV, movies, sports, fads, and technology. On Thursday, the committee virtually hosted NADE President Marjorie Garcia where she gave updates on NADE and the committee introduced our new THADE officers. That Friday members joined at NCDDS

in the courtyard for a hot dog lunch. This was a great opportunity for members to come together and see each other outside for some good food and great conversation.

PERC: Our PERC committee received nominations for national awards in two categories.

Detailed nominations were prepared by the Committee and forwarded to the national awards chairperson.

All things said I am extremely proud of the work THADE has done in the past year in the face of such adversity. We are looking forward to bigger and brighter days ahead!

**South Carolina:** Unfortunately, we were not able to do a lot over the past year as SCDDS had a majority of the staff teleworking during the pandemic. Ebony Grissett (Chapter President) meet with the new training class in September 2020 to speak with them about SCADE and NADE and the benefits of joining the organization. We did have two new members to join NADE during the past year and 90% of renewals. There is currently a virtual membership drive in process for the month of August in which the winning office will get a “NADE Members Only” party to celebrate. As most employees have returned to the office, we plan to find creative and fun ways to keep our members involved and active in NADE in a socially distant atmosphere.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melissa Williamson  
Southeast Regional Director