



To: NADE Board of Directors
From: Billie Thomas, Chairperson
Date: August 24, 2021
Subject: NADE Southwest Region 2021 End-Year Report

Monthly membership reports sent to the SW Region Chapters.

This has been a challenging year of working diligently with Chapters in the Region try to keep chapters active.

Reminders sent to the SW Regional Chapter Presidents about the membership drive and requesting their membership grant. I forwarded request from President, Membership chair and Communications Director as requested.

I also requested the members to submit for the NADE advocate and a theme ideas for the NDPW.

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic no Regional Conference has been scheduled. We did continue to vote for elected Regional offices. We only have a President at this time, no other interest of running was submitted. SWADE President is now Cynthia Thompson. We hope to fill the vacancies of Treasure and Secretary soon.

Highlights of Southwest Region Chapters:

LADE:

No Report

OKADE:

With the teleworking period of the Oklahoma DDS commencing March 24, 2020, the majority of OKADE activities came to an abrupt halt. Since that time, OKADE has been thinking up ways to raise funds and keep moral up. All Regular Membership meetings occur on the same day with duplicate information presented to the membership. All minutes, forms and resolutions are added to ONENOTE for reference.

The NADE bylaws were adopted on July 23, 2019. OKADE held elections on September 29, 2020 with elected board members President Melvin Carr Jr, President-Elect Jenice Brooks, Secretary Allison Lofties and Treasurer Jennifer Thornton serving a one-year term. The goal of this Board was to establish new funding streams and was to keep moral up during this unprecedented pandemic. With the future in mind, the Board worked toward establishing uniformity, proper procedures and transparency as a guide going forward. The Board acknowledges these processes will continue to improve with input and talents of different successors in each position.

September to December 2019:

A special board meeting was held on November 10, 2020 to officially recognize and appoint Board members for financial authorizations.

A regular board meeting was held in the morning on November 10, 2020. This meeting was a planning meeting to address 2021 board meetings, 2021 membership meetings, address development of financial policy and procedures, committee procedures, remaining 20202 calendar of activities and address 2021

budget and activities calendar. In the afternoon on November 10, 2020, a regular membership meeting was held. This meeting was to address with membership plans from the morning board meeting.

A special board meeting was held on October 1, 2020 wherein the Angel Tree Committee, Each one tell one Committee, RAGE Committee, Veterans Appreciation Committee, Hope Fund Committee and Event Coordinator position (reports at all board meetings) were officially created with appointments for one year. A regular board meeting was held on November 12, 2019 in which Financial Policies and Procedures were adopted.

On November 17, 2020 a working meeting was held with all committees to establish uniformity in meeting procedures, financial procedures and preparing a 2020 calendar of activities in advance for approval.

On December 22, 2020 special meeting, officers were announced for all committees. March of Dimes, Breast Cancer Awareness- need members to chair and head committees.

HELP-Heather Hawkins (Levy) and Melvin Carr

Veteran's Day-Glorita Parton and Cynthia Thompson.

March of Dimes: Chair is Allison Lofties and Jenice Brooks. Ask Jennifer Thornton-Johnson to be on committee. Jennifer agreed to be a part of this committee.

Hope Committee: Ask Ayo May to chair. Ayo May agreed to be the Board Member for the Hope Committee.

Breast Cancer Awareness-Head chair is Sharon Andrews and Board Member is Allison Lofties.

Develop a Lobbying committee to address issues with OKADE, how do the new electoral members want to run OKADE.

Announced our involvement with Servant Leadership Committee, to make OKADE concerns known.

During the period of September to December 2020, OKADE held its annual Veterans Celebration and Angel Tree event, which gave gifts to 88 children. RAGE, continued with events & trivia that reward and support the Disability Determination Services employees and examiners.

January to March 2021:

OKADE held its Regular Board meeting on January 12, 2021. During this meeting we confirmed the September to December report submitted to NADE, approved request for membership drive funds, finalizing the 2021 calendar for OKADE scheduling a meeting with all committees & talking to the new DDS class on January 13/2021. The Regular Membership meeting was held on the same day later in the afternoon. As is routine, the items from the Regular Board meeting provided the foundation for the board membership meeting. OKADE was asked by DDS administration to look in to the possibility of taking over Servant Leadership Committee. We said we would attend meetings which are held on the last Thursday of every month and give an answer in April.

The March Regular Board meeting on March 9, 2021. This meeting appointed members for OKADE Homeless Essential Lifeline Project (HELP), approved Angel Tree date. Established our 2021 committee budget & calendar. We discussed the results of a TV giveaway where the proceeds were given to HOPE fund. The TV was given to RAGE to giveaway at a later date by the recipient. Started a training series presented by OKADE. The first was on 03/11/21 w/45 participants from the DDS. The Regular Membership meeting was held on the same day later in the afternoon. As is routine, the items from the Regular Board meeting provided the foundation for the board membership meeting.

April to August 21, 2020:

OKADE held its Regular Board meeting on 5/11/2021. OKADE deemed to have an Election Committee. There was an all call email for volunteers for appointments. There was no response. OKADE made appointments for Election Committee with Brigitte Harper and Sabrina Little Axe. OKADE board voted to not take over Servant Leadership Committee, citing it would be better for OKADE to be a member and not be over it. Discussed having an email drive for new members. OKADE spoke w/RAGE about 2nd annual Juneteenth celebration on June 24, 2021, Melinda Freundt, director for DRS and Cabinet Secretary Justin Brown were to attend. Held another training session for DDS on 05/18/21.

In June, RAGE held its Juneteenth celebration that was streamed and attended by approximately 100 people. Niece Black, Melinda Freundt and Cabinet Secretary Justin Brown spoke. There was poetry & lyrical dancing. Marlon Ladd was the featured speaker.

Brainstorm – President Carr discussed having an OKADE marketplace & received approval by administration.

OKADE held its Regular Board Meeting by Teleconference on 7/1/2021. Board discussed Importance of having Election Guidelines in place. Election Committee was to proceed & survey for potential candidates, and have a special meeting to approved draft and send out survey the last part of July. Would conduct the elections in September, during the first quarter, at the next regular meeting. Election Committee needs to ensure the nominations are according to the bylaws with individuals accepting the nomination. Since officers are completing terms, each officer should have a statement about the expectations of each office. President Carr requested each Board Member write a draft about his or her position, the positive and the negative. During this time we also opened up the committee for the OKADE marketplace set to go online in September and we sent an email to get interest in that committee and a fun walk committee.

During this period, with the exception of RAGE, and Angel Tree all committees were suspended. RAGE held weekly Digital Signage Puzzles with rewards to DDS employees. RAGE also held a Juneteenth event.

SUMMARY:

OKADE has spent this year building on the foundation laid by the previous administration. We have put in some income streams which should ensure the future for OKADE. OKADE will continue to consider ideas that foster inventive opportunities in providing support for the Oklahoma DDS, OKADE members and its charities during this unprecedented time.

ARKADE:

While ARKADE has not been able to do as many social or group activities as in years past, the organization has still been able to survive and do some charity work.

In September 2020, the Arkansas DDS hired 110 new examiners, who were housed in a building 2 blocks from the main campus. Along with this group of new examiners, 20-25 experienced adjudicators and supervisors are now working from that building, mentoring and managing the new hires. In lieu of installing vending machines, ARKADE was asked about the opportunity to operate a snack bar for these employees, and the ability to use this as a fundraiser. ARKADE readily agreed and we have been operating the popular snack bar since September 2020. In that time, we have raised almost \$1,400 for charitable contributions.

Since October 2020, we have sponsored a get-well basket for one of our MC's, contributed to member's family who experienced a total loss in a house fire, contributed to Thanksgiving food baskets for a local school

district, sponsored treats for our class of new hires during our ARKADE introduction/presentation, sponsored gifts for 25 nursing home residents at Christmas, provided a gift card to a long time ARKADE member who retired, and also contributed to the family of a DDS employee who recently passed away.

1. Continues to operate the snack bar in our training unit/annex building. All proceeds go toward the charitable contributions.

2. Donated to the family of a DDS employee you passed away

3. Donated to the Special Olympics

4. We celebrated NDPW week as follows:

ALL WEEK (June 21-25):

*Book sale (DVD's, VHS, etc) (upstairs) starting Monday, June 21 with proceeds go to LR Food Bank. (proceeds totaled more than \$250.00)

MONDAY (June 21)

Tough Cookie Monday-cookie trays and punch for agency/annex (served by ARKADE members)

TUESDAY (June 22)

Tuesday Treats- ice cream treats (ice cream sandwiches, nutty buddies, varieties of wrapped freezer treats) to be distributed by ARKADE members

WEDNESDAY (June 23)

Wacky Wednesday- goody bags with canned soda or water, bag of chips, small candy/etc.

THURSDAY (June 24)

Drawings for baskets will take place (one in the main building/one in the annex)

Basket #1 contained: Pair of Maui Jim Sunglasses (valued at over \$200 provided by Burrow's & Mr. Franks Optical; \$50 cash; \$25 ARKADE snack bar credit; igloo ice cooler; beach towel, swimming floating fun, makings of S'mores; chips/dip and snacks.

Basket #2 contained: Pair of Costa Sunglasses (valued at over \$200 provided by Burrow's & Mr. Franks Optical; \$50 cash; Family 4 Pack to Arkansas Travelers' game; igloo ice cooler; beach towel; swimming floating fun; makings of S'mores; Chips/dip and snacks.

5. We plan to speak with the new class of adjudicators within the next couple of weeks and will also be speaking with new class that will be hired in September. All with the purpose of obtaining new ARKADE members.

6. We plan to have a back to school drive within the next couple of weeks to collect supplies for teachers/schools.

Everyone here is so very busy right now and we have not returned to all of our pre-pandemic activities. Hopefully, things will pick up after the 1st of the physical year in October.

TADE: No Report

SLADE: No Report

BRADE: No Report

New MADE: No Report

Kudos to Arkansas for their diligence in submitting their report and staying active!

This year will end my term as SW Regional Director. I want to thank the board for all your hard work that goes unseen and having me onboard to serve our National Association. It has been a pleasure and learning experience for me.

Respectfully Submitted,

Billie Thomas

Southwest Regional Director