



To: NADE Board of Directors
From: Kristina Burbank, Northeast Regional Director
Date: February 14, 2022
Subject: NADE Northeast Regional Director 2023 Mid-Year Report

I am pleased to make my Mid-Year Report as the Northeast Regional Director of NADE. The NE region continues to struggle with membership with our membership standing at 39 for the region. As we continue facing adversities during the recent surge in Coronavirus cases, difficulties persist in recruiting and retaining new members in an already small region. Recruitment efforts have been hindered by social distancing and work-from-home mandates. MS Teams remains a tool that some of our region utilizes to maintain interest and participation in the organization, however video conferencing cannot take the place of in-person gatherings.

The Vermont Chapter, The Green Mountain Association of Disability Examiners (GMADE) remains the largest chapter in the Region with 28 members. As per the agreement with the VT DDS to cover memberships for adjudicators and support staff, GMADE is committed to providing 12 hours of training for adjudicators and 6 hours of training for support staff. I have shared the proposal for this training initiative with the NADE board in order to assist other regions in recruiting new members.

GMADE is currently working on recruiting speakers for the 2022 National Training Conference in Burlington, Vermont. Topics will include Project SOAR, the stigma surrounding mental health treatment and awareness, mental health treatment in the LGBTQ+ population, functional limitations due to vision impairments as well as many speakers from SSA and PRO and DHU roundtable discussions. Potential topics being pursued by our program committee include; The New American Experience, cardiac rehabilitation and mental health treatment in rural areas.

The GMADE board has been working diligently to keep members engaged while dealing with heavy workloads in addition to this national health crisis. Our newsletter, News GMADE Just for You! is published quarterly and has been a source of connection in an office where there are 10 people in-office on an average day. Upcoming events were planned but were put on hold due to many people returning to work-from-home due to the omicron surge.

There have been no reports from other chapters in the region.

As outlined in the charges for Regional Director, I have kept the chapter presidents and contacts within our region updated and have solicited their input on various actions requiring our comments and feedback. Communication at all levels is vital to the success and strength of an organization.

With COVID-19 still hanging over our heads causing interruptions in our regular activities as well as DDS workflow in general, I endeavor to help our organization retain

members and generate local activity. I wish to thank the Board for the opportunity to serve.

Kristina Burbank
NADE Northeast Regional Director