

NADE ADVOCATE

A PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DISABILITY EXAMINERS
VOLUME 39 NUMBER 5
SUMMER 2023



Table of Contents:

President's Message Page 2

NADE Board Candidates pages 3-6

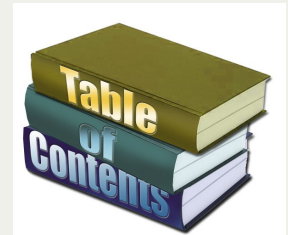
THADE Scholarship recipient Page 7

THADE Chapter news page 8

ORADE NDPW Page 9

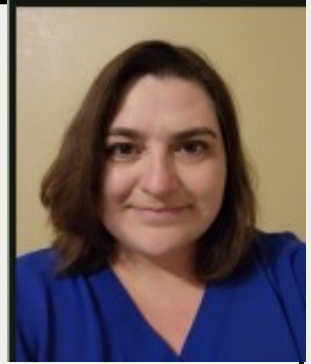
NADE Board Page 10

Letter from the Editor Page 11



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NADE PRESIDENT, JENNIFER NOTTINGHAM



Greetings NADE Members,

Time has really flown this year. I can't believe it is summer time and we are so close to the NADE National Training Conference which will be held August 13-16, 2023 at the Best Western Great Northern Hotel in Helena, MT. I truly hope many of you will be able to make it to the training conference. Montana in the summer time is simply beautiful. If that is not an option for you, perhaps attending virtually via Teams is a way for you to obtain some valuable training. You can find more information on the NADE website.

In June we celebrated National Disability Professional's Week (NDPW). It is important that we acknowledge those who work in this field, because what you do is important and has a great impact on many people. The NDPW theme for this year was *Staying In The Game To Win One For The DDS*. I find this theme to be very appropriate. The DDSs have been hit hard by record high attrition. It is such a difficult job and many states struggle to keep the wages comparable to the private sector or other public sector jobs. However, the work that the DDSs do is extremely meaningful to many lives. Much like any sports team, to come away with a win there is a lot of hard work that goes into it and you are bound to face some adversity. From what I have seen from my fellow NADE members, they are as passionate about the work they do, just as any sports fan. NADE members also work hard to overcome challenges.

During these challenging times, we look for new ways to make the job easier, leveraging technology, where possible and examining current business processes. This would include addressing DCPS enhancement requests and expanding the use of Health IT and IMAGEN. NADE continues to advocate for expanded forms of communication, such as email or text programs. Investments in training for both the DDS and the Field Offices are critical, especially in a time with such high attrition. There are efforts underway to help with training, including sharing resources from state to state. Many of these topics are ones that will be addressed at the conference.

I hope to see many of you at the training conference. I have always found the networking opportunities to be invaluable. NADE members are able to meet others who do similar jobs in a different state. In meeting others from a different office, it is an opportunity to take back to the DDS best practices as well as share knowledge learned at the DDS. We have some great speakers lined up for the Montana training conference and I look forward to seeing you all there.

Best Regards,

Jennifer Nottingham

NADE President

NADE BOARD NOMINATION

SECRETARY

MOLLY TURNBULL



I would like to take this opportunity to submit my candidacy for the position of Secretary for the NADE Board.

I received my Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana and received my Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Illinois in Springfield. I have worked as a state employee in Illinois since 2002, and started at the DDS as an adjudicator in 2008. I was promoted to a supervisor position in 2015, and have worked as a trainer since 2020.

I became a member of NADE in 2013. I have greatly enjoyed being involved with my local chapter in Illinois over the years. I have appreciated interacting with people that work in my building that typically I would not get to see. Everyone needs some positivity, so I enjoy bringing that to the employees here at our DDS through fun social engagements and fundraisers for the community. I served as IADE Treasurer 2014-2016, President Elect 2016-2017, and President 2017-2018.

It has been a pleasure to serve as the NADE Secretary over the past two years. I especially enjoyed attending the National Training Conference in Burlington. I have served in other roles for NADE; including the committee for National Disability Professionals Week and as head of the Elections committee for several years.

I reside in Springfield, Illinois, with my husband Jay and our 3 children; Jack (16), Andrew (15) and Clara (12). I have many hobbies that I try and squeeze into my spare time. I enjoy golf, reading, piano, travelling, running, kickboxing, volunteering at my church, and spending time with friends and family.

It would be an honor to continue to serve as Secretary for NADE. Thank you so much for your consideration!

NADE BOARD NOMINATIONS

TREASURER

JULIE KUJATH



It is with great enthusiasm that I announce my candidacy for re-election to the position of NADE Treasurer. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve this past term, and would be honored to continue to serve the membership in this capacity. The NADE Board has many challenges with reducing costs while still providing a service to our members. I look forward to working with the NADE Board to continue to advance and evolve into a bigger and stronger association.

I have served in many capacities in my former state of Missouri and the Great Plains region. I have also served in multiple positions nationally with NADE and served on various committees for nominations, awards, NDPW, Donate Life, and many more! I continue to be active locally in the Nevada Chapter, currently serving as the Nevada Chapter Treasurer. Serving in all these capacities has given me an appreciation for the mission of NADE and deepened my appreciation for my career as a disability adjudicator!

I would like to thank the membership for this opportunity to run as a candidate for NADE Treasurer, and appreciate your support.

NADE BOARD NOMINATIONS

.SOUTH REGIONAL DIRECTOR NOMINEE



My Name is Ebony Grissett. I am originally from North Myrtle Beach, SC. I received my undergrad degree from the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC. Go Gamecocks!

I began my career with DDS back in 2008 at the Raleigh, NC DDS, where I was a federal examiner until 2011. I returned to DDS in October 2016 as an examiner trainee at the Office of State Claims in West Columbia, SC. At OSC, we process all the Medicaid disability applications for the entire state. I was promoted to DE II in 2017, DE III in 2018, DE-IV in 2020, and now my current role as the Regional Office Training Coordinator as of 12/2021.

I began my involvement with the state organization, SCADES, in 2016 as an active member. I was recruited to be the office representative in 2017, and the rest is history. I served as the SCADES president-elect from 2019–2020. My primary duty as the President-Elect was to be the chief recruiter for membership while I learned the role of the outgoing president. Yes, this position happened during the height of the pandemic, so I had to get creative. SC has three primary locations: Charleston, Columbia, and Greenville, each roughly 2 hours from the other. We held different membership drives throughout the year in person (when we could) and remotely by allowing people to pay via electronic methods. We had friendly competitions for bragging rights and prizes for the offices that recruited the most members.

After I stepped into my role as SCADES president, I realized there was so much more to learn, so I joined NADE. To be honest, most of the members of NADE in our office are tenured employees or medical consultants. I wanted to see what NADE had to offer with a fresh set of eyes so I could be informed for myself and newer employees. I have truly enjoyed learning things and being on the pulse of information. I went to my first NADE conference last year in Vermont, and there was a vast amount of knowledge being offered. I told so many people about it and sent a newsletter out to the entire DDS with some of the information that I learned. After doing this, more and more people started asking about NADE, and that was awesome. We even saw a 10% increase in membership.

I feel I could be an asset to the Southern Region as the director because of my continuous desire to learn and be of service. I'm in the mix of a few different committees here at the SC DDS, so I can continue to spread the benefits of NADE to others. I don't have an issue asking questions, and I feel others know they can come to me with any questions or concerns they may be having as well. I look forward to representing the Southern Region in any capacity possible.

NADE BOARD NOMINATIONS

NORTH REGIONAL DIRECTOR



Good morning. My name is Michelle Wade and I am currently a QA Analyst in Michigan. I am interested in running for re-election as Regional Director of the North Region, a position which I was elected to in August 2022. I feel strongly about NADE's mission and goals in supporting and advocating for the Disability Determination Services.

I have been involved with NADE on many levels since 2009 when I was just a new disability examiner in the state of Virginia. While there I served as the Treasurer, President Elect and President of the Roanoke, VA chapter. In 2011 I became the Mid-Atlantic Region Vice President and served in that role until moving to Missouri in 2015. In 2014-2015, I spent 5 months as a detailee in Baltimore as a part of the DCPS end-user group. I was an active member of the Missouri sub-chapter in Jefferson City until moving to Michigan in 2017. In 2018, I became the Kalamazoo MI NADE chapter President and have served in that role since. During this time, I also have been the Great Lakes Regional Secretary and involved nationally in both Professional Development and Membership boards. I have attended National Training Conferences in Los Angeles, Columbus OH, and Burlington, Vermont and I look forward to many more in the future.

I graduated from North Central College in Naperville, Illinois with a degree in Sports Medicine and a minor in Psychology. I worked as a Certified Athletic Trainer for nearly 20 years before moving over to DDS in 2009. I developed and ran the Broward County Florida High School Sports Medicine Outreach program in 1998. Outside of DDS, I am a die-hard University of Illinois, Pittsburgh Steelers, New York Mets and Nascar fan. My husband and I enjoy traveling the dirt roads to find hidden treasures and antiques, visiting wineries and enjoying all Michigan has to offer. I also enjoy upcycling/crafting and photography and spending time with my furbabies, Poison "Ivy", Aurora Alpha Flight and Chiyo.

I look forward to hopefully serving you once again as the North Region Regional Director and doing my best to be your voice.



NADE Is always looking for volunteers to serve on the board or committees. We are looking for candidates for President Elect. Please contact Deshong, Richard [Rich-ard.Deshong@ssa.gov](mailto:Richard.Deshong@ssa.gov)

NADE Committee Duties:

Awards:

When serving on this committee, the committee members will assist in reviewing the award nominees and voting for the most deserving nominee for each award category via email and send back to the award chair.

CDIU:

These committee members should be someone who works within the CDI. The committee chair will ask about input regarding issues and concerns related to the CDIU. This information will then be shared with the NADE Board.

Constitution & Bylaws:

These committee members will help the committee chair in reviewing regional and state chapter constitutions & bylaws to ensure compliance with the national constitution & bylaws.

Elections & Credentials:

These committee members help the committee chair with election of officers for the national conference.

Hearing Officer:

These committee members should be a hearing officer. The committee chair with ask about input regarding issues and concerns related to hearing officers. This information will then be shared with the NADE Board.

Medical Consultant:

This committee member should be a MC or PC. The committee chair with ask about input regarding issues and concerns related to being a MC/PC. This information will then be shared with the NADE Board.

National Disability Professionals Week (NDPW):

The committee chair with ask for votes for the chapter who has best idea for NDPW theme. They are also responsible for voting on which chapter hosts the best theme week for NDPW.

GET INVOLVED CTD.....

Non-Dues Revenue:

These committee members work with the chair for any new ideas for non-dues revenue items to sell to the membership.

Organ Donation/Transplant:

These committee members vote on the chapter who host the best organ donation/transplant presentation for their chapter in the month of April.

Professional Development:

These committee members help assist the committee chair with reviewing any applications (as needed) for certification and re-certification to ensure that all requirements have been met.

Professional Relations Officer:

These committee members should be a Professional Relations Officer. The committee chair will ask about input regarding issues and concerns related to the PRO position. This information will then be shared with the NADE Board/SSA.

Retirees:

These committee members should be retired NADE members. The committee chair will ask for any input from the retired members about any issues they would like to see addressed related to NADE. The committee chair will then bring this to the NADE Board.

Strategic Plan:

These committee members work with the committee chair in keeping NADE's Strategic Plan updated and within the scope of what the Association can realistically achieve (the Strategic Plan can be found on the NADE's website under the About NADE tab).

Support Staff:

These committee members should be support staff members. The committee chair will ask for any input from the support staff members about any issues they would like to see addressed related their positions as support staff. The committee chair will then bring this to the NADE Board.

Systems:

These committee members assist the committee chair in addressing any issues regarding systems.

After the conference, each region will be looking to find members to serve on the committees. Your regional director will reach out for volunteers in the fall. If you are looking for an opportunity to get more involved in NADE, consider joining one of NADE's committees.

THADE Annual Scholarship

by: Jennifer Pounds, THADE PERC Chair

Each year THADE rewards a \$750 college scholarship to a dependent child of one of our members. The recipient is selected by THADE's Professional Employee Recognition Committee. An applicant's record of past academic performance, service to his or her school and community, personal references that can attest to an applicant's character, motivation, and leadership potential and an applicant's personal statement is carefully evaluated and the financial status of the applicant, and/or his or her family, is NOT considered.

This year's recipient was Ms. Anye Crawley, the daughter of THADE member, Modestine Green-Crawley. Ms. Crawley graduated from Middle Creek High School and will be attending UNC Wilmington in the Fall. Ms. Crawley volunteers as a girl scout troop leader as well as participating in March of Dimes, St. Jude's and Susan G Komen Fundraising events. Ms. Crawley's references praise her strong work ethic and desire to excel in her aspirations

THADE is honored to recognize Ms. Anye Crawley as the 2023 THADE Scholarship Recipient.



CHAPTER NEWS

THADE's Community Service Committee sponsored a 2-day volunteer event in coordination with the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC. NC DDS employees were given the opportunity to volunteer four hours of their time on two separate occasions to pack food boxes for seniors and sort through produce that had been donated to the Food Bank. There were between 20 and 30 analysts, medical consultants, and support staff present at each event. The work was hard but rewarding! This day of service helped to pack 24,000 meals and thousands of pounds of produce.



National Disability Professionals Week June 20-23, 2023 Oregon Association of Disability Employees (OrADE)

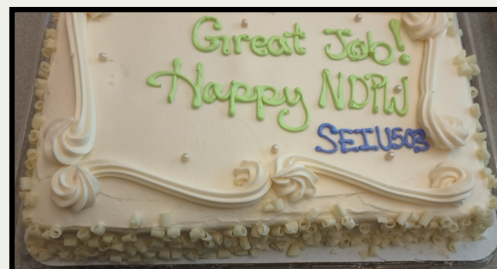
The 2023 theme is: *Staying in the Game to Win One for the DDS* and NDPW was celebrated from June 20th to June 23rd in Oregon. As stated by NADE, the National Disability Professionals Week is a time for NADE Chapters to celebrate their members with games and various activities based on this year's theme. NDPW celebrates the hard work and dedication of DDS/SSA staff from support services, claim services, management, adjudication, investigation or medical consulting. This year OrADE had a BBQ on Wednesday the 21st of June, 2023 with Dr. Pritchard, OR DDS MC lead, as the lead BBQ chef with help from BBQ chef, Marjorie Garcia, past OrADE President who is now the current OrADE Treasurer, preparing hamburgers, hot dogs and several members contributed delicious side dishes from salads, baked beans, and yummy desserts to include a cake for the NDPW celebration. The weather for the BBQ was wonderful with sunny skies and a nice temperature of approximately 75 degrees Fahrenheit. DDS staff enjoyed their picnic lunch outdoors in the sunshine.

On Wednesday, 6/21/2023, Alicia Bowman, Oregon DDS Program Director, stated in All Hands email "Thank you to OrADE and all staff who contribute to a successful NDPW. It's a great way to celebrate the work you are all doing, all year long, for each individual applying for disability benefits. It takes a lot of time and effort to organize prizes, trivia, BBQ picnic, set up/clean up, silent auction baskets, and daily popcorn. Your efforts are appreciated and the work you do is greatly valued!"

OrADE member, Stacy Wood Rustrum, led and managed the NDPW Planning Committee that organized events for Oregon DDS NDPW Celebration Week, June 20th to June 23rd, and this Committee ensured the picnic fare was organized and ready for DDS staff. NDPW events included daily gift card drawing and giveaways at 10 am and 2 pm, daily in-office popcorn that is made with a real popcorn popper like that used in movie theatres, as well as a BBQ picnic Wednesday 6/21/2023 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., and a Silent Gift Basket Auction with all proceeds donated to the Oregon Humane Society.

OrADE President Elect, Jessica Dewing, provided an email to OR DDS staff regarding "Staying in the Game to Win One for the DDS NDPW Trivia" with questions about "How many innings was the longest baseball game in history?" and another question included "According to the table in the POMs DI 27515.005, which group of listing changed the longest ago?" OrADE President Elect, Jessica Dewing, provided a fun brain teaser "National Disability Professional Week Staying in the Game to Win One for the DDS Rebus Puzzles" and rules include that a rebus puzzle is a picture puzzle that needs to be interpreted with the correct answer. The DDS Rebus Puzzle included 10 picture puzzles.

OrADE offered various gift baskets in a Silent Auction that raised \$220 for the Oregon Humane Society with baskets and was led and managed by OrADE President Elect, Jessica Dewing, and basket included specific themes from "Movie Night Basket", "Camping Basket", "Coffee Lovers Basket", "Instant Pot", "Bark Basket" and "Spa, Self-Care Basket."



NADE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Executive Board

Name	Office	Email	State
Jennifer Nottingham	President	Jennifer.nottingham@ssa.gov	NV
Kate Miller	President Elect	Kate.Miller@ssa.gov	MT
Marjorie Garcia	Past President	Marjorie.e.Garcia@ssa.gov	OR
Molly Turnbull	Secretary	Molly.Turnbull@ssa.gov	IL
Julie Kujath	Treasurer	Julie.Kujath@ssa.gov	NV

Regional Directors

Name	Region	Email	State
Melissa Williamson	South	Melissa.Williamson@ssa.gov	AL
Amber Barnes	Pacific	Amber.Barnes@ssa.gov	AZ
Michelle Wade	North	Michelle.Wade@ssa.gov	MI
Trish Chaplin	Midwest	Patricia.Chaplin@ssa.gov	MO

Council of Chapter Presidents

Name	Email	State
Ayanna Conley	Ayanna.Conley@ssa.gov	GA

Appointed Directors

Name	Position	Email
Reagan Lederman	Legislative Director	Reagan.Lederman@ssa.gov
Melissa Williamson	Membership Director	Membership.Director@nade.org
Sara Winn	Communications Director	Sara.B.Winn@ssa.gov

A Note From the Editor:

Thank you for submitting articles to spotlight the wonderful happenings at NADE chapters across the nation. Please feel free to submit articles throughout the year! If you are interested in being mentored for Communications Director, please contact me. I look forward to seeing you all in MT!

Submit your articles to:

sara.b.winn@ssa.gov

