



To: NADE Board of Directors
From: Kristina Burbank, Northeast Regional Director
Date: July 8, 2022
Subject: NADE Northeast Regional Director 2022 End-Year Report

I am pleased to make my End-Year Report as the Northeast Regional Director of NADE. The NE region continues to struggle with membership. In the remaining fallout from the COVID-19 National Health Crisis, 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. As Regional Director, I sent a letter to the DDS Directors in my region with a letter of introduction from Jack McCormack, the Vermont DDS Director. This yielded some interest and even attendance at this year's National Training Conference!

The Vermont Chapter, The Green Mountain Association of Disability Examiners (GMADE) remains the largest chapter in the Region. 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.

GMADE is hosting the 2022 National Training Conference in Burlington, Vermont. Topics will include Project SOAR, food insecurity in the US, 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. A virtual attendance option is available to see the presenters from SSA and others who are presenting remotely.

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 people are working on hybrid schedules. GMADE held an Ice Cream Social for NDPW that was well-received.

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.

This will be my last report as Regional Director. I wish to thank the Board for the opportunity to serve.

Kristina Burbank
NADE Northeast Regional Director