

NADE ADVOCATE

A Publication of the national association of Disability Examiners

New Year 2026 Edition



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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Welcome 2026! An Exciting Start to the New Year with NADE!

As we kick off the new year, there's a lot of positive momentum building within NADE, and we couldn't be more excited about what's ahead.

January launches our annual membership drive, a perfect opportunity to welcome new members into our community. The membership drive is a great time to join NADE or reestablish a membership that has not been active for two years. If you know someone who would benefit from NADE's education, networking, and advocacy, now is the time to invite them to join us.



Also in January, our SSA quarterly calls will resume, after a short hiatus due to structural change and other factors. These SSA calls are invaluable as they provide updates, insights, and opportunities to stay engaged with SSA leadership throughout the year.

In February, the NADE board will attend the Mid-Year Board Meeting, where leadership will come together to review progress, align on goals, and set priorities for the remainder of the year. This is where NADE advocacy really shines through as the board establishes our 2026 NADE Top Issues. The top issues identify challenges facing disability professionals and the disability process. If you have any topics you think should be considered for the list, please feel free to reach out to me directly.

Lastly, I am proud to announce the new Quality Assurance (QA) Committee! This committee will focus on issues that impact our Quality Assurance professionals. This committee represents another step forward in reinforcing NADE's commitment to quality and professional growth. If you are interested in becoming a part of this committee, please let me know!

Thank you for being part of NADE's success. With strong participation, fresh ideas, and an enthusiastic membership, this year is shaping up to be one of our best yet!

With gratitude,

Amber Barnes

NTC 2026....loading...

More details to come.



Happy New Year NADE members

It is that time of year where we, your NADE NDPW committee members need your help. We would like to hear your suggestions for this year's theme for National Disability Professionals Week. Each chapter can suggest up to 3 themes, and the NDPW committee members will choose theme for this year. Please submit your chapter's theme idea by the end of the day, January 30, 2026. The chapter whose theme is chose will be awarded \$10 at the NADE National Training Conference in August.

For those of you who maybe new to NADE, National Disability Professionals Week (NDPW) is time where NADE chapters celebrate our members and the hard work done throughout the year. NDPW is celebrated in June, and chapters create celebrations based on the year's them. They may plan socials, games and competitions, was as other fun filled events to bring their member together.

He's got his thinking cat on



Please email your submissions to marcia.golden@ssa.gov by Jan. 30th!!

NADE Annual Membership Drive: NOW is the time to Join

Trish Boesing, NADE Midwest Regional Director

January is an important month for NADE Membership as January 1 starts the Annual Membership Drive. To highlight the NADE Annual Membership drive, let's review our rules:

Rules: The extended membership benefit is extended to anyone that is a new member to NADE or a previous member returning after 2+ years of inactivity. Each qualifying new/returning member will receive a renewal date extension to 6/30/2027. This could result in as much as 6 additional months of membership for the cost of 12 months! This extended offer applies to all qualifying new/returning memberships processed before June 2026. For example, a new/renewing membership initiated in January receives 6 additional membership months, while a new/renewing membership initiated in February receives 5 additional membership months, and so on. This schedule allows for the greatest benefit in January but also provides chapters with more flexibility when sponsoring membership drive events.

January also starts a new year and therefore your chapter can request a \$50 grant for our Membership Director, Marjorie Garcia. Please send an email with your membership drive activities and how those funds will be used to Marjorie at Marjorie.E.Garcia@ssa.gov.

My challenge to each of you is to recruit at least one new member this January. Let's remind our peers that membership in NADE is an investment in your career. As members, I hope you are proud of the achievements that NADE was able to accomplish this past year. These achievements were made possible only because NADE members chose to become involved. Your membership makes it possible for NADE to be able to afford to be represented at the policy-planning table with SSA and to present our issues before Congress. You made it possible for NADE to meet with the SSA executive leadership to convey your ideas and your opinions. You made it possible for NADE to publish the Advocate and to maintain a web site to keep you and others informed. Your membership made it possible for NADE to exist as a truly independent professional association. We can all be proud of the achievements earned by our professional association.

NADE's strength as a professional advocacy association lies in the cumulative voice of its members. When NADE expresses the collective voice of our members, a stronger membership base increases our chances are of being heard. When NADE meets with SSA, with other advocacy groups or with congressional leaders, our ability to make these individuals listen is enhanced by a stronger membership base. NADE's voice is louder and stronger when expressed from the viewpoint that the knowledge we seek to impart represents a broad spectrum of professionals and support staff employed in the disability program. It is the voice of those who care enough to want greater meaning from their professional careers and who are just as equally determined their career should be about providing greater customer service to those who depend on us for that service.

NADE's strength derives from its consistency, from its roots as a small division within a much larger umbrella organization to its emergence as a viable force providing positive influence on the disability program. We look to the professionalism of our members to provide direction for the Association, a direction developed from a clearly stated mission to develop disability evaluation as an art and science for the public that we serve.

Best of luck in your chapter's efforts to recruit new members. See the NADE website at www.nade.org for additional recruitment techniques.



The Awards Committee is happy to announce nominations are now open for the 2025 NADE Awards to be presented at the National Training Conference in 2026. Chapter nominations are due by **Tuesday March 31st at 5:00pm CST**. These awards will be presented at the NADE National Training Conference in August. The awards criteria will be emailed and on the website soon! Award nominations can be submitted to awards@nade.org using the form at the end of the 2025 NADE Award Criteria.[NADE](#)

Awards Nominations Due March 31, 2025 | NADE

The NADE Awards are:

The Frank Barclay Award

President's Award

(NADE Chapter of the Year)

Lewis Buckingham Award

The Earl B. Thomas Award

(DDS Administrator/Agency Director of the Year)

The Charles O. Blalock Award

The NADE Award

(Disability Professional of the Year)

The John Gordon Award

(Supervisor of the Year)

The Marty Blum Award

(Rookie of the Year)

Medical Consultant Award

Directors Award

(Support Staff Professional of the Year)



NADE 2025-2026 Committee Chairs

Awards -Melvin Carr

CDIU- VACANT

Constitution, Bylaws & Strategic Planning- Tonya Scott

Elections & Credentials- Todd Deshong

Hearings Officer- VACANT

Medical Consultant- J. Scott Pritchard DO

National Disability Professionals Week- Marcia Golden

Non-Dues Revenue- Julie Kujath

Organ Donation/Transplant- Joellen Chapman

Professional Development-Amber Barnes- Sharyn Perry Co-Chair

Professional Relations Officer- Keith Hearnsberger EdD

Retirees- Terri Klubertanz

Support Staff- Chanell Hamilton

**If you are interested on serving on a committee,
please contact Amber Barnes.**





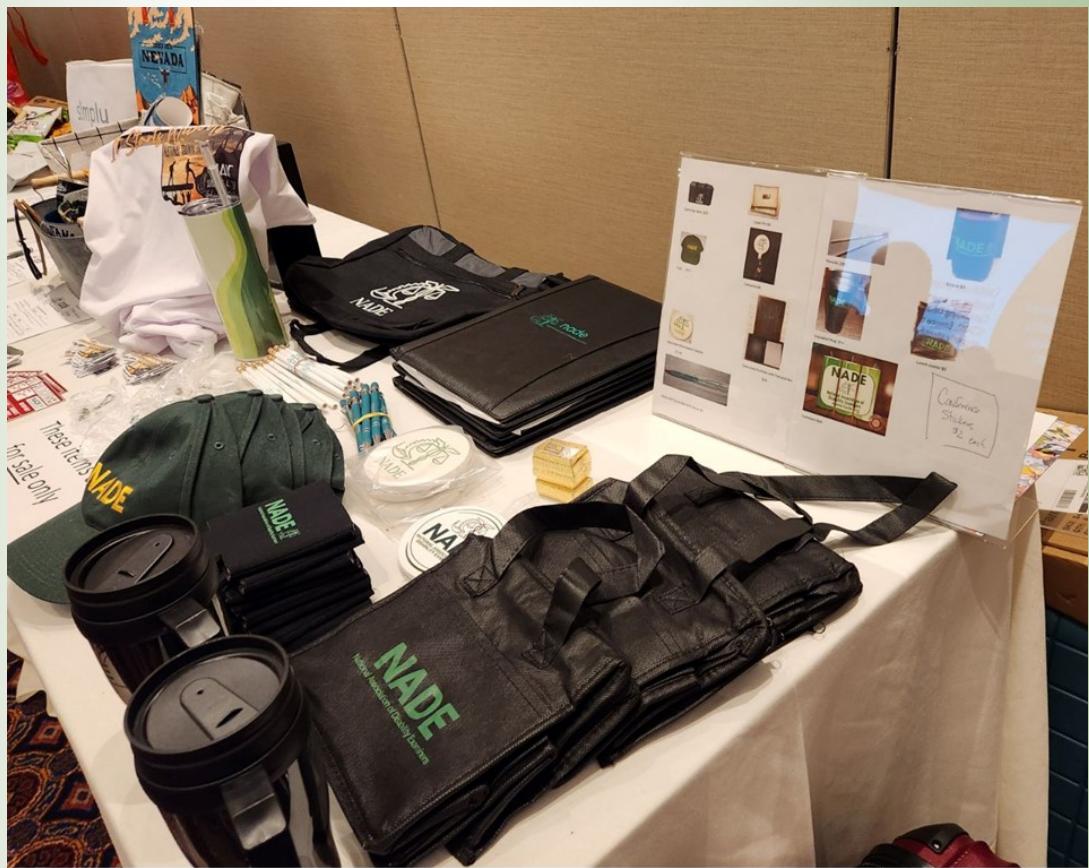
New Product



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email julie.kujath@ssa.gov
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Camera Pro?

Showcase your Chapter!



The NADE Communications director will be giving out prizes for your photos and Newsletter at the NTC conference! Submit them all year long but indicate that you want them for the contest!



Submit any photos and your newsletter to sara.b.winn@ssa.gov