



NADE ADVOCATE

A Publication of the national association of Disability Examiners

Spring 2026 Edition

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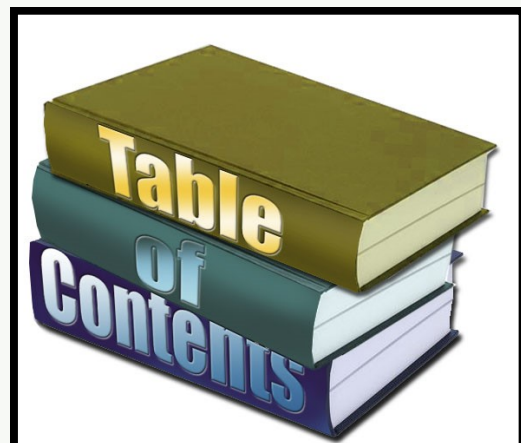
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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Dear NADE Members,

Recently, I had the privilege of traveling to Washington, D.C. alongside Legislative Director Jennifer Nottingham to advocate on behalf of NADE and the vital role of disability examiners nationwide. During this trip, we met with key stakeholders and agencies, including the Senate Finance Committee, the House Ways and Means Committee, the Congressional Budget Office, the Government Accountability Office, the Office of Management and Budget, the House Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee, Representative Greg Stanton's office, and Senator Mark Kelly himself. In each of these meetings, we elevated NADE's top issues—ensuring that the voices, expertise, and realities of our members are heard at the highest levels of government.



These conversations were meaningful and impactful. We shared the challenges you face, the complexity of your work, and the essential role you play in delivering timely and accurate disability determinations to those who depend on them. Your dedication is being recognized, and your voice is making a difference.

NADE leadership continues to actively advocate for examiners in the ongoing changes to the Continuing Disability Review (CDR) process. We have met with the National Council of Disability Determination Directors (NCDDD) and the House Ways and Means Committee, and we are scheduled to meet with the Social Security Advisory Board to further share our perspectives, concerns, and recommendations.

The National Training Conference is fast approaching, and I want to thank each and every person involved in planning the conference. There is so much going on behind the scenes, and I'm left in awe about how well the committees are working to ensure our membership has a fantastic experience in Raleigh. Make sure to register today!

**Amber Barnes
President, NADE**



NATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE 2026

Raleigh, North Carolina

Registration Currently Open!

NOW UNTIL JULY 15TH

NADE Member Full In Person \$295

NADE Member Daily In Person \$120/day

***Late Fees Apply Starting July 16th**

NOW UNTIL JULY 31ST

NADE Member Full Virtual \$165

NADE Member Daily Virtual \$60/day

***Late Fees Apply Starting August 1st**

HILTON RALEIGH NORTH HILLS

BLOCK ROOM RATE \$169 + TAX PER NIGHT

PERKS OF ROOM BLOCK RESERVATION:

- COMPLIMENTARY SELF PARKING
- BREAKFAST INCLUDED DAILY FOR UP TO 2 ROOM GUESTS

DEADLINE FOR BLOCK ROOM JULY 17TH



Registration Deadlines:

In Person Registration Closes July 31st

Virtual Registration Closes August 5th

NADE's response to CDR changes

By: Amber Barnes, NADE President

The National Association of Disability Examiners (NADE) values the partnership that the Social Security Administration and NADE have shared for the past sixty years. We have been able to foster a great rapport and easily share ideas, thoughts and concerns about the disability process back and forth. NADE also remains committed to lifting the voices of Disability Examiners and other Disability Adjudication Professionals. In that spirit, we would like to share concerns our membership have shared regarding the transition of Continuing Disability Reviews (CDR) to Disability Claim Review (DCR) centers.

Most concerns fall into three categories: effects on claimant experience and customer service; overall logistics of the undertaking; and effects on the Disability Examiner position at state disability agencies.

Many disability professionals are concerned moving the CDR process out of the states will negatively affect our beneficiaries. There are many different nuisances each state has that could impact someone getting mail or treatment. Severe weather, natural disasters, lack of CE providers and work arounds are all things observed and addressed by the state offices of disability. Employees working in the same state as the beneficiaries are better equipped to quickly recognize issues and formulate solutions to limit the effects on beneficiaries.

There is also concern about how the change will affect CDR hearings. If the DCRs are in different states than beneficiaries, how will the beneficiary be able to request an in-person hearing if desired? NADE members are concerned about the impact on the beneficiaries.

The logistics of moving CDRs away from state DDSs is also very concerning, and NADE members don't believe all aspects have been considered. Things that SSA has not considered are who will handle the purchasing of consultative examinations (CEs) when needed. The DDSs already contract with vendors for CEs and have mechanisms for purchasing CEs. There is currently no set up for SSA to be able to do this and would require DDS resources for the scheduling and purchasing of CEs. There is no national vendor file to request and pay for medical evidence. Therefore, SSA would rely on the DDS resources to accomplish this task. State-specific knowledge about local providers, MER requests, and vendor databases would be lost in the CDR process. Another major concern is the processing for Prehearings/Hearings at the CDR level. Legislation dictates that the same office responsible for a CDR cessation must conduct the appeal hearing. There has been no communication on how appeals would be handled with CDRs at DCRs. The DDSs currently have staff specifically classified to conduct disability hearings. These individuals are highly trained and specialized and already processing hearings.

NADE response CDR changes continued.....

The most prominent feedback was how this change will affect the Disability Examiner position. SSA intends to recruit over three hundred (300) examiners from DDSs across the country. This will leave the DDS offices with fewer staff to focus on initial and reconsideration claims. Generally, disability examiners who process CDRs also process initial and reconsideration claims. Any recruitment of DDS staff to adjudicate CDRs for SSA will mean losing a resource to process the initial and reconsideration claims as well.

There are a lot of DDS offices where the disability examiner classifications have processing of CDRs built into the requirements for higher classification. This could limit promotional opportunities within the DDS. DDS employees are often woefully underpaid compared to SSA disability examiners. So, it is not clear how this could be a cost savings to SSA. The federal DDSs assisting states, traditionally have a significantly higher processing time and lower accuracy level than the DDSs. The likely result will be SSA processing CDRs at a much higher cost than the DDS and take longer to do so. If SSA has the resources to hire additional staff, it would be far more efficient and cost-effective to put those resources in the DDS.

The major areas of concern are not all encompassing. There are concerns about how the CDI program may be affected given low referral rates of the DCRs, how money directed to DDSs will be affected if we lose the CDR integrity funds, how the federal components will handle dealing with local sources such as school districts, and many other concerns.

NADE is particularly concerned that SSA has moved forward without DDS involvement to consider all the factors and complications. For years, the SSA and state DDS offices have collaborated on changes that affect our shared customers, but this sudden change was made with no regard to the expertise and program knowledge the DDSs have in the CDR area. We welcome the opportunity to engage in future discussions and request a return to the former level of collaboration SSA and DDS enjoyed together. When it comes down to it, we are all in it to better serve the most vulnerable of our communities.

NADE Nomination & Elections Committee - 2026

By: Todd DeShong

Hello fellow NADE members, once again it is time to consider your commitment to the organization. We are looking for members, in good standing, that have the drive and ambition to help lead this organization into the future. For those of you who have been members and have thought that you could do good work on the Board; please, read carefully. If you are energetic, friendly, and hard-working, you should consider the following. The positions of President-elect, as well as Regional Directors in the Pacific and Midwest regions will all be available for the coming year. For those interested in the duties of these positions; please, see the “Committee/Officer Charges” [<https://www.nade.org/about-nade/board-of-directors/nade-charges>] found within the NADE website.

After you have read about the duties of these positions, and you are still eager to fill one of those positions, there are a few additional things we need from you. We will need a resume and photograph to be published in the *Advocate*. You also have a chance to speak to the current holders of these offices. You will also be able to speak to other members of the Board, as well as others who have held these offices in the past.

If after doing your research, and speaking with family, friends, and DDS bosses, you are still interested in these positions; please, step forward. Regional Directors will be elected within their own region. This should occur prior to the upcoming conference in August.



CURIOUSER AND CURIOUSER

Marcia Golden, NDPW Chair

It is that time of year when you all wonder if the NDPW committee has gone mad, as we announce the 2026 NDPW theme: NADE'S Adventures in IMAGENland. We invite NADE chapters to take a trip down the rabbit hole as you celebrate your members June 15-19. Pull out your flamingos and hedgehogs for nice round of croquet, or maybe you will decide to have tea party to celebrate everyone's "Unbirthday". Whatever your chapter decides to do, the committee members look forward to hearing all about it as you compete for the annual NDPW Award given out at the annual training conference in August. We kindly request that all submission be received no later than close of business on Wednesday, July 15. If the White Rabbit is unable to bring your information to the Queen, don't worry, you can always send to marcia.golden@ssa.gov.





By: Elizabeth Mane, NADE Organ Donation/Transplant Committee member

April is National Donate Life Month and kicks off with Donate Life Living Donor Day on the first of April. The month is packed full of events with National Donate Life Blue and Green Day on April 10th, Blue and Green Spirit week April 4th through the 11th, and National Pediatric Transplant Week April 19th through the 25th. We encourage you to invite staff to wear blue or green on the designated organ donation dates listed previously. Taking it one step further, we would like to see chapters participating in the annual Donate Life organization's photo contest. NADE chapters will be promoting awareness through other various activities throughout the month of April.

The NADE Organ Donation/Transplant Committee, chaired by Joellen Chapman, has encouraged chapters to coordinate an organ donation trivia contest, display organ donation posters throughout their facilities, host a "Lunch and Learn" event in collaboration with an organ donation organization such as Donate Life America, and organize an organ donation drive to encourage staff to register as organ donors. We have provided links to informative coloring sheets as well as informational links regarding specific needs and FAQ concerning organ donation to each chapter president.

And last, but not least, the committee is hosting the...

National Donate Life Month Contest!!!

It is a chance for the NADE chapters to compete based on their efforts in:

1. Increasing awareness of the need for more donors.
2. Educating members and the community about donation/transplantation through informational speakers.
3. Providing educational seminars or training activities.
4. Recruitment of Donors.

The result of your efforts will be:

1st (monetary prize \$25), 2nd (monetary prize \$15), and 3rd (monetary prize \$10) place certificates accompanied by:

- **An increase in awareness of the need for more donors.**
- **Increased education for our local NADE chapter members about donation/transplantation.**
- **To provide local NADE chapters resources and tools to educate their members to effectively hold activities during National Donate Life Month.**
- **To recognize local NADE chapters that have provided a variety of educational, informational and training activities to their members during National Donate Life Month.**

The contest deadline is April 30th, 2026.

Did you know 60% of organ, eye, and tissue donors are authorized by registries. There are more than 170 million people registered as organ, eye, and tissue donors and more than 100,000 people are waiting for lifesaving organ transplants. Over 2,200 people on the waiting list are children under the age of 18. More than 85,900 corneal transplants helped to restore sight. More than 49,000 organ transplants from 23,788 donors brought new life to patients and their families in 2025 and 1,874 children were saved by their generosity. Every 8 minutes another person is added to the waiting list and thirteen people die each day because the organs they need are not donated in time.

You can register to be a donor at <https://registerme.org>.

The NADE Organ Donation Committee has developed the following initiatives to acknowledge and celebrate organ donations during April 2026:

- Organ Donation Trivia Contest

Display organ donation posters throughout the office

[NDLM 2026 8.5x11 web](#)

- Host a "Lunch and Learn" event in collaboration with an organ donation organization (please refer to the attached list and link for resources: [Donate Life State Contact - Donate Life America](#))

- Organize an organ donation drive to encourage staff to register as organ donors

- Invite staff to wear blue or green on designated organ donation days and participate in a group photo.

- Donate Life Living Donor Day: April 1, 2026

- National Donate Life Blue and Green Day: April 10, 2026

- Blue and Green Spirit Week: April 4–11, 2026

- National Pediatric Transplant Week: April 19–25, 2026

Offer a "color break" activity with organ donation-themed coloring sheets

[NDLM 2026 ColoringPage](#) and [NDLM 2026 ColoringPage LeaveALegacy](#)

Share informational links with staff regarding specific organs available for donation

[2026 Donation-and-Transplantation-FAQs.pdf](#) and [Understand Donation - Donate Life America](#)

Encourage chapter participation in the annual Donate Life organization's photo contest [Photo Contest - Donate Life America](#)

These activities are designed to promote awareness and foster a culture of support for organ donation within our organization.



Location	Local organizations	Local resources/Volunteer Opportunities
National	Donate Life America	Spread the Word about Organ, Eye and Tissue Donation - Donate Life America Frequently Asked Questions - Donate Life America
	US Health Resources & Services Administration	Spread the Word organdonor.gov How Donation Works organdonor.gov
Alabama	Legacy of Hope	Get Involved - Legacy of Hope Frequently Asked Questions - Legacy of Hope
Alaska	Home - LifeCenter Northwest	For the Media - LifeCenter Northwest Events - LifeCenter Northwest
Arizona	Organ Donation Saves Lives. Register now! Donor Network of Arizona	Partnerships Donor Network of Arizona Organ Donation Donor Network of Arizona
Arkansas	ARORA – All things donation for all Arkansas	Volunteer – ARORA Central Arkansas and Statewide Resources – ARORA Resources for Children – ARORA
	Homepage Mid-America Transplant (eastern and southern Missouri, southern Illinois, and northeast Arkansas)	Volunteer Mid-America Transplant
	Mid-South Transplant Foundation (western Tennessee, northern Mississippi and eastern Arkansas)	Donation 101 Mid-South Transplant Foundation Mid-South Transplant Foundation News page
California	Home - Lifesharing	Student education - Lifesharing Volunteer - Lifesharing
	Donor Network West (California and Nevada)	Volunteer Resources - Donor Network West
	OneLegacy	Resources – OneLegacy National Observances Toolkits – OneLegacy Ambassadors – OneLegacy
	Homepage - Sierra Donor Services (Northern California and Nevada)	Become a Donation Ambassador - Sierra Donor Services About Organ Donation - Sierra Donor Services

Colorado	<u>Organ Donation & Tissue Donation: Transform Lives through Transplant Donor Alliance</u>	<u>Join Donor Alliance's Advocates for Life Volunteer Program</u> <u>Request a Speaker from Donor Alliance on Organ Donation</u>
Connecticut	<u>New England Donor Services (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, eastern VT)</u>	<u>Links - New England Donor Services</u> <u>Volunteers Overview - New England Donor Services</u>
Delaware	<u>Gift of Life Donor Program (eastern PA, southern NJ, DE)</u>	<u>Get Involved with Gift of Life Donor Program</u> <u>Community Outreach</u>
District of Columbia	<u>Home - Infinite Legacy (Maryland, northern Virginia, Washington DC)</u>	<u>Volunteer - Infinite Legacy</u> <u>Community Giving - Infinite Legacy</u>
Florida	<u>Lifeliink of Florida</u>	<u>Ambassadors - LifeLink Foundation</u>
	<u>LifeQuest Organ Recovery Services – Donate Life (North)</u>	<u>FAQs – LifeQuest Organ Recovery Services</u> <u>Get Involved – LifeQuest Organ Recovery Services</u> <u>Living Donation – LifeQuest Organ Recovery Services</u>
	<u>OurLegacy (East)</u>	<u>Volunteer — OurLegacy</u>
	<u>Life Alliance Organ Recovery Agency The Organ Donation and Transplantation Alliance (South)</u>	<u>Learning Programs & Collaborative Events The Alliance</u> <u>Essential Resources for the Donation and Transplantation Community</u> <u>The Alliance: Volunteer Submission Form The Organ Donation and Transplantation Alliance</u>
Georgia	<u>Lifeliink of Georgia</u>	<u>Ambassadors - LifeLink Foundation</u>
Hawaii	<u>Legacy of Life Hawaii Dedicated to Saving and Healing Lives</u>	<u>Volunteer</u> <u>Community Outreach</u>
Idaho	<u>Home - Donor Connect (Utah and Idaho)</u>	<u>Public Education - Donor Connect</u>
	<u>Cascade Life Alliance (Oregon, SW Washington and Western Idaho)</u>	<u>Ways You Can Help Cascade Life Alliance</u>
Illinois	<u>Homepage Mid-America Transplant (eastern and southern Missouri, southern Illinois, and northeast Arkansas)</u>	<u>Volunteer Mid-America Transplant</u>
	<u>Gift of Hope (Illinois and north-west Indiana)</u>	<u>Organ and Tissue Donation Gift of Hope</u>

Indiana	<u>Gift of Hope (Illinois and north-west Indiana)</u>	<u>Organ and Tissue Donation Gift of Hope</u>
	<u>Home - Indiana Donor Network</u>	<u>Volunteer Advocates - Indiana Donor Network</u> <u>More Learning Resources - Indiana Donor Network</u>
	<u>Network for Hope (Kentucky, W. Virginia, Indiana, Ohio)</u>	<u>Volunteer With Us - Network for Hope</u>
Iowa	<u>Iowa Donor Network</u>	<u>Additional Resources Iowa Donor Network</u> <u>Volunteer Program Iowa Donor Network</u>
Kansas	<u>Midwest Transplant Network (Kansas and Missouri)</u>	<u>Press Room Media Kit – Midwest Transplant Network</u> <u>National Donate Life Month Toolkit – Midwest Transplant Network</u>
Kentucky	<u>Network for Hope (Kentucky, W. Virginia, Indiana, Ohio)</u>	<u>Volunteer With Us - Network for Hope</u>
Louisiana	<u>Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency</u>	<u>Community Outreach — Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency</u>
Maine	<u>New England Donor Services (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, eastern VT)</u>	<u>Links - New England Donor Services</u> <u>Volunteers Overview - New England Donor Services</u>
Maryland	<u>Home - Infinite Legacy (Maryland, northern Virginia, Washington DC)</u>	<u>Volunteer - Infinite Legacy</u> <u>Community Giving - Infinite Legacy</u>
Massachusetts	<u>New England Donor Services (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, eastern VT)</u>	<u>Links - New England Donor Services</u> <u>Volunteers Overview - New England Donor Services</u>
Michigan	<u>Welcome to OTD - UW Organ and Tissue Donation (Wisconsin, NW Michigan)</u>	<u>About donation - UW Organ and Tissue Donation</u>
	<u>Gift of Life Michigan Learn About Organ and Tissue Donation</u>	<u>Volunteer with Us - Join the Life-Saving Mission Gift of Life Michigan</u> <u>Youth Organ & Tissue Donor Outreach & Education Gift of Life Michigan</u>
Minnesota	<u>LifeSource – At the Heart of Organ Donation (Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and western Wisconsin)</u>	
Mississippi	<u>Mid-South Transplant Foundation (western Tennessee, northern Mississippi and eastern Arkansas)</u>	<u>Donation 101 Mid-South Transplant Foundation</u> <u>Mid-South Transplant Foundation News page</u>

Missouri	Homepage Mid-America Transplant (eastern and southern Missouri, southern Illinois, and northeast Arkansas)	Volunteer Mid-America Transplant
	Midwest Transplant Network (Kansas and Missouri)	Press Room Media Kit – Midwest Transplant Network National Donate Life Month Toolkit – Midwest Transplant Network
Montana		
Nebraska	Home - Live On Nebraska	Volunteer - Live On Nebraska Educator Resources - Live On Nebraska
Nevada	Donor Network West (California and Nevada)	Volunteer Resources - Donor Network West
	Homepage - Sierra Donor Services (Northern California and Nevada)	Become a Donation Ambassador - Sierra Donor Services About Organ Donation - Sierra Donor Services
New Hampshire	New England Donor Services (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, eastern VT)	Links - New England Donor Services Volunteers Overview - New England Donor Services
New Jersey	Gift of Life Donor Program (eastern PA, southern NJ, DE)	Get Involved with Gift of Life Donor Program Community Outreach
New Mexico		
New York		
North Carolina		
North Dakota		
Ohio	Network for Hope (Kentucky, W. Virginia, Indiana, Ohio)	Volunteer With Us - Network for Hope
Oklahoma		
Oregon	Cascade Life Alliance (Oregon, SW Washington and Western Idaho)	Ways You Can Help Cascade Life Alliance
Pennsylvania	Gift of Life Donor Program - Philadelphia, PA - Organ Donation	Get Involved with Gift of Life Donor Program Community Outreach
Puerto Rico	LifeLink of Puerto Rico	Ambassadors - LifeLink Foundation
Rhode Island	New England Donor Services (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, eastern VT)	Links - New England Donor Services Volunteers Overview - New England Donor Services

South Carolina		
South Dakota		
Tennessee	<u>Tennessee Donor Services - Homepage</u>	<u>Become an Ambassador - Tennessee Donor Services</u> <u>Type of Organ Donations - Tennessee Donor Services</u>
	<u>Mid-South Transplant Foundation</u> (western Tennessee, northern Mississippi and eastern Arkansas)	<u>Donation 101 Mid-South Transplant Foundation</u> <u>Mid-South Transplant Foundation News page</u>
Texas	<u>Southwest Transplant Alliance</u>	<u>Community Outreach — Southwest Transplant Alliance</u> <u>How Donation Works — Southwest Transplant Alliance</u>
Utah	<u>Home - Donor Connect</u> (Utah and Idaho)	<u>Public Education - Donor Connect</u>
Vermont	<u>New England Donor Services</u> (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, eastern VT)	<u>Links - New England Donor Services</u> <u>Volunteers Overview - New England Donor Services</u>
Virginia	<u>Home - Infinite Legacy</u> (Maryland, northern Virginia, Washington DC)	<u>Volunteer - Infinite Legacy</u> <u>Community Giving - Infinite Legacy</u>
Washington	<u>Home - LifeCenter Northwest</u> <u>Cascade Life Alliance</u> (Oregon, SW Washington and Western Idaho)	<u>Understanding Donation - LifeCenter Northwest</u> <u>Ways You Can Help Cascade Life Alliance</u>
West Virginia	<u>Network for Hope</u> (Kentucky, W. Virginia, Indiana, Ohio)	<u>Volunteer With Us - Network for Hope</u>
Wisconsin	<u>Welcome to OTD - UW Organ and Tissue Donation</u> (Wisconsin, NW Michigan)	<u>About donation - UW Organ and Tissue Donation</u>
Wyoming		

FILE ONLINE IN MINUTES

**IT'S TIME TO FILE YOUR CHAPTER'S 990-N
WITH THE IRS**

HAVE YOU FILED?

TAX TIME



REACH OUT IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

**KEEP YOUR CHAPTER IN GOOD
STANDING**

FILE BY MAY 15TH

JULIE.KUJATH@SSA.GOV FOR HELP

Tax Time – Has Your Chapter Filed the 990-N?

Welcome to April, Tax Time! This is a time to think about not just income tax, but also filing for your Chapter's tax status with the IRS. If your Chapter has obtained a federal EIN (Employer Identification Number), then you must file taxes annually. For most local Chapters, you are allowed to file the 990-N (e-Postcard) form, so long as the Chapter's annual gross receipts are \$50,000 or less. The 990-N is a totally electronic form, with just a few questions. No actual financials have to be filed with this streamlined, electronic form. You only need the following information to complete the 990-N:

1. Employer identification number (EIN), also known as a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)
2. Tax year
3. Legal name and mailing address
4. Any other names the organization uses
5. Name and address of a principal officer
6. Web site address if the organization has one
7. Confirmation that the organization's annual gross receipts are \$50,000 or less
8. If applicable, a statement that the organization has terminated or is terminating (going out of business) *****This is simply a yes/no question on the form**

It is good to note that you can file the 990 N up to two years late with no penalty. If your Chapter has not file in three years or more, you begin to enter the point where getting back in good standing with the IRS could cost money.

You can find the 990 N at irs.gov. Search "990 N" and click on "About Form 990-N, Electronic Notice for Tax-Exempt Organizations Not Required to file form 990 or 990-EZ. Scroll down to the link for "Submit For 990-N (e-Postcard). This will take you to the Sign In page for IRS. Honestly, it took me longer to verify my identity to sign on (the first time) than it does to fill out the 990-N form. Once you sign in you are taken to a page with two options: e-"Postcard Profile" and "Manage Forms 990-N Submissions". To file a new claim you will want to select "Manage E-Postcard Profile" link, and then just follow the prompts. After you file you can track and follow up on your filing if needed under the Manage Form 990-N Submissions. You will not be notified if the filing is not completed for any reason. Therefore, always go back until it is confirmed that your submission is accepted.

As always, you can reach you to me with any questions or issues, Julie.kujath@ssa.gov.

What Does the NADE Retirees Committee Chair Do?

By Terri Klubertanz, NADE Retiree Chair

My goal as the NADE retirees committee chair is to make sure that retirees are kept up-to-date on NADE activities, be fully informed on current issues, and have the opportunity to provide input and feedback to the NADE President and Board on issues of importance to them and the disability profession.

My charges from the NADE President are to:

Provide frequent updates to retirees concerning NADE news and events.

Survey NADE retirees on issues and questions raised by the NADE Board, including soliciting input into the development of NADE's formal positions on disability policy, changes in regulations and Congressional testimony.

Communicate with retirees to obtain input regarding issues of concern to retirees and share this information with the NADE President and Board.

Work with retirees and the NADE President to determine the most appropriate manner to address concerns and issues of retirees.

Encourage NADE retirees to attend national training conferences.

Solicit volunteers to assist with conducting the New Attendee Orientation meeting at the national training conference.

I hope you feel that I am accomplishing these charges to your satisfaction.

I've been retired for thirteen years. I've been a member of NADE for 45 years. I believe firmly in NADE and support NADE's mission to advocate for disability professionals and improve the disability program, as well as NADE's efforts to enhance the knowledge and continuing professionalism of disability staff. As a retiree, I hope that I can represent other retirees by using our past experiences and expertise in the disability arena to provide a backdrop and framework for future NADE endeavors.

If you would like to join the NADE retirees' group, please send me an email at NADEretirees@gmail.com. Membership is a bargain, at \$25 per year, less than \$2.10 per month. I look forward to hearing from all you retirees.

Proposed Bylaw Changes: Reclassifying the Council of Chapter Presidents Chair

By Ayanna Conley

The NADE Board has been working on a proposal that would change how the Council of Chapter Presidents (CCP) Chair fits into NADE's governance structure. Under the proposal, the CCP Chair would be reclassified from a Board Trustee to a Committee Chair — a change that would require revisions to several sections of the NADE Bylaws. After reviewing the proposal at the 2026 Mid-Year Board Meeting in February, the Board voted to bring it to the full membership for a final say.

What Would Change

If approved, the CCP Chair would no longer serve as a voting Trustee on the NADE Board and would not be required or funded to attend the Mid-Year Board Meeting or the Annual National Training Conference. The Council of Chapter Presidents would be formally established as a standing committee of the Association, with its own by-laws subject to Board approval.

Why the Change

As NADE continues to evolve, the Board wants to make sure the organization's structure is working as efficiently as possible for its members. When two roles are doing essentially the same work, it makes sense to take a step back and look at how things are structured. The CCP Chair and Regional Directors share a lot of the same responsibilities in practice and streamlining that overlap frees up energy to focus on what matters most — supporting chapters and serving members.

What Stays the Same

The CCP and its work are not going away. Chapter Presidents, President-Elects, and Immediate Past Presidents would still make up the Council, and it would continue to have a voice in NADE matters through the committee structure.

Next Steps

Members will have the opportunity to review and vote on the proposed bylaw changes at the Annual General Assembly in August 2026. More details on the voting process will be shared as we get closer to the Annual Meeting. In the meantime, if you have questions or feedback, please reach out to your Regional Director.

NADE Chapter Activities!!!

By: Latonga Hales, MS DDS

All M.A.D.E. staff were asked to wear their green shirts to bring awareness to the organization. We are intentional about showing appreciation to our staff to increase morale.

Flyers was put up throughout the office “We are LUCKY to have you!” Happy St. Patrick’s Day. We asked all staff to wear green.

Prior to this event, we decided to do a love campaign. “Will you be M.A.D.E.” membership drive. This was a 2 day event.



Fundraising With Your Community

Many popular chain and local restaurants offer fundraising programs, allowing groups to earn a percentage of sales through "Dine to Donate" nights or selling discount cards, with common examples including **Applebee's, Chipotle, Panera Bread, Chick-fil-A, Buffalo Wild Wings, California Pizza Kitchen, Red Robin, and Pizza Hut**, alongside local pizzerias, burger joints, and cafes. Services like GroupRaise and DonationScout help you find participating locations in your area.

Popular National Chains Known for Fundraisers:

Casual Dining: Applebee's, Buffalo Wild Wings, Red Robin, TGI Fridays, Outback Steakhouse, BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse.

Fast Casual/Quick Service: Chipotle, Panera Bread, Chick-fil-A, Smashburger, Panda Express, Jersey Mike's Subs, Five Guys, Krispy Kreme.

Pizza: Pizza Hut, Papa John's, Blaze Pizza, Mountain Mike's Pizza.

Mexican: El Pollo Loco, Moe's Southwest Grill, Del Taco.

How It Works:

1. **Contact the Restaurant:** Reach out to your local branch of a chain or a favorite independent spot to see if they offer fundraising nights (often called "Dine to Donate" or "Giveback" nights).
2. **Promote the Event:** Share flyers, social media posts, and emails with your supporters, letting them know the date, time, and what percentage of sales goes to your cause.

Dine & Donate: Supporters visit the restaurant on the specified day, and the group receives a portion (often 15-25%) of the sales generated by your supporters.

Tips for Finding Local Options:

Use Fundraising Platforms: Websites like GroupRaise and DonationScout list participating restaurants by location.

- **Ask Other Groups:** Check local school or non-profit Facebook groups for recommendations on restaurants that have successfully hosted fundraisers in your community.

-

NADE 2025-2026 Committee Chairs

Awards -Melvin Carr

CDIU- VACANT

Constitution, Bylaws & Strategic Planning- Tonya Scott

Elections & Credentials- Todd Deshong

Hearings Officer- VACANT

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National Disability Professionals Week- Marcia Golden

Non-Dues Revenue- Julie Kujath

Organ Donation/Transplant- Joellen Chapman

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**If you are interested on serving on a committee,
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The AMCE logo consists of three blue diamonds arranged in a row, with a central diamond containing the letters "AMCE" in white. The diamonds are connected by thin lines, and there are small plus signs at the top and bottom of the central diamond.

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A circular inset image showing a woman with dark curly hair, wearing a purple blazer, smiling broadly and shaking hands with another person whose hand is visible in the foreground.

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