

**Heather Woods**

2021 ADDC West Region Director

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Dear West Region Members,

I was so happy to receive the Convention registration packet to share will all of you. If you can, I sincerely hope to see many of you at the ADDC Convention in New Orleans on September 21-25, 2021. The packet is also available on the ADDC website for easy access.

July brings Independence Day in the United States with celebrations of all kinds across the country. It brings to my mind the freedoms Americans enjoy and the sacrifices many have made in the name of those freedoms. Our actions everyday bear consequences for future generations, be they economic, political, scientific, or a host of other topics. It is interesting to reflect on the changes in mindset I have experienced through childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. Having children and watching them grow makes has caused me to think more about their generation’s future than my own, something I am sure every generation has experienced.

Our way of life is supported by energy. We argue about how to balance the production of that energy with conservation of natural resources, but we often leave important driving factors out of that conversation. Are we willing to limit or even reduce our consumption of energy on an individual or societal basis? Are we willing to trade one risk for another such as reducing air pollution from fossil fuels by increasing nuclear energy production? Are we willing to accept the economic toll that relying largely on renewable energy at today’s technological level would take on industrial societies such as our own?

I hope that as you engage with people in your sphere of influence, that you can share some of your thoughts on these topics. It is so easy to get caught up in the usual argument, but perhaps by taking some time to ponder these ideas yourself will help you relate your own ideas of how energy is an important part of all our lives.

As always, feel free to reach out if there is anything I can do for you.

Sincerely,

Heather

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