



**Philana Thompson**

2022 ADDC President

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As was mentioned in last month's letter and how hard the board worked to make sure we were operating within our budget, some changes were made that would allow me to visit our regions, these changes did not affect individual services to our membership. At the end of this month I will have the honor of attending the first in-person regional meeting since 2019! My tour of the regions kicks off in Lafayette, LA for the Southeast Region meeting, my next stop will be Wichita Falls, TX for the Central Region and my last in-person meeting will stop at my own region, West, in Amarillo, TX. I will be able to attend the last regional meeting of 2022 in the Northeast at their virtual meeting.

We have many deadlines coming up fast, ADDC nominations, distinguished service awards, tax filings, and then add into the mix preparing for our regional meetings. It seems another year is flying by. If you are not sure what those deadlines may be please reach out to your club president, regional director, committee chairs and even myself. The committee chairs, board and myself are working hard to clean up the website so that more information can easily be found there as well, if you don't see something you need, once again please let us know.

As I look towards our future and being notified of another ADDC club's disbandment this year, I would like to ask that members begin to think about what the future of our organization looks like now, tomorrow and years to come. We are not unique in our decline in membership, I have mentioned many times that other organizations I am in are seeing declines as well. Do we continue on operating as if we have 800 to 1000+ members, or do we find new ways to adapt so our organization does not die? What hard questions we should ask ourselves as clubs start to disband is:

1. Regionals and conventions; as we begin to shrink the burden of hosting a regional or convention gets tougher on regions and clubs, what are some ideas to help ease that burden?
2. What can ADDC do to help clubs and regions adapt new ways of engaging members and bringing in new?
3. What is holding us back from moving to the future?

Simply stating we have some hard times ahead and this organization is built on the strength and hard work of many folks since its inception. They also faced hard decisions that may have caused a "ruckus" but did what had to be done to see this organization thrive! Please don't be afraid that an idea or way to help this organization survive is not a good one just because you are short timer, middle of the road or long timer.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the regionals I will be happy to hear any ideas you may have.

Prayers and Blessings!

*Philana Thompson*

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