

2007 NDSC Convention in KC

In the precon, Parent Group Leadership Session (PGLS), it was one big sharing session for all groups involved. Some of the topics were:

ACOG: What is being done? What should be done?

Meeting Attendance

How to Form Alliances and/or partnerships with other parent groups

How to Use Self Advocates most effectively in a group and on a Board

Meeting the Needs of Older Populations

Supporting and starting local subgroups within your organization for various locations

Affiliates Working Together – Affiliates in Action (AIA)

Most Important Aspects of providing support to new families

Forming a Community Advisory Board

Direct Services, i.e., programs, staff? choices?

Board Participation

Creating Social Opportunities for Young Adults and Adults

Post-Secondary Education

Diversity in Your Programs

Ideas from Established Groups for New Groups

I took away from these sessions ideas to help HADSA:

Fundraise

- Teams for BW and a traveling trophy
- Firstgiving.com for online donations

Other areas

- Have a Uoffl or Kirkwood marketing class help out with HADSA marketing as a class project
- Most groups have similar problems as HADSA

During the regular sessions, I was inspired by the self-advocates and their accomplishments.

The thing that I was most excited about was the NDSC “More alike than different” campaign. The goal is to produce a National Ad campaign with the message that people with DS are more alike than different, using the people with DS and their voices to tell their stories. With great generosity an NDSC family has extended \$250,000 in support of the new NDSC national Down syndrome awareness campaign. It’s a matching grant. Every dollar we raise will earn a matching dollar up to the full \$250,000. No matter what you give, the amount doubles and as much as \$500,000 may go to the NDSC. <http://www.ndscenter.org/news/morealike.php>

Next year’s convention is in Boston. **July 11-13, 2008** at Boston’s beautiful Seaport Hotel.

<http://www.ndscenter.org/news/events.php>

