Moving Toward Building Relationships: My AADE Network

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The American Association of Diabetes Educators (AADE) takes seriously its mission of driving practice to promote healthy living through self-management of diabetes and related chronic conditions. At the center of the organization are diabetes educators ready to move forward and explore possibilities for new programs and product development, along with continuing efforts to improve existing services. The work of bringing members together to build relationships and networks started years ago and culminated with the latest chapter survey along with the Board/leadership using different and broad sources of information and member involvement in the process, such as conducting focus groups, working with the member affiliation task force, and listening to member feedback. In response to the needs and opportunities expressed, the creation of a new member affiliation model referred to as My AADE Network has begun to be introduced to chapters across the country.

My AADE Network is a new membership model that builds and connects members locally and across states. The new membership model is all about you. The core of the network is you. As members of AADE, each of you becomes more fully engaged in specific topics: eliminating administrative requirements such as maintaining by-laws, recruiting officers, submitting reports, and collecting dues. At the local level, members will have the ability to form local networking groups that will bring members together locally and closer to home. The idea of a local networking group builds from the chapter concept, allowing members to form small groups quickly and simply. Reshaping the existing organizational structure at the local level provides a supportive community for members and a voice for diabetes education/educators in each state. These local networking groups will have minimal structure, taking advantage of resources from the AADE National Office.

As we move closer to introducing the development and implementation of My AADE Network, I am impressed with a new sense of togetherness and vitality. Knowing a lot of work has been done by members of AADE in leading the creation of My AADE Network, a firm foundation is in place for future growth. It is upon this foundation that we must now plan and build thoughtfully.

It has been said that enthusiasm spreads when there is commitment. Likewise, commitment will spread throughout AADE as collegial relationships develop. As members of AADE, we all must be committed to build relationships and network with others.