

2022 NSDA Virtual Leadership Workshop | Letter of Welcome

NSDA/Dysphonia International Leaders, welcome to our **2022 NSDA/Dysphonia International Virtual Leadership Workshop**! Since 2005, we have hosted an annual Leadership Program. As was the case last year, we cannot meet in person this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we still want to connect online. You are here because of your commitment to our mission, and we thank you for your service. At the core of the NSDA/Dysphonia International are our amazing support network volunteer leaders who drive and shape our organization. From our Board of Directors to our Regional Coordinators, our local Support Group Leaders, and our Area Contact Leaders, we are all moving in the same direction. With our expanded mission to include related voice conditions and our transition to Dysphonia International, we have the potential to impact more people in more places around the world.

This is our 18th annual leadership program. This is no minor feat when you consider that we are a small non-profit, patient-driven organization. The fact that we continue to invite our leaders to participate in these events points to the high value that the NSDA/Dysphonia International places on our support network leaders. We encourage you to connect on NSDA Zoom Calls. If a day, time, or topic work for you, register and jump on.

Like all previous Leadership programs, this year's agenda promises to be informative, interactive, and inspirational. For 2022, we have selected a theme acronym of: **SOAR: Support Outreach Awareness Research**. We are mindful that our outreach is international and that we have expanded our mission to include related voice disorders. We are working to further engage our leaders with virtual calls and projects to become involved in.

The NSDA/Dysphonia International support network is one that promotes leadership development and empowerment. Some of you are with us today for the very first time. Some of you have been with us for every one of our eighteen leadership programs. Regardless of the tenure you have held within the NSDA/Dysphonia International organization, each of you is valued and appreciated. Because of the tireless efforts of people working together as a team, the support arm of the NSDA/Dysphonia International is alive and well. We are grateful for our progress, and we look forward to making further strides in the future.

The NSDA/Dysphonia International believes that it is our challenge and our duty to ensure that our 145+ volunteer support network leaders have the knowledge and support that they need to be educators, spokespeople, and support providers. The goal of NSDA/Dysphonia International is to equip our leaders with the most comprehensive and relevant information they need. View the leadership resources on our website, look at the documents in the Materials Packet, and listen to the topics being discussed here today. You will realize that we have the printed resources and the staff and volunteers which are needed to carry out your important work.

Remember that you are not alone. We are in this fight against SD and related voice disorders together. Make your voice heard and find your place in service. NSDA/Dysphonia International is here to listen and help in any way that we can. We celebrate your essential activities which breathe life into our organization. You are our ambassadors, and you carry our NSDA/Dysphonia International banner high. As we transition from NSDA to Dysphonia International, kindly remember that we are the same staff and network of volunteers with the same mission, values, and vision.

NSDA/Dysphonia International is a community which cares about you and your voice. Each one of us has a tremendous opportunity to make a difference for our small non-profit. Let us be grateful to be on the journey together. "At the end of the day, it's not about what you have or even what you've accomplished. It's about who you've lifted up, who you've made better. It's about what you've given back." (American actor, **Denzel Washington**)