

Regional Vice-President Elections for 2015–2017 Term

By Jessica Gleason, NAADAC Director of Communications

Every two years, NAADAC members have the opportunity to select a Regional Vice-President who will represent their state affiliate on the NAADAC Executive Committee, with four of NAADAC's eight regional positions being up for election each year. To qualify for the position of Regional Vice-President, one must (1) be a NAADAC member in good standing; (2) hold either a state or national credential; (3) have served either on the NAADAC or state affiliate board of directors or have been a chair of a state or NAADAC committee; and (4) have been actively engaged in the counseling field for a minimum of two years. In addition, the nominee must live in the region he or she is being nominated from.

This Spring, NAADAC only received one nomination from each of the Southwest, North Central, and Mid-Central regions. Therefore,

these three nominees will be seated as Regional Vice-Presidents for the 2015–2017 term without an election. All 2015–2017 terms will begin on October 14, 2015 after the NAADAC Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Congratulations to our three re-nominees and winners!

However, because no nominations were received for the Regional Vice-President position for the Southeast region, representing Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Tennessee, a Special Election will be held in the late fall after the Annual Conference and the start of the new 2015–2017 term. This Special Election will include a new nomination period and will be explained in detail during the Southeast regional caucus at the Annual Conference and through NAADAC's communication channels this fall.

Please read the candidate statements from our winning nominees below.



Regional Vice-President Candidate & Winner for Southwest

Representing Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, New Mexico, Nevada, & Utah

Nominee: Mita M Johnson

Credentials: EdD, LPG, LMFT, ACS, LAC, MAC, SAP

Please list number of years worked in the addiction profession: 25

Summary of the Nominee's NAADAC activities:

Mita Johnson has been an active member of NAADAC at the state and national levels. At the state level she has served on the board of the Colorado Association of Addiction Professionals as board member, treasurer, president-elect, president, past-president, events chair, and community liaison. At the national level, Mita has served as a general board member, the Southwest Regional Vice-President, trainer, and member of the Ethics Committee. She is currently part of the review process for the NAADAC Bylaws. Mita has advocated for parity, recognition of scope-of-practice and standards-of-practice, appropriate credentialing of providers, professional development opportunities, and support of anyone who is qualified to work in our field. Mita is a strong advocate for ethical delivery of services to clients and their significant others. It is important to advocate on behalf of the needs of each state in her region; each state in the SW region needs someone who engages, listens, and responds in a practical, relevant, and timely manner. To summarize the nominee's NAADAC activities: Mita works diligently to advocate for NAADAC and each state affiliate wherever she is. NAADAC offers numerous supports and advocates for providers all along the continuum of care and Mita is part of that mission.



Nominee's Philosophy Statement on the Future of NAADAC:

I believe that the future of NAADAC will be filled with opportunities and challenges—both of which will show the strength and determination of NAADAC to represent the professional interests of addiction service providers. There has been no greater time to be a substance misuse and addictive behaviors services provider than right now. Science is proving that addiction has strong neurological physiological footings; service providers are proving that addictions and addictive behaviors must be treated holistically, relationally, and systemically.

NAADAC must continue its work to encourage networking, collaboration, education, training, experience, and professional membership. NAADAC must continue its advocacy for parity with a unified collaborative voice. NAADAC must continue to uphold an appreciation for diversity amongst all who interface with addictions.

NAADAC must continue to bring national recognition and acceptance of credentials and the process of credentialing. NAADAC must continue to be of value to its members by treating each member with respect and dignity. NAADAC must continue to set high ethical standards. NAADAC must continue to seek and mentor the next generation of providers who are entering the field. I believe that NAADAC has much work to do and I want to be in the trenches with them.

Nominee's Other Qualifications for the Office of Regional Vice-President:

Mita has been a clinician, supervisor, mentor, trainer and educator for 25 years. As a licensed professional counselor, marriage and family therapist and addiction counselor, Mita has worked in numerous community agencies and private practice. She believes that all care (> 90%) is co-occurring in nature and promotes collaborative care while respecting scope-of-practice. She continues to maintain a private practice where she is continually challenged to learn and use evidence-based practices to assist her clients. Clinical supervision has been an amazing experience; watching clinicians grow professionally has been a highlight of her career. Teaching, training, and speaking have afforded Mita opportunities to advocate for the important work we do as specialists and professionals. It is Important to be an advocate in the community; Mita is a member of several credentialing-specific committees, is an appointee to the Governor's council for behavioral health transformation, is a member of several addiction-specific boards, and is a consultant to the state regulatory agency.



Regional Vice-President Candidate & Winner for North Central

Representing Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, N. Dakota, & S. Dakota

Nominee: Diane Sevening

Credentials: EdD, LAC

Please list number of years worked in the addiction profession: 30

Summary of the Nominee's NAADAC activities:

- NAADAC Regional Vice-President of the North Central Region.
- NAADAC chair of college and university student committee since 2006
- Assisted NAADAC in the development of state affiliates' council of students, guidebook (bylaws) for college and university student organizations.

- Faculty advisor to the local NAADAC student organization, the Coalition of Students and Professionals Pursuing
- Advocacy (CASPPA), since 2005.
- Presented at the 2010–2013 National Conferences, the 2007 Advocacy in Action Conference and the 2006 Workforce Development Summit
- Member of NAADAC since 1999
- Received the NAADAC Presidents Award as an educator and advocate for the addiction profession, September 2010

Nominee's Philosophy Statement on the Future of NAADAC:

Dr. Diane Sevening is motivated by compassion and she believes In the NAADAC mission to lead, unify and empower addiction focused professionals to achieve excellence through education, advocacy, and knowledge, standards of practice, ethics, professional development and research.

Nominee's Other Qualifications for the Office of Regional Vice-President:

Dr. Diane Sevening is an Assistant Professor, in the Department of Addiction Studies, at the University of South Dakota. She serves on the Board of Directors of INCASE a professional association of college/university professors specializing in addiction studies counselor education. She has also served as an addiction family therapist at St. Luke's Addiction Center and as an alcohol and drug counselor at the University of South Dakota student health service. Dr. Sevening presented at the 2011–2014 NAADAC conferences, the 2010 National Conference on Addiction Disorders (NCAD), the 2007 Advocacy in Action Conference and the 2006 Workforce Development summit.



Regional Vice-President Candidate & Winner for Mid-Central

Representing Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, & Wisconsin

Nominee: Kevin Large

Credentials: MA, LCSW, MAC, AAMFT Clinical

Fellow

Please list number of years worked in the addiction profession: 25

Summary of the Nominee's NAADAC activities:

- Regional Vice-President, Mid-Central Region, March 2014 to March 2015
- NAADAC PAC committee member, 2004–2013
- NAADAC ad hoc Adolescent Specialty Committee
- Conference Chairperson, Mid-Central Regional Conference, co-hosted with ICAADA, June 2003
- Conference Volunteer and Photographer
- Kevin has written seven articles published in the *NAADAC News* on a variety of topics
- Vice President, Indiana Association for Addiction Professionals, 2005–2006
- Chapter Representative, Board of Directors, ICAADA, 2002–2004
- Conference Chairperson, Board of Directors, ICAADA, 2002–2004
- President of the Northern Indiana Counselors Association (NICA), 2002–2006

Nominee's Philosophy Statement on the Future of NAADAC:

I see that NAADAC will continue to be the premier agency which advocates for the substance abuse counselor, and advocates for the treatment of substance abuse-related issues for the individuals and families affected by alcoholism, drug addiction, and co-occurring disorders, as well as related process addictions. NAADAC's influence is felt not only throughout the United States but also throughout the world, as NAADAC is sought out by others for leadership and guidance in terms of credentialing of substance abuse counselors, broader issues relating to the treatment of alcoholism and drug addiction, and the unique needs of certain areas and populations.

One of the biggest challenges that lies ahead of us, and one that needs to be addressed at the present time AND into the future, is the continued advocacy for licensure of addictions counselors at the state level in every state that does not already offer licensure for addiction professionals.

Related to this is the continued need for NAADAC to strive to represent both the addictions treatment professional and the field of substance abuse treatment in the world, that is, in the world of government agencies, legislative bodies, among other treatment providers and treatment professionals. I can see that individuals within NAADAC can continue to be the voice of addictions treatment and help pave the way for future dialogue and expression of what it means to be an addictions treatment professional, what it is that we are treating, and a language that is both respectful to the clients that we serve, that helps to define the evolving understanding of addictions treatment. While we often embrace

a wide continuum of services provided, when it calls for addressing addictions treatment, we don't water down the discussion by relying on terms that only refer to more specific concepts of "prevention" and "substance abuse treatment."

NAADAC will continue to provide excellent opportunities for education and training that that provides for the continued professional development of the workforce. One would say that NAADAC helps to bring together "the best and the brightest" in terms of attracting the talent and leadership of those that seek to provide quality training, and at the same time, providing for exceptional opportunities for networking among treatment professionals, educators, and those that govern and lead agencies.

Nominee's Other Qualifications for the Office of Regional Vice-President:

Kevin Large is the current RVP for the Mid-Central Region. He has done an excellent job of coordinating regional meetings and demonstrating visionary leadership.



Jessica Gleason is the Director of Communications for NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals. She is responsible for NAADAC communications, marketing, public relations, and all digital media, including the NAADAC website and social media. She is the Managing Editor for NAADAC's official publication, *Advances in Addiction & Recovery* magazine, and editor of NAADAC's two ePublications, the bi-weekly *Addiction & Recovery eNews* and weekly *Professional eUpdate*. Jessica holds a Juris Doctorate from Northeastern University School of Law in Boston, MA and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in Amherst, MA.



May 6 - 8, 2015

Women's Recovery CONFERENCE

Asheville, NC

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- Up to 17.25 credit hours
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PLENARY SPEAKERS
Cyndi Briggs, PhD, LPC(NC), NCC, DCC
and
Anne Wilson Schaefer, PhD

