

Remembering Thomas E. Van Wagner

By Cynthia Moreno Tuohy, NCAC II, CDC III, SAP, NAADAC Executive Director



In September of this past year, when many of us were celebrating National Recovery Month, NAADAC lost a dear friend and supporter, Thomas E. Van Wagner. He died at the age of 90, after serving the alcohol and drug addiction community for over 40 years and spending the last 47 years of his life in recovery.

While Tom served on the boards of the the New York State Council on Alcoholism, the Long Island Council on Alcoholism, and the National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependency, and taught at the Institute of Alcohol Studies at South Oaks Hospital in New York, he was most fondly known to many NAADAC members as the “Insurance Man” after he made malpractice insurance available to

alcohol and drug counselors through NAADAC and his Van Wagner Insurance Company in 1994. Being able to purchase individualized insurance for alcohol and drug counselors was groundbreaking at the time, and thousands of NAADAC members signed up and received the benefits of this protection.

After Tom sold the Van Wagner Insurance Company and moved toward retirement in 2005, he became the co-chair of the NAADAC Building Endowment Fund along with the first President of NAADAC, Mel Schulstad. Together, they brought the spotlight to raising funds to secure a more prominent site for NAADAC’s headquarters. Tom worked tirelessly to support NAADAC and its leadership over the many years we worked together.

We are happy to say that Tom has left a legacy at NAADAC and on the addiction profession. A few weeks before he passed away, we let Tom know that NAADAC initiated a new insurance plan with his long-time colleague and friend, Pamela Van Cott, who worked with NAADAC for many years and now works for the American Professional Agency, Inc. We lost Tom, but his memory lives on daily in the work and service that we do at NAADAC. It was an absolute pleasure to know and work with Tom through the years. He is a giant who will be truly missed.



Cynthia Moreno Tuohy, NCAC II, CDC III, SAP, is the Executive Director of NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals, and has worked as an addiction professional for over 35 years. She has been a trainer in Domestic Violence/Anger Management and Conflict Resolution for over 25 years, as well as an international, national and state trainer in a variety of topics. Moreno Tuohy is also a curriculum writer in addiction screening and evaluation, counseling methods, conflict resolution, co-occurring disorders and medicated assisted treatment and recovery, and has written articles published in national and other trade magazines. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Social Work and is certified both nationally and in Washington State.

To nominate an eligible organization for the NAADAC Organizational Achievement Award, please submit (1) a letter of recommendation including a detailed description of the nominated organization and how the organization has supported the addiction profession; (2) at least three letters of support from three different sources (individuals, organizations, or agencies); and (3) a completed NAADAC Recognition and Awards Nomination Acknowledgement Form.

The NAADAC Recognition and Awards Nomination Acknowledgement Form requires the nominee to sign a statement acknowledging that he/she meets all of the eligibility criteria for the particular award and has “demonstrated to the satisfaction of one’s peers full compliance and support of NAADAC’s Code of Ethics throughout [his/her] professional career.” For access to the **NAADAC Recognition and Awards Nomination Acknowledgement Form** and the specific eligibility criteria for each award, visit: www.naadac.org/recognition-and-awards.

All award nomination packets must be received by May 31, 2016 for consideration by the NAADAC Awards Committee.

To nominate an individual or organization, please send the required documentation to:

NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals
 Attn: Awards Committee Chair
 44 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 301
 Alexandria, VA 22314

Materials may also be faxed to the NAADAC Awards Committee (Attn: Director of Operations) at 800.377.1136 or sent by e-mail to naadac2@naadac.org (please put “NAADAC Awards” in the subject line). NAADAC does not pay for travel to the venue of acceptance. If the award winner cannot attend the presentation, the award will be sent to the recipient.

Questions?

For more information, please visit www.naadac.org/recognition-and-awards. For further questions, email NAADAC at naadac2@naadac.org or call 800.548.0497.



Jessica Gleason is the Communications Consultant for NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals. Her consulting projects include NAADAC communications, marketing, public relations, and digital media, including the NAADAC website, ePublications, and social media. She also continues on as Managing Editor for NAADAC’s official publication, Advances

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