

Meet the 2020 Candidates for NAADAC Executive Leadership Positions

By Caitlin Corbett, NAADAC Communications Specialist

Help choose the future leaders of NAADAC! It's election time again, and we are seeking new leadership to help us determine the direction of the Association. NAADAC holds elections every two years to select its Officers and four Regional Vice-Presidents (the other four Regional Representatives are selected on alternate years). This year, eight well-qualified addiction-focused professionals have been nominated as candidates for NAADAC Executive Leadership. All 2020–2022 terms will begin in October 2020, immediately following the 2020 NAADAC Annual Conference & Hill Day in Washington, DC.

This spring, NAADAC received two nominations for Mid-Atlantic Regional Vice President. Please find each candidate's statements below in order to inform your vote.

NAADAC only received one nomination each for the positions of

President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer and Mid-South, Northeast, and Northwest Regional Vice-Presidents. Therefore, these six nominees will be seated in their nominated roles for the 2020–2022 term without an election. The winning candidates' statements are listed below for your review. Congratulations to our six winners!

Voting starts on May 1, 2020 and ends May 31, 2020. All NAADAC members are eligible and encouraged to vote. Instructions for voting will be emailed to members and can be found at <https://www.naadac.org/2020-leadership-elections>. Members may vote online by logging into their naadac.org account or by mail. To request a paper ballot to vote by mail, please email Kristin Hamilton at khamilton@naadac.org.

Please read the following statements by and for the candidates in order to help inform your vote this spring.



Candidate for President-Elect & Uncontested Winner

Angela E. Maxwell, CPS

Browns Summit, NC

Summarize the nominee's NAADAC activities: My affiliation with NAADAC spans back fifteen years; beginning with my service on the board of directors for the North Carolina affiliate - Addiction Professionals of NC (APNC). On the APNC board, I served as the Prevention Committee Chair (2005–2007); APNC Vice-President (2008–2009); APNC President (2010–2014) and Immediate Past President (2015–2019). My involvement at the national level began 2008/2009 when I served as a committee member of the Student Assistance Professional (SAP) Workgroup (National Student Assistance Association Committee) which developed recommendations for the SAP credential and was active during the initial merger discussions between NAADAC and National Student Assistance Association. I served on the NAADAC Board of Directors from 2010 to 2019. From 2015–2019, I served as the Southeast Regional Vice-President for NAADAC as well as served on the Executive Committee of the NAADAC Board of Directors. Additionally over the past

four year, I have served on the Membership Committee and the Awards Committee.

Philosophy statement of the nominee on the future of NAADAC: I am convinced now more than ever that NAADAC has been, is, and must continue to be the premier strategic leader for the addiction's field. While it is understood that our field is diverse in terms of its workforce, persons served, and services provided; there must be a unified voice that consistently advocates on behalf of the field. Key issues such as 1) ensuring the full implementation of the insurance parity law; 2) establishing a nationally recognized credential; and 3) supporting the development of a diverse workforce to meet the needs of an ever-changing diverse global community, are critical factors in sustaining the addiction's profession. NAADAC is the most qualified association to lead this unified national effort. The successful future of NAADAC is contingent upon its ability to effectively partner with state affiliates, engage its key stakeholders as well as represent the full continuum of substance use disorder services. I believe that NAADAC is equipped to meet these key areas and its future is bright!

Other qualifications of the nominee for this office: Angela has served over 18 years as the Director of Prevention and Early Intervention

Services for Alcohol and Drug Services where she oversees services in ten counties. She is also the co-founder of Aspire Training and Consulting Group, LLC. Angela is currently a PhD. Candidate in Leadership Studies with an expected graduation in June 2020 (NC A&T State University). She has served as an adjunct professor for Guilford Technical Community College. Throughout her career, Angela has served extensively in leadership roles at the local and state levels. She currently serves on the NC Substance Abuse Prevention Provider's Association - Board Chair, Guilford County Schools Student Health Advisory Council - Chair, North Carolina Academy for Prevention Professionals Planning. Angela is also a national and statewide trainer in the areas of substance use prevention, workforce development, strategic planning, coalition development, workplace wellness, as well as diversity and inclusion. Angela has received three statewide substance use professional of the year awards (2008, 2010, 2019). Her experience has enhanced her skills in leading long-range visioning, planning and evaluation, capacity building, resource management, personnel management, meeting facilitation, stakeholder engagement, as well as leadership and organizational development.



Candidate for Secretary & Uncontested Winner
Susan Coyer, MA, AADC-S, MAC, CCJP, SAP
 Huntington, WV

Summarize the nominee’s NAADAC activities: I have had the privilege of being involved in NAADAC and the West Virginia affiliate (WVAADC) for over 25 years. For the last two years, I have been honored to serve as the NAADAC Secretary and prior to that, four years as Mid-Atlantic Regional Vice President. Prior to that, I served on the NCC AP for six years as secretary and chaired the ethics committee. I have also served on the NAADAC Membership, Conference, Bylaws, and Public Policy Committees. I am a past president of the West Virginia affiliate and a delegate to the NAADAC Board of Directors for 4 years. With WVAADC, I also held the positions of secretary and conference, membership, awards, nominations and bylaws committee chairs.

Philosophy statement of the nominee on the future of NAADAC: NAADAC’s membership and advocacy efforts are vital to support and grow our workforce. Workforce development and strong advocacy efforts are essential in ensuring the quality of prevention, treatment and recovery support services as well as improving treatment for individuals across the nation. Advancing legislation at both local and national levels is imperative to continue to support and enhance our profession. Established partnerships and new ventures allow NAADAC to have a meaningful impact on legislation and lead our membership into new horizons. NAADAC remains the voice of addiction professionals and the leader in advancing addition recovery. I see our organization growing and continuing as the leader in the growth and strengthening of our profession. Expanding our partnerships with other organizations relevant to NAADAC’s mission as well with our representatives in our States on Capitol Hill will allow us to continue the exceptional work that makes NAADAC the leader in our field.

Other qualifications of the nominee for this office: I have a master’s degree in counseling with an emphasis in addiction counseling. I have held a number of clinical and management

positions in outpatient, intensive outpatient, residential, community housing and medication assisted treatment programs. My credentials include Master Addiction Counselor (MAC), Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor (AADC), Certified Clinical Supervisor (CCS), Certified Criminal Justice Professional (CCJP) and Substance Abuse Professional (SAP). I am currently the director of a medication assisted treatment program in Huntington, WV. I have facilitated numerous workshops and training in Motivational Interviewing, Motivational Interviewing Assessment: Supervisory Tools to Enhance Proficiency (MIA:STEP), clinical supervision, Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiatives (SVORI) and ethics for addiction and prevention professionals. I have participated in numerous legislative activities at the State and National level.



Candidate for Treasurer & Uncontested Winner
Jerry A. Jenkins, MEd, LADAC, MAC
 Anchorage, AK

Summarize the nominee’s NAADAC activities:

- Tennessee Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors – Past President, Secretary, Treasurer and Legislative Committee Chair (Served 1989–1997) (Member 1985–2003)
- National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC) Member since 1985, Chair, Managed Care Committee (1999–2000)
- Commissioner, NAADAC Certification Commission (NCC) 1993–1999
- Chair, National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals (NCC AP) January 2017–January 2020
- Alaska NAADAC Affiliate - Alaska Association of Addiction Professionals (2003–Present)
- Alaska Commission on Behavioral Health Certification - Treasurer- 2006–2009; 2017–Present

Philosophy statement of the nominee on the future of NAADAC: I consider NAADAC the premier organization representing the substance use disorder treatment workforce and all the nuances associated with it. NAADAC is positioned to continue to lead in the areas of advocacy, workforce education and training,

and certification to recognize professionalism. These are just a few of the ways NAADAC serves the field on a national as well as state specific levels. NAADAC provides a structure for the exchange of ideas, lessons learned and collaboration. NAADAC offers opportunities to improve skills through the broad array of trainings offered (webinars to national conference) as well as opportunities to develop leadership skills by serving in this membership organization.

Other qualifications of the nominee for this office:

- COO, Alaska Behavioral Health Association - June 2018–Present
- CEO, Anchorage/Fairbanks Community Mental Health Services (2003–2018)
- Alaska Behavioral Health Association (ABHA) - 2003–2018 - Board of Directors - 2003–2005; 2013 – 2018; Board President 2014–2017
- healthconnect Alaska (health information exchange) Board of Directors – November 2015–Present; Currently Board President
- Commonwealth North – Health Care Action Coalition; Fiscal Policy Study Group - 2013–Present
- Behavioral Health Workgroup, Alaska Criminal Justice Commission - 2016
- Alaska Division of Behavioral Health 1115 Waiver Benefits Design Team - 2016
- Alaska International Education Foundation - Board of Directors - 2006–2015



Candidate for Mid-South Regional Vice President & Uncontested Winner
Representing Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas
John Cates, MA, LCDC
 Richmond, TX

Summarize the nominee’s NAADAC activities: I have practiced professional activism since entering the field in 1976. Through involvement in the Houston Chapter of the Texas Association of Addiction Professionals (NAADAC affiliate), I have enjoyed decades of working with NAADAC. I have served all officer positions in Houston, as a state board member for TAAP, and for decades in committee activity, especially advocacy at the local, state, and national levels. I currently serve as NAADAC Regional VP (Mid South) and hope to serve a second term. In this term I have helped Arkansas

establish a full affiliate. It is my dream to assist Oklahoma and Louisiana to become full affiliates as well. Since entering recovery and starting the first recovery high school in 1976, I have worked in peer recovery, clinical positions, and program management, from private practice to programs with hundreds of employees. I have managed programs all over the US as well as Canada, Mexico, and as far away as Bulgaria.

Philosophy statement of the nominee on the future of NAADAC: As professionals, we are at the forefront in our society's battle against the ravages of substance use disorder. Historically, as well as the present, we are opposed on every front in accomplishing our dream of healing and sanity. Our adversaries command trillions of dollars and use the prejudice of generations in defending the use of neurotoxins in deadly ways. It is my belief that one of the most powerful weapons in this struggle is the unity and organization of the people who know the truth concerning how those we serve get sick and what are the best paths to healing. We must band together and organize our efforts to be heard. NAADAC is the best venue for this organization and presentation effort. Hence, it has, and will continue to have my full support until this battle is won.

Other qualifications of the nominee for this office: In addition to my history with NAADAC and its affiliates, I have served on a variety of other professional organization boards in our field. I am presently serving as the Chairman of the Board for the Association of Alternative Peer Group Programs. I have had one book and many articles published. I have professional experience producing and directing films as well as performing in different venues as a musician and singer. I am used to hard work and am totally committed to NAADAC's aims.



**Candidate for
Northeast Regional
Vice President**

*Representing Connecticut,
Maine, Massachusetts, New
Hampshire, New York, Rhode
Island and Vermont*

**Christopher J. Taylor,
MAC, CASAC, OBA,
LMHC
Avon, NY**

Summarize the nominee's NAADAC activities: I have been involved with NAADAC and

the New York Affiliate (AAPNY) for a majority of my career. As a NAADAC member, I have attended numerous conferences and trainings, organized training opportunities for our members, and represented NAADAC on the various State initiatives. I currently serve as President of AAPNY, and represent NAADAC on the New York Certification Board of The Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers of New York State (ASAP). I am proud to be involved with this organization and take any opportunity to share about it and all that it has to offer.

Philosophy statement of the nominee on the future of NAADAC: As addiction prevention and treatment continues to evolve and, the role that NAADAC plays will become more and more important. The needs of those we serve are growing more complex, and individuals, their families, and their communities require more specialized and informed services than ever before. NAADAC must continue to be the National Leader in providing education, training, certification, advocacy, and ethical standards for "addiction" professionals to ensure that our workforce has the preparation necessary to do the best job for those they serve. This includes continued support of a national certification for addiction counselors. Most importantly, NAADAC must continue to advocate for access to affordable, quality, and multi-faceted services for those who suffer from addiction, including access to peer support, tele-medicine, and medication-supported treatment and recovery.

Other qualifications of the nominee for this office: I have worked in our profession since 1992, and have been credentialed as an Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor in New York Since 1993. I have served in a variety of roles over the past twenty-eight years. These include including Counselor, Clinical Supervisor, Clinic Director, and Executive. Along the way, I earned a Master's Degree, a Doctorate, a New York State Mental Health Counseling License, and a MAC. Regardless of where I was working, or my role, I have remained deeply committed to serving individuals, families, and communities negatively impacted by addiction. I am excited about the potential opportunity to represent NAADAC as a Regional Vice President in order to be able to work with other affiliates within the region while continuing to have a positive impact in my home State.



**Candidate for
Northwest Regional
Vice President**

*Representing Alaska, Idaho,
Montana, Oregon, Washington,
and Wyoming*

**Sharon "Shari" B Rigg,
LAC
Missoula, MT**

Summarize the nominee's NAADAC activities: I have been a member of the Montana chapter (MAADAC) of NAADAC since I was a student at the University of Great Falls (now Providence University). I have been a member of the MAADAC Board of Directors for the past 4 years. I am the current Vice President of MAADAC and will be the incoming President in two years. I have participated in the MAADAC conferences throughout my membership.

Philosophy statement of the nominee on the future of NAADAC: I believe NAADAC is vital to the ongoing promotion of Addiction medicine and the delivery of quality addiction services. I believe addiction is an epidemic in our country and it is extremely important to have well-trained and knowledgeable therapists and agencies in the field and to distinguish substance use and addiction diagnoses from other mental health diagnoses. I believe in upgrading the status of addiction professionals and would like to see national recognition of credentials.

Other qualifications of the nominee for this office: I have worked exclusively in the field of addiction for the past 20 years. I am currently the President and Executive Director of a Montana approved facility and understand service delivery from a stage agency point of view as well as a private practitioner perspective. I have been a clinical supervisor for nearly all of my 20 years in the field and have trained and provided supervision of required clinical hours for licensure for the past 15 years.



Ron Pritchard, CSAC, CAS, NCAC II
Virginia Beach, VA

Summarize the nominee's NAADAC activities: I have personally been active in a wide spec-

trum of NAADAC activities that include advocacy at the White House, at Federal and State Public Comment sessions, at local General Assembly and Virginia Board of Counseling, Virginia Counseling Assoc. Current Mid-Atlantic RVP, and Mil/Vet Affairs Chairperson. I am actively engaged in development of NAADAC/ACA collaborative agreement. I am actively growing NAADAC role in Dept of Defense SA Education and Certification programs. Provide yearly SA training at Uniform Services College, Bethesda. Provide state-wide-training, education and Town Hall Sessions. Serves on Governor's Boards of Beh Health Council for SA Services, and SA Public Policy Committees participating in funding, policy and strategic planning for state's SA/MH service delivery. Co-founder of Virginia Summer Institute for SUD and Virginia Recovery Advocacy Coalition. Traveled and made NAADAC recruitment presentations each of 7 state affiliates in various stages of chapter development. In-coming chairperson for NBCC/NAADAC Minority Fellowship Grant Program.

Philosophy statement of the nominee on the future of NAADAC: I believe that the future of NAADAC will be determined by the strength, vision, and visible engagement of our leadership. NAADAC leaders must be alert and active to ensure that the policies of our federal and state governments do not relegate the roles of qualified Addiction Professionals to para-professional status. In particular, since the "opioid crisis" has brought increased concern and funding to our field, it is vital to the survival of the certified and licensed addiction treatment professional that all leaders at all levels of NAADAC be informed of state agency strategies and tactics for use of these funds. The Addiction Epidemic is the problem that must be dealt with. Incarceration will not cure it. The RVP position requires active leadership with responsiveness to the needs and concerns of all the regional membership As a member of the NAADAC Board of Directors,

the RVP must take an active role in ensuring NAADAC and state affiliate Boards do more than meet to plan conferences. Our future is our leadership's responsiveness to our membership's needs and to recognize and carry out effective advocacy strategies. We must nurture our role as the nation's SUD treatment leaders.

Other qualifications of the nominee for this office: I have experience in prevention, intervention, treatment and post-treatment care as a consultant to SUD treatment programs and as a clinician with SUD patients in both military and non-military communities. As an Interventionist, Clinician, and Program Manager, I have provided SUD services for Active Duty military, Behavioral Health Professionals, Homeless citizens, and the incarcerated community for over 30 years. I have participated as founder, or co-founder of several successful non-profit organizations with focus on education, prevention, treatment, and recovery in the MH/SUD population. Retired from the US Navy and past Head of Addiction Medicine Services at Portsmouth Naval Hospital, I continue to be active in lecturing and training in Department of Defense and other audiences of Behavioral Care providers. Self-employed, I am the owner/manager of Addictions Program Consulting and provide guidance and strategic planning for SUD program development. I serve on a variety of boards and councils and constantly advocate for the recognition and inclusion of us in the addiction counseling arena. I continue to participate in, or coach SUD interventions with SUD clients and their families.



Wanda S. Wyatt, MS, LSW, MAC, ADC-S, SAP
Dunmore, WV

Summarize the nominee's NAADAC activities: I have been attending NAADAC/WVAADC events since 1997. I became more involved at the level in 2000/2001 when I started volunteering at West Virginia's annual conferences. This led to becoming apart of the Board of Directors in 2002/2003 year. At that time I became Co-Chairperson of the Annual Conference, which then led to becoming the

Secretary of the Association. I have served in several positions, which evidentially led to becoming the WVAADC's President with my term ending in 2015. Throughout my time as a member of NAADAC, I have assisted the state association in various capacities: serving as a volunteer, on the board, attending the National Conferences and Advocacy Day, and as a mentor. I continue to support NAADAC and colleagues when called upon.

Philosophy statement of the nominee on the future of NAADAC: I believe that NAADAC has become a national voice for our profession in assisting in the growth in the areas of education and credibility. I hope to continue to support these efforts and help strengthen the connections between professionals, not just on the state level. I believe that everyone needs a voice and needs to feel "we" matter. NAADAC is in a great spot to make ad influence change not only on the national level, but on the state level, especially in "rural" America.

Other qualifications of the nominee for this office: During my career in the the human resource field (mental health and addictions). I have worked with children, adolescents, and adults in various settings, including group homes, schools, corrections, and outpatient settings. I have presented at local and state levels on various topics, including Ethics, Clinical Supervision, Self Care, and Crisis Intervention. I received a Ambassador for Youth Award in 1994, and an Appreciation Award for services with adolescents in 2004. For work in the addiction field, I was awarded the Lisa Grossi Award in 2010 from the WV Certification Board. In 2008, I received the President's Award for services to WVAADC, and the Russ Taylor Advocacy Awareness Award in 2015 and from WVAADC.



Caitlin Corbett is the NAADAC Communications Specialist and works on NAADAC communications, marketing, graphic design, and digital media, including the website and social media. She also contributes to the planning and logistical coordination of NAADAC events and conferences. Before coming to NAADAC, Corbett worked in government contracting with the Department of Justice on the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Preventions Youth Violence Prevention Training and Technical Assistance Initiative. Corbett holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminology from West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV.