

NAADAC '97: 25 YEARS OF DEDICATION TO PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND LEARNING



Rob Blatt, NAADAC Government Affairs Associate

Participants in NAADAC '97, our Annual Conference on Addiction Treatment held in San Francisco last month, celebrated the association's 25th birthday and a quarter century of dedication to professional growth and learning in the field of addiction counseling. The anniversary conference brought NAADAC leaders, members, pioneers and friends together to commemorate NAADAC's history and celebrate its success, recognize past achievements and examine the future of the addiction counseling profession.

Held at the San Francisco Marriott, July 2-5, NAADAC '97 was one of the association's largest, attracting nearly 700 treatment professionals from around the country. With over 40 workshops in professional development, an exhibit hall with 60 exhibitors, expert and VIP keynote speakers and a full schedule of special activities and events, the conference, chaired by Joe Giannantonio and Philip Belleville, received rave reviews from all involved.

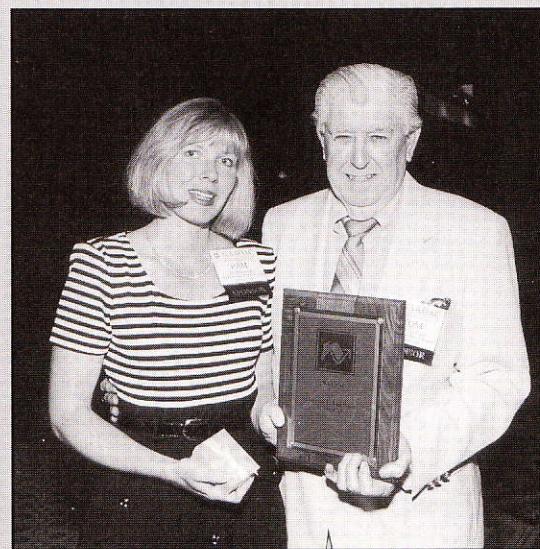
At the Opening General Session, Bernie Breining, president of the California Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors, and San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown offered counselors a warm and humorous welcome to the city. The Mayor commended the advocacy efforts of treatment professionals which resulted in his city's groundbreaking Treatment on Demand initiative and urged others to follow San Francisco's lead. General Barry McCaffrey, director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, spoke about the work of his office and the importance of treatment on the front lines in helping to solve the nation's problems with illegal drugs. Finally, David Mactas, director of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, capped the opening night with an earnest discussion of his agency's efforts to ensure that treatment remains abundant and relevant in today's health care environment and the issues facing counselors in the field of alcohol and drug treatment.

Treatment Technologies and Professional Growth

One of the workshop tracks at NAADAC '97, New Treatment Technologies, focused on research and cutting edge treatment technology in the addiction field. In response to the growing interest in treatment matching, the track offered a course about the medical phenomenon of alcohol withdrawal and matching those people who suffer from



Cornerstone Treatment Facilities Network's booth is visited by (L. to R.): Roxanne Kibben, General Barry McCaffrey, Cornerstone's President Norman Sokolow and his wife, Michele, and Linda Kaplan.



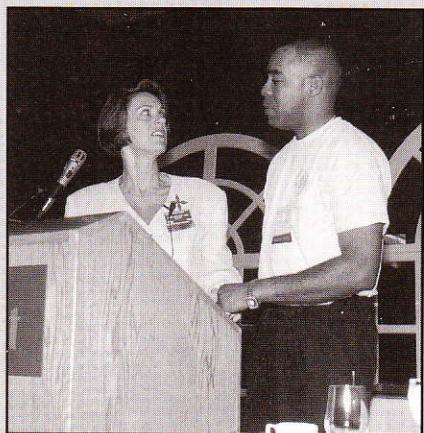
Tom Wagner of Thomas E. Van Wagner & Associates, along with Executive Vice President Pamela Van Cott, are honored as conference sponsors.

withdrawal with particular treatment. According to Craig Perman Weisman, PhD, "Alcohol withdrawal represents a medical emergency requiring medical care to manage seizures, hallucinations and delirium tremens." "Without medical care, alcohol withdrawal is fatal for 7 out of 1,000 alcoholics," he said. Due to the conflicting evidence in the field of withdrawal treatment, Weisman said there is uncertainty whether medication prevents or exacerbates symptoms of withdrawal. "Alcoholics who present a history of severe withdrawal, medical problems requiring treatment, multiple detoxifications, stimulant induced seizures, or a family history of severe alcohol withdrawal should be referred for medical detoxification," he said, noting that there are merits to both sobering and medical detoxification methods. "Appropriate treatment matching appears to be the most humane, ethical, and effective approach at this time," Weisman concluded.

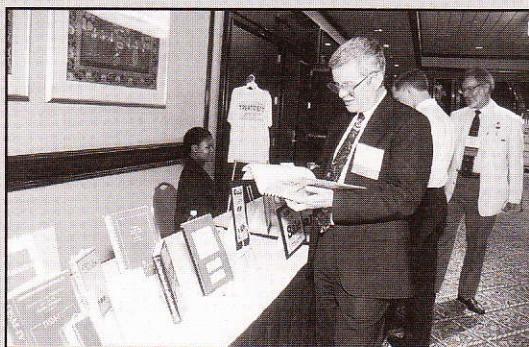
In keeping with one of the NAADAC '97 themes—professional growth—the conference offered a track on Professional Issues. One workshop examined the issues of accreditation, certification and licensure that are increasingly important in addiction counseling. Nancy Roget, MS, MFT, CADC, and Eileen McCabe-O'Mara, EdD, MAC, discussed the questions surrounding who should be treating individuals with substance abuse-related disorders and what training these providers should have. The speakers suggested that by improving masters programs' curricula and increasing their accessibility, addiction counselors who already possess important life experiences that qualify them to serve as counselors will have the credentials necessary to be included in managed care programs. "The calling [to be an addiction counselor] must be accompanied by schooling," according to Roget and McCabe-O'Mara, "so that the addiction counseling field may maintain its status as a profession."



Outgoing NAADAC Regional Vice Presidents Roman Frankel and Bob Phillips are presented plaques by Roxanne Kibben.



Thurston Smith, winner of the NAADAC 1996 One on One membership campaign, challenges everyone to spread the word about NAADAC.



NAADAC products and speaker books were conveniently on sale throughout the conference.

Other program tracks offered at the conference included Challenges in Counseling, which offered such sessions as Nicotine Cessation in Chemical Dependency; Codependence, Countertransference: The Road to Burnout Prevention; and Treating Compulsive Gambling with Addictions. The Ethical Issues track included workshops about Boundaries Between Co-Workers: Keeping our Focus on Client Care; and Ethical and Legal Issues for Supervisors. Breaking Barriers Through Art and Pantomime and Handling Culture Shock: The Native American and You were two courses within the Multicultural Issues track. The Special Populations track held workshops on Treating the Elderly and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons Dealing with ADA. The conference also offered a track of addiction workshops in Spanish, as well as a Management Issues track.

Saturday morning, conference attendees heard from both Alan Leshner, PhD, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and Enoch Gordis, MD, director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA). Dr. Leshner's session, Understanding Drug Addiction: Implications For Treatment, highlighted NIDA's latest research and what researchers have uncovered about the biochemical effects of drugs on the

human system. "In order to understand how and why treatments for addiction work, we need to understand the disorder itself," said Dr. Leshner. However, he cautioned, it is important to examine addiction both from a physiological and psychological disease. "Addiction is a condition of changed brains and trained brains," Dr. Leshner said.

Dr. Gordis' speech examined the current trends in the behavioral health care profession. He spoke about the skills education professionals will need in the future and the challenges they will face in the addiction treatment system. He noted that knowledge of "pharmacology, new behavioral thera-

pies, genetics and technology such as databases, computers, outcome analysis and telemetry" are increasingly important in the field of addiction treatment. Corresponding to the growing skill requirements in the field, Dr. Gordis noted, the addiction treatment is seeing a greater number of non-recovered, four-year-degree-or-higher providers among the licensed population within the profession.

The 25th Anniversary Gala

The emotional center of the conference was Thursday night's 25th Anniversary Gala Reception and Dinner. Following the reception, diners were treated to a nostalgic slide show relating NAADAC's history. Later, gala attendees heard from NAADAC's past presidents, all of whom drew cheers as they outlined NAADAC's struggle to become a dynamic professional association. It became clear as each past president spoke that our leaders' broad visions and quarter century of service has put the organization on a positive course for the future. Even as current President Roxanne Kibben and President-Elect Mark Gallagher looked ahead to the next 25 years of success, the evening belonged to those who had gone before. The gala ended with a joyous gathering of NAADAC veterans, a huge decorated cake and a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday."

Outstanding Awards and Fun Times

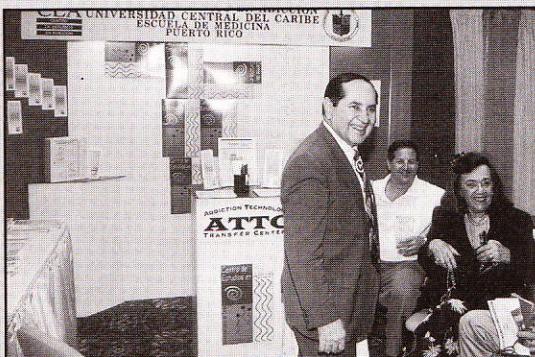
Saturday's Awards Luncheon honored two outstanding professionals in the treatment field. Dan Marker, PhD, LPC, CADC, re-



Dan Marker, recipient of the 1997 Lora Roe Memorial Counselor of the Year Award and Eugene Crone, the 1997 Mel Schulstad Professional of the Year.



NAADAC leaders were honored at the 25th Anniversary Gala. (L. to R.) President-Elect T. Mark Gallagher, Past President Kay Mattingly-Langlois, President Roxanne Kibben, Past Presidents Paul Lubben, Frank Lisnow, Mel Schulstad, Larry Osmonson, John Brumbaugh and Paul Clauch, Immediate Past President Cynthia Moreno and Past President Jack Hamlin.



For our Spanish-speaking attendees, Puerto Rico Addiction Technology Transfer Center, a conference sponsor, had a large booth in the exhibit hall.

ceived the 1997 Lora Roe Memorial Counselor of the Year Award, presented each year to a NAADAC member and counselor who has served as a positive role model and influence to both clients and the profession as a whole. Dr. Marker is a full-time adolescent and adult therapist and is beginning an intensive outpatient therapy program.

The 1997 Mel Schulstad Professional of the Year award went to Eugene N. Crone, PhD, MAC, NCAC II, ICADC, CAP. This award goes to an administrative/counseling professional who has made an outstanding contribution to the alcoholism and drug abuse counseling field. Dr. Crone has successfully modified traditional therapeutic techniques to accommodate linguistic and cultural diversities and has created a therapeutic environment which has permeated both the therapeutic and deaf communities.

In addition to the gala, the conference also included a number of other social events. On the Fourth of July, for example, the NAADAC PAC held an Independence Day fundraiser. PAC contributors enjoyed red, white and blue popsicles before stepping out onto the deck of the Marriott's 32nd floor suite to watch San Francisco's fireworks above the city's sparkling skyline. Many conference participants also took part in NAADAC's Fun Run/Walk and the closing night's celebration, 25 Years of Rock n' Roll.

Be sure to place NAADAC '98 on your calendar for next year—July 1-4 at The Fairmont Hotel in Chicago, IL. See you in the Windy City!