



NRADAN, INC.

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The Rural

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NOTES FROM JOE AMICO, NRADAN PRESIDENT

Welcome to the first issue of *The Rural*, the NRADAN Newsletter!

I hope you enjoyed our 41st National Rural Institute in June. If you didn't get there, you can still register at a reduced rate and watch the presentations. Bonus: you have until September and it's an easy way to earn CEUs!

NRADAN is in the process of transitioning from a founders' board to a working board and believe me, that's a heavy lift. The good news is that I serve with a very active Board of Directors. I'm also grateful for our pioneering founders and all they contributed to the creation and continuation of NRADAN. Our current board supports four working committees that do the work involved in planning the annual National Rural Institute on Alcohol, Drugs and Addiction. These include Planning, Marketing, Finance, and Scholarship committees. If you are interested in joining one, please contact me and/or the committee chair, listed at the end of this newsletter.

Speaking of planning, we are already working on the 2026 Rural Institute, so if you have suggestions for keynote speakers, please reach out. We're always looking for presenters who can speak to rural issues, particularly if they relate to addiction, please stay tuned. We'll be putting out a call for presentations later this year.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and reach out! We are always interested in your ideas for the future of NRADAN!

Sincerely,
Joe Amico, President
revjoe@tabernaclechurch.org

Who Attended the 2025 Rural?

- 124 people from 19 states and Canada
- 28 presenters, 11 exhibitors, 8 keynotes
- Therapists, peers, counselors, clinical directors, chief medical officers, clinicians, evaluators, social workers, executive directors, consultants, and spiritual advisors
- 106 in-person and 18 virtual



Member Spotlight: Meet Christy Alten



Christy Alten, in her office

Christy, of Sioux Center, Iowa, is the NRADAN Board's immediate past president. She has been in private practice for three years, after spending many years working at an inpatient substance use and mental health facility. The move to private practice has allowed her to pursue her passion for helping both those struggling with addiction and their loved ones. She walks people from grief and loss through healing and especially enjoys helping couples in early recovery. She loves traveling and the outdoors, is active in her church, and plays the flute. Christy has two adult children - a married son who is in military in the Seattle area and a daughter who attends Syracuse University in New York.



Christy Alten and Joe Amico, The Rural

Why is The Rural Institute important to you?

The Rural is a place where I can connect with others who share similar passions and to learn from their experiences. I get the opportunity to share my experience, and to gather tools from others to better help those in our care. At the same time, it's a fun getaway!

What do you bring to The Rural?

I am a mental health provider, and the world of substance use and mental health overlap. We haven't always been great about playing well together, so I like to bring things to the conference that bridge both worlds. This issue of substance abuse in rural communities is too critical to be siloed. We can all help each other better together!



Thank you from The Rural scholarship recipients

The Rural would not be possible without the financial assistance offered by our scholarship funders. Thank you for making a difference!

- **Scaife Foundation**
- **Green Bay Packers**
- **Michael E. Campbell**
- **Char Lusher**



We have moved. Please visit our new website: www.the-rural.org!

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- **Contact us if you are interested in serving on a committee!**
- **We are also interested in what you're seeing in the rural treatment arena. Please contact DowningSherri@gmail.com with article ideas!**

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The National Rural Alcohol & Drug Abuse Network, Inc.

Celebrating 41+ years of promoting excellence throughout rural America

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