

MISSION MOMENTS

By Stephan Viehweg, ACSW, LCSW, Chapter President

Our Mission: To promote the quality and integrity of the Social Work profession while supporting social workers in their mission to serve diverse populations; to insure justice and equality for all citizens of the state.

Happy Social Work Month – I hope you celebrated our profession during the month of March. Indeed, there is much to celebrate. We do good work. Thank you for your contributions to our profession and to our professional association.

By now, you have renewed your social worker license and taken the required ethics training for the year. It is good that we pause regularly and consider the values and ethics of our profession. It reminds us, much as our mission does, what we are all about as social workers in our community and our state.

The recent Indiana legislature resulted in a mixed year of challenges and some questions. As social workers, we are uniquely poised to understand the effects of the economy and unemployment for our constituents. In a year in which elections for all state representatives will occur, we will also have the opportunity to vote on permanent property tax caps via a change to the Indiana Constitution. In one way or another, this change will certainly affect everyone in their local community. Also, there have been big changes proposed to Indiana's education system in an effort to improve student performance on testing and to increase graduation rates.

All of these issues affect each of us and the clients we serve. It is critically important for social workers to become educated about social policy issues in our best effort to inform and advocate. How can your state NASW Chapter support you in this endeavor? Your membership includes access to information and opportunities to keep abreast of policy and legislation as well as to influence policy decision making at the state level -- sign up to receive legislative alerts, join the Public Policy/Social Action committee, contribute to PACE (our political action for candidate election committee), attend a PACE committee meeting to help determine the role of NASW in the upcoming state election, or work on an election campaign. Better yet, consider running for office and sharing your knowledge and expertise as an elected official. There certainly is a role for the social work perspective in government and public policy.

Whatever need you have or role you choose, take advantage of your membership in NASW. Thank you for your continued support and involvement. Together we can and do make a difference in Indiana and indeed the world.