



ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION
Omni Shoreham Hotel • Washington DC 20002
Thursday, June 29, 2023

PARTICIPANTS

Board Members: Debra Fromm Faria, President Pro Tempore
Yvonne Chase, President Elect
Robin Arndt, Secretary
S. Ryan Estes, Treasurer
Bisrat Abebe, Director, Region I
Monica Harrison, Director, Region II
Cindy Bautista-Thomas, Director, Region III
Yasoda Sharma, Director, Region IV
Alice Kay Locklear, Director, Region V
Jenny Conger, Director, Region VI
Carol Edwards, Director, Region VII
Kristi Wood, Director, Region VIII
Anthony Bibus, Director, Region IX
Dorothy Saxon Greene, Director, Region X
LaTonya Charles, Director, Region XI
Michelle Pliske, Director, Region XII
Barbara Shank, Director at Large
Sylvester Bowie, Director at Large

Other Members: Anthony Estreet (MD)
Valerie Arendt (NC)
Steven Pharris (OK)
Francis Julien-Chinn (HI)
Joe Seiders (DC)
Johanna Byrd (PA)
Dina Kastner (MD)
Molly Arbogast (WV)
Denise Rathman (IA)
Stephanie Asare Nti (MD)
Archelle Perez, (ME)

Staff: Doretta Richards, Senior Governance Associate
Danielle Spears, Executive Assistant & Special Projects

SUMMARY OF MEETING ACTIONS/MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The Annual Meeting of Association Members was held on Thursday, June 29, 2023, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC. Members were also able to participate virtually through the Zoom platform. The meeting was called to order at approximately 2:30 p.m., EDT, by Debra Fromm Faria, Vice President and President Pro Tempore. A quorum was established for the meeting.

Vice President Faria welcomed members who joined the meeting. She noted the absence of President Mit Joyner due to health challenges. She then called for approval of the agenda.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the meeting was reviewed and a motion taken for its approval.

M/S/Carried

(Shank/Edwards)

To approve the agenda for the 2023 Annual Meeting of Members as presented.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Vice President Faria gave the President's Report. She spoke about the challenges facing the Association including threats to social work's values through anti progressive laws that have been passed at the federal and state levels. She spoke of the impact of the bills on social work practice and communities served such as the Supreme Court's reversal of Roe V Wade decision that gave women the right to an abortion. She also highlighted the Association's legislative advocacy efforts through congressional testimonies, member mobilization and issue briefs. Also, she spoke about the House and Senate bills that were the foci of the Association Leadership Meeting's Advocacy Day: *Improving Access to Mental Health Services Act* (S. 838/H.R.1638,) the *School Social Workers Improving Student Success Act* (H.R. 1415), the *More Social Workers in Libraries Act* (H.R. 3006), and the *Community Mental Wellness and Resilience Act* (S. 452/H.R. 3073).

During her report, Vice President Faria mentioned other issues of import such as the negative impact of climate change on the physical and mental health of individuals, families and entire communities, the need to explore alternative pathways to eliminate bias and ensure equity in the social work licensing process; and the Association's strength through its members, collectively. Members were urged to stay engaged as ambassadors of their profession and NASW and to take up the mantle as champions of change.

STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION

Chief Executive Officer Anthony Estreet gave the state of the Association noting that he has focused on increased visibility for the Association, using multiple opportunities to be outwardly facing. He highlighted issues facing the Association that include: 1) the status of the Association of Social Work Board's (ASWB) data release of failure rate based on racial/age demographics and his desire to actively listen and engage in strategic approaches for alternative pathways to social work licensure exam; 2) the interstate social work licensure compact that would permit clinicians to provide tele mental health services in multiple states, a total of seven states are needed to establish a compact and he indicated that approximately three states have taken the lead in signing on to join the compact; 3) the establishment of collaborative partnerships with groups that

can support and strengthen the social work agenda such as: the American Civil Liberties Union, Planned Parenthood, the National Alliance on Mental Illness; the Council on Social Work Education, and others that will serve as important allies.

Dr. Estreet also acknowledged the work of chapter executive directors in taking a stance against anti LGBTQ issues and other legislative efforts being carried out at the state level to undermine the rights of marginalized populations. He noted that there are four bills that are either in the House or Senate that are being advocated at the national level: *Improving Access to Mental Health Services Act*; the *School Social Workers Improving Student Success Act*; the *More Social Workers in Libraries Act*; and the *Community Mental Wellness and Resilience Act*. He referenced the [Undoing Racism Through Social Work](#) (Volume 2) publication on socialworkers.org as a valuable resource that has been made available and encouraged members to take time to read the document. Mention was also made of practice standards that are being revised by volunteer leaders and staff to reflect the current times such as the *Standards for Palliative and End of Life Care*.

In concluding his report, Dr. Estreet mentioned that he is also focused on examining ways to harness and use our resources more efficiently using our DEI lens and “one association” concept. He thanked members for joining the meeting and for their support and encouraged them to stay engaged.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Board-approved minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting of Members were made available to participants of the meeting as informational.

RATIFICATION OF THE 2023 ELECTION RESULTS

The results of the NASW 2023 national election were read into the minutes by Secretary Robin Arndt as follows:

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|-------------------------|-------------------|------|
| • Member-at-Large | Mavis Major | (NV) |
| • BSW Student Member | Hana Kisswani | (NJ) |
| • Director, Region I | Bisrat Abebe | (MA) |
| • Director, Region II | Karen McLean | (CT) |
| • Director, Region X | Shawntelle Fisher | (MO) |
| • Director, Region XIII | Natasha Paddock | (CA) |

After the reading of the election results, a motion was taken to ratify the results.

M/S/Carried

(Arndt/Harrison)

To ratify the results of the NASW 2023 national election, which concluded on May 30, 2023.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ADJOURNMENT

President Pro Tempore Faria opened the floor for members who wished to bring forward other business or matters relevant to the meeting. There were no other matters.

President Elect Chase gave closing remarks. She mentioned the Association Leadership Meeting and how impressed she has been by the collective work of chapters and the inspiring stories of the recipients of the NASW Presidential Awards. She also stated that she is looking forward to serving as President of the Association.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:10 p.m. EDT by consensus.