



NASW

Eastern Kentucky Branch



Counties :

Breathitt

Floyd

Johnson

Knott

Lee

Leslie

Letcher

Magoffin

Martin

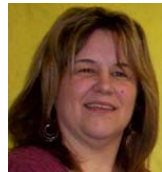
Owsley

Perry

Pike

Wolfe

Letter from the Chair



The snow has been beautiful, however I'm ready for the warmer weather.

Thank goodness

Spring is here!!! As all of you know March was Social Work Month so the Branch has been busy with projects throughout our service area. Several of our County Judges signed proclamations and a celebration was held on March 8th, in conjunction with the MSU Prestonsburg Student Association of Social Workers

(SASW). You can view pictures of the celebration by going to the NASW-KY website and clicking the braches tab on the left, selecting our branch to access the photo gallery. I hope to be adding some photos from past events soon and of course I'll add pictures for any new events we participate in to promote our social workers and support our communities.

Melissa Slone, MSW, CSW
Eastern KY Branch Chair



With the demands of studying for comprehensive exams and completing course work during their final semester of Southeastern Kentucky MSW Program, students in the Family & Community Practicum in Hazard are familiar with "stress". They were ready for the NASW Stress Management Workshop presented on March 3rd, by Teresa O'Brien Conley (pictured left) at Center for Rural Health in Hazard. Teresa discussed different types of stress, including an interesting new stressor, which she described as "technology stress". She also described responses to stress, how to identify stressors and techniques to manage stress. The technology stress prompted a lively discussion about social networking. For some people it may be identified as a "stressor", while others utilize it as a technique to manage stress. The presentation received "thumbs up" from the attendees.

(Article submitted by Bonnie Hale)



Jimmie Lee being honored as NASW KY Legislative Leader of the year.

On March 10, 2010 Social workers from all across the state convened at the Capitol Rotunda to rally and celebrate National Social Work Month. This year's theme, Social Workers Inspire Community Action, set the stage for the statewide rally. NASW-Kentucky Chapter President Dr. Marlene Huff welcomed the group, which included practicing social workers, social work educators, and associations and organizations representing the social work profession. Multiple legislators attended the annual event which culminated in the presentation of the NASW-KY Legislative Leader of the Year, which was awarded to Jimmie Lee (D)

House District 25. Many networks and professional contacts were created during this special day honoring Social Workers. (Additional photos on page 4.)

(Article by Deirdra Robinson)



Floyd County Judge Executive Doc Marshall as he signs the proclamation marking March as Social Work Month. With him are members of NASW and SASW.

Social workers from around our branch came together on March 8, 2010 for the annual Social Work Celebration event. In addition to our usually time to socialize and network we also had the proclamation signing by Floyd County Judge Executive Doc Marshall and our guest speaker was our own Deirdra Robinson (left). Deirdra talked to those in attendance about the importance of community social work since this years social work month theme was "Social Workers Inspire Community Action."

Partners from around the area also attended the event and set up informational tables providing those in attendance with knowledge of resources and opportunities available from their place of business. To keep with tradition, the last event was the cake cutting with Doc Marshall doing the honors for us this year.





Who do you turn to for help when you are at your lowest? Is it a best friend? A close family member? An attorney? A counselor? Who do you depend on to help you through the adversities of life when you're feeling hopeless and alone? Some of us are fortunate enough to have the option of calling on previously established relationships listed above, while others don't have any support systems in place to help them through difficult times. When this is the case, individuals must rely on social

workers in their various roles to supplement the support that friends and family would normally provide. In addition, individuals in need often rely on the free services of social workers which are comparable to the services of costly professionals such as counselors, attorneys, and teachers. Considering the importance of the many roles social workers play for the individuals and families they work with, it seems a contradiction that the social work profession gets so little notoriety, respect or funding to ensure the quality of services provided to individuals served by the profession.

In response to this contradiction, the Social Worker Reinvestment Initiative (SWRI) was born. SWRI was developed to promote awareness of the importance of the social work profession and encourage those in the profession to get involved in current efforts to make important positive changes in the administration of social work funding and the overall perception of social workers in general. Specifically, SWRI is a derivative of the Social Work Reinvestment Act (SWRA), which was passed at the federal level to ensure the funding of initiatives to promote the support and self-perpetuation of the social work profession.

SWRI advocates for the state to provide funding for the recruitment, retention, research, and reinvestment for the field of social work. Recruitment pertains to reaching individuals who are setting their college career goals. SWRI seeks to make the field of social work more attractive through an increase in college scholarships and loan forgiveness. Secondly, retention refers to allotting money for raises for current professionals working in the social work field. This increases the likelihood that qualified individuals will remain in the social work field rather than to seek employment in other professions that offer higher salaries. Thirdly, SWRI calls for funding of research of social work interventions and practice. This ensures that individuals in the state of Kentucky receive the most quality services the field can offer. Lastly, SWRI supports the continued investment in this field and the aforementioned concepts through ongoing support of legislators.

(Article by Maranda Combs)

Social Work Rally In Frankfort



Social Work Rally Photos (Starting left top):

NASW-KY President, Marlene Huff and Ex. Assistant to the Governor, Colmon Elridge; CHFS Secretary, Janie Miller; CHFS Deputy Commissioner, Teresa James; Representative Susan Westrom; Assistant Director, Prevent Child Abuse, Dwayne Depp; & MSW Student & Eastern Kentucky Branch Member, Maranda (May) Combs.

When we cast our bread upon the waters, we can presume that someone downstream whose face we may never see will benefit from our actions, even as we enjoy the gifts sent to us from a donor upstream.

~Maya Angelou