

CONNECTIONS

October—December 2020



Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time.

*Ruth Bader Ginsburg
1933-2020*

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Shannon Perkins, LMSW
President, Connecticut Chapter

Proud to be a Social Worker

By the time you read this, Summer will have come and gone, and a new season will be well underway. As we head into Autumn, I hope we all take some time to reflect and start to take stock of what we've learned, collectively and individually, in what can only be described as one of the most challenging years in recent history. We've seen wildfires, an unparalleled pandemic, unbridled policy brutality, and the loss of many dearly admired stars. We've also seen new levels of bravery and courage in the faces of protestors, front line workers, essential employees, our loved ones, and ourselves. We as social workers, must continue to stand up for what we believe in, to hold our values close to our hearts, and keep the code of ethics in mind with all we do. If you are reading this, I want you to know that our chapter of NASW sees you and we are here for you.

Early in September we welcomed four new members to our Board of Directors. This year marks the most diverse board that NASW/CT has ever seen with people of color representing 50% of board members. I could not be more excited and honored to be working with this dynamic, action-oriented group of social work leaders. I am incredibly appreciative of the time and resources that each board and committee members put into their efforts to advance social work in the state

of Connecticut day in and day out. You can see our full list of board members at <http://naswct.org/about/board-of-directors/>. As we enter this new board year, I also strongly encourage you to engage with one or more of our committees and networks, where you can meet other social workers in the field and make a difference in an area of interest to you. All committees and networks can be found at <http://naswct.org/about/committees-networks/>.

NASW/CT continues to be dedicated to ending police brutality and furthering racial justice efforts across the state. We are hosting regular *Conversations on Race in America* and encourage all members to participate. This series is dedicated to fostering dialogue around the ethical responsibility of social workers in the racial justice movement. Time is allotted for resource sharing, processing, and guided discussions around how to be better allies to our fellow Black social workers and the greater Black community. These conversations will allow for exploration into future action by the chapter including legislative and policy advocacy. Information is sent out from the chapter listserv, so be sure to keep an eye out and sign up for a session soon.

We are quickly heading into November and election day 2020 is right around the corner. I

Proud, continued

urge you to be sure that you exercise your right to vote so that we can ensure our legislators at the state and federal levels create policies that align with the professional values of social work. Our PACE committee is working hard to endorse candidates that support our legislative positions across the state. If you are interested in learning more or want to get involved to support their election/re-election, do not hesitate to contact us at info.naswct@socialworkers.org. Remember, voting is social work – help those around you to register to vote or request an absentee ballot today!

I also want to take moment to thank you all for your membership. Your continued support allows us to advocate for the profession and improve the quality of care delivered to those we serve. It is now more important than ever that we band together and advocate for change within and outside of our field. To do this, I charge you to ask at least one of your social work colleagues to join. Talk to them about why you joined and why you continue to support the chapter and social work as a whole. Every new member makes a difference. Until next time - be safe, be well, and wear that mask.

Meet Our Interns



My name is Christina Cowan. I am attending Quinnipiac University as a final year graduate student. I am receiving my degree in the Master of Social Work program. I am very excited and eager to complete my placement for this year at NASW CT. This is my first time working with policies and at the macro level so this is an amazing opportunity for me to explore and learn that level of social work. In my future career, I hope to either do policy work or be a school social worker with elementary school children. Outside of my profession, I am an artist!

My name is Yilka Sakaj and I am currently in my senior year at Central Connecticut State University. By the end of this school year, I will graduate with a Bachelor's degree in social work. I am originally from Albania and have been living in the United States for about 10 years. In my lifetime, I have lived in five different countries and visited many more, learned several foreign languages, become familiar with numerous different cultures and tasted countless foreign dishes. I have had the privilege of knowing people with different backgrounds regarding ethnicity, age, profession and life experiences. I have learned to appreciate all of those differences as precious jewels of the human race, adding to its beauty and value. Diversity has been and continues to be of great value in the development of my personality.



My regular full time job is being the Family and Community Engagement Coordinator at an elementary school in Avon. Even though my preference is to become a school social worker after finishing the Master program, I am very excited to complete my internship here at NASW/CT. I look forward to working in electoral campaigns, joining various NASW Committees, participating in coalition meetings, learning how to write legislative alerts and testimonies, testifying at the legislature and tracking bills. I am eager to broaden my knowledge, expand my professional skills and become a successful social worker.

Social Workers and Electoral Politics: A Perfect Match

Steve Wanczyk-Karp, LMSW
*Executive Director
Connecticut Chapter*



For as many years as I can remember the traditional view of electoral politics was that the campaign season really didn't begin in earnest until after Labor Day. That's when, according to the political experts, the public begins to pay attention to the races. It is also when the lawn signs sprout up, some would say like dandelions, and it is when the literature starts filling mail boxes, the phone calls start and the TV ads begin. We are now in that window and it is time for all of us to step up our game.

Connecticut is a safe state for the Biden/Harris ticket. Connecticut is not a "state in play" in the presidential race and in what I consider to be the most critical presidential race of my lifetime (I said that 4 years ago not imagining we would be in the same place again). The presidential election will not be decided here in Connecticut. Still 2020 is a historic presidential race that will keep our attention riveted to it, yet we must not allow ourselves to become so focused on the presidential race that we forget how critical our state legislative races are. For those of us who are not helping out to get out the vote in a "battleground" state for the presidency there is vitally important electoral work in CT and a critical need exists for social workers to become involved.

NASW/CT has an important opportunity in 2020 to re-elect all 7 social workers who are running for the state legislature. These 7 legislators formed the first Social Work Caucus in the CT Legislature and from what we can tell, the first such caucus in any state's legislature. Many of my counterparts in other states can only dream of having 7 social workers in their legislature. Without our social work legislators, we would likely have not won social work title protection. Having your own profession at the Capitol makes a huge difference in policy initiatives. So, my **first ask** is that you support the following MSWs in the CT Legislature: Steve Cassano (Manchester), Rick Lopes (New Britain), Cristen McCarthy-Vahey (Fairfield), Toni Walker (New Haven) Pat Wilson Pheanious (Ashford), Jillian Gilchrest (West Hartford) and Anne Hughes (Weston). Cassano and Lopes are running for the state senate and the others for the state house. You do not have to live in their districts to volunteer to help their campaigns and we can put you in touch with whom to contact.

Social workers have a wide range of skills and knowledge that fits perfectly into campaign work. We are skilled in communicating, organizing, planning, policy analysis and advocacy all of which is directly transferable to the roles of campaign workers. I don't know many social

A Perfect Match, continued

workers that are strangers to phone work; we frequently call new clients, other service providers, family members, etc. Campaigns are always in need of volunteers to make phone calls to voters, more so than ever due to Covid-19. Social workers are meeting new clients all of the time, engaging them in discussion and building working relationships. We are explaining services and programs to clients in terms that they can understand. These are transferable skills that can be used when talking to voters about a candidate. We are visible in the communities that we serve and we can just as easily be visible in our own or a neighboring community as a campaign worker. In fact, few professions are as suited to electoral work as is the profession of social work. Electoral work is an extension of our commitment to advocacy and advocacy is one of the foundations of social work practice. The setting differs but not the natural fit to the profession of social work.

There is a tremendous payoff to the profession when social workers help to elect a candidate to state representative or state senator. First of all, at this level of campaigning the volunteers have the opportunity to meet the candidate and for the candidate to get to know you. This allows for relationship building and making personal connections that eases the way to lobbying the candidate once they are in office. It also makes a huge difference to the chapter, opening doors and easing the way for our legislative committee members, staff and lobbyists to pursue the profession's legislative interests. I often talk about the "Power of Social Work" and one way that we move from slogan to reality is through our members' work on political campaigns. Finally, campaign work offers social workers something that we often do not get in our daily jobs: time limited tasks with a clear ending!

The ideal would be to have all 2300 CT-NASW members work on NASW PACE endorsed races.

Realistically though I'd like to see 3-5% of the membership volunteer on an endorsed candidate's race, for at least 2-4 hours between now and Election Day. That would add up to over 300 volunteer hours! I know how busy we all are but surely most of us can find the time to help our candidate of choice, at least once by, or on, Election Day. That is my **second ask**.

My **third ask** is simple – VOTE. Every registered voter has gotten an application to vote by absentee ballot. If you are not comfortable standing in line at your polling district on Election Day (I know I am not) then vote absentee ballot. Every town has a ballot box at its town hall where you can drop off your absentee ballot application and your actual ballot. Given the delays with mail, the drop off box or voting in-person is strongly recommended.

Finally, if you are questioning if your vote will count, read on. We had a legislator who held up the LMSW bill, contributing to it not passing in 2009 (we passed it the following year). That legislator lost his seat by 3 votes in a primary in 2010. I knew 4 members who voted against him. Every vote counts.

To find out which races NASW has made endorsements in, or if you want us to help you find a PACE endorsed campaign, contact the chapter office at info.naswct@socialworkers.org. If you are already involved in a campaign let us know which candidate so that we can track social workers involvement.

ALWAYS REMEMBER THIS - When you volunteer for a campaign tell them that you are a social worker and NASW member. That is how we build the power of social work.

NASW/CT PACE Endorsed Candidates



Endorsed Candidates for Federal Office

Joe Biden and Kamala Harris – President/Vice-President <https://joebiden.com/>

John Larson – 1st Congressional District <https://larsonforcongress.org/>

Joe Courtney – 2nd Congressional District <https://www.joecourtney.com/>

Rosa DeLauro – 3rd Congressional District <https://rosadelauro.com/>

Jim Himes – 4th Congressional District <https://www.himesforcongress.com/>

Jahana Hayes – 5th Congressional District <https://jahanahayes.com/>

Endorsed Candidates for State Senate (Social Work legislators are in bold)

Senate 03 Saud Anwar

Senate 13 Mary Daugherty Abrams

Senate 04 **Steve Cassano**

Senate 12 Christine Cohen

Senate 25 Bob Duff

Senate 29 Mae Flexer

Senate 31 Mary Fortier

Senate 26 Will Haskell

Senate 24 Julie Kushner

Senate 09 Matt Lesser

Senate 11 Martin Looney

Senate 6 **Rick Lopes**

Senate 14 James Maroney

Senate 20 Martha Marx

Senate 28 Michelle McCabe

Senate 02 Doug McCrory

Senate 22 Marilyn Moore

Senate 33 Norman Needleman

Senate 19 Catherine Osten

Senate 05 Derek Slap

Senate 35 Lisa Thomas

Senate 10 Gary Winfield



Endorsed Candidates, continued



Endorsed Candidates for State House

House 83 Catherine Abercrombie	House 146 David Michel
House 119 Bryan Anderson	House 85 Mary Mushinsky
House 115 Dorinda Borer	House 39 Anthony Nolan
House 59 Gerald Calnen	House 108 Danette Onofrio
House 107 Kerri Colombo	House 36 Christine Palm
House 102 Robin Comey	House 22 William Petit
House 65 Michelle Cook	House 53 Pat Pheanious
House 11 Jeff Currey	House 94 Robyn Porter
House 17 Eleni Degraw	House 1 Tom Ritter
House 21 Michael Demicco	House 139 Kevin Ryan
House 47 Kate Donnelly	House 84 Nilda Santiago
House 88 Josh Elliott	House 98 Sean Scanlon
House 20 Kate Farrar	House 48 Brian Smith
House 123 Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox	House 37 Cate Steel
House 18 Jillian Gilchrest	House 136 Jonathan Steinberg
House 110 Bob Godfrey	House 26 Peter Tercyak
House 54 Greg Haddad	House 77 Andrew Tuller
House 127 Jack Hennessy	House 27 Gary Turco
House 64 Maria Horn	House 134 Carla Volpe
House 135 Anne Hughes	House 93 Toni Walker
House 90 Jim Jinks	House 114 Mary Welander
House 132 Jennifer Leeper	House 28 Baird Welch-Collins
House 103 Liz Linehan	House 87 David Yaccarino
House 133 Cristin McCarthy-Vahey	



Telehealth Bill Passed is Only a Start

The CT Legislature held a brief special session in July restricted to four bills: telehealth, police accountability, absentee ballot voting and insulin costs. NASW/CT actively worked on the first three bills and all three were passed, yet the telehealth bill was only a partial victory.

The telehealth bill extends the Governor's executive order allowing telehealth to include audio only, coverage by Medicaid and pay equity so that insurers must reimburse at the same rate for telehealth as they do for in-person sessions. The bill also prohibited insurers from requiring a specific platform for service delivery. The original bill had an expiration date of June 30, 2021. NASW testified on this bill and **called for the provisions to be made permanent**. We pointed out that Vermont made the same provisions permanent, and that even once the pandemic was over telehealth was here to stay. By all reports, telehealth has increased access to care, especially to older adults, those with limited transportation options and individuals whose employment makes it difficult to take time off for medical appointments. Regrettably, the insurance industry got legislative leadership to put an end date of March 15, 2021 into the bill. While we are disappointed in this early date, we will be lobbying for permanency of the bill's provisions when the 2021 legislative session begins. **In the meantime, we urge members to contact your state legislators, and candidates for office, urging them to make audio only, pay equity and Medicaid coverage of telehealth,**

permanent. Let them know that March 15th is not good enough!

Nationally, the U.S. House of Representatives has a bill before it, *The Protecting Access to Post-Covid-19 Telehealth Act of 2020 (H.R. 7663)* that has the following four main elements in regards to Medicare:

Removing arbitrary geographic restrictions on where a patient must be located in order to utilize telehealth services;

Enabling patients to continue to receive telehealth services in their homes;

Ensuring federally qualified health centers and rural health centers can furnish telehealth services; and

Establishing permanent waiver authority for the Secretary of Health & Human Services during future emergency periods and for 90 days after the expiration of a PHE period.

We ask you to contact your Congress member in support of this bill. Generally, private insurers follow suit when Medicare adds coverage.

NASW/CT remains committed to ongoing advocacy on telehealth. Watch for action alerts coming at the start of the 2021 legislative session. The medical insurance industry set an expiration date that is early in the 2021 session in the hopes that the legislature will not have time to extend the law or make it permanent. We will be fighting back to get action prior to March 15th!

Police Accountability Bill Offers Social Work Opportunity

The Police Accountability Act, supported by NASW/CT, passed by the Legislature in July has language (Section 18) that mandates police departments to study the utilization of social workers. The bill requires that police departments report their study findings within 6 months of the bill's enactment. Six-months puts us into January 2021.

NASW/CT had issued a position paper on police accountability that included the recommendation that police departments consider social workers as responders for certain police calls, where it was appropriate for a mental health response. Such calls could include problems of homelessness, mental health, substance use, housing, child welfare and other non-violent social issues.

The Chapter knows that within the profession social workers opinions on the police run the gamut from abolition, to defunding, to reallocation of resources (among the Chapter's recommendations), to indirect or direct employment of social workers. Through the Chapter's monthly conversations on race we have had an exchange of ideas on police accountability and social work. This will be an ongoing-conversation, I would think for quite some time. Having said that, we will not ignore Section 18 of the bill, which provides us with an opportunity to engage police department leadership in constructive conversations about the roles and functions of social workers.

The Chapter's leadership has been identifying municipalities where social workers and related clinicians are involved in responses that had previously been performed solely by

law enforcement. Two models that seem most prevalent are: employment of social workers within police departments, and contractual arrangements with a community-based organization that employs mental health clinicians. In Alexandria, Kentucky the police department reduced the percentage of persons going to jail by 15% through employing a social worker once the scene is secured. Denton, Texas is creating a mental health unit of 5 social workers. In Eugene, Oregon a long-established program called CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out on the Streets) has a mobile crisis team that responds to a range of police calls. CAHOOTS in 2017 responded to 17% of all 911 calls. New Haven has just announced the planning stages of a community crisis response team that will include social workers responding to 911 calls. Throughout the state and nation social workers interact with police both formally and informally.

NASW/CT is reaching out to police chiefs throughout the state to offer our assistance in their meeting the study mandate of Section 18. This outreach is for the purpose of offering guidance, recommendations and resources that may allow police chiefs to make a more informed decision on social work utilization by police departments.

We are not aware of any other states where such an engagement process is underway, or where legislation has mandated a study of utilization of social workers. Watch for updated reporting in future newsletters as to the impact of Section 18 on police accountability.

Annual Awards Dinner Update!

Moving from November 2020 to April 2021



After considerable discussion, the Chapter Board decided to cancel our 2020 Annual Awards Dinner scheduled for November of 2020 and reschedule the event for April 29, 2021. Since it is always such a memorable and celebratory evening, it did not feel like we could recreate the event via Zoom. It

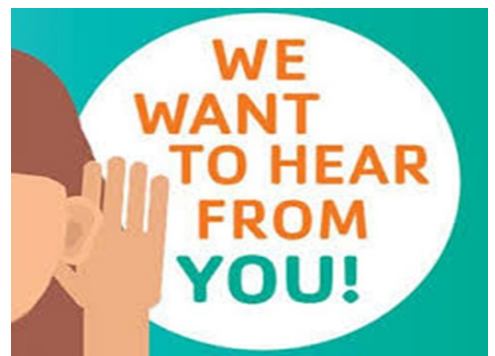
seemed to all of us that a better solution would be to plan for a spring date in hopes that by the spring we would be able to gather again at the Inn at Middletown.

With this plan, then, we are able to call on all of you much earlier to consider your colleagues, your mentors, and your teachers; those who represent you in government, and those who work, perhaps unsung, in our communities; those who exemplify the commitment, spirit, and integrity of a social worker.

Click [here](#) to find the Call for Nominations or look within this Newsletter for a copy of the 2021 Call.

Ethics Committee Update

The NASW CT Ethics Committee is gathering information from social work colleagues about topics and ethical dilemmas they would like to see discussed in future ethics forums. Emails can be sent to Yvette Tyndale at yvette.tyndale2020@gmail.com. Stay tuned for more information regarding future ethics forums!



Joint Committee Tackles Police Accountability

Dear NASW/CT Members:

A joint NASW/CT organizing committee of representatives from ELAN, the Macro Social Workers Network, and the Diversity Committee met during the summer in the wake of the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery to begin framing a response to Section 18 of the newly approved CT Police Accountability bill. This section of the bill requires the state's 92 municipal police departments to research the role social workers play in more effectively meeting the public safety needs of the state's residents.

Our overriding organizing committee goal has been to develop resources and strategies to influence this prescribed process and facilitate meaningful change in our state; as social workers, we want to help others recognize an important principle of community organizing: **Nothing about us without us!** Our committee agrees that social workers need to be at the table and frame the dialogue regarding social service delivery and policy implementation.

We have had a fruitful exchange of information and perspectives, gathered articles and model programs, and made strides to develop a proposed framework for further action. We have also been working with a social justice-oriented non-profit, Center for Policing Equity (CPE), to help us structure and accomplish our goals and vision. We are now hoping to engage many of you in discussions and action planning to determine NASW/CT's next steps in facilitating an ethical and empowering implementation process of Section 18 and reinvesting in community-based resources and social services.

Join us for our weekly meetings on Mondays at 3pm via Zoom! Please pass this invitation on to other social workers that you think might be interested in joining this process. We need input from all perspectives, specializations, and experiences.

If you have any questions or would like to join our group, please contact committee co-chair Maggie Goodwin at mmmrv2c@aol.com. We look forward to hearing from you and hope you can join us for our next action group's meeting.

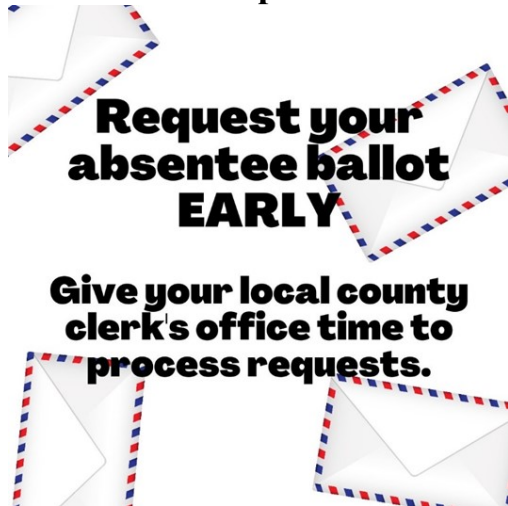
In Solidarity,

The NASW/CT Action Group



How to Vote Safely at Home this Year

Step 1

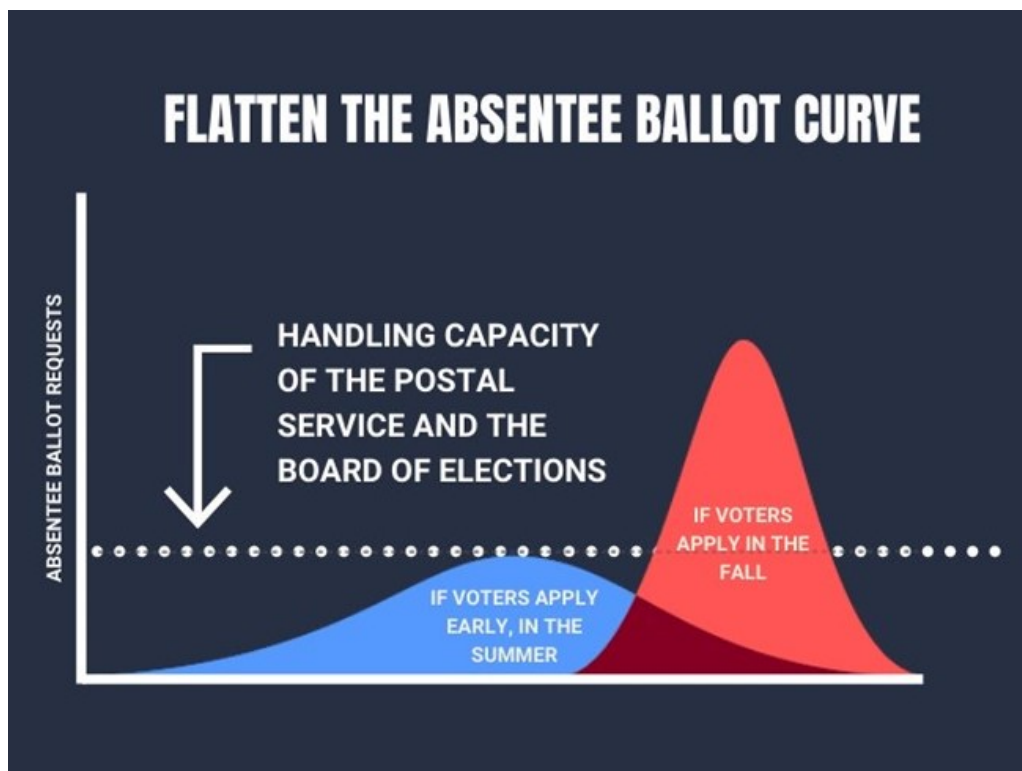


Step 2

Return it earlier than the deadline if you can

Mail takes time and can get lost, so minimize risk by sending your ballot as early as possible.

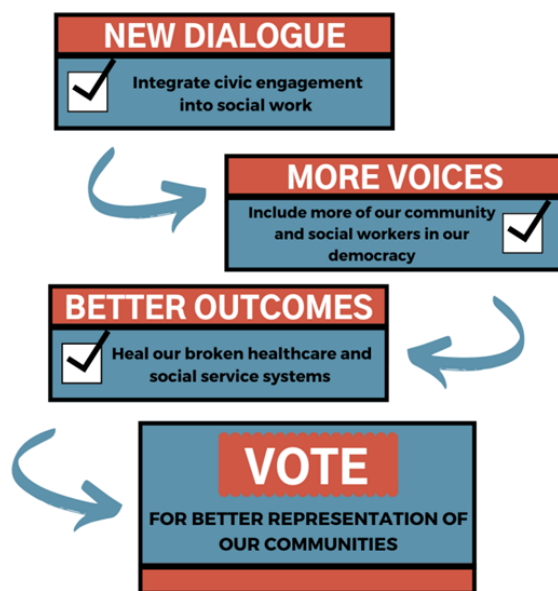
That's It! Why Should You Do This?



(keep going)

Vote Safely, continued

And this



But Mostly This: “Good Trouble.”

"Ordinary people with extraordinary vision can redeem the soul of America by getting in what I call good trouble, necessary trouble."

Voting and participating in the democratic process are key. **The vote is the most powerful nonviolent change agent you have in a democratic society.** You must use it because it is not guaranteed. You can lose it."

—John Lewis



VOTE like our HEALTH depends on it

For questions or more info, please e-mail VotER Social Work Team Lead Alberto Cifuentes, Jr., LMSW, at jr_alberto.cifuentes@uconn.edu or visit <https://vot-er.org/healthy-democracy-kit/>. You may also visit <https://votingissocialwork.org/>.

Fall Social Distancing NASW/CT Webinars for Live CECs



October 28, 9:00 to 12:00

Psychology of Suicide

3 CECs, \$50 for Members; \$75 for non Members; \$15 for Students

This workshop will review the etiology and symptoms of self-harmful and suicidal impulses and their impact upon the client's thinking, emotions, and behaviors. **Mary-K O'Sullivan, LMFT, LADC, LPC** will review issues such as societal pressures, clinical prevalence of depressive disorders and substance use, and intervention strategies.

[Click here for more information or to register.](#)

November 6, 9:30 to 11:30

Working with the Post 9/11 Veteran: What a Civilian Social Worker Needs to Know

2 Veterans Services CECs, \$35 for Members; \$50 for non Members; \$10 for Students

Join **Sharon Young, PhD, LCSW** for this presentation which will help you better understand military culture and the unique experiences of Post 9/11 veterans. This webinar will offer an understanding of the current day military experience and how these experiences impact families and children.

[Click here for more information or to register.](#)

December 5, 9:30 to 12:30

Starting and Managing a Private Practice

3 CECs, \$50 for Members; \$75 for non Members

We welcome **Patricia Carl-Stannard, LCSW** back again to offer this ever-popular workshop on starting a private practice and managing a private practice. From making the decision, to getting paneled, to billing, to handling some of the difficult issues that may arise, this workshop is a must!

[Click here for more information or to register.](#)

Responding to Social Work Challenges During COVID-19

How do I assess a client's appearance without seeing the client in person? Can verbal consent suffice because I won't be able to properly serve my client if I don't have consent? Can I talk to a client's external provider anyway because I've been doing it for so long and this is a client I've had for years? Could I face a malpractice claim later on? Do I have the proper equipment and tools to perform my job comfortably for myself and my clients? These are just a few questions that may come to mind for social workers providing direct services to clients during the pandemic.

For most social workers, facing challenges related to lack of resources, high caseloads, and barriers to care is part of the daily work. Unfortunately, these challenges are exacerbated during COVID-19. Inability to see clients in-person means incomplete assessments and missing documentation. Releases of information (ROI) may be outdated and negatively impact a client's care. Some clients do not have phones or access to the internet. Clients who are in treatment for substance use disorders (SUD) are experiencing increased stress due to COVID restrictions and may not get the support they need. The list goes on. COVID-19 has created a sense of urgency, unpredictability, and increasing stress for clients and the social workers who provide their services. These rapid changes can lead to poor outcomes for clients and social workers.

It is imperative for social workers to demonstrate commitment to the profession, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Below are some suggestions:

Supervision. Supervision. And more supervision.

Seek supervision regularly to provide support for your clients and yourself. Don't be afraid to ask for more time with your supervisor or peers to discuss challenges.

Use Free Ethics Consultation for NASW members for support related to ethics. Call 1-800-742-4089 Mondays and Wednesdays 1-4 and Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-1

Use your voice! Speak up about ethical dilemmas or challenges faced during the COVID-19

pandemic. Sometimes the person or team making final decisions does not practice directly with clients and may benefit from expertise around the delivery and impact of policy on care

Volunteer to be a part of important decisions when appropriate. For example, if a new informed consent is being created at your agency, provide input to make sure clients are properly informed of changes in service delivery and services

Gather input from clients about how they think things are going with the services during COVID-19 and what could be done to improve these services

Talk to others in the profession and see what has been helpful for clients and colleagues

Visit NASW Assurance Services COVID-19 Resources Website—they offer sample forms for informed consent, seeing clients in-person, and much more!

Medicaid.gov provides pertinent information about the US Department of Health and Human Service (DHHS) and the response to COVID-19

Read NACT CT Chapter Update emails

Advocate for clients by joining or leading committees and groups related to improving the well-being of clients

Remember we are all in this together and it is our ethical duty to uphold responsibility to our clients, colleagues, practice setting, and broader society.

-Yvette Tyndale, LCSW, ACSW

NASW/CT Ethics Committee Chair

Annual Awards Nominations

Call For Nominations

NASW/CT ANNUAL AWARDS 2021

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD ∞ SOCIAL WORKER OF THE YEAR
STUDENTS OF THE YEAR, MSW & BSW ∞ EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR
LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR ∞ PUBLIC CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

The Connecticut Chapter of NASW annually honors individuals who have made valuable contributions to the social work profession. Anyone who appreciates a Social Worker is eligible to make a nomination. NASW/CT's 2021 Annual Awards Dinner Committee considers all the nominations and the selected honorees are recognized at the Annual Dinner. The awards give the Chapter an opportunity to show appreciation to the members of the profession who exemplify the commitment, spirit, advocacy, and integrity of a social worker. Those wishing to resubmit past nominations are encouraged to do so.

Criteria For Awards

The **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT** award is given to a person having a career-long history of exemplary performance representing the mission of social work and notable participation in NASW. She/he should be a role model to other social workers.

The **SOCIAL WORKER OF THE YEAR** should have made a recent outstanding contribution to the profession. She/he should demonstrate exceptional qualities that make her/him exceed the expectations of her/his job.

The **STUDENT OF THE YEAR**, either a MSW or a BSW student, should have an above average academic record in addition to having made noteworthy contributions to the professional community beyond the expectations of the field experience. *To include students who graduated in 2020.*

The **EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR** award is given to an educator who has excelled in the field of social work education.

The **LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR** award is given when a legislator demonstrates outstanding leadership and commitment to social and economic justice.

The **PUBLIC CITIZEN OF THE YEAR** award is given to someone who is not a member of the social work profession but who has advanced the profession's aims and ideals.

All nominees must:

- Be a member of NASW/CT in good standing (with the exception of the Public Citizen of the Year and the Legislator of the Year); demonstrate notable ability to take a leading role in contributing to the growth and development of the social work profession; and stimulate the contributions of others. NASW/CT Board Members are not eligible for consideration.
- Contribute to the positive image of the social work profession.
- Effectively integrate experience and education to promote the development of social work practice to meet human needs.
- Represent the professional ethics of social workers as defined in the [NASW Code of Ethics](#).
- Demonstrate a willingness to take risks for improved social services.

To Submit Nominations

Send to: NASW/CT, 2139 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 205, Rocky Hill, CT 06067
or email to phartman.naswct@socialworkers.org

ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED by March 10, 2021 ***** Dinner will be held on April 29, 2021

Nominations should include:

- A statement explaining why you are nominating the individual AND the award for which the candidate is being nominated. (Please include clear and specific description of the nominee's outstanding contributions)
- Supporting documentation (i.e. letters of support from colleagues, newspaper clippings, AND her/his resume or c.v.).
- The **CANDIDATE's** name, place of employment, address and phone.
- **YOUR** name, address, and phone number.

Help Us Protect & Expand Social Service Funds & Social Justice Laws

Our Legislative Agenda Includes:

Protecting the Safety Net for Connecticut's most vulnerable citizens;
Increasing funding for community non-profit providers;
Protecting Medicaid from funding cuts or reduced reimbursement rate
Making Telehealth changes PERMANENT
Police Accountability and Utilization of Social Workers
School safety and mental health services;
Criminal justice reforms;
Promoting progressive revenue sources to pay for human services
Defeating any bills that infringe on social work practice;
Supporting an increase in Medicare rates for LCSWs;
Supporting the Social Worker & Health Care Professionals Safety Act.

100% of your donation goes to the cost of having contract lobbyists that are our "eyes and ears" at the Capitol. Donating today means that NASW/CT is positioned to have maximum legislative and administrative impact.

YES I AM BUILDING SOCIAL WORK POLITICAL POWER!

\$500____ \$250____ \$100____ \$50____
\$35____ \$25____ \$10____ Other____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

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