

*SSWLHC*  
*January-March 2007 Talking Points*

The 2007 Board of Directors met in Philadelphia on January 20-21 and began developing plans to for the implementation and prioritization of our strategic goals. New board members were oriented to our strategic priorities for the next two years along with the new structures created to carryout these initiatives. Board liaison assignments were made for all new and existing work groups and committees along with our regional representation. At the conclusion of the two-day meeting, several action items were identified for the next several months including:

- Developing a chapter survey to better understand the structure of chapters including their leadership, networking activities and relationship with national. Survey results would be given during the Chapter Presidents' Meeting. The board will continue to assess along with chapters the possibility of alternative structures for national-chapter relations.
- A communication structure was developed for all new and existing Work Groups and Committees to monitor progress towards our strategic goals including quarterly conference calls with the Executive Committee, submission of monthly minutes and progress reports to board liaisons and Fernley and Fernley, and communication back to members through "The Leader" and website.
- The board developed a plan to assure that all our membership materials were current and accessible through the website.
- A decision was made to invite Pat Meadows to conduct a diversity consultation with the board in 2007 as an effort to better assure our inclusiveness as an organization.
- Plans are underway for the inaugural Leadership Institute and Faculty Summit to be held during the annual conference and meeting in Philadelphia on April 24-28<sup>th</sup>. Work groups for both initiatives are busy with program development and marketing plans.
- The board restated its' commitment to prioritize leadership training for the year 2007 along with the formation of strategic partnerships to better leverage our collective leadership as an organization.

Other board activities conducted during the first quarter of 2007 include:

- The board has been working with our management partners at Fernley and Fernley to better understand and plan for our needed yearly management hours to conduct Society business due to the development of several new programs and services for members. A better accounting of management hours will be provided by Fernley and Fernley and provided to the board monthly so that decision-making can be made about where to prioritize our management services.
- The Society welcomed new Fernley and Fernley staff in March including Lindsay Groff, our new Executive Director through Fernley and Fernley, and Kate Marlys, administrative support. We also said good-bye to our long-time Account Manager, Tim Bower, who took another position at Fernley and Fernley. Thanks to the efforts of both Tim and Lindsay, the transition of work went smoothly.
- Planning for the 2007 Conference "Advancing Leadership in Health Care Social Work" has gone well. The Planning Committee, Vendor Committee and Hospitality Committee have surpassed many goals established around their conference objectives. Both the vendor hall and conference hotel was completely full by early March. The board has been working on plans to create a sense of inclusion for all attendees and encourage member participation.

- The SSWLHC sponsored and/or was represented at several recent events including the Family Violence Prevention Conference, Social Work Day at the UN, and NY-NASW's "Future of Social Work in Health Care" Conference.
- The Nominations Committee has been working diligently to develop our slate for next year's elected Society positions. The board continues to discuss succession planning and the possible structures needed to enhance our informal and formal systems to develop new leaders.