



CHAPTER CONNECTIONS

Newsletter of the Illinois Chapter Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care

The mission of the Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care is to promote social work in health care throughout Illinois.

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Website: www.sswlh.org

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

We have had two exciting events in the past four months. First, our SSWLHC National Conference was held April 13-16 in Houston, Texas. It was an exciting time of celebrating the 100th anniversary of social work in health care and the 40th anniversary of the Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care. Illinois Chapter members Tom Tynan, Suzan Eckstein, Nancy Tuftie and I presented two workshops that were well attended and had very positive feedback. The Illinois Chapter also donated a basket that was raffled in honor of our 40th anniversary. The conference was very enjoyable with many great workshops and networking opportunities. It was obvious that the Society has incorporated different aspects of social work in health care in the conference and its membership. I would encourage members to get involved at the national level as well as the state level. The Society is strong and growing!

Second, our SSWLHC Illinois Chapter Annual Conference was held July 22 at Wildlife Prairie State Park near Peoria, Illinois. It was a wonderful opportunity that our National President, Polly Jones, was able to be our Keynote Speaker. Other speakers included Nancy Amos from Bradley University, Tonya Manselle from University of Illinois, our own Keith Suedmeyer from Southern District and Tim Kirk, an elder law attorney. Our members Tom Tynan, Jill Fitzgerald, Mary Ellen McGreevey, Keith Suedmeyer and Grace Givens facilitated our round table discussions. It was a day packed full of information and provided six CEUS. Thank you to the planning committee of Terri Drew, Jill Fitzgerald, Keith Suedmeyer and Martha Wright for a successful conference!

Now for something new! We now have a SSWLHC Illinois Chapter logo that we will be able to use on publications. This logo will be on our new SSWLHC Illinois Chapter banners that are presently being made. We will use these banners for District and State events.

Welcome to our new members. We hope you will get involved and enjoy your membership!

Illinois Chapter Board Meeting Highlights

The quarterly board meeting of the Illinois Chapter was held at 6:15PM in Peoria on Thursday, July 21, 2005. Each chapter provided a brief report on its activities. Pat Sutton reported that she had provided CEUs to two districts since the March meeting. Due to Betty Nelson's resignation as Membership Chair, Dawn Moutray has agreed to assume that additional position until January. Tom Tynan reported on the new state mandate under the Hospital Licensing Act that hospitals must inform the CCU of any referrals to skilled home care as is now required for nursing home placements. It is not clear what the CCU plans to do with this information.

A new board of directors will be selected in October. Members serve for two years beginning January 2006. Being a member of our board is a great way to meet social workers from other parts of the state and impact the future of our organization. If you are interested in joining the board, please contact your district president.

National

The national office of SSWLHC has established a foundation to provide funds for research, special organizational projects and scholarships. There will be more information on this in future newsletters.

National is seeking members to join various committees such as 1) Advocacy and 2) Conference Planning. Again, please contact your district president if you are interested.

Several Illinois members were able to attend the national conference in Houston in April. Attendees had a wonderful time enjoying the presentations, great food and having an opportunity to explore Houston. Mark your calendars now for the 2006 conference to be held in San Diego, California April 26-29. Be sure to include this expenditure in your budget requests for next year.

Security

A second hospital has notified the Joint Commission that two imposters posing as surveyors attempted to gain access to their organization on July 12. The hospital contacted local authorities and the FBI. When JCAHO surveyors arrive at your facility, ask them to show their Joint Commission ID badge. When JCAHO arrives unannounced they will have a letter addressed to the head of the organization signed by Russell Massaro, M.D. explaining who they are and why they are there.

State

As our president, Dawn Moutray mentioned above, the state conference was a huge success. In addition to great speakers and attendees from all over the state, we were supported by 19 vendors. Rosewood Care Centers sponsored food and drinks for the afternoon break.

The winner of free registration to next year's SSWLHC Illinois Conference is Mary Neill, Perry Memorial Hospital, Princeton, IL. The drawing was conducted at this year's conference at Wildlife Prairie State Park.

Many of us took advantage of the trails at Wildlife Prairie State Park and were able to observe the Bison, elk, black bears, wolves, eagles and hawks.

The Social Work Leader of the Year award was presented to Don Bensing, Assistant Professor of Social Work at the Illinois College of Optometry in Park Ridge. Those nominating him said he has given "tirelessly for his district and his state chapter for years and volunteered a multitude of hours". Also, he is a "true advocate for the social work profession, a visionary, has exceptional people skills, is excellence oriented and a true leader". Congratulations Don!



Left to right: Dawn Moutray, IL Chapter Pres, Polly Jones, National Pres & Don Bensing, Social Work Leader of the Year

Also recognized at the state conference were two long term Society members who are retiring: Margaret Wayne and Larry Harman. Margaret was the Director of Social Services at Memorial Hospital in Belleville for 24 years and was a member of the Society

for the same length of time. She has been a social worker since 1965 and plans to continue to maintain her license and attend our annual national conferences. Larry has retired from Alexian Brothers Medical Center in Elk Grove Village where he worked 30 years. Although he was most recently the Director of Pastoral Care there, he also held the positions of psychiatric social worker and the Director of Social Services. He has been a social worker since 1975 and a Society member since 1986. He, too, plans to maintain his license by participating in CEU events. Congratulations to both of you!!



Left to right: Margaret Wayne, Dawn Moutray and Larry Harman

Legislative Report

From Tom Tynan, Legislative Chair--I am sure you all know about the new State of Illinois Uniform Do-Not-Resuscitate (DNR) Order Form that went into effect on June 1, 2005. This new form replaces the old "orange" form that you all came to know and love. The new form has much broader implications for hospitals and nursing homes. The new Uniform Do-Not-Resuscitate Form, properly executed, must be honored by hospitals, nursing homes and emergency services personnel. This new form, in addition to a DNR for a full cardiopulmonary arrest, allows an individual to specify a DNR status for pre-arrest emergencies. This form has now both the weight of an advance directive and the authority of a physician's order.

At my organization, although the ambulance companies have continued to accept the old "orange" form, we have been using the new form which, by the way, is in cherry or salmon color for the past several weeks without any difficulty. We had an education blitz for affected staff and physicians and revised our DNR policy to reflect the new form.

Information for ordering copies of the forms is in the attached guide or you can download the forms and the related guides from the IDPH web-site at <http://www.idph.state.il.us>.

If any of you is aware of legislation. that may be of interest to our membership, please contact Tom Tynan at tynan@enh.org

Chicago District

Pat Sutton reported on the June conference which attracted over 60 social workers. An attorney presented on the new provisions in the Illinois Gestational and Surrogacy Act.

The Chicago Yacht Club dinner outing will be held for members and interested social workers on Friday evening October 21, 2005. Information on registration and cost will be announced soon. Contact Dan Byars (see below) if you would like to attend. The Club is a beautiful place for a casual gathering of like-minded people. ☺

District officers are: president Dan Byars, dbyars@centegra.com, 815-338-3148, secretary: Sheryl Walton, Sheryl.Walton@advocatehealth.com, 708-346-5261 and treasurer: Don Bensing, dbensing@eyecare.ico.edu, 312-949-7638.

Northwest District

Nancy Tuftie and Dawn Moutray will be making a presentation at the next quarterly district meeting at Proctor Hospital, Peoria on Tuesday, October 11 from 10AM-Noon. Two CEUs will be awarded. The topic will be the Utica, IL Tornado and the social work response to it. Both Nancy and Dawn were involved in the crisis. They made this presentation in April at the national conference in Houston. Attendees had very positive feedback on their session. If you are interested in attending, please leave a message at Proctor at 309-691-1032 or contact Nancy or Dawn.

Martha Wright at Proctor Hospital led a campaign to have used cell phones donated to the local Center for the Prevention of Abuse. During the month of August, almost 100 used cell phones were donated by staff and volunteers! The Center reprograms the phones and gives them to domestic violence victims who use them for 911 calls only.

District officers are president: Nancy Tuftie, ntuftie@chottawa.org 815-433-3100 secretary: Mary Suhr, jsuhr@netexpress.net, 309-792-4353 and treasurer: Kenny Bloyd, kabloyd@yahoo.com, 309-647-5240.

Southern District

Society member, Terri Drew was present at St. Anthony's Health Center in Alton on August 23 to witness the signing of the Medical Malpractice liability bill (SB 475) by Gov. Blagojevich.

Keith Suedmeyer gave a presentation on Outpatient Social Services at the II SSWLHC Conference in Peoria on July 22. He also has been asked to give this talk at the 2006 conference in San Diego. Keith was a nominee for the IL Social Work Leader of the Year award.

Geri Haukap, St. Joseph's Hospital in Breese has been instrumental in seeing that Senior Renewal, an outpatient senior mental health program, be located at her hospital.

Congratulations from southern district members to the state conference planning committee on a wonderful annual conference in July!

District officers are president: Nancy Weiss-Hayes, nwhayes@sahc.org, 618-465-4522 and treasurer: Terri Drew, tdrew@sahc.org, 618-465-4522.

E-mail & Address Changes

Please notify Dawn Moutray, membership chair, dawn.moutray@ivch.org (815-780-3504) of any e-mail or address changes so you can continue to receive this newsletter and notices of upcoming events.

State Board officers : president-Dawn Moutray, president elect-Pat Sutton, treasurer-Terri Drew, secretary-Deb Hartman, awards/nominations- Nancy Tuftie, membership-Dawn Moutray, legislative chair-Tom Tynan and newsletter chairs-Martha Wright and Maryellen McGreevey