



### SOCIAL WORK CONGRESS UPDATE:

In April, 2010, SSWLHC was proud to be a supporter of the 2010 Social Work Congress. The theme of the Congress was “Reaffirm, Revisit, and Re-imagine the Profession.” The purpose of the Congress was to examine the internal challenges facing our profession, with a concentration on leadership and succession planning. The “by invitation only” meeting was held in Washington, DC and had 400 social work leaders from across the country, including 3 social workers representing SSWLHC. Attendees were assigned to breakout sessions covering these topics: Leadership Development; Common Objectives; Recruitment; Education; Influence; The Business of Social Work; Technology; and Retention. In July, attendees received the official final report from the conference that outlined the final imperatives selected from the 2010 Congress and future plans.

The Imperatives selected for each topic are:

**Technology:** Integrate technologies that serve social work practice and education in an ethical, practical, and responsible manner.

**Business of Social Work:** Infuse models of sustainable business and management practice in social work education and practice.

**Leadership Development:** Integrate leadership training in social work curricula at all levels.

**Common Objectives:** Strengthen collaboration across social work organizations, their leaders, and their members for shared advocacy goals.

**Influence:** Build a data-driven business case that demonstrates the distinctive expertise and the impact and value of social work to industry, policy makers, and the general public.

**Retention:** Increase the number of grants, scholarships, and debt forgiveness mechanisms for social work students and graduates.

**Education:** Clarify and articulate the unique skills, scope of practice, and “value added” of social work to prospective social work students.

**Recruitment:** Empirically demonstrate to prospective recruits the value of the social work profession in both social and economic terms.

**Influence:** Strengthen the ability of national social work organizations to identify and clearly articulate, with a unified voice, issues of importance to the profession.

**Retention:** Ensure the sustainability of the profession through a strong mentoring program, career ladder, and succession planning.

**Future Plans** (*from the 2010 Social Work Congress Final Report*):

For the social work profession to thrive and continue serving society, these imperatives must be incorporated into the daily work and future planning of all areas of the profession. Collectively, the commitments made by social work organizations, employers, allies—and individual social workers—will create an action plan that defines our future. We should reassess our progress periodically to determine if the action plan is helping the profession achieve the goals we intended, or if revisions or additional steps are needed. More than 600,000 social workers in the United States have a role to play in creating the changes we seek and ensuring the profession's impact for decades to come.

SSWLHC will continue to be a voice for health care social workers as we shape the future of the profession in future discussions such as with the Social Work Congress.

#### **PRODUCTS AND PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The summer has been wonderfully busy for the Products and Publications Committee. In addition to our regular monthly conference call, we are in the final stages of publishing the next SSWLHC Exemplar book entitled ***Immigration: Issues in Health Care Social Work Policy and Practice***. First editions will be on sale at the November Annual Meeting where you will find us in the vendor area selling all the Exemplar books. We are excited about this new edition in the series as it is timely, relevant and critical to so many of our organizations and their social work staffs. As always, the book is a combination of theory, practical “how to’s” and CEU credits. Following the November meeting, it and the other publications will be available via mail order. Don’t wait though and come to our table to get this hot off the press new book.

We are also readying the September issue of **The Leader** and hope to use it to entice people to come to Tampa in November and join others in learning, making new friends and reconnecting with those you already know.

Finally, please let us know what you want to read about in **The Leader**, what ideas you have for publications and any announcements you want us to communicate to members. And think about your interest in joining us on the committee. It is a wonderful way to be connected with Society members and to assure quality writing and communications about social work in health care. Please contact Judith Trachtenberg at [jtrachte@aol.com](mailto:jtrachte@aol.com)

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE UPCOMING AUGUST WEBINAR!**

Presenter: Greg Jensen, LCSW, ACSW

Title: Whether It's Yikes or Hooray; What Emerging or Seasoned Leaders Need to Know

Date: August 25, 2010

Time: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EST

Click here for more information - <http://www.sswlhc.org/docs/Webinar100825.pdf>