

SSWLHC Unification Update- NEW Affiliated Chapters

The SSWLHC National Chapter Task Force and Board of Directors are excited to announce that the following Chapters have confirmed a commitment to become an affiliate of SSWLHC. Those Chapters include:

- ❖ Florida
- ❖ Illinois
- ❖ Michigan
- ❖ MO-KAN
- ❖ North Carolina
- ❖ Northern California
- ❖ Penn-Del
- ❖ South Western Pennsylvania
- ❖ Texas
- ❖ Washington

This week the task force facilitated a conference call for Chapter Presidents in an effort to support and assist Chapters around their unification efforts. Chapter Presidents are also invited to contact David Neal (Michigan Chapter President) dneal@mich.edu and Bill Ratcliff (North Carolina Chapter President) bratcliff@catawbavalley.org with additional questions. See below their brief testimonials with the reasons why their chapter affiliated:

The future of health care is under going significant changes. It is more critical now than ever that Social Workers have a voice in the debates that will be occurring on how to restructure the delivery of health care services. The Michigan Chapter of NASW has come to our Chapter to ask for our help in dealing with health care issues. We can do that together in our state but who will do it nationally? We need the Society to speak for social workers in health care at a national level.

The future of health care will encompass evidenced based best practices, quality standards, outcome measurers, costs, and other measurers for the delivery of social work services. Individual hospitals cannot do this and state chapters cannot. It requires, a national organization to address these issues for the delivery of social work services.

Education and networking can occur at a state level, but there is also a need for this to occur across the country.

The Board of the Michigan Chapter believes that there is a greater need than ever for a strong national organization working with strong chapters in every state to meet the challenges facing social workers in health care. We have not done that in the past. The challenge is for all of us to commit to work together to achieve a strong voice for Social Work in Health Care.

David Neal, Michigan Chapter President

North Carolina would like to join Michigan and others in endorsing the unification of our membership and Chapters. We fully concur with Michigan's vision of the challenges we face and agree that we need to move forward to speak as one.

Bill Ratcliff, North Carolina Chapter President

The Illinois Chapter of the Society of Social Work Leaders in HealthCare has appreciated for many years, the opportunities to network at National Conferences, developing relationships with others across the Country and World. This organization has impacted a lot of us as individual social workers, and collectively as a State, as to who we are today.

We believe our presence makes a difference in the lives of others as we all strive to help people help themselves. We do thank the National Society for Social Work Leaders in HealthCare for leading, sharing and caring about the present and the future, of us all. Together, with all the expertise represented, we can impact this world bigger than ever before. United... .. We Stand.

Nancy Tuftie, President of Illinois Chapter/SSWLHC