

**NASW Oregon Chapter
Quarterly Board Reports
May 2010**

CEU Committee Report

Submitted by Casadi Marino, CEU Committee Chair

The CEU committee is planning a QA/QI survey of applicants.

Mental Health Network Report

Submitted by Casadi Marino, Mental Health Network Co-Chair

The Mental Health Network has been formed and will be looking for new members. We are discussing sponsoring a consumer led workshop on the history of the Oregon State Hospital and alternative care.

Legislative Committee Report

Submitted by Jessica Ritter, Legislative Committee Chair

The legislative committee has been involved with the following issues and activities:

1. Continuing to monitor and to be involved with the licensing board as they roll out and implement SB 177, the new licensing law.
2. Continuing to be involved with the TSPC as they work with social workers and the PSU School of Social Work to create a license for school social workers.
3. Monitoring reimbursement rate issue and also meetings on health board consolidation.
4. Stacey & Larry were in D.C. last week and lobbied on the federal SWRA, the day after Dorothy Height passed away (the bill is named in her honor, as well as Whitney Young). The visits went well, particularly with Sen. Merkley and Rep. Wu. Maura mentioned that we could memorialize Dorothy Height and the SWRA one year after her death, which will be in April 2011 during session.
5. We are now gearing up for next session. We will be introducing two pieces of legislation. One will be a Memorial bill to urge the passage of the federal SWRA, also with an urge to consider passing a social work taskforce in the 2013 session. This is the beginning of a long term strategy to get the state to invest in the social work profession and might lead to the development of an Oregon Center for Social Work and student loan relief for social workers. The other one will be a Memorial bill asking the state to urge the President to hold a White House Conference on Children (there has not been one since 1970).

Aging Network Report

Submitted by Cindy Rapp, Outgoing Aging Network Co-Chair

A change in Leadership: Cindy Rapp and Sibelia Chaiyachat have stepped down from leadership roles. Sally Stevens and Shemaya Blauer, both NASW members, have graciously offered to Co-

Chair the Aging Network. Both Cindy and Sibelia plan to remain active with the Steering Committee, along with Marc Bernard and Megan Lange.

Steering Committee membership has been stable and we continue to plan future CE and social events. Recruitment efforts are ongoing to increase Steering Committee involvement, as well as overall community outreach to increase interest/involvement in the Network (e.g., guest speakers, hosts/sponsors and community partners).

Our "Social Work and Aging" CE Breakfast Forums continue to be popular and well-attended. These free events are an excellent opportunity for networking and continuing education on a variety of topics. The April forum on "Difficult Behaviors in Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementia" was a huge success, thanks to a fantastic guest speaker (Heike Sommer, PMHNP), and to a very generous host/sponsor (Courtyard at Mt. Tabor Senior Living Community).

Sibelia and Cindy wish to express gratitude for the ongoing support of Stacey, Janet, Kathy and the Board of Directors. It has been a pleasure to serve in a leadership role for NASW Oregon Chapter.

NEW LEADERSHIP:

Sally Stevens, LCSW
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Shemaya Blauer, MSW
Co-Chair
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Rogue Valley District Report

Submitted By Gretchen Thiel, District Chair

1. Accomplishments/activities:

- a. The District held a Social Work Month celebration on March 31, 2010, in which approximately 60 social workers from the valley attended a complimentary lunch and program. Speakers were Stacey Skala Orr and Steve Neuberger, who served as Southern Oregon community organizer for Health Care for America NOW. The district sponsored a raffle to create a book scholarship for local MSW students; the raffle raised \$300 and the district met that amount for a total of \$600. We will offer two \$300 scholarships for the 2010-2011 academic year based on financial need. These will be awarded in June.
- b. In collaboration with the state chapter, we co-sponsored a workshop on ethics on April 30, 2010 in Medford. Twenty-three people attended the workshop.

- c. We continue to meet monthly during the noon hour at the Medford Library to plan our activities.

2. Current projects/goals:

- a. At the Social Work Month celebration we surveyed attendees regarding their interest in participating in our local planning activities and to learn of ways we can better support our social work community. We will be using the survey results to reach out to members who would like to be more active in our district. Many attendees requested additional local continuing education opportunities; we are currently working on a plan for providing additional opportunities in Fall 2010 and into the new year.
- b. Many of the attendees appreciated the networking opportunity of the Social Work Month celebration. The district planning committee is looking at ways to offer additional opportunities for networking. The previous method of social networking one night a month has not been well attended, though, so we will brainstorm other options.

3. Issues needing current board action: None identified.

Social Workers Political Action Committee (SWPAC) Report

Submitted by Amy Reynolds, SWPAC Chair

SWPAC met on March 24th to:

- Create a meeting schedule
- Look over the funding currently available
- Set aside a date for phone banking
- Discuss an e-mail vs. paper mailing
- Discuss holding a fundraising event
- Decided on the questions that we would ask the Candidates

From this meeting we did develop a calendar. In looking over the funds we discovered that we had about \$9,500 on hand. We chose April 21st as a phone banking date. In consideration of the costs we decided to go with an e-mail blast vs. a paper mailing. Finally, we discussed holding a fundraising event similar to the one held for the Legislative Committee at Mississippi Pizza Pub. Stacey and Jessica worked on the verbage for the candidate questions.

SWPAC met on April 21st:

- Valenka and I did all the phone banking-had the usual mixed bag of people who can't give and those who were willing to pledge

In a conference call with Maura and Stacey and I we decided to hold off on the fund raiser due to consistent low turnout and to go with an event closer to the November elections.

After the primaries (May 18th) we will look over the candidates and with Maura's assistance (really she does it) we'll identify races that we may be able to make a difference in and schedule our meetings with candidates.