Quarterly Reports

Social Work Reinvestment (SWR) Taskforce
Submitted by Don Schweitzer, SWR Coordinator

The winter has been an incredibly busy time for SWR and its taskforce. Analysis of the workforce study continues as we tease out important associations in the responses to the survey. There is a wealth of information there, and we will continue to pass on key findings that emerge from the data.

Two events are currently being planned to further our goal of training, retaining, and promoting the profession of social work here in Oregon:

<u>2009 SWR Summit</u>
When: Friday February 20th, 1-6pm in Portland
We have put together a panel of social workers in leadership positions to address the question, "The Future of Social Work in Oregon: Where are we Headed in the Era of Change?" We have been receiving an exceptional number of registrations to this event (Approximately 100 to date). The panel presentation will be followed by a reception which is being sponsored by our academic programs to celebrate the history and contributions of social work in Oregon.

<u>2009 Social Work Day of Action</u>
When: Thursday March 5th, 9am – 4pm in Salem
Social work's long tradition of social justice comes alive as social workers descend on the state capitol to advocate for our clients and our profession. While this is often seen as an event for students, as important as that is, we hope to increase the number of practitioners who attend this year.

Additionally, next month we will be meeting with the Executive Director of the Oregon Center for Nursing and the Executive Director of the Oregon Healthcare Workforce Institute to discuss how social work might be able to replicate their reinvestment model.

SWR has accomplished a lot over the past year, we must now begin the process of developing the means to sustain and build upon those accomplishments. At the conclusion of the above events, the SWR Taskforce will be taking this issue head on and begin the processes of strategizing ways to sustain SWR. We hope you will join us for those conversations.

Legislative Committee Update
November 2008 to January 2009
Submitted by Jessica Ritter, Legislative Chair

After celebrating the election victories in November, the Legislative Committee started focusing on getting ready for session in January 2009. Our activities in the last few months have included the following:

- Monitoring the progress of the Social Work Practice Act, spearheaded by the Licensing Board of Clinical Social Workers, now being referred to as the Expanded Title Protection Bill (SB 177). We have been told that this will be part of the Governor's package, but this has not been verified as of yet. We have told the

licensing board about a number of concerns that we have with this bill. We will continue to monitor this bill during session and will most likely advocate for changes to some of the language in this bill. We would like the licensing of social workers to be mandatory and not voluntary, and we would like title protection for social workers to be much broader in scope.

- We have also been involved in the school social worker meetings with TSPC, due to the interest of Representative Greenlick. We have been working with social work professors from PSU and Pacific University to make the case that social workers should be allowed to work in the schools, schools should have the flexibility to hire social workers, and that there needs to be a clearer mechanism in place for hiring them. Maura Roche and Jessica Ritter attended a meeting in January with TSPC, and TSPC was not very receptive to the idea of creating a license for school social workers or for finding a solution to this problem. It is unclear what the next steps will be.
- We are working with Stacey and SWR coordinator Don Schweitzer to get ready for the 2009 Legislative Day of Action to be held on March 5th, 2009 in Salem. This is shaping up to be a nice event. We will have T-shirts this year! We will be working with MSW students from PSU (Sarah Bradley's class) who will study six of the bills that we will be focusing on for this Lobby Day. Students attending this day of action will select two issues to discuss during their lobby visits with legislators. We will also communicate with our membership about the Day of Action, the bills we will be focusing on leading up to this event, and ask members to contribute to the Chapter Lobby Fund. A big push is being made to get more social work practitioners to this event this year.
- In the coming months we will be working with Maura to identify, monitor, and track bills that are of interest to NASW and the individuals, families, and communities that we serve. Of course, we will be very active in following the proposed budget cuts to social services and will work with other groups and organizations to advocate for protecting social services especially in this time of such economic turmoil. We will be introducing the Student Loan Relief bill again this session, though we understand the small likelihood of this passing (due to the fiscal impact). However, we will use this as an opportunity to educate the legislature about the challenges facing professional social workers in Oregon.

Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee, comprised of two regular members and staffed by the Executive Director, has been active since December, identifying and recruiting a slate of candidates for the following Board positions:

- President-Elect
- Vice President
- Region I Representatives (2 positions)
- Region II Representatives (2 positions)
- Region III Representatives (1 - 2 positions)
- Undergraduate Student Representative
- Graduate Student Representative

The Committee's goal is to present a slate of 18-20 candidates, two for each position, to stand for election in May.

Of the 32 prospective candidates contacted to date, 16 have declined to run, 5 are still

considering, 9 have indicated intent to run for Regional Representative positions, 1 has expressed intent to run for the MSW student representative position, and 1 plans to run for an Officer position. One application has been received, and additional possible nominees are being identified. The Committee is very appreciative of the efforts Board Members and the Executive Director have made to identify prospective candidates, and hopes those efforts will continue, especially for the Student and Officer positions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Diane Ponder, Nominations Chair

PAST PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL REPORT

The Past President's Council met at the Chapter office on Friday, January, 23, 2009. Attending were: Tom Hogan, Leora Hughes and Mark Oldham by speaker phone.

Legislation. Mark reported that the Practice Act material did come to the Legislature as part of the Governor's Package as SB 177. Mark described the components which were pretty much what they had been previously and would go into effect in Jan. 2011.

The bill is online and everyone can see the specifics. It's not a Practice Act as such as might have been desired but is hopefully achievable. The first hearing is Wed., Jan. 28 at 8:30 AM. The Chapter was listed as supportive on the fact sheet sent out by the LCSW Board ED. We were very supportive of the bill as described and of collaborative efforts on its behalf. Testifying in support as necessary was discussed.

A budget hearing is scheduled Feb. 11 on permanent authorization for a compliance officer, which would be revenue neutral.

History Project. Tom reported about this and there are three parts.

1. An oral history project.
2. History of SW in Oregon.
3. History of SW Education in Oregon.

The oral history piece has made great progress. Joe Gallegos at the U. Portland has a curriculum and a student to do the interviews! A SWRI event is planned for Friday, Feb. 20.

Tom met with Nancy Korloff at PSU about the other two parts. She has archives at PSU and the RRI for both earlier days of SW in Oregon and also SW education. Basically the discussion at this point is that both of those topics are the subject for books. She will work on them. A coordinating meeting about the project overall is planned and the PPA is willing to have an oversight or coordinating role as necessary.

SW Month/Event. It's too close to SW Month to plan an event with everything going on. We talked about sponsoring a speaker or a reception in conjunction with some event in the future and are open to that.

The next meeting is April 24, 2009 at 5:30 PM at the NASW Chapter office.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Hogan