



March 8, 2019

Dear Delegates and Colleagues,

On behalf of the 2020 Delegate Assembly Planning Task Force (DAPTF), I have the privilege of welcoming you to the Delegate Assembly process. As delegates and leaders in the profession, you have the opportunity to participate in the very important work of setting the Association's program priority goals for the three-year period FY 2021 – 2024. You will also play an important role in the development of the Association's public and professional policy statements on substantive issues of concern to social work, social workers, and the populations whom we serve.

The Delegate Assembly Planning Task Force is responsible for developing guidelines for conducting the work of the Assembly. In addition, the DAPTF offers support and training to enhance the participation of delegates. *All* NASW members have the opportunity to participate in parts of the policy-making process. Greater member input, along with the work of the policy panels, contributes to the honing and development of impactful and effective policy statements. Policies are then presented to delegates for review, and a final vote.

The final, culminating meeting of the 2020 Delegate Assembly will once again be held in a virtual environment, using a Web-based platform. Our National Office will establish up-to-date Web pages for new and revised policy statements, program priority goals, potential Code of Ethics or Bylaws revisions, as well as list serves for each coalition. We are striving to obtain members' and delegates' participation and input every step of the way. To that end, becoming familiar with, and comfortable using, NASW's Delegate Assembly website and other virtual environments will be key to your participation. Comprehensive training will be provided to delegates to enable full participation in the online/virtual environment for the **November 6, 2020 culminating meeting**.

The DAPTF has a few recommendations regarding the delegates' roles in facilitating a successful Delegate Assembly. First, orientation and training, especially for new delegates, is very important. We encourage chapters and coalitions to consider training and providing mentors for new delegates early in the process. Second, all delegates should be familiar with NASW's *Social Work Speaks, 11th Ed. (2018)*: <https://www.naswpress.org/publications/Profession/social-work-speaks-1.htm>. Third, and most importantly, the task force urges you to become familiar with, and use, the NASW website for self-learning, training, and for communication and interaction during this process. Besides the normal activities of chapter delegations and coalitions, we encourage chapter leaders to offer information to its general membership through

newsletters, websites, social media, workshops and annual conferences. It is our hope that this Delegate Assembly has the most participation ever!

At this time I encourage you to review the 2020 Delegate Assembly Timetable posted here: <https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Delegate-Assembly> . In particular I want to draw your attention to a key deadline:

- June 3, 2020
Submission of the full text for proposed bylaws amendments (regarding the Delegate Assembly or dues split), or Code of Ethics changes is due to Chapter Operations at the National Office (sjashinsky.nasw@socialworkers.org) using set formats.

We look forward to our work together over the next couple of years. We are here to support you and the Delegate Assembly process, and we welcome your thoughts, questions, and ideas as we move through this exciting process together.

Sincerely,

Ruth Lipschutz, LCSW, ACSW
Chair, 2020 Delegate Assembly Planning Task Force
NASW Board Region IX Representative