

ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Omni Shoreham Hotel • Washington DC 20008

Wednesday, June 19, 2024

PARTICIPANTS

Board Members: Yvonne Chase, President
Debra Fromm Faria, Vice President
Robin Arndt, Secretary
S. Ryan Estes, Treasurer
Bisrat Abebe, Director, Region I
Cindy Bautista-Thomas, Director, Region III
Yasoda Sharma, Director, Region IV
Alice Kay Locklear, Director, Region V
Jenny Conger, Director, Region VI
Carol Edwards, Director, Region VII
Tony Raymer, Director, Region IX
Shawntelle Fisher, Director, Region X
LaTonya Charles, Director, Region XI
Michelle Pliske, Director, Region XII
Mavis Major, Director at Large
Sylvester Bowie, Director at Large
Laurie Webb, Director - MSW Student
Hana Kisswani, Director – BSW Student

Other Members:	Anthony Estreet (MD)	
	Molly Arbogast (WV)	
	Valerie Arendt (NC)	
	SaraLyn Ativie (KS)	
	Laura Bell (NYC)	
	Barbara Bedney (DC)	
	Lawrence Betcher (OR)	
	Gwen Bouie-Haynes (MS)	
	Heather Bradley-Geary (MO)	
	Joshua Brewster (IA)	
	Troy Brindle (PA)	
	Martha Brooks (OH)	
	Dawn Brown (FL)	
	Johanna Byrd (PA)	
		Tyleen Caffrey (KS)
		Betsy Cauble (CO)
		Carrie Conger (NJ)
		Gortrell Cox (AR)
		Shakira Cruz (WA)
		Judy Daly (VT)
		Enrico DeGironimo (DE)
		Ellen S. Fader (NYC)
		Henry Ford (NC)
		Sharon Gandarilla-Javier (FL)
		Michael Gianotti (TX)
		Karen Goodenough (MN)

Linda Grobman (PA)
Bruce Hall (CO)
Anthony J. Hill (SC)
Shaun S. Hook (SC)
Dina Kastner (MD)
William Kennedy (MI)
Michael LaSala (NJ)
Susan Mankita (FL)
Heidi McIntosh (MD)
Ebony Middleton (MD)
Debra O'Neal (NJ)
Julie Paradeis (MO)

Rebecca Patt (MA)
Pelderhoff, Brandi
Joel Rubin (IL)
Adam Scheffler (IL)
Maryann D Sigona (NY)
Lyn Stanley (NH)
Yvette Tyndale
Reginald Virgil (MS)
Rita Webb (MA)
Christina Wong (CA)
Gail Woods Waller (MD)

Staff: Cheryl-Lyn Bentley-Harmon
Sekou "Koe" Murphy
Doreta Richards
Danielle Spears

SUMMARY OF MEETING ACTIONS/MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The Annual Meeting of Association Members was called to order on Wednesday, June 19, 2024, at approximately 1:00 pm ET by President Yvonne Chase. The meeting was convened at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. A quorum was established for the meeting.

President Chase welcomed members who joined the meeting in person and virtually. She then called for approval of the agenda.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the meeting was reviewed and a motion taken for its approval.

M/S/Carried

(Edwards/Kisswani)

To approve the agenda for the 2024 Annual Meeting of Members.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting of Members were approved at the September 2023 NASW Board meeting. A copy of the minutes was disseminated to attendees of the members' meeting for information.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Chase gave highlights of her term in office including her trip to the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) SWSD 2024 World Joint Conference held in Panama City, Panama, in April. She mentioned the Israel-Gaza ongoing conflict emphasizing NASW's position to support social workers on both sides of the conflict and the endorsement of the statement issued by IFSW promoting its position of peace and self-determination, with equal rights and freedoms for all people living in the region. She also encouraged attendees to read [NASW's statement](#) on the issue that was published on socialworkers.org.

Other issues addressed included the immigration crisis; the impact of climate change on the environment; homelessness especially among veterans; and the US presidential election in November 2024. She urged members to stay engaged and be change makers within their communities.

STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION

Chief Executive Officer Dr. Anthony Estreet gave the State of the Association address. He noted that while we are working with an administration that is supportive of social work values, anti-progressive legislation has impacted voting rights, LGBTQ+ rights, and reproductive rights.

He also mentioned the mental health crisis facing the country noting that there needs to be increased funding for the mental health continuum of services and a robust workforce equipped to handle the challenges. While the profession is growing, the rate of growth is not keeping pace with demand. Further, social work salaries are still lagging other disciplines. The Bureau of Labor Statistics data still shows the average social work annualized salary as \$55,000. He noted that NASW together with its

legislative partners are working on passage of the *Improving Access to Mental Health Act* that will allow social workers to bill for more Medicare services. Additionally, NASW has increased its efforts to assist more social work students in reducing significant student loan debts through the Biden-Harris Administration's Student Loan Debt Relief program. However, more work needs to be done on other areas such as pay for placement, empowering social workers to be skilled negotiators for salary advancements and highlighting social work as a viable career path much earlier in the career development process.

NASW has been instrumental in passing the Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact to promote license portability. It was noted that to date, a total of eighteen states have passed the social work compact legislation with more states going through the process.

NASW also met with the leadership of Optum United Behavioral Health regarding overpayment for mental health services. The meetings resulted in the appeal period for overpayment requests being expanded from 30 to 90 days and repayment of overpayment requests being expanded from six months to a year.

Regarding the nation's diverse aging population and multiplicity of issues related to aging such as standards of practice in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and palliative care, NASW needs to be leading in those spaces. Dr. Estreet referenced NASW's [practice standards](#) and other resources to better prepare social workers who provide services to the most vulnerable. Dr. Estreet emphasized the importance of chapter and national Lobby Days to highlight and ensure that legislators are familiar with issues important to the social work profession and the populations served.

Dr. Estreet urged social workers to unite as hate speech continues to increase. He stated that NASW is a partner of IFSW, and its voice is joined with social work organizations across the globe even in the Association's response to the conflict between Israel and Hamas. NASW continues to call for peace on both sides. He reiterated that the Code of Ethics provides the reference point for the social work response to situations whether global or domestic. He also mentioned NASW's collaboration with Sesame Street; our engagement in coalitions to carry out the social work agenda; and Social Work Month during which President Biden and Rap Artist Ludacris sent messages that were well received.

In closing, Dr. Estreet highlighted the 2024 NASW National Conference with approximately 2,500 registrants who will engage in social work issues such as environmental justice, immigration, artificial intelligence and much more over the next few days.

RATIFICATION OF THE 2024 ELECTION RESULTS

The results of the NASW 2024 national election of officers and members of the Board and the National Committee on Nominations and Leadership Identification (NCNLI) were read into the minutes by Secretary Robin Arndt as follows:

NASW Board of Directors

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Vice President | Sharon Gandarilla-Javier (FL) |
| • Treasurer | Joshua Brewster (IA) |
| • MSW Student Member | Emonie Robinson (CA) |
| • Director, Region III | Ancy Lewis (NYS) |
| • Director, Region IV | Yasoda Sharma (PA) |

- Director, Region VI Tiffany Mayers (NJ)
- Director, Region VIII Dafna Berman (WI)
- Director, Region IX Leticia Villarreal Sosa (IL)

NCNLI

- Region XIII Representative Hector Palencia (CA)

After the reading of the election results, a motion was taken for the ratification of the results.

M/S/Carried

(Arndt/Charles)

To ratify the results of the NASW 2024 national election, which ended on May 31, 2024.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ADJOURNMENT

President Chase opened the floor allowing members the opportunity to make comments and/or ask questions. There were questions regarding the NASW Board's decision to reconstitute the NASW Assurance Services, Inc. Board. Questions were addressed by CEO Dr. Anthony Estreet.

In closing, President Chase said that she is looking forward to the 2024 NASW National Conference. She thanked the attendees for their participation. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:45 p.m. EDT by consensus.