NASW welcomes the new year with a quick look back at organizational milestones and important social changes in our country.

2014
A YEAR IN REVIEW

NASW IN ACTION

“As we strive to meet 21st century health and human-service challenges, it’s exciting to think about expanding strategies that work, funding research that explores new solutions, and creating strong partnerships to ensure impact across communities.”

Angelo McClain, PhD, LICSW, is CEO of the National Association of Social Workers. He was previously commissioner for the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families and vice president and executive director at Value Options New Jersey. McClain began his career as a child welfare case manager in Texas.

NASW-sponsored symposium to support the Bipartisan Voter Rights Amendment

Clinical social workers begin using new PQRS measures in fee Medicare claims

NASW participates in a familiar USA symposium on the Affordable Care Act

NASW helps pass suicide training legislation in Washington state

New NASW Commerce Back View, Lifeskills, Office Depot and Constant Contact benefits are added

NASW International District helps members who move overseas stay connected

Capital Hill Briefing: “Achieving Racial Equity: Social Workers as Agents of Change”

2014 NASW Media Award Winners include The New York Times, HBO and Daily Kos

NASW secures state licensing preference for BSWs and MSWs in Connecticut

President Obama signs the Protecting Access to Medicare Act on April 1

NASW helps pass social work title protection legislation in Ohio

A special commission to advance social work practice convenes at NASW

NASW co-sponsors AIDS Children’s Mental Health Summit in Washington, D.C.

Capital Hill Briefing: “Ensuring the Rights of Parents with Disabilities and their Children”

NASW Member Dorothy Brooks named White House director of AIDS Policy

NASW National Chapter and Foundation award recipients honored at national conference

International Federation of Social Workers Conference held in Melbourne, Australia

NASW co-sponsors the SAMHSA Voice Awards in Hollywood

Social Justice Brief: “Unaccompanied Migrant Children”

NASW Foundation awards $300,000 in grants, fellowships and scholarships

NASW Insurance Services introduces cyber liability insurance protection for members

NASW AIDS Spectrum training grant is renewed for 3rd year

NASW FACE Board finalizes $140 political endorsements for midterm elections

36-saving and the District of Columbia implement ACA Medicaid expansion

NASW cancels and renovates its headquarters to reduce expenses
TOP 10 TRENDING TOPICS IN THE NASW NEWS – 2014

1. SOCIAL WORK SELF CARE
Compassion fatigue, or secondary traumatic stress, is a combination of physical, emotional, and spiritual depletion associated with caring for clients in distress. Social workers are more vulnerable than ever to develop compassion fatigue because of the ever-increasing demands on staff to do more with less. Experts in this area discuss the ways social workers can practice self-care.

2. GERIATRIC SOCIAL WORK
About 10,000 baby boomers in the United States will turn 65 each day until the year 2030, and by 2020 one in six Americans is projected to be age 65 and older. That means up to 70,000 geriatric social workers will be needed to help address the aging needs of baby boomers. We discuss some of the initiatives taking place to train social workers to better meet these needs. Among their many roles, social workers are an important part of helping families caregivers of older adults navigate through health and mental health networks.

3. SUICIDE PREVENTION
NASW member Chris Galinsky talks about her passion for raising awareness and fighting the stigma surrounding depression and suicide by organizing the annual Out of the Darkness walk in her community. News readers also learned about macro efforts to reduce suicide deaths, such as the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention’s research strategy.

4. PRIVATE PRACTICE
Clinical social workers faced significant changes in 2014 that affected their practices. We examine these changes and offer resources for more information.

5. THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT
Social workers play important roles in the implementation of President Obama’s health care legislation, which has provided health insurance coverage to millions of Americans who were previously uninsured. The News ran a series of articles in 2014 about the ACA. Some of the highlights include social workers as navigators who help people choose the right health care plan and sign up for coverage, and NASW chapters who urged their states to approve Medicaid expansion.

6. CHILD IMMIGRATION
By last fall, as many as 60,000 children had migrated from Central America to the United States in less than a year, most after fleeing violence and economic turmoil in their own countries. This influx caused a humanitarian crisis in 2014 and prompted President Obama to ask Congress for nearly $4 billion to help address the crisis. The News examined how social workers advocate for these children and assist them through the maze of immigration court and application processes once they arrive in the United States. Social workers can also be instrumental in helping these minors find legal representation and other services.

7. ANIMAL-ASSISTED THERAPY
Austrian neurologist Sigmund Freud was known to have his dogs present during client sessions, and an animal’s soothing presence has long been noted for therapeutic properties, says Ellen Wexler, co-founder of Animal Assisted Therapy Programs of Colorado. Animal therapy can mean two different things, she says. There is the volunteer type of animal therapy where individuals bring their pets into various settings — such as hospitals and schools — to lift people’s spirits. The other type is focused on social workers, counselors and therapists who include animals to aid a therapy session. We talked with social workers who use dogs and horses in their therapy sessions, and they explain the benefits of doing so.

8. SCHOOL VIOLENCE SOLUTIONS
Headlines announcing the latest incidents of school violence have become common, and calls for solutions have been open to debate. Social workers in this area told The News it’s important to focus on the mental health impact rather than promoting a fear-mongering mentality to protect students from violence. Social workers are urging more programs and resources that provide early mental health screenings and treatments for school children, and they also promote the value of a community approach to aid troubled students before they feel the need to act out in violence.

9. SEX TRAFFICKING OF MINORS
Sex trafficking of girls — and less often boys — under the age of 18 has existed for years, but social workers and others who specialize in this area say it’s becoming more common as demand grows. This feature details who the most vulnerable youths are, what signs social workers can look for, and what they can do to help. Experts say social workers can advocate for better care in the foster care system, where many sex-trafficking victims are found, and for social policies to keep minors from becoming victims of sex trafficking.

10. THE WAR ON POVERTY
Since President Lyndon Johnson declared a “War on Poverty” in 1964, social workers have been on the front lines fighting to alleviate poverty in the United States. The News ran a series of articles in honor of the 50th anniversary of the War on Poverty, and detailed NASW — and the profession’s — involvement. We looked back 50 years and brought readers up to the present — and future — at the ongoing struggle to help America’s poorest citizens.

These are just some of the issues covered last year in the NASW News. Members can read the full articles in the online News archives at socialworkers.org.

“The advance of a population is measured by the number of conversations that can take place in policy circles. Too often, the problems of poverty is ignored.”
—Michael Grimes, international rep, professor of Social Work, Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis

“Children in silence are apparently non-violent...predictably in the end they build guns. It is never too late.”
—Marlene Warner, former director of School Children’s Services, social and emotional education at the California School for the Blind, now at the principal love, passion, education, adaptability, hope and vitality of children’s services. Adapted from a speech by Nelson Mandela.
“As advocates for vulnerable populations, social workers must continue to make contributions in the conversations surrounding poverty, and the profession must engage more actively in policy discussions. Their involvement is needed to ensure that the human face of poverty is not overlooked.”

Michael Grinstein-Weiss, PhD, MSW, is a national and international expert in social and economic mobility and an associate professor at Washington University in St. Louis at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work.

“Children who are troubled are often suffering in silence from invisible wounds that may not be apparent to teachers and even parents. School violence is prevalent and risk factors are not ‘predictable factors.’ No matter where that child is in the spectrum of health we can take them and move them forward and help them build resilience and coping skills. It is never too late and we should never give up.”

Marlows Wong, PhD, MSW, has invested more than 20 years in analyzing the behavior of school children exposed to trauma. She is a professor, director of field education at the University of Southern California School of Social Work and is also the principal investigator for the Trauma Services Adoption Center for Community, Hope and Wellness in Schools.

55 CHAPTERS

HALF OF NASW MEMBERS ARE 45–65 YEARS OLD. MOST HAVE MORE THAN 20 YEARS OF SOCIAL WORK EXPERIENCE.
As a member you have access to tools and resources that help you grow and succeed as a professional social worker and community leader.

**advance IN THE WORKPLACE**

**CAREER CENTER:** Search online for a new social work job, negotiate for higher pay, or start a business.

**WEBINARS:** Learn what's happening in multiple fields of practice through free and discounted courses.

**PRACTICE TOOLS:** Get guidance on hot practice topics from social workers who understand national policy.

**protect YOURSELF**

**INSURANCE:** Make sure complaints don't derail your career with insurance and risk management workshops.

**LEGAL:** Train how colleagues are handling complex, regulatory and legal challenges in the workplace.

**ETHICS:** Use the NASW Code of Ethics to improve your organization's service standards.

**connect WITH COLLEAGUES**

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** Join 100,000+ social workers online to discuss compelling professional and social issues.

**CHAPTERS:** Attend local education, advocacy and social events to expand your social work network.

**CONFERENCES:** Build skills and earn CEUs through your chapter conference or the national conference.

**advocate FOR SOCIAL WORK**

**LISTSERV:** Shape public policy by contacting elected officials online about social work positions.

**REINVESTMENT:** Help social workers in Congress pass national legislation to study and support the profession.

**MEDIA:** Change public perceptions of social workers by educating journalists, filmmakers and producers.

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**NASW**

**RESOURCES & BENEFITS**

NASW Member Center > Your Profile
SocialWorkers.org/membercenter

Social Work Career Center
Careers.SocialWorkers.org

Specialty Practice Sections
SocialWorkers.org/sections

NASW Credentials
SocialWorkers.org/credentials

Online Continuing Education
SocialWorkers.org/ce

Publications & Subscriptions
SocialWorkers.org/pubs

Professional Liability & Group Insurance
NASWAssurance.org

Practice Updates
SocialWorkers.org/practice

NASW Chapters
SocialWorkers.org/chapters

Social Media
SocialWorkers.org/socialmedia

NASW Member Discount Programs
SocialWorkers.org/joinbenefits/discounts

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“We are the ones held accountable for the ethical and successful management of our practices. We need not fear these changes; instead we can embrace them and utilize them to better benefit ourselves, our practices and our clients.”

Camielle Calh, LCESW, has a private practice in Sihca, Alaska.