Annual Workplan Highlights for 2008-09

Making the Case for Social Work in Idaho

Since 1975, the membership of the Idaho Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers has worked to make the case for our profession—effectively elevating the values and roles of social workers in our state...

Our Annual Workplan for 2008 continues the momentum we have gained in promoting the general welfare of our state’s citizens and immigrants. We are building groundwork to further strengthen our profession by lobbying for higher wages, more jobs, and lowering the burden of student loan debt. We are also continually working with the Idaho Board of Social Work Examiners to build a more ethical workforce. We are pleased to share these highlights with you.

Your support of our work is essential.

Our effectiveness in 2008-09 will be made possible by the support we receive from contributions to our PACE fund, retaining members, and attracting hundreds of new members to NASW IDAHO. Please support our 2008-09 Annual Workplan with your membership and a special contribution to Idaho PACE today. Thank you.

Join or renew NASW membership at http://www.socialworkers.org/nasw/join/default.asp. Contribute to Idaho PACE today by mailing a check to IDA-PACE Committee, NASW Idaho, 320 Eleventh Avenue South, Suite 202, Nampa, ID 83651 (208) 475-4215 naswidaho@earthlink.net
Making the Case for Social Work in Idaho

Idaho has among the lowest wages for social workers in the western United States and Canada. We have fewer clinical social workers, per capita, than any other state in the nation. And, our state struggles with several issues of social injustice year after year. Never has Idaho had a greater need for the values and professional roles of social workers.

The Social Work Reinvestment Initiative is a coordinated effort to recruit, retain and retrain social workers (www.socialworkreinvestment.org). The effort includes the mailing of this Workplan to every licensed social worker (almost 4,000) and distribution to hundreds of other social workers and social work students in the State of Idaho. Two bills are currently in the US Congress which we are encouraging our Idaho delegation to cosponsor that will greatly enhance our profession. The Initiative was launched during the 2006 NASW Annual Leadership Meeting and builds on the work of the worldwide 2005 Social Work Congress, the National Social Work Public Education Campaign and a landmark study of the licensed social work labor force. Your local contacts for learning more about the Initiative or any other professional information are:

Far North Branch (greater Coeur d’Alene area): Delmar Stone (208) 475-4215
North Branch (great Moscow/Lewiston area): Brian Christenson (208) 792-2476
Southwest Branch (greater Treasure Valley area): Roberto Olvera (208) 249-2774
South Central Branch (greater Magic/Wood River valleys area): Lora Ohlensehlen (208) 324-5762
Southeast Branch (greater Pocatello/Idaho Falls/Salmon area): Dee Swan (208) 589-0588

Idaho social workers are building the foundation for the Social Work Reinvestment Initiative in this state and members of NASW IDAHO are leading the way.

Growing Together as a Profession

Your professional association continues to represent you every year in the Idaho Legislature and at the Governor’s office. We have expanded our Chapter Office by moving into class A office space acquiring three rooms instead of one with only a modest increase in our monthly lease. Our new Chapter Office better represents our status as valuable professionals in a rapidly growing state.

Graduate students are now able to obtain the MSW in Twin Falls as well as Boise, Nampa, Lewiston, and Coeur d’Alene. The BSW can be obtained in Coeur d’Alene, Lewiston, Twin Falls, Nampa, Boise, Pocatello, and Rexburg. Our state’s accredited schools of social work are well positioned to respond to the needs of future generations of Idahoans.

We will continue to serve all licensed social workers by maintaining our website www.naswidaho.org as the one-stop source for all social work continuing education offered statewide and updated every week. Members-only information will insure cost savings that will surpass annual dues in value of benefit to members!

March 2009 Social Work Month
Visit www.naswidaho.org and scroll down to March 2009 for more information.
Our association is planning to **join the Chamber of Commerce** in each of the cities where we have a social work program and begin to network with business and community leaders utilizing our most articulate and outgoing colleagues making the case for us as to why social workers are an essential part of a healthy community. As the private sector in Idaho increases wages for social workers, state government will see the wisdom of continuing to increase wages for social workers as well.

Our annual Legislative Advocacy Days continues to draw 100 -- 200 social work students to our state’s capitol and we are encouraging professional social workers to attend every year as well. Not only is an ethics CEU offered at no charge to association members but professional wisdom combines with student passion to make us a powerful force in the Statehouse every February.

Idaho no longer has a social worker in the state Legislature. It is time for us to individually contribute to our committee for Political Action for Candidate Election (**PACE**) and increase our clout as a constituency. We have seen several successes in the past few years with legislators friendly to our social policy goals elected in almost every position in Boise. Now we set our sights on the state’s booming second-largest city—Nampa.

**Social Work at the Heart of the Treasure Valley**

The relocation of your professional association’s office to the City of Nampa has been completed and, for the first time, your association is positioned to have an office to be proud of. The new location is minutes from Idaho’s two graduate social work programs, in the center of the state’s largest urban area, in the fastest growing county, and in a city whose political climate is the most challenging of any of the state’s ten largest cities for our profession’s policy goals.

There is great opportunity for grassroots mobilizing using social work student interns. Nampa has more Spanish-speaking persons than any other Idaho city and our Executive Administrative Assistant’s bilingual skills and our membership in the Idaho Hispanic Chamber of Commerce allow us to have a powerful voice for this growing minority.

Social workers, Idaho legislators, and other community leaders will be greeted at the Chapter Office by pictures of the nation’s two senators and seven congresspersons who are social workers serving in the U.S. Capitol. This symbolism of the **Power of Social Work** will serve as inspiration for tireless advocacy for human needs.

**Social Work in the Nation’s Capital**

No other organization does as much for the advancement of our profession than the National Association of Social Workers. And, few organized group of Americans do as much as us to promote social justice in our nation and around the world. Every time you **pay membership dues** and **contribute** to the **PACE funds** you are making the world a better place.

**The National Social Work Public Education Campaign** continues to raise awareness of our profession by placing media campaign ads and working with the media to tell the social work story. We will continue to place timely guest opinions in Idaho newspapers and direct readers to our consumer resource website **www.HelpStartsHere.org**.

Be sure and visit this excellent website that is open to **all licensed social workers** to add her/
his name and practice specifics for a nominal annual fee to the Social Worker Finder. The website also serves as a vehicle for NASW to offer resources and current information from the social work perspective. For example, following the tragic shooting at Virginia Tech in April 2007, NASW quickly disseminated information and guidance on coping with trauma to the media and general public. The website is a living resource for the public to understand the great variety within our profession. Visit www.HelpStartsHere.org often and direct your friends, family, and clients to visit the website and learn more about our chosen profession.

**Get Involved in YOUR Professional Association’s Leadership:**

NASW IDAHO CHAPTER is currently accepting applications for its Board of Directors. Open positions are BSW Student, MSW Student, North Branch Representative, Southeast Branch Representative, and Chairperson of the Chapter Committee on Nominations and Leadership Identification. To view duties of the positions, go to www.naswidaho.org and click on “Chapter Elections.” The Far North Branch and Chairperson of the Political Action for Candidate Election Committee are also open for appointment.

**New Social Work Career Center - Joblink Expansion**

To better assist social workers looking for information about careers in social work, NASW Joblink has been expanded into a Social Work Career Center. CAREERS.socialworkers.org will become the central location for careers in social work. At the main Web page, visitors are able to choose from among four main categories: Find A Job; Explore the Social Work Profession; Professional Development and Training; and Employers. Within the four main tabs, visitors will find content rich with career information, tools and tips. CAREERS.socialworkers.org features include; the popular NASW Joblink with up-to-date job listings; social work salary information; how to begin a career in social work; CE opportunities; credentials and certifications; and, professional networking. Also, employers can post positions, find information on exhibiting at your chapter event, and promote their organization.
**Combined Federal Campaign & NASW**

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is the largest workplace charity campaign in the country and the only campaign authorized to solicit and collect contributions from federal employees in the workplace. Nearly four million federal employees and military personnel contribute to the charities of their choice during the annual charity drive, which runs from September 1 through December 15 at federal government agencies across the nation and overseas. Federal employees can support social work by choosing NASW Foundation #12538 in the CFC!

![Support Social Work in the CFC, NASW Foundation #12538!](image)

**Annual Practice Conference on Aging**

NASW will be offering an Annual Practice Conference. This year’s conference will focus on aging. “The Aging Boom: Is Your Clinical Practice Ready?” will be held on March 15-16, 2009 in conjunction with the American Society on Aging/ National Council on Aging 2009 Aging in America Conference. It will offer social work-specific educational content and unique networking opportunities through workshops, general and breakout sessions, and keynote addresses. Attendees will be able to receive up to 14 CEUs for participating in the conference.

This is the first conference of this type offered by the National Office and we are confident it will add to the membership value of NASW. The NASW Nevada Chapter is a co-sponsor of the event and the NASW Assurance Services, Inc. is the presenting sponsor.

For more information go to [www.socialworkers.org/agingconference](http://www.socialworkers.org/agingconference).

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Informational Meeting Thursday November 6, 3:00 - 5:00 pm  
Application deadline: January 15

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www.rri.pdx.edu*
2009 Chapter Social Work Awards

Award Announcement & Call for Nominations
NASW Idaho Chapter with support of the NASW Foundation announces nominations for the 2009 Idaho Social Work Awards. The awards honor Idaho social workers and other individuals who have, through their work and/or advocacy, advanced the principles and vision of the Social Work profession.

2009 NASW Idaho Chapter Awards and Nomination Requirements:
1. Idaho Social Worker of the Year - NASW-ID Chapter Members Only
2. Idaho Lifetime Achievement Award - NASW-ID Chapter Members and Individuals
3. Idaho Public Citizen of the Year - NASW-ID Chapter Members, Individuals and Social Welfare Organizations
5. Idaho Pioneer Social Worker - NASW-ID Chapter Members, Individuals and Social Welfare Organizations

The Idaho Social Worker of the Year is awarded to an individual who exemplifies the best of Social Work values and achievements through specific accomplishments. The Idaho Social Worker Lifetime Award is given in celebration of a lifetime of social work values and practice in one's lifetime career. The Public Citizen of the Year is awarded to a community member whose accomplishments exemplify the values and mission of professional social work. The Idaho Public Elected Official Award recognizes outstanding service of an elected official who has shown leadership in the formulation of public policy affecting social justice. The Idaho Pioneer Social Worker(s) of the Year is awarded to social worker(s) that have explored new practice territories and have influenced significantly the paradigms of social work best practice.

Nominations Open for all awards: October 1, 2008
Nominations Closed and Mailing Deadline: January 31, 2009 Post Marked by 5:00 PM for all awards except Idaho Public Elected Official which is March 6, 2009 Post Marked by 5:00 PM.

To download award descriptions and nomination forms, go to www.naswidaho.org and click on “Annual Awards.”

Mail complete nomination packets to: NASW-Idaho Awards Committee Chair Skeeter Lynch, LMSW, 1249 Hatter Creek Road, Princeton, Idaho 83857
THE POLITICAL ACTION FOR CANDIDATE ELECTION COMMITTEE OF
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
SOCIAL WORKERS ENDORSEMENTS
for the 2008 GENERAL ELECTION

District 1:          Steve Elgar for Representative
District 2:          C.J. Rose for Representative
District 4:          re-elect George Sayler for Representative
District 6:          re-elect Shirley Ringo for Representative
District 7:          re-elect Joe Stegner for Senator
District 8:          Jim Rehder and Richard Adams for Representatives
District 9:          Wayne Fuller for Senator and candidates Fritz Hallberg and Jennifer Morgan for Representatives
District 11:         Bob Solomon for Representative
District 13:         Byron Yankey for Representative
District 14:         Michelle Waddell for Representative
District 15:         Greg Funk for Representative
District 16:         Les Bock for Senator and candidates Grant Burgoyne and Elfreda Higgins for Representatives
District 17:         re-elect Elliot Werk for Senator and Representatives Bill Killen and Sue Chew
District 18:         re-elect Kate Kelly for Senator and Phylis King for Representative
District 19:         Nicole LeFavour for Senator
District 22:         Rosemary P. Ardinger for Representative
District 23:         Bill Chisholm for Senator and Peter Rickards for Representative
District 25:         re-elect Wendy Jaquat for Representative
District 26:         Scott F. McClure for Senator
District 29:         re-elect Diane Bilyeu for Senator and James D. Ruchti for Representative and candidate Allen Andersen
District 30:         re-elect Elaine Smith for Representative
District 32:         Scott L. Cannon for Representative
District 33:         Neil M. Williams for Senator, re-elect Jerry Shively for Representative and candidate John McGimpsey
District 35:         Luke Prange for Senator and Calvin Leman for Representative

If you have questions about any of these endorsements, please contact the NASW Idaho
Lobbyist: Delmar Stone at (208) 466-0511 or delmarstone@earthlink.net
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