Welcome New Board Members!

NASW-SC welcomed its new board members during the orientation and meeting held September 23. Vice President June Westerlund presided over the meeting and, in executive session following the full board agenda, Gary Tyson, former Vice President for Budget and Finance, agreed to serve the two-year term as Chapter President (previous president, Cheryl Tuttle, resigned prior to meeting).

The Board decided to address membership recruitment and retention, and to support the chapter’s legislative agenda: continued work for Medicaid Expansion, improvement to the child welfare system, Voting Rights, Refugee Issues, and Gun Control legislation to close the “Charleston Loophole.”

Gary Tyson, Chapter President, attended the University of South Carolina and earned a dual Masters’ in Social Work (LMSW) and Public Health Administration (MPH). He is the Executive Director of the Haven in the Summit assisted living community.

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Symposium Plans
This year’s presidential campaign may go down in history as the most bizarre. We’ve had name calling, baiting, and insults lodged in a manner similar to pre-match banter at Worldwide Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) events. We’ve had debates that became so acrimonious that one candidate was accused of stalking.

It’s hard to be proud of the American political process right now.

Sadly, the process took a bad turn in recent weeks, when allegations of sexual abuse emerged about one of our presidential candidates. Actual tapes surfaced in which GOP candidate Donald Trump used abusive, misogynistic language regarding women and what he liked to do to them. Following this, a number of women have come forward alleging that they had been inappropriately touched by the candidate.

That’s right: one of the candidates for the highest office in our country may have a history of sexually abusing women. And bragging about it.

What has been equally disheartening is the defense put forth by the candidate and those in his camp: he said those things, but it was mere “locker room talk.” He denies forcing himself on one of his accusers because she wasn’t attractive enough (“Look at her… I don’t think so!”).

How did we get to this place?

When I hear Trump’s media supporters defend his behavior, I feel a surge of outrage—especially when those defenders are women. “It happened years ago!” they say. “He will disprove these allegations.” My outrage comes from a raw, primal space inside. When these women discredit Trump’s accusers, it feels they are discrediting every woman who has been through something like this. And there are millions of us.

I’ve read dozens of responses to Trump’s comments—from women bloggers, actresses, writers—each describing experiences in which they were inappropriately touched. The first time it happened to me was in the workplace when I was twenty-two years old. I complained; the incident was treated as a mere nuisance. When the violator was accused of being even more forceful with a colleague, and her complaints were ignored, a line of women went to our director: NINE women had been victimized by this man. Finally, action was taken.

Hearing Trump’s words about what he feels entitled to do to women is a kick in the gut. Hearing media and handlers spin it—downplaying it, denying it, and, of course, blaming the victims, it feels like we are turning back time. I am twenty-two again, and not believed.

But it is not 1979, Mr. Trump. What you said, and what you likely did, is not acceptable. Your “locker room talk” has offended thousands of men, including professional athletes, who don’t demean women in that way. We are not letting you turn back the clock. We have evolved. While sexual abuse happens, it is not acceptable.

As a social worker, I’m proud that we have abandoned “the blame the victim” mentality, that we are raising a generation of girls who know what is good touch and what is not and boys who do not condone the violation of others.

I do not know if you will be elected, Mr. Trump, but whatever happens, I hope you will join the rest of us in the twenty-first century. We have much work yet to do.
I would like to use this column to introduce myself and to share a bit of my life (the good parts) with you. My name is Gary Tyson and I have been a Social Worker for the past 22 years. I am a graduate from the University of South Carolina with a duel Master’s degree in social work and public health administration. Most of my career has been in Colorado where I served as a Social Worker for several hospice groups. One of my many passions is for hospice care and for the work they do. The hospice team focus on comfort care for the entire family, not just the patient. With hospice care, the indigent get the same care as the rich. The care also extends beyond the death of a patient to provide grief support for the family at no extra charge. These are the values and practices that attract me to this type of healthcare.

But now my work is with the elderly who suffer from the disease of dementia. Dementia is a disease of the brain in which there is no cure. It is a disease that not only affects the victim but the entire family who need to care for their loved one. I am now serving at the Executive Director at the Haven in the Summit assisted living community. My Health Administration education serves me as I direct a health care organization. As a social worker, I help the families who have a loved one here and who are working through numerous emotions of grief and guilt.

I now also have the honor to serve as the President of the SC-NASW chapter. I truly believe that change cannot come from hopes and dreams but from becoming an active part of the solution. As our chapter continues to work for change in our state I hope to serve NASW as God would guide me.

One area of care I would like to direct NASW is in the field of gerontology. Our population is aging. Baby boomers are getting older (I know I am), and with improved health care and the advancement in the medical sciences, people are living longer. This is good for many obvious reasons but it also leaves us with many questions and concerns. Will Medicare be able to handle the influx of seniors? Will those who outlive their savings be able to get Medicaid? Where will the caregivers come from and at what cost. We are therefore looking at the development of an “Aging Committee” for our chapter. This committee would work to guide legislation for the future of our state, educate people in the many areas of aging and the needs we will face in the coming years. We also hope to guide new Social Workers who wish to work in the geriatric arena.

My final passion is my family and my spirituality. I have been blessed with a loving wife and an eight year old (going on 18) daughter. They help bring sanity back to my life after a long hard day.

I hope that, through the tenure of my time with NASW, I get the opportunity to meet you and to hear your thoughts and goals for our organization.
Dear NASW members,

We have entered Autumn, and our world has tilted on its axis again. As with all of our seasons, Earth shifts and moves, yet we know that in a few months another change will come. There is something spiritual about the hope that changing seasons bring. We have faith in our world to keep spinning and moving us through days and years. Several years back, the NASW theme of the year was Restoring Hope. Today that theme is still so prominent. There is such troubling news—hurricanes, school shootings, an extremely polarized Presidential election, and Aleppo airstrikes.

Yet, as an NASW director said about Restoring Hope, Social Workers are the holders of hope. We know its role in solving problems with individuals and families, and we understand hope's power. I catch myself using the word "hope" so much sometimes and delete it from emails and texts...I hope you're okay...I hope you have fun...I hope you're weekend was spectacular...I hope that you find rest and rejuvenation. But, as I type this for our newsletter, I'm feeling okay with my overwhelming use of hope. Keep hoping, colleagues. The Earth will continue to shift and move and travel us through time and space in its miraculous journey. Let us continue to recognize that forward motion through all of the tough stuff that we see and touch and hear each day.

Happy Autumn and here's to hoping that the temperature outside begins to be match the season,

Amy Knight

Social Workers Speak at Senate Hearing

On October 27th, the fourth and final Senate hearing on gun issues took place in the Gressette building, state house grounds, at 6 PM. The senate panel included Senators Gerald Malloy (Ch.), George E. "Chip" Campsen, III, Chauncey K. Gregory, Greg Hembree, and Marlon E. Kimpson.

Numerous people testified, some supporting the closing of the Charleston Loophole which allowed Dylan Roof to purchase the gun he used to kill nine people in the Mother Emanuel AME Church. Other opposed any changes to SC’s gun laws, stating fears of government control over their own access to guns.

Three social workers and members of NASW testified in favor of closing the loophole. Sara Damewood cited her years working with those who have mental illness and the harm that guns can cause. Carla Damron talked about the link between gun possession and successful completion of suicide, including a personal story of a former NASW-SC intern who died this way. Evelyn Phillips talked about gun violence as a public health issue, noting that every fourteen hours, a South Carolinian dies from gun violence. She stressed the need to strengthen laws and penalties for...
Supervision Offered:

My name is Suntia Smith and I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and an approved Clinical Supervisor. I am currently conducting interviews for LMSW's who would like to pursue clinical supervision in the Greenville/Upstate Area.

In addition to teaching **Clinical and Ethical standards**, my model of supervision will address the following areas:

- How to provide effective assessment, treatment and intervention with clients
- How to find your strengths and passion to become an effective counselor
- Understanding client's rights and adhering to safe boundaries
- Personal and Educational development to enhance skills
- Steps to foster balance and self-care to prevent burnout
- Different career paths in the field of social work
- Community work and organization
- Confidential presentation of case reviews
- Individualized discussions to target the professional and personal growth of each LMSW

For more information, feel free to contact me at (864) 559-8181 or email me at suntia@suntiasmith.com. To find out more about me and my practice, visit: www.suntiasmth.com

**Suntia Smith**
SERVING GREENVILLE & SURROUNDING AREAS

tel: (864) 559 - 8181
fax: (864) 751 - 9331
email: info@suntiasmith.com
online: http://suntiasmith.com
Explaining the Coverage Gap in South Carolina

- It’s possible to get healthcare coverage to **all South Carolinians**—even those who cannot afford insurance—through Medicaid Expansion.

- Unfortunately, Governor Haley has refused to ask for the Federal dollars for Medicaid Expansion in SC, that could make this happen, leaving them **uninsured**.

- These 123,000 uninsured folks fall into the **Coverage Gap**.

  * If your income is below ACA guidelines for premium discounts (**100% of Federal Poverty Level**), and you are not eligible for Medicaid in South Carolina you are **in the Coverage Gap**.
  
  *100% of FPL is $11,880 for an individual and $20,160 for a family of three.

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**The Coverage Gap**

- 123,000 low income working South Carolinians have no access to affordable care;
- Over 26,000 are military veterans and their spouses;
- Many hospitals are struggling to provide healthcare to uninsured folks; people are losing access to care and hospitals are closing. Medicaid Expansion could help cure both of these issues.

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Under South Carolina’s current Medicaid Program, working parents must have incomes below 52% of FPL to be eligible. Childless adults are not currently eligible for coverage no matter how poor they are, unless they are elderly, disabled, or pregnant.

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123,000 uninsured South Carolinians are in the Coverage Gap.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federal Poverty Level</th>
<th>Current South Carolina Medicaid Program</th>
<th>Coverage Gap</th>
<th>Health Insurance Marketplace</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$7,386</td>
<td>$11,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family of 3</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$12,516</td>
<td>$20,160</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation, SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center

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**Who’s in the Gap?**
If you don’t make enough money to buy insurance **AND...** you’re not eligible for Medicaid.

**You’re In the Coverage Gap.**

**What can you do?**
Share your story. Help others understand why we have a **Coverage Gap**.

Get help sharing your story, call SC Appleseed 803-779-1113 x.104.

Tell Governor Haley to “Close the Coverage Gap”.

**Make your voice heard!**

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For more information on how SC can close the Gap, visit:

[http://palmettoplusssc.org](http://palmettoplusssc.org)

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Palmetto Healthcare Jobs

SOUTH CAROLINA APPLESSEED LEGAL JUSTICE CENTER
A voice for those in need
PO Box 7187, Columbia, SC 29202
803.779.1113
[www.scjustice.org](http://www.scjustice.org)
USC College of Social Work announces new Incubator Project

Apply to the i3 Incubator!

We are excited to announce that i3 are now accepting applications to our 2017 i3 Incubator cohort.

The i3 Incubator is a place in our community where you can bring a truly new idea for helping people and get support to make it a reality. Through the incubator, we will help you create your social innovation and test it quickly- In a matter of weeks or months rather than years. We will also help you collect evidence of the impact of your innovation, build a network to support your innovation, and tell your story to funders and other important stakeholder groups.

What is the i3 Incubator?

The incubator is people. We are researchers, students, and community leaders who are passionate about helping social sector organizations enhance their impact in South Carolina. We will provide mentorship, networking and staff support throughout your project. And if you need expertise that we don't have, we will find it for you.

The incubator is a partnership. We will meet regularly with teams to provide innovation and implementation coaching, execute project plans, review impact evaluation data, etc. We will all be investing significant amounts of time in your success! The Incubator can also provide project resources and supplies as needed.

The incubator is a process. We have applied best practices from the fields of social innovation and implementation science to create a process that will fast track innovation in South Carolina. Over the course of one year, teams will proceed through a series of seven iterative stages.

All applications will be due November 14th, 2016 by 5:00 PM EST.

Application information is available at http://www.i3sc.org/apply
Social workers stand up for millions of people each day.

They stand up by comforting people who are experiencing devastating illnesses and mental health crises, ensuring they get the best care while on the road to recovery. They stand up and support our brave military personnel, veterans and their families.

They work in communities and with national, state and local government to provide services and pass legislation to stand with and help the most vulnerable.

Child, family and school social workers stand up by protecting children who have been abused or neglected, helping children find new families through adoption, and ensuring young people reach their full academic and personal potential.

SOCIAL WORK PORTRAYALS ARE IMPROVING

BUT MORE WORK MUST BE DONE

Thanks to public education campaigns over the past decade from the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and other organizations, more people recognize the way social workers stand up for others.

This is reflected in the news and on television shows and in film. The Atlantic Magazine and U.S. News and World Report recently did profiles of social workers and the benefits of the social work profession. And director and screenwriter Oren Moverman used advice from social workers when he depicted a kind but firm social worker who helps people who are homeless in the powerful 2015 film Time Out of Mind.

Yet many people still misunderstand exactly what a social worker is and the positive contributions social workers make in our society. For instance, NASW in 2016 asked Harvard Medical School’s Health Publications to correct a definition of social workers that seriously downplayed the role social workers play in providing mental health services in our nation.

Some reporters continue to write negative articles about a “social worker” making a mistake. However, on closer examination, the identified person in the story is often not a social worker by education, training or licensure. Other reporters will casually describe a local volunteer or community activist as a social worker. Although this is flattering, it ignores the fact that social workers obtain extensive education, training and credentialing so they can proudly carry the social work title.

And some states have licensing laws that do not include title protection for social workers. In these states anyone can self-identify as a social worker – they just can’t call themselves licensed social workers. It is im-
2017 SOCIAL WORK MONTH THEME & RATIONALE

SOCIAL WORKERS STAND UP! CAMPAIGN WILL HIGHLIGHT VALUE OF PROFESSION

Stressing the need for consumers to recognize and use the services of social workers is important. Social workers are trained to look at situations in a holistic way. They help people increase their ability to solve problems, to cope with stressors and to get needed resources. Social workers bring individuals together with other people and their communities to find solutions for problems that continue to plague our society, including hunger, lack of affordable housing, and equal rights for all. And social workers make organizations responsible to people through sound social policy. NASW will launch the “Social Workers Stand Up!” campaign during Social Work Month 2017 in March to educate the public about contributions of social workers and why the professional title of social worker is so important.

The aim of this campaign is to improve the image and respect of the social work profession by educating the public, media and elected officials about social work. We want to give social workers and their allies guidance and tools they can use to address unfair representations of social workers in the media. We will also provide information people can use to enact laws and legislation that advance the social work profession.

We will here more about Social Workers Stand Up in the coming months. It will also be the theme for our conference, March 21-23, 2017. What can you do to support the campaign? Check out pages 10-11.

It’s Almost That Time of Year Again!

Our Symposium Committee has been working diligently these past few months to prepare for the 31st Annual Spring Symposium, to be held March 21-23 at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Columbia. This year’s theme is Stand Up for Social Work! We will offer forty plus workshops appealing to advanced and beginning social workers, counselors, and human service workers. Don’t miss your chance to earn up to 20 CEU’s in just three days. Registration is scheduled to open by January 2, 2017. Please check our website www.scnasw.org for up-to-date information.

Sponsors and Exhibitors! We need you!

If you or your company would like to be an exhibitor or sponsor at this year Symposium please contact Juliana Palyok at the Chapter Office at 803-256-8406. The symposium is a great way to interact with South Carolina’s social workers and establish valuable business relationships as well as promote your business.
What you can do to help

#SOCIALWORKERSSTANDUP

Identify as a social worker instead of a psychotherapist, professor, researcher, administrator, community organizer or legislative aide
Be sure to use MSW or other social work degree or credential on your business card or email signature
Consider using your social worker or your degree or credential as part of your name on social media accounts.
When you write letters to newspapers, politicians or other groups identify as a social worker.
We all love to joke and clown with friends and family. Still, try to refrain joking about low pay or high workloads for some social workers. These issues are not funny and joking about them devalues the profession.

Try not to say things such as “I’m not doing this for the money.” That also devalues the profession.

Conduct and encourage research that demonstrates the value of social work.

Encourage schools of social work to run quality programs that encourage students to feel positive about the profession.
Go to schools and tell students why you love your profession

Offer to do media interviews about social work. Or write letters to the editor about issues that are important to the profession.

Encourage the organizations you work for hold events or distribute materials that show the value of social work.
Write articles, blog posts and even books about social work.

What to do if you think the media misrepresented a social worker:
Confirm the person mentioned is in fact a professional social worker. Contact your state licensing board to confirm if necessary.
Call or email the reporter or editor, TV news producer or film director or writer. Don’t just complain – ask them to take a specific action such as run a correction or provide additional information about the social work profession.

Consider writing a letter to the editor. If the article or video clip is online you may also be able to post an online comment protesting the portrayal. Sometimes old-fashioned letters are effective because they showed you took additional time and effort. Be sure to send the letter certified to the organization so you have a record it was received.

Be polite but firm in your communications.

If the misrepresentation is serious contact your NASW State Chapter (www.socialworkers.org/chapters) or email NASW’s Membership, Marketing and Communications department for assistance (media.nasw@socialworkers.org).

Go to the media company’s website or social media page and express your concern.

“Go to schools and tell students why you love your profession. Offer to do media interviews about social work. Or write letters to the editor about issues that are important to the profession.”
We love your stories!

NASW SC encourages everyone to contribute noteworthy information for Chapter Update. All material should be typed and emailed to the Chapter Office. Chapter Update is published by the National Association of Social Workers South Carolina Chapter.

For information about advertising in the newsletter or renting membership labels, contact the chapter office at (803) 256-8406. NASW reserves the right to accept, reject or edit advertisements and notices of events based on publication schedule, space limitations and appropriateness. The views expressed in Chapter Update do not necessarily represent positions of NASW. Because of the commitment of NASW to nondiscriminatory personnel practices, advertisers in NASW publications, by action of the NASW Board of Directors, must affirm that they are equal opportunity employers. For violations of professional ethics or personnel practices, a person may file a complaint with the NASW SC Chapter Committee on Inquiry. For information, write the Chapter Office at 2537 Gervais Street, Columbia SC 29204 or call 803-256-8406. For information regarding: Social work licensure, call or write the Board of Social Work Examiners, PO Box 11329, Columbia, SC  29211-1329, 803-896-4665, www.llr.state.sc.us