



**SSWLHC**  
Society for Social Work  
Leadership in Health Care

## SSWLHC NEWSLETTER

**JANUARY 2017**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!**



CAROL CHARLES, TRICIA MATTESON AND LINDA  
BRANDEIS AT THE SSWLHC NATIONAL CONFERENCE

### *Social Work Innovations for Health Care in Changing Times*

The 51<sup>st</sup> annual SSWLHC national conference was four jam-packed days filled with inspiring lectures, high-quality educational workshops, and professional networking. With the support of our local Board, I had the opportunity to attend this year, along with **President-Elect, Carol Charles**, and came home feeling enthused about new ways to engage our membership to make our local SSWLHC chapter an even more robust, meaningful and relevant organization.

A highlight of the conference for me was the opportunity to attend the Chapter Presidents' Meeting. Scott Ferguson, National President, discussed the major project of the past year: the development of a new national website and logo. I encourage you to check them both out at [www.sswlhc.org](http://www.sswlhc.org). This meeting was also a wonderful opportunity to connect with other chapter presidents to exchange ideas and collaborate on the future of our individual chapters. I'm excited to be bringing these ideas back to the WA state board and exploring ways to offer our local members even more opportunities to connect with fellow healthcare social workers.

**Tricia Matteson**

## SSWLHC NATIONAL CONFERENCE, CONTINUED....

The national SSWLHC conference in Costa Mesa, CA was energizing, inspiring, and validating.

Sessions showcased new programs to meet patient and organizational needs, and ways of measuring social work impact. In our health care system, with fragmentation and misaligned incentives, social workers are called to be skillful navigators. We know how to advocate without alienating - at all levels. Our guiding principle continues: What is in the best interest of those we serve?

Themes that came up repeatedly were:

- Use of evidence informed practices
- Leadership as a behavior
- National membership as a resource for consultation
- Recognizing opportunities to be proactive
- Celebrating successes, no matter how small
- Encouraging our social work colleagues to foster resiliency and to focus on energy enhancing work.

I didn't expect to leave the conference renewed, energized and excited about my profession, but I did.

My sincere thanks to the chapter for providing this opportunity. I would encourage members to consider the national conference in Baltimore, **October 11 -14, 2017.**

***Carol Charles, President elect***



**Mandy Boes-Rossi, Carol Kummet, Tracy Hirai-Seaton,  
UWMC Presenters at the National Conference**

### **Partnership with Oncology Social Work Network**

Your SSWLHC-WA membership allows you to access select CE opportunities sponsored by the local OSWN at no charge. Watch for emails announcing upcoming events.

# NOW MORE THAN EVER! TAKE ACTION IN THE NEW YEAR

The NASW Code of Ethics states, "*Social workers should be aware of the impact of the political arena on practice and should advocate for changes in policy and legislation to improve social conditions in order to meet basic human needs and promote social justice.*" In light of the changing political climate please consider supporting these agencies:

- Washington State Hospital Association
- American Civil Liberties Union of Washington
- Equal Rights Washington
- Planned Parenthood of Washington
- Youth Care
- Northwest Immigration Rights Project

*Or consider attending Social Work Lobby day in Olympia!* More information here: <https://nasw-wa.org/event-registration/?ee=147>

*Madeline Cody*

## ***Change Begins With You!***

Whether it's signing up for legislative alerts, contacting an elected official via email or phone or talking with others about key bills, we can all practice social policy advocacy. Not sure which legislative district you are in? Enter your address in the link below to find out.

<http://app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder/>

Sign up for legislative alerts here:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WALEG/subscriber/new>

Methods for Contacting Your Legislators found here:

<http://leg.wa.gov/LIC/Pages/hotline.aspx>

The Washington State Legislature offers a simple, easy way to contact our elected officials in Olympia- the toll-free **Legislative Hotline**. For more information, call **1-800-562-6000**

### **Tips On Sending A Message To Elected Officials**

1. Think it through, write out a draft, be concise, and add in a personal story.
2. What's the big picture? How many people/families are being impacted?
3. What's the setting? E.g., personal home, hospital, shelter.
4. Who? Family caregivers, home health providers, veterans?
5. What's the magnitude of the problem? E.g., 1.2 million family caregivers.
6. What's your ask? I'm asking for your vote in support of bill .

***Sharon Mast***

**PRESIDENT'S LETTER:**

***TRICIA MATTESON***



As I ponder the start of a new year and any resolutions I might make for 2017, my thoughts keep returning to the country's recent election. Although it is too early to know with certainty the impact of the incoming administration on healthcare in America, President-elect Trump has been adamant - throughout the campaign and since his election - about his intention to "*repeal and replace*" the Affordable Care Act. Some of his proposed reforms include opening up the sale of health insurance across state lines, allowing a tax deduction for health insurance premiums, moving Medicaid to a block-grant program, and removing barriers to pharmaceutical sales in order to allow consumers "access to imported, safe and dependable drugs from overseas." Meanwhile, Speaker of the House, Paul Ryan, is proposing replacing the current Medicare program with a voucher system which would provide a premium-support payment and a list of coverage options.

While we won't know the ultimate results of these proposed changes for months or years to come, we do know that such policies often deliver the most profound impact on those in our community who are most vulnerable. As you consider your own new year's resolutions, I encourage you to keep in mind the Social Work Code of Ethics. Section 6, "Social Workers' Ethical Responsibilities to the Broader Society" states, in part:

***Social workers should engage in social and political action that seeks to ensure that all people have equal access to the resources, employment, services, and opportunities they require to meet their basic human needs and to develop fully. Social workers should be aware of the impact of the political arena on practice and should advocate for changes in policy and legislation to improve social conditions in order to meet basic human needs and promote social justice.***

So here's to 2017! Along with many opportunities for advocacy, may it also bring you and yours good health and happiness.

***Tricia Matteson, President SSWLHC-WA***

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**MARCH IS SOCIAL WORK MONTH!!!**

March is Social Work Month and the time for the Society for Social Worker Leadership in Health Care-WA State Annual conference and Resource Fair, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017. We are back at the Mountaineers Club for our conference, 7700 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115. We are also thrilled to have the support of the community resource providers who make this annual event the success that it has been for many years. In addition to support they give us in the field, they come together and sponsor this event and assist us in giving scholarships to two second-year graduate students in the medical setting. The funds we raised allow us to give a generous scholarship for two deserving students to assist with cost of getting their MSW. They are also invited to join the SSWLHC-WA Board of Directors and take part in board responsibilities during the school year.

Our March Annual Conference and Resource Fair also offers CEU's. This year we are thrilled to have **Pamela Thompson, MSW, CSW**, Director of the Social Work Department at Kootenai Medical Center, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho as one of our invited speakers. The title of her presentation is **Value and Ethical dilemmas facing Medical Social Workers**, for 1.5 ethics CEU's. Pamela is former President of the National SSWLHC and has been part of the National organization for many years. She has been on the faculty of: Walla Walla College, MSW program; Eastern WA University, MSW program; University of Idaho, Masters in Counseling program; Boise State University, MSW program; and Lewis and Clark State College, BSW program. There are many other places where she has spoken, taught, worked on boards and national initiatives. We are thrilled to bring a colleague from a neighboring state to speak at our conference.

We are also thrilled to have a Physician from the University of Washington, psychiatry residency program as our other speaker, Dr. **Megan Riddle, MD, and PhD** in Neuroscience from Weill Cornell Medical College. Dr. Riddle recently published an article in the Journal of Hospital Medicine, September 9, 2016: "**When personality is the problem: Managing patients with difficult personalities on the acute care unit**". She has done a presentation for the social work department at the University of Washington Medical Center titled: **Driving Me Crazy: Personality Disorders and the Hospitalized Patient**, and will be joining us on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Mountaineers Club.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting for learning, networking, and celebration of Social Work Month.

**Linda Brandeis**