

SSWLHC WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2016



CONGRATULATIONS TO TRICIA MATTESON, SSWLHC PRESIDENT!



Tricia Matteson is a long-time volunteer with the SSWLHC WA, having started with us as a student of Sandi Johnson. Tricia helped to bring the organization into the world of technology, establishing our Facebook page and moving the organization to online registration and membership renewal processes. Tricia is also an oncology social worker, and has built a solid reputation in the field of oncology social work. We are fortunate to welcome Tricia to the SSWLHC as our new president. Tricia's President's Letter is on page 3.

NEW LEGISLATION ON ADVANCE DIRECTIVES STARTING JANUARY 2017

Effective January 1, 2017, a significant new requirement for DPOA's will begin. The DPOA will now require either two witnesses or notarization in order to be valid. Currently, Washington State does not require either. This will create a burden for patients who are hospitalized and don't have the availability of notaries or non-conflicted witnesses. The best way to counter this problem is to encourage advance directives to be done in advance, prior to a crisis. The WSHA is working on disseminating this information to their members.

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

President: Tricia Matteson

President-elect: Carol Charles

Secretary: Rachel Dieleman

Treasurer: Jenny Winston

Membership chair: Sandi Johnson

Social policy chair: Sharon Mast

Education chair: Linda Brandeis

Education co-chair: Halee Dams

Scholarship chair: Sima

Kulshreshtha

Communications chair: Brian

Giddens

Technology chair: Maddie Cody

Member-at-large: Nicole Nevey

VA CELEBRATES 90 YEARS OF SOCIAL WORK

At the last NASW National Conference in Washington, DC the Association for VA Social Workers held a reception for all VA SWers in attendance.

They invited 3 Guests from the VA Central Office: Dr. David Shulkin, the Under Secretary for Health; Dr. Jennifer Lee, Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Policy and Services; and Dr. Maureen McCarthy, Deputy Under Secretary for Patient Care Services. In attendance were social work directors from the Central Office: Laura Taylor, Director of Social Work; Lisa Pape, Director of the Homeless Program; Michael Kilmer, the Chief Consultant for Social Work and Care Management.

There was a timeline of SW in the VA going back to 1926, copies of original psychosocial assessments, information about the social work role in mental health and medical areas from the late 20's to the 40's with the same content that we use in our psychosocial assessments at the VA at the present time. The VA and especially the social work departments have made the "ICARE" banner part of the care that we deliver each day to Veterans here at VA Puget Sound and throughout the country: **I**ntegrity, **C**ommitment, **A**dvocacy, **R**espect, **E**xcellence ("I CARE") The celebration focused on the many social work leaders throughout the 90 years of service and the various programs and activities that social work is part of and leads. Social workers are embedded in the Primary Care Clinics, Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Suicide Prevention Programs, the Homeless Program, Caregiver Support Programs, and many of the centers of excellence at the various VA facilities. At the Puget Sound Health Care System we have the Bone Marrow Transplant Center; The MS Center of Excellence; The ALS Center; and the Spinal Cord Injury program just to name a few. The Fisher Houses throughout the country are primarily run by social work and provide housing to families that travel to the VA, providing communal living space so the family can remain close to the veteran. (**Linda Brandeis**)

President's Letter from Tricia Matteson:

Greetings! It's exciting and humbling to be writing my first President's Letter. ***I want to start by thanking the outgoing 2015-16 Board members, and sending out a warm welcome and thank you to the current Board.*** Your time and enthusiasm in serving is much appreciated.

With the US presidential election looming, I've been thinking a lot about what I desire in a President. I look for someone who will lead and inspire, listen, support, and react thoughtfully. While I can't pretend to compare the role of President of SSWLHC-WA to that of POTUS, I do hope to emulate these actions in the coming year. ***Please reach out to me with your thoughts, concerns, and goals for our organization, so we can work together to meet your expectations.***

Looking ahead, we have some wonderful continuing education events planned, including the always-informative Legislative Update Forum with Cassie Sauer later this fall, and the annual Educational Conference and Resource Fair in March. In addition, the Board is looking at ways to engage members through informal after-work networking events, so be on the lookout for more information in the months to come. We also hope to provide mentorship opportunities that will bring experienced social workers together with some of our newer members to further our mission to "lead, promote, develop, and support social work values, practice, and leadership in health care."

We are in the midst of updating our chapter web site, and I encourage you to check out what is available there now (www.sswlhc-wa.org) and give us your feedback. Our Facebook page continues to be a great way to stay informed of upcoming educational events and job postings, and our Google Group provides an active forum for you and your fellow healthcare social work leaders to share ideas, strategies, frustrations, and successes. Your active involvement in these various social media sites will keep them fresh and pertinent to the work we do.

So, here's to a great year ahead for SSWLHC-WA! I look forward to working with each of you to continue to make SSWLHC-WA relevant and useful to all of our members.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2016 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!!!

We are pleased to announce that we have selected 2 recipients for the SSWLHC Scholarships. The purpose of this scholarship is to:

- To raise the visibility of the Social Work profession in the area of health care.
- To honor and support outstanding students who are committed to pursuing a Social Work career in health care.
- To provide mentorship opportunities to students new to the field

Emma Green



Sandee Rodgers

This year's recipients of the \$2500 scholarships are **Emma Green** and **Sandee Rodgers**. We look forward to having Emma and Sandee join our monthly board meetings.

Born and raised in Massachusetts, Emma moved to Seattle to attend the University of Washington for her master's degree in Social Work. She is in her second-year of the MSW day program and concentrating in Administration and Policy Practice. Before entering the MSW program, she earned her BA from the College of the Holy Cross and worked in Resource Development at a cancer care facility and an academic institution. These experiences guided her interest in program development within healthcare institutions as a way to bring world-class medical resources to underserved communities. This year, Emma is excited to complete her advanced practicum at Swedish Medical Center in Clinical Education and Practice. In her spare time, she enjoys trying new recipes and listening to podcasts while running around Lake Union!

Sandee is a student at Eastern Washington University's part-time MSW program in Everett, WA. She completed her first year of practicum at the Veterans Administration Puget Sound Health Care System in Seattle as a member of the Cancer Care Navigation Team. She is excited to be continuing her advanced practicum studies at the VA Puget Sound in the Renal Dialysis program. Prior to entering the MSW program, Sandee received a Bachelor of Arts in Speech Pathology and Audiology (Communications Disorders) with a minor in Elementary Education from Western Washington University. She has gained social work experience assisting adults with severe and persistent mental illness with a primary recovery focus in the areas of supervised and supported housing, developing and improving independent living skills and coordinating post-acute care treatment. When time permits, Sandee enjoys card making, gardening, kite flying and she is excitedly awaiting the arrival of her first grandchild this winter.

JOIN THE SSWLHC TEAM: MEMBERSHIP UPDATE FROM RACHEL DIELEMAN

As I pass off the membership chair responsibilities into the very capable hands of Sandi Johnson, I want to thank the many of you who joined our chapter over the last year, the many who have renewed time and again to support the work that we do, and for the ways that you promote the chapter and the social work profession in your day to day life. It's been a privilege. Renewal notices have gone out to those who were due to renew. If you have not already done so, please do. We would hate to see you go! To renew, find your way to the chapter's webpage and go to the membership tab (<http://sswllhc-wa.org/membership/>). Here you will be able to find the link to renew online. All new and returning members are asked to complete the registration through this site (EventBrite) so that we have a centralized place and we don't lose you.

The Google Group will also be updated shortly to remove non-members from this listserv. We will send out a notice to the email addresses that will be removed from the group, and we hope that you will rejoin us and we can add you back in to the Google Group so that you can continue to receive updates, announcements, newsletters and information from the SSWLHC-WA.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to the board or our membership chair, Sandi

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES:

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, November 1st** 8:30-11:30 and plan to join SSWLHC for the annual **Legislative Workshop**. The event will be held at New Holly Gathering Hall. Stay tuned more information to come. Interested in volunteering for the event? Please email Sharon Mast at sharonmast731@gmail.com

It's not too early to save the date for this year's SW Month Celebration to be held at the **Mountaineer's Club** on Sandpoint Way, **March 16th** (before all of the celebrating for St. Patrick's Day happens). We are excited to have the same venue and are gathering a committee to organize this event. Please let us know if you want to join us in planning for this wonderful celebration of Social Work in Health Care. We hope to offer some ethics credits as well as a stimulating educational program. If you have a topic that you feel would be of value to the Society's members, please give me a call, or send me an email with your suggestions or ideas. LBbike@comcast.net or Linda.Brandeis@va.gov

Our Vendors and Sponsors are eager to begin helping us with annual event that helps to fund our great scholarship program for future social work leaders in health care. We are so grateful for their participation and contributions. It seemed like everyone who attended last year's meeting came home with a prize!

The SSWLHC is now partnering with the Oncology Social Work Network (OSWN) to offer continuing education credits. Current SSWLHC members can attend select OSWN educational sessions at no charge. As a member, you'll receive notice of upcoming sessions.

The next Seattle/King County Clinic is scheduled for **October 27-30, 2016** in Key Arena at Seattle Center. It requires at least 750 people per day, ranging from general support volunteers to healthcare professionals, to operate the Clinic, not to mention the volunteer efforts in the days and weeks before and after to help with preparation and wrap-up. In 2014 and 2015, 5,300+ volunteers helped to provide over \$6.1M in care to 7,400 patients. CE credit is available for MSW volunteers. See the link for more information: <http://seattlecenter.org/volunteers/>

CONGRATULATIONS TO CASSIE SAUER, WSHA PRESIDENT!!!!

Cassie Sauer, a social worker and long-time presenter for the SSWLHC's annual legislative update, is the new CEO of the Washington State Hospital Association. Cassie has been a dedicated volunteer with SSWLHC, and it has always been helpful to hear from someone with a social work background how legislation affects those we work with in health care settings. We look forward to seeing how Cassie's social work perspective will help to influence the future of health care in Washington State. Here is an excerpt from Cassie's announcement released last month:

Leading and shaping the future of health care

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to serve as your next Washington State Hospital Association president and chief executive officer. What an honor to lead a passionate, smart, dedicated, mission-driven staff in serving passionate, smart, dedicated, mission-driven members!

...Our communities and our patients are counting on us to lead the way. Mostly, they don't know and will never know who WSHA is, but the work we do touches their lives in material ways. Every time a grandfather with Parkinson's gets care via telemedicine and is saved an exhausting trip to his physician; every time a mom is not induced early and instead delivers a full-term, healthy baby who goes right home; every time a physician learns the patient she is treating already has a prescription for opioids; every time a low-income dad of a girl with a broken arm knows she can get care, they have the hospital association and its members to thank. It is an exciting time for WSHA to be leading and shaping the future of health care. We have much to do, but by coming together, we can do it. In fact, only by coming together can we accomplish much of what's before us. The place we come together is at our Washington State Hospital Association.

And the future looks bright."

If you have ideas or
content for our next
newsletter, please contact
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