



OSA President's Report

National Association of Black Social Workers

49th National Conference

Annual Meeting

April 15, 2017

National Harbor Oxon Hill, MD

Respectfully Submitted,

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OSA 2016-2017 President

Overview

The 2016-2017 OSA Administration embraced the challenge to bridge the gap between student affairs and the National Social Work practitioners. Our administration's goals were to: (1) mobilize students to become actively engaged in this organization on local and national levels, (2) further enhance our authentic leadership skills through the wisdom of our Ancestors, Elders, Jengnas, and each other to advance our communities, (3) build better pipelines and alliances with our local ABSW chapters. We have heard the call that has been bestowed upon us. However, to further heed the call, we understood that we must fully commit ourselves to cultivating students about the principles of Sankofa and the infusion of our organization's African values through strongly building mentor/mentee relationship. OSA is charged in the ongoing legacy of the NABSW. For this cause, OSA's theme for the 2016-2017 administrative year was "Accountability through Engagement", which we believed was achieved. As we look back over this year it was a year of transition. It was staring our past mistakes and current short comings head on, and ensuring we do not duplicate problems in the future.

Accomplishments

- Reactivation and Activation of New and Existing University Chapters. Membership is as follows: 27 Student Chapters
- Arkansas State University ABSW Jonesboro
- University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff ABSW Pine Bluff
- Kennedy-King College ABSW Chicago
- Southern University Baton Rouge ABSW Baton Rouge
- Southern University at New Orleans
- Dillard University
- Simmons College ABSW Boston
- Simmons College Online
- University of Michigan ABSW Ann Arbor
- Morgan State University
- Coppin State University
- Fayetteville State University ABSW Fayetteville
- Johnson C. Smith University ABSW Charlotte
- Medgar Evers College ABSW Brooklyn
- University of Cincinnati ABSW Cincinnati
- Bryn Mawr College ABSW Bryn Mawr
- University of Pennsylvania ABSW Philadelphia
- Widener University ABSW Chester
- West Chester University
- University of Georgia
- Benedict College ABSW Columbia
- Savannah State University

- Middle Tennessee State University ABSW Murfreesboro
- Prairie View A&M University ABSW Prairie View
- Texas College ABSW Tyler
- Virginia Commonwealth University ABSW Richmond
- Eastern Michigan University
- OH, Cleveland State
- Central State University
- University of Cincinnati
- VA Union University
- VA Virginia Commonwealth University
- Updating and Improving Social Media communication with students
- Improving Communication with student's pre-conference, and becoming more transparent
- Creating Original Day of Service T-Shirts to create uniformity at the community agency
- Beginning a trend of online orders sent directly to consumers before conference

2017 Symposium Highlight

Our 2017 OSA Symposium was entitled: Restoring the Village: Addressing the Impact of Incarceration on the Black Family. Various variables make it impossible to parent behind prison walls. The disparity of absentee parents has long-lasting dire consequences on the children. This symposium sought to bring seasoned and emerging social workers together to discuss the views of the evolution of the black family and identify ways to restore the village that once protected the family members and kept our communities strong. The professional gains for Black social workers to understand what it takes to get off the sidelines and advocate for policies that will enhance our families and communities not destroy them. Students learned the psychological impact of incarceration on the family, and ways to break the cycle of incarceration in the black community. With standing room, only, we packed the house, and had a wonderful symposium.

OSA Future Goals

- To enable quicker communication concerning important messages for students
- To strengthen legislative action initiatives
- To establish a sound social media presence
- To make maximum use of our website to 1) communicate what we believe and what we stand for, 2) for networking between members and 3) for education, job, and training opportunities
- To develop functional working relationships with our affinity organizations for collaboration on projects

