It is with great honor and humility that I introduce myself to you as the 2013-2014 Office of Student Affairs, President. I am very excited to be working with all of you during this year and I look forward to all of the great things we will accomplish collectively as an organization.

I pray that you are all off to a great and successful school year and that you are ready for the great things NABSW and OSA have in store for you! This year the new administration wanted to find new innovative ways to bridge the generational gap between OSA and the larger NABSW organization; therefore, we have selected our theme “Honoring the Principle of Umoja: Bridging the Gap of the Generational Divide.” It is our hope that merging activities and collaborating with the Elders and Mentors within NABSW will enhance the growth of students, both within NABSW and in the social work profession.

In the Spirit of Harambee!!!!

Peace and Blessings,

Lia Andrews

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Education is your passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.

– El-Haj Malik El-Shabazz (Malcolm X)
Open Enrollment in the Health Insurance Marketplace Begins.

Individuals and small businesses can buy affordable and qualified health benefit plans in this new transparent and competitive insurance marketplace.

Effective January 1, 2014:

- Making Care More Affordable. Establishing the Health Insurance Marketplace.
- Increasing the Small Business Tax Credit.
- Prohibiting Discrimination Due to Pre-Existing Conditions or Gender.
- Eliminating Annual Limits on Insurance Coverage. Ensuring Coverage for Individuals Participating in Clinical Trial.

A year-round nationwide celebration of and movement toward more healthy, affordable, and sustainable food culminating in a day of action on October 24th every year. Created by the nonprofit Center for Science in the Public Interest and driven by a diverse coalition of food movement leaders and citizens, Food Day aims to bring us closer to a food system with “real food” that is produced with care for the environment, animals, and the women and men who grow, harvest, and serve it.

Join the national Food Day movement to connect with other food activists in your area; get access to free resources to help children and adults “Eat Real” and promote your events on our national map; and have fun celebrating the progress we can make when we work together to change the American food system.

How can you get involved? Sign up to host an event or coordinate for your area, and connect with coordinators and events at www.foodday.org/get_involved.

Please spread the word! Sign up for email updates through www.FoodDay.org, follow @FoodDay2013 on Twitter, and “Like” Food Day on Facebook (www.facebook.com/FoodDayEatReal) to stay updated with the national campaign and learn about upcoming regional and national conference calls.

“It's time to Eat Real!”
July 2013 Steering Committee Meeting
Columbus, Ohio
A World without Social Workers

By: Steven Hayes

Did you ever hear the question asked, what if _____ threw a party and nobody came? I always think about that question and contemplate all the various scenarios of what would happen if the world lacked something of value that currently exists in our society. For example, what would happen if all the doctors suddenly disappeared off the face of the earth? Or what would happen if all of a sudden there were no such thing as meat or milk or corn, what would we eat?

One thing that I think we would surely be at a loss for should they one day vanish are social workers. When some think of social work they think about child protective services or maybe the person who goes down a checklist and qualifies individuals for food stamps or other such social assistance. While social workers can be found in those lines of work, they do so much more. Social workers are in hospitals advocating for patients—both their care and their rights. They work with the elderly and children alike.

Social workers main call of duty is to ensure the social justice and equity for all people. In other words if there is someone who has been wronged, it is likely that a social worker is leading the charge to see social justice come to fruition. Recently Marissa Alexander was jailed for shooting a warning shot at a would be assailant. She used the same stand your ground law in her defense that Zimmerman used and was acquitted under, yet she was jail for 20 years. Many fought for her to receive a new trial to include social workers—to include the National Association of Black Social Workers— and now she will be receiving a new trial.

Did you know that there are social workers involved in policy issues? They can be found at all levels of political policy and debate. For example, are you aware that there are social workers in politics? Ronald Dellums did ground breaking work in California Politics and he was a social worker. He and many others have advocated for the community to be stronger and that the government exist for the people and not to be a self-serving institution.

There are a myriad of things that social workers do on individual and group levels. They have their hands in the pot both locally and nationally. A world without social workers would be one without the thousands of voices for justice that ring loud and clear on a daily basis.

In short, a world without social workers is one I simply would not want to live in.

Contact:

OSA Treasurer White

to purchase or for
more details.

osa.treasurer@gmail.com
The goal of the Sankofa Mentorship Project is to foster relationships between experienced professionals within the National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW) and new members of the organization. In this way, the emerging leaders are able to grow and develop personally and professionally with the guidance and leadership of seasoned members of the organization. By establishing reciprocal relationships, the Sankofa Mentoring Project enables NABSW to continue its commitment of uplifting our communities.

Please be advised that Sankofa is still accepting applications. Jengas and Mentees will be assigned at the beginning of the year (January 2014). However, applications will be accepted throughout. We are currently in the process of assigning Jengas and Mentees. An email will be sent out with your Jenga or Mentee contact information prior to the beginning of the New Year. Please contact OSA Parliamentarian Brown at osa.parlmt@gmail.com.
October 2013
Steering Committee Meeting
Indianapolis, Indiana
OSA’s President’s Blast:

The new administration has hit the ground running in planning the student activities for the 46th Annual National Conference in Indianapolis, IN. We have a multitude of activities that are geared toward providing the best possible experience for students while attending National Conference. This is definitely an event you do not want to miss! The community Day of Service “The Black-Print for Wellness Walk” will consist of a 1-3K walk around the Central Indiana Canal and conclude at Military Park, where we will provide community members with resources to promote awareness and prevention tools for health related issues that affect the black community. The OSA Symposium will focus on breaking the stigmas of silence in the African-American family and working through strategies of removing the “Cultural Mask” that many of us wear daily. You will also enjoy the “Old-School vs. New School Showdown” our concluding dance to the Conference, which will be a collaboration with the Central Indiana ABSW. We truly look forward to meeting all of you at Conference, and I am sure your experience in Indianapolis will be a time to remember!

Our 2nd Vice President Eric Thornton has begun reaching out to chapters for their annual renewal, if you are having any challenges with renewal or just have any questions please feel free to contact him at osa.vicepres2@gmail.com.

Please continue to follow us on Facebook (National Association of Black Social Workers Office of Student Affairs) and our OSA Blog (http://www.nabswstudentaffairs.blogspot.com). Again, I am truly humbled, honored and blessed to be a part of the team that represents the students within OSA, and I look forward to a great year!!

See you in Indy!
I hope the school year is off to a good start for each of you! As you begin planning your student chapter activities for the year, I encourage each of you to do so with advocacy and education in mind. We are in a time in our society where knowledge is essential and advocacy is required from each and every one of us. When we do not educate and advocate, government sponsored programs go unfunded, healthcare becomes a choice, government aid to college students is limited and the list goes on and on…

Many years ago, our ancestors and elders boycotted and marched to advocate for their rights. Today, we must think about that a little different. When they boycotted the bus system, many folks had no way to work. When they marched, they marched while our politicians were in the office meaning, they took time away from their paying jobs to fight for the cause. Some of our people lost their jobs and a whole lot more fighting for the cause. They did not march on Saturday or on holidays when no one was there to hear them. In other words, they did what was appropriate at that time to bring attention to the issues. Today, in the new millennium, we must do the same! I do not know the answer but what I do know is, we must do something different. Letter writing campaigns, bringing awareness to societal ills through social media and reduced economic spending to only necessities are a start. I implore you to think beyond what has already been done and challenge you to be deliberate and strategic in how you move forward. The Office of Student Affairs is here to assist and guide you along the way, and we look forward to seeing and aiding in the work of student chapters!

Peace and Blessings,

Advisor Brown