

Get to know the Leadership – Meet Marisue Hartung
Chair of Iowa Political Action for Candidate Election (PACE)



Marisue graduated with her Masters in Social Work in 1989. She joined the NASW as a graduate student in 1988.

In a recent interview, Marisue answered a few questions.

What does being a social worker mean to you?

“I identify as a social worker but that has never been my job title. Social work allows me a framework to engage in my profession with youth, communities, families and volunteers.

“I believe advocacy is one of the instrumental roles of social work. Macro change sustains micro change... what I mean by that is that a person may get a job but we must advocate for the minimum wage to grow so they can truly be self-sufficient.”

Why is it important to you to be a part of the NASW?

“If one identifies as a doctor, attorney, nurse, accountant, dietitian or any other profession why would them not want to promote and encourage the profession.

“Being in NASW was an easy decision – I am proud to say I am a social worker, and I want others to know about our profession and hopefully help create change for the better through working with other like-minded social workers.”

What change would you like to see about the NASW in the next five years? About the Iowa Chapter?

“I believe NASW will be witnessing changes at both the National and State level due to the restructuring of National/State NASW chapters and the alignment of staff. I am not certain how this restructuring will play out. It appears there will be benefits to both State and National.

“Iowa has a strong Chapter given the size of the membership in the State. The opportunities are there whether that is serving on the board, helping with branch events, participating in committee work or simply volunteering to help at a social work educational event. Engagement in the NASW chapter is an experience I hope every member will pursue.”

What are your proudest achievements as a leader within the NASW thus far?

“That would have to be helping to elect social workers to office. I think our state and country would be much better if over half of those elected would have a background in social work!”

What do you find most challenging about social work?

“Social work is not the challenge – the job we hold is sometimes a challenge. Fortunately my background in social work has helped me and my colleagues define problems, patterns, and have thoughtful discussions on how to bring about the change needed.”