2023 CANDIDATE INFORMATION and STATEMENTS

Please note that NASW - Indiana Chapter does not support or endorse any candidate in NASW Chapter or National elections.

STATEWIDE POSITIONS

PRESIDENT ELECT
Carissa Miller, MSW, LCSW – New Albany, Indiana.
Carissa works as the Community Services Director at Still Water Individual and Family Therapy Services, Inc. and is the Coordinator of CEASe of Scott County. Through her work, Carissa provides individual and family therapy and coordinates services and events in the community. Carissa currently serves as the Vice-President of NASW-IN and has also served as the Region 6 Board Representative.

Goal Statement: As the Vice-President, I have worked to develop CEU programming for NASW-IN members and to find new ways to engage our membership. As President Elect, my goal is to lead our members toward continued pursuit of excellence in social work. I aim to foster a collaborative environment that encourages innovation, professional development, and growth for all members. I will work to ensure that NASW-IN remains relevant and responsive to the changing needs of our members and consumers. My goal is to continue to provide valuable resources and networking opportunities to our members and continue to uphold our position as a leading voice in advocacy for our profession and those we serve.

VICE PRESIDENT
Bessie Proffet, BSW, MSW, LSW – Indianapolis, Indiana.
Bessie started her membership with NASW as a student intern and has remained an active member of the chapter. She has served as the Chairperson of the NASW-IN Public Policy and LEAD Committees from 2008-2019. Since 2019, Bessie has served as a co-chair of the combined, Public Policy and LEAD Committee. In addition, Bessie has served as the Chair for Employment Engagement Committee MHS, where she currently works. Bessie also has experience working at DaVita Dialysis.

Goal Statement: I would like to accomplish: 1. Increase overall membership, 2. Increase membership engagement with committees, 3. Continue to support NASW-IN advocacy efforts, 4. Increase public awareness of Social Work, 5. Increase awareness of NASW-IN efforts to advance the Social Work profession.

MSW STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
Haylee Hedrick, BSW, MSW student – Jeffersonville, Indiana
Haylee just completed her BSW at the University of Southern Indiana and is returning to USI to work on her MSW. While working on her BSW Haylee served on the board of the USI BSW Club as the Vice President from 2019-2020, and as the President from 2021-Spring 2023.

Goal Statement: If selected for the Master of Social Work Student Representative position I would hope to assist in increasing awareness of NASW, promote membership, and advocate for those in need of services. I have a passion for tabling at events and speaking to classrooms and communities on topics I am passionate about. Furthermore, I hope to expand my knowledge of the issues surrounding social work and how I can best work to alleviate those issues and be a change agent even as a student starting out in the field. Lastly, I would appreciate the opportunity to network and make connections with other individuals in the social work field and learn from their experiences.
MSW STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE (Choose one)

Tamanda Chitalo, MSW Student – Terre Haute, Indiana
Tamanda is currently at Indiana State University working on her MSW degree.
Goal Statement: I hope to learn and gain experience in the social work profession at the state level. This position would empower me with leadership and representation skills that I believe are a prerequisite for an upcoming professional. In addition, this position would offer me a platform to network with experienced social workers in Indiana. In the end, not only would the association benefit from my skills, but I would benefit from all the skills, interactions, and the experience that this position would come with.

BSW STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Position Open – To be appointed by the NASW-Indiana Board of Directors. If you are interested in serving in this role, please contact us at info.naswin@socialworkers.org

REGIONAL POSITIONS

REGION 1 REPRESENTATIVE – Counties in this region include: Lake, Porter, La Porte, Starke, Newton, Jasper, Pulaski, Cass, White, Benton, Warren, Tippecanoe, Carroll, Howard, Clinton, Montgomery, Fountain
Pam Saylor, BS, BSW, MSW, LCSW – Valparaiso, Indiana
Pam is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Social Work in the Department of Behavioral Sciences at Purdue Northwest. Pam served as the BSW program director from 2015-2022 and successfully completed the CSWE accreditation process for the BSW program. She also has a history in program development working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
Goal Statement: My goals are to increase awareness of NASW and benefits of membership; develop relationships with social work programs and support Region 1 members.

REGION 5 REPRESENTATIVE – Counties in this region include: Knox, Daviess, Martin, Lawrence, Orange, Crawford, Dubois, Pike, Gibson, Posey, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Spencer, Perry, Harrison
Andrea Lantz, BSW, MSW, LCSW – Evansville, Indiana
Andrea is the owner and therapist at Tree of Life Counseling where she provides individual psychotherapy, educational presentations and facilitates conversations on advance care planning. Andrea is a co-founder of What Matters Most? Evansville Inc.
Goal Statement: To enhance social work connections within the community- sharing resources/data base and research efforts / educating and supporting efforts toward national licensing and the importance of increasing trauma informed and provider self-care in school curriculums.

REGION 7 REPRESENTATIVE – Counties in this region include: Tipton, Madison, Hamilton, Boone, Hendricks, Marion, Hancock, Shelby, Johnson, Morgan
Francine Carter, BSW, MSW, LCSW – Danville, Indiana
Francine is currently an Assistant Professor in the Phylis Lan Lin Department of Social Work at the University of Indianapolis and has been a member of NASW since the early 1990s. She is also the Owner/President of Action Coaching and Training LLC and has shared her knowledge with social workers by presenting at the NASW-IN annual conference.
Goal Statement: I aim to represent this area with active participation and implementation of national and state initiatives alongside its current and future members’ needs. As your representative, I want to increase connection and communication with the Region 7 members. Reaching out to get acquainted with and among my colleagues and gather your wants, needs, and successes to present to the NASW-IN Board of Directors for support, recognition, and action. In addition, I also hope to grow our Region 7 membership to ensure the social worker’s voice is represented, heard, and celebrated. Support and advocate for you and future social workers, our profession, and our future.