With holiday greetings, we bring you an end of year (news)letter …

**What a year**

2020 has been a year of firsts and lasts, and wins and losses. There were opportunities to learn and grow, as well as moments where we wondered what else could happen.

2020 began with us looking forward to a productive year. We were busy planning events for Social Work Month, monitoring legislation at the General Assembly, and hoping to get legislation passed that would allow clinical level social workers the right to diagnose independently. Then came the month of March. After holding three social work month events (Regions 5, 8 and 9), Indiana began COVID-19 stay-at-home orders and the world changed.

Many of us scrambled to figure out how to continue working safely, what telehealth/teletherapy really is, and how to make sure our family, friends and clients were safe, as well as how to survive in an ever-changing world.

We’ve spent the past nine months trying to decipher this new “normal.” For many of you, this meant figuring out teletherapy and how to continue your private practice in a safe manner. For others, it meant adjusting your work schedules by balancing work and helping your kids with school or taking care of younger children. Some of you lost jobs due to COVID-19 and are trying to figure out what to do now.

For NASW-Indiana, it meant canceling social work month celebrations, turning events into virtual webinars and reworking and moving our annual conference onto a virtual platform, while continuing to provide support for and information to our members.
We may not have had as many successes as originally planned for 2020. Even our holidays and vacations look much different this year. But we should all take a moment to appreciate the positive things that have happened and our accomplishments during 2020. Accomplishments could include:
- Taking advantage of working at home to spend a bit more time with your children and family;
- Learning a new skill or relearning a hobby;
- Increasing your comfort with the online virtual world; or
- Just surviving and making it through nine months of a world that has changed and an environment that at times feels very risky and unsafe.

From NASW Indiana staff and board of directors, thank you for all that you have done during 2020! Know that we see you and we know that you are working hard to continue to provide quality, ethical services to your clients, while taking care of yourself and your family. Social workers are essential and our role in providing support and services throughout the crisis shows that we all play an important role in helping others and ourselves through a crisis.

We know that the 2020 holiday season – Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanza, New Year’s, Winter Solstice – will be different for everyone. Whatever holiday you celebrate (or don’t), we hope that you have a bit of time over the next few weeks to slow down, take care of yourself and get ready for 2021.
Onward to 2021

Looking forward to 2021, no one knows when things will return to a new “normal.” While a vaccine is on its way, it will take time to get everyone vaccinated and allow us to move back to in-person events. Please know that we miss seeing all of you and having the opportunity to meet, talk and celebrate social work and social workers in Indiana.

We are currently working on plans for Social Work Month 2021. Our theme for 2021 is “Social Workers Are Essential.” Keep an eye out for information on our social work month event and celebration of social work and social workers in Indiana. At this event, we will announce our 2021 Social Worker of the Year and Community Partner of the Year for each region. You can help us celebrate social work month by nominating a colleague, community partner or yourself for one of our awards – Social Worker of the Year and Community Partner of the Year. The application and more information are available on our website – www.naswin.org.

As we close out 2020, we hope you all have a restful holiday break and that you take some time to care for yourself and your family.

NASW Indiana Chapter Staff and Board of Directors

Give a big round of applause!
Thank you to our Annual Conference sponsors, exhibitors and volunteers

It was challenging to transition our 2020 Annual Conference from in-person to virtual. But thanks to our sponsors, exhibitors, volunteers, and over 300 participants, we were able to make it a wonderful experience for all. It didn't have the buzz that an in-person event would have, but we certainly “buzzed” up the internet! The ads you see throughout this (news)letter are from our conference sponsors. Help us thank them for their support! Gold Sponsor, IU School of Social Work; Silver Sponsors, IU McKinney School of Law and NASW Assurance Services; Bronze Sponsors, Anthem, Hamilton Center and Ireland Home-Based Services. And our Friends of the Profession shown below.
Resources


- Practice Alert: Highlights of the Medicare CY 2021 Physician Final Rule: On December 1, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the final rule for the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. The rule is effective January 1, 2021, and applies to Medicare providers including clinical social workers (CSWs). This NASW Practice Alert summarizes the rule provisions that apply to CSWs. Click to view the alert.

- Check out our new YouTube channel! Were you unable to attend our annual conference, but are interested in hearing one of our four featured panel sessions? Did you attend and want to listen to one of the sessions again? In appreciation of all you do, we are offering the four featured panel sessions from our 2020 Virtual Annual Conference on our channel. Happy Holidays!
Events/News

**REGION 6 & 9 LUNCH & LEARN**
How Do I Ask That? Health-Related Intimacy Concerns
January 13, 2021
12 noon-1 pm
1 CEH
Register now

**REGION 7 LUNCH & LEARN**
Children with Special Needs During COVID-19
January 26, 2021
12 noon-1 pm
1 CEH
Register now

**BRAIN INJURY BEYOND THE BASICS**
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2021
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. EST
5-hour intensive workshop with 4.75 CEHs
Register now

Useful Links

NASW Indiana Chapter

Join NASW - renew your membership