

NASW-NC Board of Directors 2020-2021 Slate of Candidates

Undergraduate Student Representative Candidates 2020-2021

Anna Butler

Education: North Carolina State University, BSW Student
Current Employer: Lacey Wrigley, waitress

NASW Experience:

Position Statement: I will assist in the guiding of NASW-NC to ensure a strong and continued voice for Professional Social Workers in North Carolina by finding ways to impact my community to the best of my ability. I will help seek students who can benefit from joining NASW as well as be a great member addition to NASW. I believe in the positive impact NASW leaves on each member it welcomes in, as my father was on the board of directors years ago. Hearing the impact he was able to make and the impact NASW has made on him, makes me want to be able to achieve the same for Social Work students here at NC State University. Social Work is a profession that has my heart and I would love for others to have access to the Social Work opportunities NASW provides.

Jonathan Conover

Education: Fayetteville Tech Community College, AA, 2018
Fayetteville State University, BSW Student
Current Employer: Student

NASW Experience: NASW-NC BSW Student Liaison, Fayetteville State University, 2020
Attended 2019 NASW-NC Advocacy Day

Position Statement: The values that form the foundation of professional social work practiced are needed now more than ever before, unfortunately. However, the contributions of social workers to all manner of social injustice, poverty, health and mental health issues is unacknowledged or unfamiliar to most people outside of the traditional social work milieu. In my role, I will help people understand the value that social workers add to the lives of individuals, families, groups and communities by bringing my perspective as disabled combat veteran and as a BSW student at in HBCU.

Additional Information: My recent service and volunteer history includes: Participating at FSU BSWSA events, such as, distribute holiday bags to the homeless, participating in RealityU 2019 at a local middle school. Participating in the set up and food preparation of 2019 Homeless & Hunger Stand Down in Fayetteville NC. I am actively volunteer at North Carolina State Veterans Home of Fayetteville.

Riley Funk

Education: Troy University, AS, 2019
UNC Wilmington, BSW Student
Current Employer: Student

NASW Experience:

Position Statement: As a student representative, I will ensure that all information regarding events, news, or any other information deemed significant by NASW-NC is shared with fellow classmates. I hope to encourage involvement of fellow classmates in NASW-NC, whether by finding new ways for participation or accommodations for existing opportunities. I intend to advocate for the needs of students and obstacles they may face while pursuing their education, like adult learners who may struggle to locate flexible and affordable childcare. In doing these I believe that I can ensure a strong and continuing voice NASW-NC.

Rayliene Hwang

Education: UNCW, BSW Student, 2021
Current Employer: Student

NASW Experience:

Position Statement: As a potential ambassador for the NASW-NC Board of Directors, I bring a contemporaneous perspective directly rooted from a reputable academic institution; able to be the stentorian voice for the next generation of Social Workers. As a Mexican-American Latina, from Los Angeles, California, I have always been taught to be steadfast in my beliefs, unwavering in quandaries - and to be the pragmatic voice-of-reason. But, ultimately, the strongest quality I offer is the - sincere and staunch - belief for the Social Work profession.

Additional Information: I am extremely punctual and I always take the initiative.

Graduate Student Representative Candidates 2020-2021

Douglas Kim Bai

Education: UNCW, BSW Student, 2020

Current Employer: Student; Elderhaus PACE, Intern

NASW Experience: Student Member since 2017

Current BSW Student Liaison, NASW-NC

School of Social Work/Event Co-Chair for Advocacy Day, March 2019

Position Statement: Since becoming a member, I have been active in representing the importance of learning all about the social work profession, networking, and finding out all about policies and social justice issues that will affect me as a student and in my career as a social worker. Before becoming a student liaison, I engaged students in our student organizations to support NASW-NC Advocacy Day and on-campus activities and promotions. My goal is to collaborate with all social work students in the BSW and MSW classes to be able to represent our new generation of social workers who are aware of the impact we can make by equipping ourselves with the tools that NASW-NC provides and make a difference in our community.

Additional Information: As a nontraditional student, I have many years of experiences always giving back to my community. After graduating from high school, I was a camp counselor working with children who had behavioral and participation restrictions. Later, I had the opportunity to volunteer at a horse ranch in Tucson, Arizona, to assist equine therapists working with children with physical and mobility limitations. Fast forward to 2005 and I was helping displaced families from Hurricane Katrina with food, shelter and supportive services. Before moving to Wilmington from Atlanta, Georgia more than five years ago, I volunteered at the Atlanta Community Food Bank's distribution center packing boxes for families. Locally and more recently I worked at Good Shepherd Center as a shelter monitor assisting homeless individuals and families with resources and case management. Since 2015, I have been the Volunteer Coordinator at Mother Hubbard's Cupboard local food pantry where I lead 20+ volunteers to distribute TEFAP Emergency food to those less fortunate in our community. Although it may seem that my schedule is quite full, the key is having the passion to do more, and having excellent time-management skills. I still have plenty of time for family, friends, and fitness classes weekly on campus.

Lydia Fransen

Education: Winthrop University, BA-Psychology, 2016

UNC Charlotte, MSW Student, 2021

Current Employer: USNWC, Raft Guide

NASW Experience:

Position Statement: One of my attributes that led me into social work was my conviction to always stand up for people who are in an unfair situation, even when it comes at personal cost. My experiences as a parent and educator led me to child welfare and working with families. If elected to the Board, I will represent my fellow social work graduate students with conviction, in a professional and forward-thinking manner. I bring critical thinking, creativity, and passionate involvement to everything I do. I look forward to attending all the meetings and bringing the perspective of a mature graduate student looking forward to a long impactful career in social work in North Carolina.

Amber Fulton

Education: California State University, BA-Psychology, 2018
North Carolina State University, MSW, 2021

Current Employer: Durham Literacy Center, Intern

NASW Experience: I have not had the pleasure of holding any previous NASW positions, but I am looking forward to attending some conferences and events this year.

Position Statement: The main priority as a student member on the board would be advocating for all of the professional social workers in the state. Researching, building relationships within the community, planning, and providing assistance at local events are just a few of the ways I plan to advocate for the profession. Staying current with legislature will also be imperative. Another essential duty would be remaining visible within the social work department at my University to educate fellow BSW and MSW students about the benefits and overall value of NASW membership. As a novice social worker, I have thoroughly enjoyed encouraging and supporting the clients that I serve and would love the opportunity to do the same for those within the social work profession.

Additional Information: Much of my experience has been in the financial industry where I enjoyed working with clients to help them achieve financial freedom. This experience allowed me to remain visible within the community and become an expert in building and maintaining relationships. I have also worked with the Habitat for Humanity as a volunteer, and this experience was also vital in learning in developing a passion for community engagement.

Allison O'Connor

Education: University of Colorado, BFA,
Music and French, 2010

UNC Charlotte, current MSW Student

Current Employer: Student

NASW Experience: I joined NASW in August 2019, so I have not yet been involved with many of the activities or trainings yet. I do have previous experience in leadership roles dealing with Advocacy and Policy. First, I served as the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Chairperson when I taught as an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. In this role, I advocated for English Language Learners by assuring they received proper modifications and teaching techniques. Currently, I work with my Practicum Supervisor to strengthen Family/School/ Community communication and advocating for better school policies to help our students.

Position Statement: To begin, I would utilize my position as a NASW-NC Board Member and graduate student simultaneously by assuring that BSW and MSW students are aware of all learning opportunities the NASW provides. The better prepared Social Work students leave their respective programs, the stronger our profession will become. Second, I would work with the Board to assure we are providing more frequent opportunities for students to have their voices heard in terms of how their programs are run, the courses provided, and internship opportunities. With data in these areas, we can determine the best trainings to fill in any educational or experiential gaps. Third, I would actively listen to the needs of Professional Social Workers to determine areas we must strengthen and provide more development in.

Emeline Thorpe

Education: College of Charleston, BA – Public Health, 2014
UNC Wilmington, Current MSW Student

Current Employer: WHAT Clinic, Coastal Horizons, Intern

NASW Experience: No previous positions held as this is my first year in a Social Work program.

Position Statement: I desire to serve on the NASW-NC Board of Directors to bolster my own practice of a number of Social Workers ethical principles and skills. I believe that through this role I could provide service to my peers, which in turn would serve the communities receiving care from NC Social Workers. I believe that serving on the board while obtaining my Master’s degree would allow me to apply my lessons and field experience, while critically understanding and aiding the work of NASW to gain greater competence as a Social Worker. I am a natural leader, a critical thinker and enjoy collaborating with others. I believe that there is a duty to provide service and skill to our communities and hope to have the opportunity to do so within this community. Lastly, I hope to network, collaborate and learn from as many of my peers as possible.

Additional Information: I have volunteered in a number of elementary and middle school placements including urban farming classes and cooking classes with children and young teens. I am an active member of the ACLU. I am an active member of the First Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, NC. I have experience working remotely and in fast-paced environments as well as managerial roles. I feel comfortable both leading and contributing to group goals. I work well with deadlines, am productive, committed, and good with time management. I am a prompt, concise and reliable communicator.

Western District Representative Candidates 2020-2021

Amanda Bright-Somers, ACSW, C-CATODSW, LCSW, LCAS

Education: Appalachian State University, BSW, 2009
East Carolina University, MSW, 2015
Current Employer: Easterseals UCP, Outpatient Therapist/
Clinical Assessor

NASW Experience:

Position Statement: Advocacy is the cornerstone of grass-roots social work practice. With constant insurance changes affecting low income recipients, it is imperative that all social workers including clinicians advocate for ongoing access to care that is holistic, evidenced-based, and client-centered.

Additional Information: Experience in DSS, public health, school social work, and rural community mental health. EMDR trained (receiving supervision for certification) Dialectical Behavior Therapy Certified (DBT) Member of the Beaufort County Community College/Beaufort County Schools Human Services Advisory Board.

Lisa Dubbert, MSW, LCSW

Education: University of Maine, BA- English, Women Studies, 1993
University of New England, MSW, 1999
Current Employer: Psychiatric Medical Care (PMC), Therapist

NASW Experience: I have presented at NASW NC conference or two.

Position Statement: I am interested in representing the western district on the board of directors for the NASW-NC. I have been a member for many years. I have appreciated and continue to appreciate the efforts of the organization on behalf of the social workers in NC. I'd like to be able to give back to my professional community and serve on board. Thanks for your consideration.

Beth Vogler, MSW, PhD

Education: Mars Hill, BA, 1981

St Louis University, MSW, 1985

Union Institute and University, PhD, 2010

Current Employer: Mars Hill University, Social Work Program Director

NASW Experience: Member, 1990-present

Western Representative, State Board, 1999-2003

Asheville Local Program Unit, Member, 1995-present; Chair, 2015-present,

1999-2002, Secretary,

1996-1997, Co-Chair,

March Conference, 1999-present

Toby Brown Scholarship Committee, 2001-present

Position Statement: North Carolina is Social Work Strong! We have amazing Social Workers in every sector of our field, and we are fortunate to have an excellent professional organization that supports our work. My involvement with NASW-NC on a local level as well as a state level for many years has offered opportunities to bring celebrations as well as challenges to the attention of NASW-NC. My close involvement with our Local Program Unit as well as with Social Work educators also offers information on current issues of interest to Social Workers. Social advocacy is a keystone to our profession and work, and is a vital part of Board work as we advocate for our values, our colleagues, and our profession.

Additional Information: Serving on local Boards is one way that I am able to keep my hand in professional work: Mediation Center Board Member: 2018-present; Madison County United Way Board Member: 2012-2017, Chair, 2015-2017; Asheville Buncombe Institute for Parity Achievement Board member, 2005-2013, Secretary, 2011- 2013, 2005-2009; Planning meetings for Health Parity Summit and Institute Prostate Cancer Screening, each year Father's Day weekend. I also work with agencies to conduct community research or other projects through class assignments. As a Social Work Program Director, I am responsible for organizing our assessment data as well as keeping our accreditation current. I wrote our Self-Study in 2018, and led our Site Visit in 2019. I work closely with our SW Club to get students involved in the profession, and spend much time working with students on preparing for their Social Work careers.