In 2023, NASW-NC Was Here for YOU!

As we close out 2023, it is important to acknowledge what an incredibly hard year it was in North Carolina. 2024 is going to be harder coming into the general election and we need social workers to continue the fight with us.

This year, those in power at the North Carolina General Assembly worked swiftly to remove access to abortion, gender-affirming care, relaxed gun laws and re-gerrymandered our congressional and legislative districts. Voter ID is back and early voting has been shortened. As social workers, we cannot look away.

Social work IS a political profession.

The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. We cannot do this without STRONG political action. By being an engaged member of NASW-NC, you have helped to contribute to this critical work to advocate for the social work profession and social justice issues.

We are proud of the work we have accomplished this year to support our members and be the strong voice of the social work profession. This work would not have been possible without your NASW membership. We hope you feel both pride for our strong profession in North Carolina and inspired for what else we can and will accomplish together. We hope you will continue this journey with us. We are stronger together and the impact you have is immeasurable. Please reach out to the NASW-NC team at any time: naswnc.org/Staff

Thank you for your NASW membership, your voice and your support. We are here for you in 2024!

The Staff and Board of Directors of NASW-NC
2023 Membership

The NASW-NC team works hard to provide members with the most helpful and up-to-date resources, support, and information possible.

communication & member services

In 2023, NASW-NC staff sent over 33,000 emails, reaching an audience of more than 785,000 recipients. This included:

- 50 eNewswires, providing weekly news, updates, and resources to members
- 12 Career Connect emails, providing tips and information on current job openings
- 371 Conference and Local Program Unit emails, providing information on continuing education, networking, and more

2023 Social Media Highlights:

- Across social media, NASW-NC has 24,360 followers. In 2023, we had over 243,000 impressions & interactions on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter
- NASW-NC posted 179 news items on the NASW-NC website keeping members up-to-date on information critical to the profession

2023 Member Services:

- The NASW-NC website had over 962,000 page views and 84,000 unique visitors
- NASW-NC staff posted over 500 jobs and 227 CE events
- NASW-NC staff provided 99 presentations on topics such as social work resume building, interviewing, job searches, advocacy, legislation, and more
- NASW-NC staff provided over 75 personalized resume reviews and career consultations for NASW-NC members.

IN 2023, NASW-NC STAFF PROVIDED OVER 4,830 MEMBER CONSULTS ON TOPICS SUCH AS LICENSURE, ETHICS, CAREERS, AND MORE.

leadership

NASW-NC has a dedicated group of volunteers to further our goals of supporting NASW-NC’s membership and the larger social work profession through consultation, advocacy, education, and more. In 2023, the NASW-NC Board of Directors, Local Program Unit Leadership, and Committees had 184 volunteer leader members who met 73 times

NASW-NC COMMITtees INCLUDE THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE, LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE, CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE, POLITICAL ACTION FOR CANDIDATE ELECTION (PACE) COMMITTEE, AND MORE!
NASW-NC represents the profession at meetings with coalition partners, elected officials, and leadership in state departments to give social workers a voice at the table on a variety of topics. We advocate for issues brought to our attention by members, as well as continue to advocate on issues found on NASW-NC’s 2023 Legislative Agenda.

advocacy efforts and programming

- NASW-NC celebrates the passage of Medicaid Expansion in North Carolina! NASW-NC worked with social work members, legislators, and many partner organizations for over a decade to get this important legislation passed and to help the people of North Carolina live healthier lives. With passage of HB 76-Access to Healthcare Options, more than 600,000 North Carolinians will now have access to healthcare.

- NASW-NC’s Legislative Committee hosted the first in-person Advocacy Day since 2019 at the North Carolina General Assembly on March 1, 2023. Over 800 social work students from across North Carolina were in attendance. Guest speakers included Secretary Kody Kinsley, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Senator Sydney Batch, Senator Graig Meyer, Dr. Kimberly Hardy, and many other amazing social workers!

- In 2023, a top priority for NASW-NC was getting SB 718 – Social Work Interstate Licensure Compact Bill sponsored and introduced during the long session. SB 718 was not subject to final bill crossover on May 4, 2023. While the legislation did not pass in 2023, NASW-NC is optimistic we will be able to get it into NC law during the 2024 short session.

- Another of NASW-NC’s priority areas was the restoration of Master’s Level Pay for School Social Workers. NASW-NC attended all of the House Education K-12 Committee meetings, as well as the North Carolina School Social Workers Association (NCSSWA) Annual Meeting to build our coalition around this policy issue. NASW-NC met with North Carolina House members and advocated for HB 762-School Social Workers/Master’s Pay. While we were disappointed this was not included in the final 2023 budget, we will again be advocating for Master’s Level Pay in 2024.

- NASW-NC opposed SB 20- Care for Women, Children, and Families Act. This bill was vetoed by Governor Cooper, but the supermajority within the NC General Assembly overrode his veto to pass the bill. It bans abortion in North Carolina at twelve weeks, amongst many harmful changes. We will continue our long-standing advocacy for reproductive freedom.

- NASW-NC strongly opposed new "Slate of Hate" laws, meant to harm LGBTQIA+ children. These laws are antithetical to social work’s professional commitments to social justice, equity, the client’s right to self-determination, and the dignity and worth of the person. NASW-NC will continue to update and inform members about how these laws impact youth and the social work profession.
The main objective of all NASW-NC Continuing Education activities is to promote and support professional development of social workers. The goal of our effort is to provide sound, relevant, appropriate and ethical continuing education (CE) opportunities for social workers in North Carolina.

All 7 of NASW-NC’s 2023 Conferences were presented in a virtual format. Conference fees remained drastically reduced as we recognize the continued financial realities many members are facing due to the pandemic and uncertainty within the economy.

Major conferences were recorded for attendees to accommodate the challenges of working from home, as well as provide more opportunities for CE.

2023 Conferences and Webinars:
- **3,168** individuals attended all of NASW-NC’s conferences, with **82** presenters facilitating workshops and keynote presentations
- NASW-NC conferences offered **107** hours of CE
- NASW-NC added **5** new webinars to our recorded webinar library, bringing the total to **47** webinars, all available FREE to NASW-NC members

**IN 2023, NASW-NC DISTRIBUTED 41,461 HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION THROUGH CONFERENCES.**

NASW-NC Local Program Units (LPUs) provide continuing education (CE), networking, and support for social workers across the state. LPUs continue to meet virtually to ensure that all social workers can have access to CE and support without worrying about their health and safety.

In 2023:
- **13** NASW-NC LPUs held **65** virtual meetings with **68** presenters
- LPUs welcomed **2,371** attendees to webinars, meet-ups, and other networking events
- LPUs offered NASW-NC members over **40** FREE hours of continuing education and **75.5** hours of CE in total

**NASW-NC DISTRIBUTED 3,196 HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION THROUGH LOCAL PROGRAM UNIT WEBINARS IN 2023.**
2023

students

2023 Student Webinar Series:
- NASW-NC held 7 webinars for social work students, with more than 700 registrants
- Student Webinar Topics: Social Work Certification and Licensure, Spring and Fall Social Work Networking and Meet and Greet Sessions, Clinical Supervision From the Supervisee Perspective, How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Social Work Job Interviews, Impacts of the 2023 Legislative Session and Why Voting is Social Work, and So I’m Going to Be a Social Worker... Now What?

Student Liaison Program:
- In 2023, 61 social work student volunteers served as NASW-NC Student Liaisons, across 24 social work programs

Graduation Cords:
- Mailed 248 FREE NASW-NC graduation cords to student members

sponsors/partners

Thank you to our partners and sponsors for supporting us and the members of NASW-NC. Your support allows us to keep NASW-NC conference fees low to participants.

Platinum: Triangle Springs, PhRMA
Gold: AvanceCare, NASW Assurance Services, Relay NC
Silver: Holly Hill Hospital, NC Collaborative Attorney Network, NC State University School of Social Work, UNC Chapel Hill School of Social Work, UNC Pembroke Department of Social Work
Exhibitors: Methodist Home for Children, Monarch, The Stepping Stones Group, Vanguard Professional Staffing

2023 coalitions

NASW-NC serves on over 30 statewide coalitions and provides the social work perspective to these groups. These coalitions provide policy recommendations to state leaders, lawmakers, and community organizations on a variety of issues from aging, child welfare, insurance reimbursement, addiction, and more.

Leadership and Highlights:
- NASW-NC Executive Director Valerie Arendt serves as the Treasurer of the North Carolina Coalition on Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Disorders.
- Valerie was elected as Chair to the North Carolina Professional Association Council (PAC) representing all behavioral health licensed professional groups in North Carolina.
- Valerie is co-chair of the North Carolina Joint Insurance Committee, which is comprised of social work, psychiatry, and psychology, continued to meet with insurance companies and state leaders to advocate for expanded and ongoing telehealth flexibilities.
- In addition to social work profession issues, NASW-NC fought hard alongside coalition partners for social justice issues such as abortion access, protection of LGBTQIA+ rights, immigrant rights, affordable housing and gun control.

NASW-NC ATTENDED MORE THAN 400 COALITION MEETINGS TO REPRESENT THE SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION IN 2023.
With the **Member of the Week** campaign, NASW-NC is thrilled to raise the public profile of social workers, highlight the vital roles they serve in our communities, and share how NASW has contributed to their social work career. Click on each of the 2023 NASW-NC Members of the Week below to learn more about their social work talents.

### NASW-NC Member of the Week

**Kathleen Caldwell, MSW**  
NASW Member Since 1988

“NASW is important to me as a professional social worker because it provides education, support and advocacy for all social workers. The NASW-NC chapter and Asheville LPU in particular have provided amazing opportunities for learning and networking and have led to wonderful friendships over the past 28 years.”

### NASW-NC Member of the Week

**Caroline Hall, Ph.D., LCSW**  
NASW Member Since 1990

“After 30 years as a social worker in the DC area, I am happy to return to my home state to continue clinical work with my fellow North Carolinians. I find NASW-NC to be a vibrant, inclusive organization offering a warm invitation to connection.”

### NASW-NC Member of the Week

**Diana Baker, MSW, MHSA, BSW**  
NASW Member Since 2020

“I am a member of NASW-NC because I value relationships and understand the importance of connecting with and learning from others.”

### NASW-NC Member of the Week

**Danielle Stipes, MSW**  
NASW Member Since 2012

“Membership with NASW provides unlimited opportunities for community networking, which is critical to advocacy and the advancement of the social work profession. I find great pride in being a social worker. I am absolutely thrilled to be a member of NASW, and am dedicated to supporting and enhancing the versatility of the social work profession.”

### NASW-NC Member of the Week

**Dezette Johnson, MSW, PhD**  
NASW Member Since 2022

“As a professor I always tell my students membership in NASW is a necessity. The organization provides so many opportunities and resources for students and established social workers. NASW offers trainings and workshops that help social workers hone and perfect their social work practice. The networking and training is invaluable as a professional social worker.”

### NASW-NC Member of the Week

**Bill Ginger, MSW, LCSW**  
NASW Member Since 2017

“I value being an NASW-NC member for the sense of community and to stay connected to the important work NASW does on behalf of social workers and for social justice.”
NASW-NC Member of the Week
Yvette Richardson
MSW, LCSW
NASW Member Since 2013

“My NASW membership began when I was a student at Shaw University. As a member, I lean into the connection with peers who generously share their experience and practice knowledge. NASW membership provides opportunities to learn, build community, and access a variety of resources to enhance my practice, skills, and knowledge. My favorite benefits to membership are my local chapter’s continuing education opportunities, member forums, and specialty practice information. I’m loving NASW membership—Harambee!!”

NASW-NC Member of the Week
Latricia Freeman, MSW, LCSW
NASW Member Since 2010

“I joined NASW as a student because I felt it would provide great training and networking opportunities. I also like that the NASW offers ethical consultation. Being a member has also allowed me to obtain professional liability insurance at a discounted rate.”

NASW-NC Member of the Week
Leslie Lotina, LCSW
NASW Member Since 2009

“I have been a long-time member of NASW because I value NASW’s advocacy for social workers and the community in a variety of arenas.”

NASW-NC Member of the Week
Beth Webb
MSW, LCSW, LSSW
NASW Member Since 2007

“I am a member of NASW because of their tireless advocacy, excellent continuing education opportunities, and the support they offer to BSW and MSW students who are preparing to enter the social work profession.”

NASW-NC Member of the Week
Eden Avery
MSW, LCSWA
NASW Member Since 2020

“NASW-NC has been an invaluable resource to me for professional development, connecting with others across our diverse field, and enhancing my capacity to advocate for myself and those I work with. I am proud to be a member of this dynamic association which strives to elevate the profession of social work as well as promote our mission and values of justice, equity, and social change.”

NASW-NC Member of the Week
Nellie Galindo, MSW, MSPH
NASW Member Since 2022

“I’m a member of NASW-NC to stay connected to the local social work community. I like being able to help advocate for social workers and the vulnerable populations in our state via NASW-NC’s advocacy efforts. I also value having access to membership benefits, especially the Research Library and discounted liability insurance.”

NASW-NC Member of the Week
Mona Townes
MSW, LCSW, LCAS, CCS, MAC
NASW Member Since 2015

“As a clinical social worker most interested in community crisis intervention, I rely on NASW-NC to provide a voice and influence with elected leaders, policy makers, community stakeholders, and employers to make critical changes that support our profession, the wellbeing of social workers, and the crisis continuum throughout North Carolina.”

NASW-NC Member of the Week
Andrew Heil
LCSW, LCAS, CCS
NASW Member Since 2015

“It’s important to build and maintain solidarity with each other as social workers, persons worthy of dignity and respect, and members of multifaceted communities. NASW-NC does just that by offering a place to come together, learn from each other, and challenge ourselves to talk about social justice, advocating for justice in the halls of power locally and nationally.”

NASW-NC Member of the Week
Stephanie Gilliam, MSW
NASW Member Since 2022

“I joined the Legislative Committee of NASW-NC last year and volunteered at the 2023 Advocacy Day in Raleigh. Participating in advocacy and legislative level social work practice is both challenging and rewarding. NASW-NC is a wealth of data and resources that benefit our clients, communities, and peers.”

NASW-NC Member of the Week
Sebastian Prandoni
MSW Student
NASW Member Since 2022

“Board Member Spotlight
Sebastian Prandoni
MSW Student
NASW Member Since 2022

“What drove me, in part, to run for the NASW-NC Board of Directors is the role of Board members in the strategic planning and implementation of the organization’s goals. Additionally, the opportunity to work alongside and learn from experienced clinical, advocacy, and policy development practitioners currently serving on the Board inspired me to run for office. I am grateful for this unique opportunity and look forward to serving as your NASW-NC Board of Directors Graduate Student Representative.”

NASW-NC Member of the Week
Jodi Hall
MSW, Ed.D
NASW Member Since 2014

“As a social work professor, I rely on NASW-NC for news and legislative updates to provide accurate policy information and advocacy opportunities for my social work students. An in-person visit from NASW-NC staff is a highlight of my class. NASW puts everything that social work educators need for policy updates at our fingertips.”

NASW-NC Member of the Week
Jake Leite, MSW
NASW Member Since 2022

“NASW-NC is an incredibly important resource for me as a social worker in NC, as their focus is on both social issues and social workers. The updates and opportunities they present are invaluable to anyone within the social work profession.”
NASW-NC Member of the Week
Ryan Estes
MSW, MBA, LCSW, LCAS, CCS  
NASW Member Since 2010

"NASW is the voice of the profession, and the NASW-NC staff have protected my professional interests more times than I can count. My NASW membership and involvement allows me to sleep better at night knowing that someone has our professional back and is looking out for our most marginalized community members."

NASW-NC Member of the Week
Gayle Scott, MSW, LCSW  
NASW Member Since 2010

"The choice to be a member of NASW-NC is no question to me. Membership in our professional organization is invaluable. As social workers we need a collective voice to advocate for those who receive our services. Membership provides endless opportunities for personal and professional growth and opportunity. I have especially enjoyed becoming a part of a Local Program Unit as a co-chair. I don’t know why I’ve waited so long to become more involved in the chapter."

NASW-NC Board Member Spotlight  
Jennifer Guevara
LCSWA, LCASA  
NASW Member Since 2017

"I have been an NASW-NC member since 2017, starting as a student liaison, and now serving as a board member. NASW-NC is vital because it provides a platform to advocate for social justice, shape policies, initiatives, and foster professional growth in the field of social work. Ultimately I want to help social workers and other social workers to make a meaningful impact in our communities and the profession as a whole."

Board Member Spotlight  
Rachel Mathew, MSW, LCSW  
NASW Member Since 1996

"As a woman of color and an immigrant, I have experienced first-hand discrimination in workplaces and the communities I have lived in. These experiences have shaped the social worker I am, and I am grateful for the knowledge and support from my colleagues. I engage actively in advocacy work. As a member of NASW since 1996, I am excited to have this opportunity to serve on the NASW-NC Board as the Central District Representative and have the privilege to work alongside other social workers who are committed to affect change and be fierce advocates for the marginalized."

NASW-NC Member of the Week
Sarah Ascierno, PhD, LCSW  
NASW Member Since 2022

"I LOVE being a member of NASW-NC for so many reasons. I particularly appreciate the vast continuing education opportunities, as well as the policy updates and legislative alerts - they are so helpful and informative! And I have so much fun! I also appreciate the networking opportunities and sense of community that NASW provides, especially given how isolated many social workers and social work students have been for so many of us. Having practiced in several states I have to say that the NASW-NC chapter is one of the very strong chapter with compassionate, dedicated, and skilled leadership!"

NASW-NC Member of the Week
Molly Andrews, MSW  
NASW Member Since 2019

"As an MSW student intern at NASW-NC, I was fortunate to see first-hand how the NASW-NC team works for our profession. I continue to be a member of NASW-NC because of how invaluable the benefits NASW-NC offers for social workers and those whom we serve. From advocacy to continuing education and professional development, NASW-NC ensures our profession has everything we need to continue serving our most vulnerable community members."

NASW-NC Member of the Week
George Appenzeller, LCSW  
NASW Member Since 1984

"I joined NASW when I graduated with my MSW because it represented social work as a profession to the country. I continue as a member because of the sterling quality of its ethical standards."

NASW-NC Student Liaison Spotlight  
Bridget Rouse
MSW Student NC A&T State University & UNC-Greensboro

"It is important for us to be a part of NASW because it is our own resource guide as we navigate the profession. NASW allows us to network, stay updated on news and changes in the profession, and gives us the opportunity to grow as social workers."

NASW-NC Student Liaison Spotlight  
Humay Hasan
MSW Student North Carolina State University

"I am in the field of social work because this is where I belong. Many Muslim women are serving in RTP communities in different roles. Serving humanity is part of our faith. As a member of NASW-NC, I am here to represent women who are working hard but are invisible to the larger community because they have limited access to organizations like NASW. I am happy to be serving as an intern at NASW-NC for the next academic year. I plan to work with our incredible leadership to promote the membership of Muslim women of color into our organization. Let’s build bridges together!"

NASW-NC Member of the Week
Katharine Campbell  
PhD, LCSW  
NASW Member Since 2003

"I joined NASW as a BSW student and have never regretted that decision. Being part of NASW has given me opportunities to grow my professional network, my skills clinically and my options for speaking and educating others. I love being a part of the NASW-NC Equity and Inclusion Committee where I have gotten to know many amazing people. Being a part of this organization challenges me to always strive in being a better version of myself and a better professional social worker."

NASW-NC Member of the Week
Rishika Kammerman, BSW  
NASW Member Since 2023

"NASW has provided me with a close view of policy and advocacy work that I otherwise wouldn’t encounter as a BSW student. Seeing how NASW advocates for both our social workers and community simply made me apply for the undergraduate student representative, which is a position I value highly."
Let us celebrate you! Nominate yourself or another NASW member as a NASW-NC Member of the Week!

www.naswnc.org/MemberoftheWeek

BSW, MSW, DSW and PhD social work students across North Carolina have chosen to commit to a profession at a powerful time of change and challenge in our world. These amazing students are the future of our profession and NASW-NC is proud to support students in every aspect of their academic experience and prepare them for their social work career. We are proud to highlight a few of our student leaders from the NASW-NC Board of Directors, Student Liaison Program, and NASW-NC interns.

Student Leadership:
Future of the Social Work Profession