All three NASW-NC PACE Committee endorsed social workers running for the North Carolina House of Representatives won their election on November 6. Representatives Graig Meyer and MaryAnn Black won their reelection campaign, and we welcome Sydney Batch to the House. Learn more about these social workers here: http://bit.ly/SWinNCHouse. See how all NASW-NC PACE endorsed candidates fared here: www.naswnc.org/page/2018PACE.

What do the election results mean for the social work profession? The supermajority in the House and Senate has been broken and the Governor’s vetoes can now be sustained. We are eager to have a more bipartisan legislature so that NASW-NC may move forward with our legislative priorities. We look forward to working with the newly elected members of the legislature to educate them about and advocate for YOU, the social work professionals of North Carolina.

What will be in the North Carolina Constitution

North Carolinians were also asked to consider six changes to the state Constitution. The Bipartisan Ethics and Elections Enforcement and the Judicial Vacancy Sunset Amendment both failed. Of the four amendments that passed, we are most concerned about the vague voter ID proposal and the passage of a lower cap on income tax rates will make it more difficult to build a pathway to opportunity for all.

Lawmakers plan their return to Raleigh for a Special Session on November 27 to fill in the details on the amendments that passed. We’ll need your voice to make sure all voters are protected in the process. Be on the lookout for NASW-NC action alerts about the upcoming Special Session.

Social Work in Times of Disaster: Called to Action After Hurricane Florence

By Jennifer Guevara
BSW Student Liaison, UNC Wilmington Onslow Extension

When the news reports a major hurricane targeting an area, you will see people in communities preparing, evacuating, live coverage during the hurricane, and the aftermath of devastation. However, from hundreds of miles away, watching the news of the devastation of your own community feels like a real gut punch. I evacuated to South Carolina from my home in Jacksonville, but could not let distance stop me from using my learned tools, emergency resource list, and my networking contacts to help my community. I not only worried about my friends and peers, but also the three children whom I am a Guardian ad Litem.

The lines of communication were limited in the area after the hurricane, but I was able to connect with two BSW classmates.

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Resilience occurs in difficult times when communities come together. This is a time of change and perhaps a pivotal moment in history. Hurricanes Florence and Michael remind us of what is important and what having a community means. Social workers and social work students from UNC-Wilmington are sharing stories of loss and extensive home damage, and yet remark how they met their neighbors and shared food and stories. Some of our youth in eastern North Carolina just returned to school and their routines this past week, but tell of opportunities to volunteer and to do for others. Some of our neighbors have been displaced from their homes and yet are still supporting others.

Several days after the hurricane hit and many in the community were without power and food, arguments broke out over who was next in line for gas or who would get the last case of soda. Frustrations and feelings of insecurity are a normal reaction to disaster. As we move from the short-term disaster into the long-term recovery, isn’t it interesting to note that social workers make up the largest profession of volunteers in times of disaster needs? Somehow, we understand the feelings of desperation and we are able to mobilize those feelings into action. We can appreciate vulnerability in others as well as in ourselves. Our NASW-NC Chapter was right there, sharing resources, working closely with our partners in DHHS, the Governor’s office, and others to get information and resources to our membership and community. Thank you NASW-NC!

There is a need to recognize and align with our partners in eastern North Carolina in this recovery. The hurricane shed light on those with fewer resources to evacuate, get clean drinking water, and other supplies. Consider those who work and live in areas that were affected by environmental issues with compromised water and run-off. We can do more as we rebuild to manage environmental waste, such as leakage of coal ash pits or hog waste, that could have been disposed of in a more environmentally-friendly manner.

In a time of indifference or at worst when our society needs ears to hear, social workers bring hope. Though the world watched the impact of Michael from Florida to Virginia, resilience will prevail. As the world, and as much of the general population, experienced anger and sadness over the Supreme Court confirmation hearing process, we know it is time for our elected officials and those who represent us to reflect our country’s population in gender, race, sexual orientation, and age. Frustration and anger can be our catalyst.

What is our calling? Be part of the change. Get involved in organizations that care. Create communities that care. Participate in thoughtful discussions that embrace different opinions. Encourage those among us who are members of NASW and support their good work. Become involved in NASW-NC. We are taking applications for the Board of Directors for next year.

Hopefully, many in our community came to the polls for the 2018 Midterm Election. If the election did not yield the results you desired, consider running for office. Consider speaking out and encouraging others to vote and to run for office. Importantly, support a candidate who cares about our professional values. Remember our ethical obligation to be part of policymaking and advocacy. We can indeed learn from this moment and be the voice for our neighbor, our community, and our environment. Together, let’s be that collective voice of compassion. Learn how you can apply to the NASW-NC Board of Directors here: [https://bit.ly/2yY5wF3](https://bit.ly/2yY5wF3)
It should be no surprise that in this edition of the NASW-NC newsletter you will see multiple mentions of hurricane recovery efforts. A big portion of the state of North Carolina was still recovering from Hurricane Matthew in 2016 when Hurricanes Florence and Michael came along in September and October 2018. I heard from many NASW-NC members who were not only dealing with their own losses, but who were volunteering in community recovery efforts.

I would like to commend the North Carolina Department and Health and Human Services (DHHS), under Secretary Mandy Cohen’s leadership, for continuous communication and flexibility with programs like Medicaid and SNAP before, during, and after the recent hurricanes. We were able to update our membership on a regular basis so that you would be prepared to help (https://bit.ly/2SQwRYO).

I am honored to have worked with DHHS staff and the Governor’s Office to draft the Executive Order (https://bit.ly/2Dpy12j) Governor Cooper issued to allow licensed clinicians to come into North Carolina from out of state to treat those impacted by Hurricane Florence. The teamwork and execution of communication during these disasters was something that we had never experienced with prior administrations.

On October 30, 2018, DHHS announced they have secured more than $8.5 million in new federal and state funding to support the ongoing behavioral health needs of those impacted by Hurricane Florence. This includes a $3.5 million grant to fund a door-to-door behavioral health outreach program across all impacted areas, since those needing services may be relocated. I anticipate social workers will do a large part of this outreach.

The need for mental health services will continue to grow, and typically peaks around six months after such events, with many still in shelters and others still trying to get back on their feet. This is something social workers and behavioral health organizations need to be ready for.

Climate Change: Time to be Proactive Instead of Reactive

These disasters have highlighted the role of inequality in North Carolina. Vulnerable people—especially racial minorities—are more likely to live in floodplains and have housing that isn’t insured. They are less likely to be able to evacuate, and they have less community and familial resources to deal with disasters than people in wealthier, whiter communities.

Denying climate change among policy makers means that even acknowledging changing weather patterns can constitute a political loss (let alone planning for them in advance). When catastrophes hit, lawmakers funnel funds toward recovery, but they don’t always invest in measures that support resilience.

It is imperative that we vote leaders into office who acknowledge and seek to adapt to our changing environment. We must fund infrastructure that can reduce risks and economic and societal costs from natural disasters.

Why should social workers care about climate change and environmental justice? Check out Dr. Meredith Powers’ article on page 10. If American society is already trending toward greater inequality, climate change will only accelerate that trend.

As social workers, we have the voice and power to help those impacted during times of disaster and to advocate for proactive measures to protect and assist communities. The 2018 Election is over but the 2020 Election is around the corner and we still have a lot of work to do. I look forward to continuing to engage with you in social and political action to ensure that all people have equal access to the resources and opportunities they require to meet their basic human needs.
On Friday, September 28th, Bill Lamb received the North Carolina Coalition on Aging’s (NCCOA) Pioneer Award at the Annual Coalition on Aging Membership Luncheon and Awards Ceremony. This award, given annually since 2016, recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of aging in North Carolina.

On receiving the award, Bill stated to NASW-NC, “This award was certainly a surprise to me. It was all the more rewarding coming from both my network of social worker and aging friends. All I can do is express my thanks and remember this recognition is a result of the support I’ve received from those other pioneers who came before me.”

Bill has retired several times from positions in the aging field where he had distinguished tenures. With each retirement, he has taken up a new challenge. He worked for 30 years for the NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) where he was in planning and administrative positions with the NC Division of Social Services and served as Chief of Planning for the NC Division of Aging. In this role, one of his responsibilities was to develop the first Aging Services Plan for the State. Following his retirement from DHHS, he embarked on an eleven-year career as Associate Director for Public Service at the UNC Institute on Aging. Among other things, in this job he was responsible for the State Aging Conference and the Senior Leadership Initiative. He retired from this position in November of 2012.

Bill has been involved with Friends of Residents in Long Term Care, an independent non-profit organization committed to advancing the quality of life for the 100,000 individuals who receive long-term care in North Carolina, since the early 1990s. He served as the Board Chair for Friends twice and currently serves as its Executive Director. Due in large measure to his advocacy work, he was tapped to serve a term as President of the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long Term Care. He is the immediate Past-President of the NCCOA where he is credited with expanding the scope and mission of the organization. Bill is also a Meals on Wheels volunteer.

Outside of his work on aging in the state, Bill has been a leader in the social work field. Bill has mentored many social workers throughout his career. His mentorship of social workers always guides them to policy development and best practices. Whether bringing experts in the field to the classroom or meeting one-on-one with students, Bill has inspired many generations of social workers; many of whom have gone on to be experts in the field of aging themselves.

Bill is a tireless advocate for the aging population. He has devoted his life to making North Carolina better for aging citizens. NASW-NC was thrilled to nominate him for this award.

Donate and Get Your End of Year Tax Deduction!

Support the programs of the North Carolina Chapter Fund of the NASW Foundation

I want my tax deductible donation to go to the following program area(s):

- [ ] Presidents’ Award - Supporting MSW students with financial awards based on leadership
- [ ] Toby Brown Award - Supporting BSW students with financial awards based on overall excellence
- [x] Conference Scholarship Fund - Supporting our next generation of social workers through scholarships to conferences

Name: ____________________________  My Address: ____________________________
In Honor Of / In Memory Of (Optional): ____________________________
Honored Individual’s Address (For Recognition Card): ____________________________
My Phone #: ____________________________  My Email: ____________________________

Amount of Donation: ______ $25 ______ $50 ______ $100 ______ $200 ______ Other (please specify)

- [ ] Charge my: [ ] Visa/Mastercard [ ] AmEx  Account #: ____________________________  Exp. Date ______
- [ ] Check made payable to NASW Foundation. Please indicate award type in the memo line.

Mail to: NASW-NC, PO Box 27582, Raleigh, NC 27611-7582
Learn more about these awards: https://www.naswnc.org/page/134
NASW-NC would like to welcome the following new members who joined during the months of August, September, and October! Thank you for choosing to support your profession and advocate for social work values by joining NASW.

Coastal District (A)
- Kiera Clemmons
- Jeffery Cook
- Roger Crowe, III
- Anne-Marie Kendall
- Alexandra Keown
- Holly Mckoy
- Amy Mitchell
- Takeyah Murrain
- Alexis Richardson
- Destiny Sanders
- Bryan Speight
- Shana Tamminga
- Marlo Walker
- Ernestine Webster
- Kristen Wise
- Cherron Wooten

Central District (B)
- Meghann Alarie
- Rashid Asadullah-EL
- Trinette Avery
- Erica Aydlett
- Katherina Bagley
- Sawyer Barcus
- Maniah Boudeaux
- Jennifer Brannon
- Alexis Brooks
- Rhonda Byrd
- Meredith Carey
- Tricia Coker
- Amanda Cowell
- Sakya Darden
- Jessica Debnam
- Lisa DeCesaris
- Christina Dillahun
- Elizabeth Feola
- Caroline Garrett
- Sean Garrison
- Megan Gershman
- Krystal Glenn
- Jazzmin Gonzalez
- Katharine Hargreaves
- Gay Haynes
- Destinee Henry
- Brea Hughes
- Laura Humphrey
- Mercedes Ijames
- Logan Ikenbery
- Jazmyn Joyner
- Emily Latta
- Beth Manns
- Tayler Mariner
- Helena McGovern
- Olivia McLaughlin
- Justine McNair
- Margaret Mishra
- Michelle Mobley
- Cheryl Murray
- Alecia Nickerson
- Heather Palmateer
- Christine Pavey
- Lauren Penley
- Kelsey Plodzik-Myers

Piedmont District (C)
- Caroline Allred
- Kylee Barry
- Patience Bowora-Mukuruzalisha
- Rhonda Brown
- Kristi Byerly
- Courtney Cheek
- Jenny Cockerham
- Kathryn Culhane
- Geneva Cyrus
- Jalyssa Dailey
- Katherine Foster
- Debbie Freitag
- Briana Garcia
- Brianna Gerdes
- Annmae Giles
- Enna Giron
- Shakayla Glenn
- Caila Gullidge
- Caitlyn Hayg
- Lencola Harrington
- Cheri Henry
- Shamieka Heyward
- Ananda Hodgson
- Mary Jackson
- Darrian Lynch
- Joseph Makdisi
- Rufus Moyer
- Heather Murray
- Paige Myers
- Sonia Padial
- Carmen Palacios-Aguirre
- Sulema Reichel
- Matthew Reiland
- LaQuita Renwick
- Juquiasia Robinson
- Kacie Schrum
- Neikeya Slade
- Ciara Smith
- Andi Sosebee
- Maria Suarez-Ilagor
- Shakeera Taylor
- Marcia Terry
- Zachariah Usey
- Stephanie Wallace
- Natalia Waterberg
- Jessamyn Weis
- Claud Wheatly, IV
- Meredith Pochily
- Deja’ Simmons
- Feirra Spence
- Caitlyn Tengwall
- Juan Tuset
- Tamara Wade
- Shakesha Washington
- Julia Weedon
- Meri Wickenhofer
- Kemehsia Williams
- Angula Williams
- Kalyin Wilson
- Sara Yates
- Lydia Zakia
- Eleanor Williams
- Robert Worley

South Piedmont District (D)
- Kenya Anderson
- Marvaelita Blye
- Amie Bouchat
- DeAnna Carroll
- Jayla Carter
- Denise Andrea Cooper
- Imani Crawford
- Natasha Crook
- Doris DeCosta
- Mekike Demiroz
- Valerie Dennis
- Betsy Ellington
- A’Lexus Hardin
- Kaylee Henderson
- Perla Hernandez
- Dustin Huffman
- Sydney Jenkins
- Chantel Johnson
- Davious Lee
- Diamond Lewis
- Kendric Lucas
- Anna Malles
- Regina Mason
- Kilai McKinley
- Erin Meehan
- Wyvonna Morgan
- Nerissa Morrison
- LaToya Morrison
- Margaret Muncy
- Jennifer Parker
- Tracy Parsons
- LaTamera Potts
- Nicole Prah-Ennin
- Jennifer Robertson
- Anjalya Robinson
- Ilona Silva Alvarez
- Nicholas Springhetti
- Sherry Walsh
- Afela Walton
- Azia Washington
- Daryl Watson
- Naaliyah Williams
- Emily Worley
- Desiny Yates

Western District (E)
- John Avery
- John Casale
- Robert DeBruhl
- Laura Gibbs
- Brandi Hansen
- Alexis Hicks
- Christina Jacob
- Leigh Kadans
- Mark Lemke
- Shanon Martin
- Jennifer Nelson-Tripathi
- Elana Roseberry
- Ebony Ward
- JoAnn Woods
- Rosemary Yelton
- Rachel Hendricks
- Amanda Holland
- Emma Huber
- Ashley Jensen
- Casandra Juarez
- Rodriguez
- Jamiah Keith
- Ashley Kerr
- Amanda King
- Savannah Lackey
- Morgan Leamy
- Abrielle LeBlanc
- Tina Locklear
- Anna Mack
- Heather McCaill
- Shwana Mcgrinmon
- Sabrina McLean
- Taylor Moore
- Kierra Mouthe
- Savannah Narcise
- David Navarre
- Hallie Nichols
- Ashlee Nieves
- Jessica Patterson
- Torrie Powell
- Brittney Proctor
- Nicole Richardson
- Kayala Rodgers
- Luis Rosario
- Monique Samayoa
- Mallory Savidge
- Krista Schlangen
- Marcilla Scott
- Shaneika Smith
- Denise Smith
- Kim Stansbury
- Julie Stave
- Jeremiah Sweet
- Tamiya Thompson
- Ashley Toti
- Amy Waldbillig
- Julia Walker
- Leah Webb
- Gwendolyn Williams
- Lasean Williams
- Johanna Wilson
- Elizabeth Wimer
- Kathryn Wishon
- Tamara Woods

Who's Your Social Work Superhero?
Nominations for NASW-NC's Social Worker of the Year are open until 12/15/18.
More information at www.naswnc.org
UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of North Carolina proudly sponsors the National Association of Social Workers North Carolina Chapter, 2018 Annual Fall Conference.
Most social workers know about ethical considerations regarding receiving gifts from clients. How often do we contemplate the implications of social workers giving gifts to clients? You might wonder, what’s the big deal? While social workers are usually compassionate and responsive to client’s needs, prudence requires us to acknowledge that gifts (given or received) can introduce unintended, counter-therapeutic dynamics.

Koocher and Keith-Spiegel (2016) reference providers who shower clients with gifts to increase referrals; offer gifts in naiveté and inexperience, unaware that clients assign unexpected meanings to the effort; and unknowingly invite troublesome complications and misunderstandings into the professional relationship. Recognizing that most providers do not maliciously exploit clients, Koocher and Keith-Spiegel (2016) support gift-giving:

...on occasion, and after careful consideration. A book may be offered to a client when therapeutically indicated, especially if the client is on a limited budget. Therapists may also go out of their way to help clients locate other needed resources relevant to improving their overall life situation. Small favors based on a situational need and common sense, such as giving a client a quarter for the parking meter, would not raise concerns. In these acceptable cases, no ulterior motives pertain, and the scope is either related to the therapy or of a very specific and limited nature.

A special situation can arise when the client is a child... at times, it may be appropriate to give a gift attending to the symbolic meaning that would advance the therapeutic function. For example, an anxious child about to leave for [three] weeks of summer camp might be soothed and emboldened by the gift of a flashlight. (pp. 255-256).

Despite good intentions, providers might not anticipate ways gifts might alter a client’s sense of freedom and willingness to address negative feelings. Ofer Zur (n.d.) noted:

...when Freud realized that one of his clients was planning to buy a set of his complete works, he gave it to the client as a gift. Immediately following the gift-giving, Freud noticed that the patient’s dreams seemed to be ‘drying up’ and ever since, traditional analysis has held to the belief that gifts interfere with the natural course of analysis.

Zur (n.d.) confirms that appropriate, small gifts for special occasions are an acceptable practice. However, he cautions therapists to be aware of motives when giving gifts and to avoid using gifts to persuade the client to like the therapist or to avoid conflict.

Zur notes a potential dilemma for medicating psychiatrists who supply clients with medication samples. Especially when the medication is expensive and clients receive samples over time, potential conflicts of interest arise (e.g., between the psychiatrist and the pharmaceutical company and the clients). Moreover, clients may feel indebtedness towards the provider. Astute conscientiousness and direct conversations between providers and clients, as well as amongst the treatment team, can promote optimal ethical decision-making.

Reamer (2002) acknowledges the altruistic nature of gift-giving:

Some boundary issues arise because of social workers’ genuinely altruistic inclinations. The vast majority of social workers are dedicated, caring, and principle people who would never knowingly exploit clients. Ironically, social workers who are extraordinarily kind and humane may unwittingly foster challenging dual and multiple relationships by attending clients’ life-cycle events, giving clients home telephone numbers for emergency circumstances, or giving isolated clients gifts at holiday time. On occasion, such altruistic gestures may be misinterpreted by clients and trigger boundary confusion.

It is important to reiterate that not all dual and multiple relationships are unethical. Some are and some are not. The challenge in social work is to use good judgment, consistent with current ethical standards, to distinguish between the two.

While the NASW Code of Ethics (2017) does not specifically address giving and/or receiving gifts, Standard 1.06, Conflict of Interest states:

(a) Social workers should be alert to and avoid conflicts of interest that interfere with the exercise of professional discretion and impartial judgment. Social workers should inform clients when a real or potential conflict of interest arises and take reasonable steps to resolve the issue in a manner that makes the clients’ interests primary and protects clients’ interests to the greatest extent possible. In some cases, protecting clients’ interests may require termination of the professional relationship with proper referral of the client.

(b) Social workers should not take unfair advantage of any professional relationship or exploit others to further their personal, religious, political, or business interests.

What to do? When you think about offering a gift to a client, consider (privately and in consultation with colleagues) your motivation, the client’s history, and possible outcomes (expected and unanticipated). Remember that your NASW-NC Chapter Ethics Committee remains available for ethics consultation. Please note that this service is free only to NASW-NC members with questions about cases in which they have direct involvement. To access this service, email naswncethics@gmail.com or call 919-828-9650 or 800-280-6207/extension 300.

References:


To Give or Not to Give: Ethics and Gift-Giving

Ravita T. Omabu Okafor, MSW, LCSW
NASW-NC Ethics Committee Chair

Ethics in Practice
All types of individuals enter the field of social work. All races, all ages, all abilities, all orientations.

All licensed social workers need continuing education to maintain their professional licenses. As an organization that provides continuing education to social workers, we can and should expect that anyone could be in attendance at our conferences.

Several years ago at one of our conferences it was brought to my attention that the only restroom that was wheelchair accessible was on a different floor from our meeting space. Everyone else had access to restrooms on our floor. But the attendee using a wheelchair had to take an elevator trip to the 1st floor to have access to a restroom they could use. I was mortified. It is embarrassing to admit that as a staff member of NASW-NC this happened on my watch.

Sometimes in the busyness of carrying out our business, we forget.

We took the experience as a learning opportunity and a reminder that, even in the finest details of what we do, at NASW we are social work. And as such, we take the Code of Ethics very seriously. We wrote it, after all. And unfortunately, we missed the mark in several ways... ouch.

2.01 Respect
(a) Social workers should treat colleagues with respect and should represent accurately and fairly the qualifications, views, and obligations of colleagues

4.02 Discrimination
Social workers should not practice, condone, facilitate, or collaborate with any form of discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, marital status, political belief, religion, immigration status, or mental or physical ability.

6.04 Social and Political Action
(b) Social workers should act to expand choice and opportunity for all people, with special regard for vulnerable, disadvantaged, oppressed, and exploited people and groups.
(c) Social workers should promote conditions that encourage respect for cultural and social diversity within the United States and globally. Social workers should promote policies and practices that demonstrate respect for difference, support the expansion of cultural knowledge and resources, advocate for programs and institutions that demonstrate cultural competence, and promote policies that safeguard the rights of and confirm equity and social justice for all people.

What happened after
What happened next was the power of social work in action.

Education continued on Page 14

Greetings From Raleigh

Social Work Advocacy Day

March 6, 2019

See y’all there!

Mistakes Happen
Not Having Proper Coverage Doesn’t Have to be One of Them

To Enroll, Visit
www.naswassurance.org/ncnews

Questions? Contact us at
asi@naswasi.org or call 888-278-0038

NASW Assurance Services • 50 Citizens Way Suite 304 • Frederick, MD 21701
Legislators adjourned the 2018 Legislative Short Session at the end of June and set a date to reconvene after the elections for Tuesday, November 27th and will most likely discuss legislation that is influenced by which Constitutional amendments pass during the elections. However, following Hurricane Florence, legislators and Governor Roy Cooper decided to come back for two Special Sessions on Tuesday, October 2nd and Monday, October 15th. During these sessions, legislators allocated funding to begin relief efforts.

To aide in recovery, legislators passed:

- School calendar flexibility: allows school districts that had to close for more than two days an exemption to waive up to twenty make-up days.
- $6.5 million allocated to pay teachers and staff for missed school days if they would otherwise have been paid to be in the classroom or at school.
- In counties with a federal disaster declaration, the voter registration deadline was extended from October 12 until October 15.
- $400,000 was allocated to the NC State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement to use to inform voters from those affected areas about updates to their voting stations, location changes, and the overall options they have as voters.
- Certain fees are to be waived by the Department of Motor Vehicles for individuals to get duplicate licenses and other documents in counties with a federal disaster declaration.
- Increase single-stream funding to LME/MCOs serving one or more federally declared disaster area which will fund behavioral health services that are (i) for individuals residing in a federally declared disaster area who have been determined by the LME/MCO to be in need of these services as a result of Hurricane Florence, and (ii) not reimbursable under the Medicaid program.
- Extension for the transition period from 90 days to 120 days for the child care subsidy recipient who is otherwise eligible for child care subsidy and resides in an area damaged or impacted by Hurricane Florence.
- The creation of the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency (Office) in the Department of Public Safety. The Office will provide general disaster recovery coordination and public information; citizen outreach and application case management; audit, finance, compliance, and reporting on disaster recovery funds; and program and construction management services. The Office shall also contract for services from vendors specializing in housing, construction, and project management services.

Further details about each special legislative session can be found on our website at https://www.naswnc.org/news/.

**Corporal Punishment Banned in Every School District**

An historic day came in early October when Graham County’s Board of Education voted to end the use of corporal punishment in schools. They were the last school district in the state to do so. NASW-NC has partnered with NC Child over the years to provide school social work voices at school board meetings and to meet with local leaders to encourage the ban on corporal punishment.

More than 80 research studies confirm that corporal punishment is associated with no positive academic outcomes. Rather, the practice is associated with negative outcomes, such as impeded social and cognitive development, as well as aggressive behavior.

Because of this research, corporal punishment is now prohibited in all of North Carolina’s local school districts!

**90837 and Global Tech Information**

On August 13, 2018, 10,000 clinical social workers who are Medicare Part B providers received a letter from Global Tech containing results of a Comparative Billing Report (CBR) for Licensed Clinical Social Workers. NASW has reviewed the report and additional information provided by Global Tech and created a Practice Alert to help advise social workers: Comparative Billing Reports from Global Tech, August 2018 (https://bit.ly/2AOOwIT).

Additional Resources that may be of interest:


**Upcoming Efforts**

NASW-NC is now accepting nominations for our annual Myrna Miller Wellons Advocate of the Year Award given to a North Carolinian who has demonstrated a strong passion to advocate for the needs of the social work profession and/or policy issues. Nominations are being accepted through December 15th. Visit our website to learn more about the nomination process (https://www.naswnc.org/page/33).

This winter, the NASW-NC Legislative Committee will be developing our legislative agenda which will inform our legislative goals during the 2019 Legislative Session. Have an idea or wish to submit a policy proposal for NASW-NC to advocate on? Contact Kay Castillo at kcastillo.naswnc@socialworkers.org!

Stay up to date on NASW-NC’s advocacy efforts on our website, www.naswnc.org/news/. Updates are posted monthly!
We live in a world plagued with environmental disasters and injustices of all kinds and we know the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters are due to climate change— which is directly exacerbated by global human behavior. Thankfully, our profession is ideally situated to address these very issues. Social workers in North Carolina (NC) are continuing to take up the call to respond to issues of climate change and environmental injustices that have surfaced during the recent devastation from Hurricanes Florence and Michael and the related storms and flooding. Simply put, environmental injustice means that people do not have the same access to benefits of the environment (such as clean air and water, access to healthy food and green spaces for physical and mental health) and/or they experience more of the burden from environmental degradation and disasters (such as only being able to afford housing in high risk areas, or having to take jobs that subject them to industrial toxins).

We recently have seen this in NC with coal-ash and pig farm waste spilling into our waterways and toxifying the land, soil, and air in vulnerable communities. We have also seen the devastation of the flooding on people’s homes and entire communities, some of which have been suffering for decades due to unfulfilled promises for recovery aid from previous storms (e.g., the Town of Princeville which was one of the first towns established by former slaves in the South). These environmental injustices play out in the ways that some communities are more vulnerable to storms and flooding - not only in the ways that they may not be able to sufficiently prepare or evacuate, but also in the ways they are not as able to recover due to economic constraints and/or because they are being further neglected as others are prioritized (often due to environmental racism).

Social workers all over the world have recently come together to contribute lessons for a workbook series, published by the International Federation of Social Work, which contains many topics around disaster, environmental justice, and eco-therapy and are useful for training social workers in the field, as well as students. They are free as PDF downloads and you may share them with anyone you think would find them useful:

Social Work Promoting Community and Environmental Sustainability: A Workbook for Global Social Workers and Educators (Vol.1)

AND

Social Work Promoting Community and Environmental Sustainability: A Workbook for Global Social Workers and Educators (Vol.2)

It is also important to highlight that in the face of such disasters and environmental injustices, social workers must be encouraged to take time for self-care. These issues may create additional eco-grief and climate anxieties, on top of the normal stress of working with clients and communities. They could do this through various eco-therapeutic practices that could be useful for themselves and their loved ones, as well as their clients. Such eco-therapeutic practices include taking a walk in a park or wooded trail, sitting on the beach, visiting the mountains, or even when one may be confined to indoor spaces, practicing mindfulness meditation while holding a seashell in your hand or admiring an indoor potted plant, or enjoying the company of a loving pet (more examples and research supporting these interventions are presented in the IFSW workbook series noted above).

As social workers, we are part of a global profession that rises to the challenge to help individuals and communities as we come alongside them to change policies and practices that promote justice in all of its various forms. Let’s all take time to reach out to our fellow social workers, near and far (did you know that Typhoon Manghut hit parts of the Philippines and China just as Florence was hitting NC?), and come alongside each other in solidarity as we seek to address community and environmental sustainability to mitigate and respond to such disasters, to welcome environmental migrants, and to address environmental injustices. Let’s also pause to appreciate the environment with which we are inextricably connected and to acknowledge the historical and current caretakers of our Mother Earth, especially Indigenous peoples here in NC.

Thank you for the great work you are doing in your communities! And thank you to the leadership in our profession for setting The Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development that unites us all with the common aims to promote social and economic equalities, the dignity and worth of all peoples, community and environmental sustainability, and the strengthening of human relationships.

References:
3. https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/duke-energy-coal-ash-spill-north-carolina_us_5b9d60e4d0d32eb6f02af7
7. https://www.ifsw.org/
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The National Association of Social Workers North Carolina congratulates Jose’ Cañas, winner of the Council on Social Work Education’s (CSWE) Carl A. Scott Book Scholarship. These scholarships are overseen by the Carl A. Scott Memorial Fund, which was developed to continue the legacy of equity and social justice in social work through building knowledge and furthering the well-being of individuals and their communities. Jose’, a BSW Student at Fayetteville State University, was selected as one of two recipients from a nationwide pool of applicants.

Jose’ was surrounded by social work early on, which left a lasting impact on him. “As the child of a social worker, I grew up at the Community Action Agency in the Little Havana neighborhood of Miami, Florida. I spent almost every summer at nursing homes, daycare centers, and I spent time building food baskets for the hungry and delivering blankets to the homeless and underserved. This is where I believe I developed compassion and understanding for my fellow man.”

A veteran with five combat deployments and over 25 years of military service, Jose’ was considering his school and career options after retiring from the Army when he sought treatment for PTSD. “The counselors I went to talk to at the VA were both LCSWs. And it was like it hit me across the head: you can do this. This is a way for you to contribute.”

After graduating, Jose’ plans to continue his social work education, pursuing either an MSW or Ph.D. He is specifically interested in researching “the use of Virtual Reality along with Prolonged Exposure Therapy to combat or reduce the effects of PTSD in returning combat veterans.”

The scholarship and memorial fund are named for Carl Anderson Scott. Scott was at the helm of CSWE’s early efforts to foster human diversity in social work education. He secured funding from governmental and private sources to recruit students and faculty from minority groups to schools of social work. He guided five minority task forces in developing programs directed toward enhancing minority presence in curricula and other salient venues.

The first classmate with whom I connected was Jennifer Lowman, who had started collecting and washing clothing donations received from another state. The second classmate was Dave Navarre and his wife, Frances Moore-Navarre who is a Legal Assistant and a BSW for the Department of Social Services. While Frances worked the shelters and donation centers, Dave compiled a list of the specific needs from the shelter residents. Many of the shelter residents were not only displaced from their homes, but had also lost all their personal belongings. The list was extensive, and I needed a way to spread the word fast and to a large audience, so I took my message to social media and shared it on Facebook. I started by first posting in my neighborhood and military support group Facebook pages and was blown away with the number of responses. What initially started out with just two small bags of clothes, a bag of food, and some toys expanded to more than I had ever imagined. I had a continuous influx of donations daily, for two weeks.

While I was washing and separating the clothing donations I received, I continued to watch the news and noticed that many of the adults and children who were standing in line for donations were wearing clothing that didn’t match, they were barefoot or were wearing clothing that didn’t fit the current weather conditions. I realized it was because either that was all they were able to get or that was the last thing they wore before losing all their belongings. To lessen the burden on those who needed clothing, I decided to make grab bags which contained clean clothing that were matched in sets and by size. These bags were labeled by gender, size, and number of outfits. For example, a grab bag would be labeled “Girl, 5T, 4 shirt/pants set, 2 dresses.”

As a team, we reached out within the community to see where donations were needed, distributed information on locations that were providing hot meals, and also provided some with transportation to their jobs. In less than two weeks, we delivered to three shelters and countless homes. The deliveries included clothing, diapers, and food. The best feeling in my heart was observing the children and adults expressing a sense of relief and happiness from receiving freshly cleaned clothes that were laid out in a manner that they were able to just grab and go without having to dig through endless piles. The storm has passed, but many families still remain displaced, living in shelters and hotels within our local community.

The schools in Onslow County remained closed until October 24, 2018. We were able to provide 85 individuals with clothing from the donations we received, and I could not have done it without the assistance of my fellow NASW members Jennifer Lowman, Dave Navarre, and Frances Moore-Navarre who were out networking, connecting and mentoring with me throughout this process. We have reached a point where the donations have begun to slow down, but we are still providing items to those who remain in the shelter as needed and we will continue to social work together.
Madison Gunning
NASW-NC BSW Intern

Madison Gunning is a student intern completing her BSW with a minor in Spanish from Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. As an intern with NASW-NC, she has been working on policy and advocacy. Madison has previously interned with political campaigns and social justice organizations. She spent the past year in New York City at AIESEC, the world’s largest youth-run nonprofit, as their National Director of Organizational Development. She has also volunteered with a domestic violence and sexual assault crisis line and attended domestic violence hearings at the local courthouse to provide support and resources to victims. Her first experience advocating in Raleigh was at NASW-NC’s Advocacy Day in 2017. This opportunity led her to apply for a field placement with NASW-NC and has inspired her to continue advocacy work.

When asked what working with NASW-NC means to her, Madison said, “I am thrilled to have been selected to work with NASW-NC this year. I believe social workers hold an incredible responsibility in advocacy and policy work, as our profession is rooted in social change. I am confident that with the macro-level skills I have the opportunity to develop with NASW-NC will help to prepare me to lead the next generation of social workers looking to affect legislative change in North Carolina and beyond.”

Madison will graduate magna cum laude from Appalachian State University in December of this year. She plans to attend law school in the fall and wants to pursue a career in public interest law.

Education continued from Page 8

The conference site was keen on having our repeat business, and we were happy to educate them as to why we would not be returning. Not having access to adequate restrooms not only posed an inconvenience to attendees who require wheelchair access, but also showed a lack of respect, was discriminatory, and presented an obstacle to equal access of our training. None of which is OK.

The venue realized that they were potentially losing revenue if groups would not book events with them for this reason, and perhaps they were even out of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and open to lawsuit. So, they turned a janitor’s closet adjacent to the meeting space into a spacious, one-person, wheelchair-accessible unisex bathroom. Going forward, any person with a need for a wheelchair-accessible bathroom can be accommodated without having to take an elevator ride to another floor in order to take care of a basic human need. Social work ethics of inclusion for the win!

Looking for more CE? Don’t forget about the members-only NASW-NC CE Calendar which usually lists over 90 events across North Carolina! Any social work-relevant CE opportunity in North Carolina goes up on this calendar! Be sure to log in! www.naswnc.org/events

Vincent Lella
NASW-NC MSW Intern

Vincent Lella is an MSW student intern with NASW-NC. He is currently a second year Master of Social Work student at North Carolina State University with a focus in macro social work. Originally graduating from the University of North Carolina - Charlotte (UNCC) in 2016 with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications, he became interested in the social work field when his girlfriend began pursuing her BSW at UNCC. After working in banking for a year following his graduation, Vincent decided to switch gears and go back to school to pursue his MSW.

His first-year placement as a case manager with the Family Resource Center South Atlantic in Raleigh allowed him to gain some macro experience while also getting direct practice knowledge. This experience sparked an interest within Vincent to work with the justice-involved population, especially in efforts to combat systemic racism and reduce the stigma surrounding this population.

When asked what he was most excited about while working with NASW-NC, Vincent said, “Being able to advocate and strive for the betterment of the social work profession while also working towards policy change for the vulnerable populations we serve is exactly what I want out of a future career. I cannot wait to be able to create positive change in the county I reside in and all across North Carolina!”

Vincent’s plans for after graduation involve possibly moving to Japan for a year to teach English in a private school.

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