The South Carolina Chapter of the NASW held its 26th annual Spring Symposium on March 11-14th at the Hilton Double Tree Hotel in Columbia. The conference was a great success, with nationally known keynote speakers, top-notch workshop presentations and an excellent variety and number of exhibitors.

This year’s symposium had the highest number of attendees in many years; over 400 people registered and those attending all the available presentations accumulated over 20 hours of social work CEUs. Part of the increased attendance was due to the early bird specials, which drew in record participants weeks before the deadline to register. There were a number of participants from outside SC: North Carolina, Georgia, Ohio and Michigan were among states represented. Another draw was the quality and quantity of breakout sessions. Topics included military social work; legal and ethical issues in social work practice; child and family therapy; autism spectrum disorders; domestic violence; aging; and technology’s impact on social workers and the clients they serve. One very well attended workshop entitled “Finding Joy in Social Work” included powerful interactive pieces that helped participants remember why they entered our field and how they can continue to thrive in it.

Opening keynote speaker the first full day was the new Dean of the College of Social Work, Dr. Anna Sheyett, who spoke passionately about how she found her calling in social work, her journey to becoming Dean and her ongoing commitment to excellence in the South Carolina Social Work community. The CarePro Macey Gold Card reception featured Marjorie Hammock, Professor of Social Work at Benedict College who gave a wonderful talk on aging and self-care. The closing keynote speaker was native son and USC COSW MSW graduate Anton Gunn, who was appointed by President Obama to serve as the Regional Director of the US Department of Health and Human Services. Mr. Gunn gave a very informative talk on the Affordable Care Act and what it means for our clients and our communities.

The annual social work awards were given out at Tuesday night’s Gold Card Reception. Ms. Shirley Furtick, current NASW-SC Chapter President, received the Social Worker of the Year award. MSW Student of the Year was awarded to Wendy Adams of Winthrop University, BSW Student of the Year was awarded to Katherine Zanowski, also of Winthrop.

Lillian Koller was awarded Citizen of the Year and Senator Phil Leventis was recognized as Legislator of the Year for his years of tireless support of causes near and dear to the hearts of South Carolina social workers.

This year’s successful symposium is due to the hard work of our new Executive Director, Carla Damron; Office Manager Juliana Palyok and the symposium planning committee: Marvin Bryant, Deborah Duvall, Ann-Marie Dwyer, Charlotte Thomas, Sharon Williams and Mary Winstead.

Thanks to all who participated as attendees and presenters and we look forward to another successful symposium in 2013!
——Ann-Marie Dwyer
That’s how many people respond when they hear about the anti-human trafficking initiatives and bill being considered in the South Carolina state house right now. But in reality, human trafficking is a pervasive problem worldwide from which the United States and South Carolina are not exempt. In 2011, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center received 170 reports of human trafficking in South Carolina. This is a 630% increase from 2009. In 2006, South Carolina prosecuted the first human trafficking case for the state where a 14 year old girl was smuggled into the US from Mexico, trafficked to a pimp, and forced to have sex with dozens of men a day in the Midlands. Is this doesn’t disturb you, I don’t know what will.

A bill currently passed the judiciary committee and will come before the South Carolina House of Representatives this month. This bill would change the laws in South Carolina to better defend the rights of victims of human trafficking in South Carolina. Provisions of the bill include:

- Establish an interagency task force to develop and implement a plan to prevent human trafficking
- Require mandatory training on human trafficking to all law enforcement officials
- Require the state to provide housing, counseling, and other services for victims of human trafficking
- Provide working condition standards that apply to all people regardless of immigration status
- Make it a criminal offense to disclose the location of a human trafficking victim
- Make businesses criminally liable for participating in human trafficking activities
- Provide restitution for victims of human trafficking offenses
- Allow civil actions by victims of human trafficking
- Create human trafficking awareness programs

Please consider supporting HR 3757 by contacting your legislator.

March 21: Student Legislative Day a BIG success!
Human trafficking is the illegal trade of human beings for the purposes of reproductive slavery, commercial sexual exploitation, or forced labor. It is a modern-day form of slavery. The crime of human trafficking affects virtually every country in the world and has been associated with transnational criminal organizations, small criminal networks and local gangs, violations of labor and immigration codes, and government corruption. Historically, trafficking has been defined most often as the trade in women and children for prostitution. More recently trafficking has been defined to include other types of force, fraud, or coercion beyond sexual exploitation.

While current stereotypes often depict the victims of human trafficking as innocent young girls who are seduced or kidnapped from their home countries and forced into the sex industry, it is not just young girls who are trafficked. Men, women, and children of all ages can fall prey to traffickers for purposes of sex and/or labor. Victims of trafficking are forced into various forms of commercial sexual exploitation including prostitution, pornography, stripping, live-sex shows, mail-order brides, military prostitution and sex tourism. Victims may be trafficked into the United States from other countries or may be foreign citizens already in the United States (legally or illegally) who are desperate to make a living to support themselves and their families in the United States or in their home countries. Traffickers often deceive their victims through false promises of economic opportunities that await them in more affluent destination countries, such as the United States. Thus routes of trafficking often flow from less developed countries to neighboring countries or industrialized nations with higher standards of living. Many of those who accept offers from traffickers find themselves in situations where their documents are destroyed, their families are threatened with harm, or they pay. Traffickers use threats, intimidation, and violence, as well as deception and trickery, to force or lure victims to engage in sex or labor in slavery-like conditions.

Human trafficking is considered to be one of the fastest growing criminal industries. The United States of America is principally a transit and destination country for trafficking in persons. It is estimated that 14,500 to 17,500 people, primarily women and children, are trafficked to the U.S. annually. The U.S. Government is strongly committed to combating trafficking in persons at home and abroad. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, enhances pre-existing criminal penalties, affords new protections to trafficking victims and makes available certain benefits and services to victims of severe forms of trafficking. It also establishes a Cabinet-level federal interagency task force and establishes a federal program to provide services to trafficking victims. The U.S. Government recognizes the need to sustain and further enhance efforts in order to achieve the goals and objectives of the Act.

I recently had the opportunity to be a lobbyist in supporting this bill at the State House. In reading some of the testimonies, I would have never known that human trafficking took place right here in the Carolinas. As a female and a mother I was shocked to know of the characteristics of people that the trafficker’s prey on and the locations in which they keep the victims. One story took place in Charlotte, NC in an area that I am very familiar with and travel frequently. I’m glad that I had the opportunity to support this bill and will encourage my peers to do the same. This should not be ignored.

FYI: If you know someone who is being trafficked, call The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) toll-free hotline, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 1-888-3737-888.
What an amazing month March (Social Work Month) was for our chapter. Our Spring Symposium, SOCIAL WORK MATTERS, had 401 attendees and offered forty-eight training sessions on everything from smart technology to Alzheimer’s Disease. We honored some of the best and brightest in our field (see symposium article) and talked about advocacy. We saw old friends and made new ones. We celebrated and we learned, and when the conference ended, I think we ALL went home tired!

Then on March 21st, we held our Legislative Day at the Capitol. Our group had the largest meeting room in the Blatt building and it was busting at its seams. 250 social work students and faculty from Benedict College, Winthrop University, SC State University, Limestone University, Columbia College, Coker College and USC College of Social Work discussed current legislation, met with their legislators, and conducted poster presentations on key social issues being addressed in this legislative cycle. Special guests included Dr. Deanna Morrow, Chair of the Dept. of Social Work, Winthrop University, Dr. Anna Scheyett, Dean, USC College of Social Work, Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, and Phil Leventis, our NASW-SC Outstanding Legislator of the year. A highlight for me was the Judicial Subcommittee meeting about the Human Trafficking Legislation held upstairs from our meeting room—and listening to a social work student testify to this group about modern day slavery in our own country. It’s refreshing to be around these young folks and see their passion and commitment to change. They get it that social work is more than a job, it’s something in our bone marrow.

Why is this so important now? Because the clients we serve are at increasingly greater risk. Their voting rights have been restricted. Their access to medical care has decreased. Their benefits have been cut. Political rhetoric has taken on a “blame the victim” slant that dehumanizes those who need our help.

Over the next few weeks, we’ll be sending out “legislative alerts” about key pieces of legislation—issues that our Government Affairs Committee has focused on this year. As social workers, it’s only right that we take a stand on issues like Human Trafficking, the Safe Schools Climate Act (anti-bullying), and Dating Violence. I hope you’ll read the alerts and consider taking action. A call or email to your local legislator can help more than I can say. There are one thousand members of NASW-SC—and it’s important that our voices be heard.
Our 2012 Symposium was a huge success! There were 400+ attendees with colleagues from North Carolina, Georgia, and Ohio in attendance. Congratulations to the Chapter staff (Carla and Juliana) and members of the planning committee - Debra Duvall, Mary Winstead, Charlotte Thomas, Ann Dwyer, Sharon Williams, chairperson Marvin Bryant for their hard work. It was noted during Symposium that Marvin and several members of the committee had served for approximately 6 – 8 years on the committee with Marvin as Chairperson, four of these years were during both of my tenure. My appreciation goes out to Marvin, Mary, Charlotte, and Deborah for 8 years of volunteer service to the Chapter.

Our Governmental Affairs committee has been very busy in leading the Chapter on the “Human Trafficking” legislation. Under leadership of George Mavroftas the committee provided testimony, March 2012, during the House Judiciary Sub-committee hearings regarding this legislation. The Committee witnessed the Judiciary Committee’s affirmative votes to pass the bill to the full house for further action.

On March 21, 2012, approximately 250 graduate and undergraduate social work students participated in the annual Social Work Student Legislative Day. The students represented Benedict College, Winthrop University, SC State University, Limestone University, Columbia College, Coker College and USC College of Social Work. It was an awesome sight. Accompanying the students were social work faculty and Dean Anna Scheyett, USC College of Social Work and Dean Deana Morrow, SW Dept Chair, Winthrop University. When I walked into room 101 of the Blatt Building to see standing room only - in and outside of the room, I was bowled over. Talk about “Proud To Be A Social Worker”, words cannot express the PRIDE I felt as I looked out and spoke to the group. My hat is off to Sue Lyman and faculty who worked with her to make Student Legislative Day an event that exemplified the power of social work in the next generation.

Regrettably we lost two social work pioneers during the past several months – Kathleen Babb and Ernestine Player. Kathleen was elected to the Board as Central Unit Representative last year. I had not had the opportunity to meet Kathleen as she became ill shortly after her election and could not attend meetings. I learned from several contacts of her commitment to NASW SC. Even while very ill she had faith that she would recover and resume her role on the Board. Colleagues carried out her duties as unit representative; ensuring meetings and continuing education events were held regularly. Even in sickness Kathleen’s thoughts were of NASW SC.

Ernestine Player was a mentor and confidant to me. She was one of the people I called when I needed guidance or consultation. I knew she would tell me straight even if I didn’t like it. Ernestine was one to say what she meant. One never had to wonder where she stood—she would tell you. She was feisty, opinionated, and funny. Her Legacy to NASW SC included efforts to stop the declassification of social workers and the obtainment of social work licensure in the state. She brought her talents and skills to numerous committees and tasks groups in the interest of professional social work. Last year, I asked if she would serve on the personnel committee, she related she was limited in mobility but the committee was welcome to meet at her home. Wouldn’t you know when we got there Ernestine had baked brownies and served brownies, grapes, and cokes as we met.
President’s Letter, cont’d

That was Ernestine!

On June 30, 2012 my term as NASW SC President will end. With the support of the Board and Chapter staff, I am happy to say we have a strong chapter, committed staff, and fiscal stability. Let’s keep it that way. One half of our Board will rotate off and new members will join the team. Remember to vote! Your Board, Chapter, and its activities can be no better than the folks you elect to represent you. Michael Ottone, President-elect, the returning and incoming board members, and Carla will need your support.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your president! I am thankful for new friends and colleagues and look forward to serving the Chapter in other capacities. I am Proud To Be a Social Worker!

Snuggies for the Homeless: SW Student Association Blanket Drive

Take a drive through downtown Columbia in the winter time and you’ll see hundreds of people—college students, families, young professionals—all enjoying the break from the oppressive humidity and scorching temperatures of summer. You’ll find couples walking “hand in mittened hand” and children sharing a warm cup of hot chocolate. When night falls, and the temperatures drop down to 30 (or below!), they will all head to warm homes, to sleep in their warm, blanketed beds. However, with the current state of the economy, hundreds of people in the state capitol area are not only without jobs and without homes, but they are without simple necessities such as blankets to keep them warm during the cold winter nights.

On December 8, 2011, the Social Work Student Association at the University of South Carolina, Columbia partnered with Transitions Homeless Shelter, to meet one of the greatest needs in Columbia - a blanket drive to provide blankets for people who are homeless. From October to December, over 100 blankets and Snuggies were donated, providing warmth for individuals and families all over our state’s capital. This venture was supported entirely by USC College of Social Work students, many of which who are current NASW members. It wouldn’t have been nearly as successful without the generous donations from USC students, professors, local friends, and neighbors in Columbia, as well as the coordinating help of Teresa Chimienti, 1st year Representative and Lauren Peasley, President, of the Social Work Student Association.

Now, when you drive downtown this winter, look past the hustle and bustle of the city and you might just see someone who is homeless wrapped up in a warm blanket; and if you look close enough, you might just see three men wearing matching Snuggies sitting on the Statehouse front steps.

Submitted by Laren Peasley, SW Student Association President and MSW Candidate
The problems clients bring into therapy come in all sizes, shapes and categories; each requires the insight, understanding and skills which are part of an MSW education. Social workers are best known for their work with children and families, the elderly, the poor, the sick and other traditionally underserved populations.

This type of work is more “benefit driven” than “revenue producing,” and those who are drawn to it care more about helping others to improve their lives and less about creating wealth for themselves.

But does that mean those who dedicate their lives to helping others must do so at the cost of their own financial well-being; does it mean that client populations with financial problems are destined to settle for less or to accept their current circumstances as permanent? I for one think not!

A capitalistic culture favors democracy but by no means is it egalitarian. Current economic times may find more men and women experiencing, or at greater risk for, job loss, homelessness, food scarcity and the plethora of other social problems which result during and following a recession. But as social workers we know that a percentage of the population struggles in all economic times.

Helping Clients with Financial Problems

How prepared do you feel to provide financially challenged clients the kind of help that is less about making referrals and more about being a resource? This matters because the distance between a referral and a follow up is often too large for clients to navigate.

5 Basics for Helping Clients Begin the Journey to a Better Financial Future

◊ Include specific financial intake questions addressing current/potential money problems and issues which can then be explored in client work.

◊ Provide a safe place and space for clients to talk about money, along with a non-judgmental environment.

◊ Clients need HOPE as much as Help when it comes to changing their financial behavior. Hopelessness closes the door to change; hope opens it: There is Always HOPE.

◊ Look for the financial component/foundation in the problems of clients with depression, anxiety, insomnia, abuse, etc., – it is almost always there; until and unless it is addressed change will not be forthcoming.

◊ Financial problems are a reflection of poor sense of self, low self-esteem, lack of self-confidence and feeling undeserving of more, or of a better future.

Incorporating the above basics in client work provides greater opportunity for engaging more clients in taking control of their money and gaining control of their lives.

Reeta Wolfsohn CMSW, owner and founder of Center for Financial Social Work and the Financial Social Work Discipline, empowers social workers with the knowledge of financial social work that creates sustainable financial behavior change in their clients. Offering an online Financial Social Work Certification program, a semimonthly email newsletter, and a regularly updated blog, Reeta Wolfsohn specializes in educating social workers to better assist their clients. Learn more at http://www.financialsocialwork.com/socialworkers
Celebrating Social Work at the Social Work Matters Symposium!

Christina Parker Outstanding MSW Student Award Presented to Wendy Adams by Michael Parker (husband of Christina)

Shirley Furtick Awarded Social Worker of the Year by Sharon Williams

Katherine Zanowski, BSW Student of the Year

Happy Winthrop-ites: Wendy Adams, Dr. Sue Lyman, Dr. Amanda Manetta and Kate Zanowski
Thank you to our Symposium Sponsors!!!

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-Patricia
Bill’s daughter

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Ever wanted to spend some time hiking and camping in the deep wilderness without carrying all your equipment in with you? Ever wanted to have a furry companion to make friends with along the way? Maybe most importantly, have you ever wanted to spend some time with just people who understand what it’s like to grow up in the military? If the answer is yes, this is your chance.

The leaders are George Appenzeller and Linda Renner, military brats, wilderness guides and licensed social workers. The dates are June 27-30. The place is Shining Rock Wilderness on the Pisgah National Forest in NC. The cost is $500.00. All equipment is furnished. Contact us for more information. All proceeds go to support the work of Challenge Adventures, a non-profit organization that provides wilderness and animal assisted therapy to children who cannot afford it.
NASW’s New Online CEU Provider

CEUSchool’s goal is to provide you with quality on-line course content in a format that is convenient to use, affordable, and relevant for today’s social worker. Their site offers fully accredited NASW classes that meet all of your CEU needs. You will receive the same academic benefits that you would enjoy at an onsite facility, along with the flexibility and self-paced learning that comes with an online education.

Register with CEUSchool through NASW South Carolina and you will automatically receive 3 FREE credits!!

The PACE online fundraising tool has been officially launched! It can be found at:

http://socialworkers.org/pace/default.asp

There’s also a link to it from www.socialworkers.org. Please remember that all online contributions will be shared with the chapters, just like contributions we receive through membership renewals. So it’s in our interest to promote the new online fundraising capability.

We love your stories!

NASW SC encourages everyone to contribute noteworthy information for Chapter Update. All material should be typed and emailed to the Chapter Office. Chapter Update is published by the National Association of Social Workers South Carolina Chapter.

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