The Advocacy and Government Relations Committee serves as the backbone of the National Association of Social Workers - New York State Chapter’s policy and social justice agenda. Committee members work in concert with the Chapter staff, policy analyst, and governing board of directors to guide and shape an actionable strategy. Committee members are chosen by the Board of Directors and are appointed on an annual basis.

Responsibilities of committee members include:

1. Be knowledgeable in social work subjects such as:
   - Adolescents
   - Aging
   - Behavioral Health
   - Child Welfare
   - Community
   - Discrimination and Equity Issues
   - Education
   - Employment
   - Ethnicity and Race
   - Families and Children
   - Family Planning
   - Gender Issues
   - Health
   - Macro Issues
   - Political Action
   - Social Work Professional Statements
   - Substance Use
   - Violence

2. Remain up to date on social justice issues that pertain to social workers and the populations that they serve.

3. Be willing to help organize and mobilize membership and divisions in various ways to advance the Chapter’s agenda.

4. Using feedback from division members, the committee will offer guidance regarding local, state, and national issues of relevance to the profession and those they serve.
   a. Activities in this arena can include but is not limited to:
      i. Working with other committee entities to assist in the evolution of the chapter’s agenda.
      ii. Working with Chapter lobbyist to mobilize the profession on priority issues (organizing rallies, gatherings, meetings, etc.)
      iii. Cultivating and maintaining relationships with elected officials.
5. Educate members and non-members on current legislation and its potential impact on the profession or those we serve.

**Required activities of committee members include:**

1. Participate in at least six scheduled conference calls per year (willingness to meet as pressing issues arise).
2. Scan horizon for patterns and emerging trends pertaining to social justice, government relations, and or advocacy.
3. Identify specific action steps that may result in positive change.

**Skill Set/ Strengths:**

1. Knowledge of current political, social, and economic issues
2. Strategic planning
3. Group facilitation
4. Strong interpersonal skills
5. Task orientated
6. Strong network for advertisement and recruitment
7. Enjoys mobilizing and engaging with others
8. Use of social media/- innovative thinking and marketing skills

*Chapter Staff will be available at all times to assist in your responsibilities. They are available to keep you up to date on issues and offer support.*

*If you are interested, please send a cover letter and a resume to Romel Wilson at romelwilson@naswnys.org. For any other inquiries, feel free to contact the office at 518-463-4741 ext. 18.*