**NASW-NYS Western Division Program Year 2022-2023**

**The Western Division has been very active this past year. Below is the summary of our accomplishments.**

**We hope you consider joining us at upcoming meetings to voice your perspectives on issues, ideas for activities and services to the Social Work community that our** **Division could provide, interests regarding general community involvement, and any other ideas you might wish to pursue.**

*Held monthly General Membership/Steering Committee meetings*
Agenda included discussion and recommendations regarding local, state and national issues of interest and importance to the Social Work community, profession, and the people we serve. Current work of NASW on the national and state levels, reports from the Advocacy & government Relations Committee, program planning, and membership concerns were addressed as well. **There was lively discussion regarding these topics; recommendations were thoughtful and timely, and reflected our commitment to our clients and profession.**

*Held* ***interesting and informative*** *monthly Clinical Committee meetings.*

**During these meetings** members provided clinical support and input to private practitioners. Participants made case presentations and discussed various clinical issues on macro, **mezzo,** and micro levels. **Input was given from a variety of theoretical perspectives and interventions, as well as from the practical clinical experience of participants**. **Many interesting cases, issues, and treatment options were addressed.**

*Submitted Letters to the Editor*

**Our thoughts and concerns regarding mental health/police collaboration were offered. These letters supported the need for social work input into creating a better outcome for those who needed police service, the officers involved, and the overall community. A Social Worker who works with the Sheriff’s Dept. was a guest speaker at one of the meetings, as well.**

*Established a resource directory of local Social Work providers* ***and*** *their scopes of practice.*

**This Directory is included** on the NASW-WNY webpage, **to assist clients, colleagues, and referral sources** in locating practitioners. **Please send us your information if you would like to be included in the directory.**

*Provided a written response to the NYS Education* ***Department’s*** *Request for Public Comments regarding Mental Health Practitioners’ Diagnostic Privileges.*

**In this letter we highly supported our continued privilege in diagnosing our clients based on the in-depth training provided at the MSW level of education, and on the extensive, three years of clinical supervision required of Social Work practitioners who can make diagnoses.**

*Wrote, designed, and printed a brochure about the WNY* ***Western*** *Division.*

**These brochures described the work of the division (advocacy for the profession and clients, clinical support for practitioners, political action, and community involvement), and the need for all local Social Workers to be involved in the Division, & to make their voices heard.** These were distributed to Social Work departments in each local School of Social Work.

*Liaised with all local Schools of Social Work*

**The Western Division has honored local students with “NASW Student of the Year” awards for more than 20 years. We once again provided NASW awards and gifts to Social Work student leaders from each school. These students are a boon to the profession and make us all proud to be Social Workers!**

All that we are missing is the involvement of more of our colleagues. You are welcome and very much needed!

Thank you
NASW-WNY Division