

NASW-NYS WESTERN DIVISION

NASW-NYS Western Division Newsletter

Volume two, Issue two, September 2024

*Never think that what you have to offer is insignificant.
There will always be someone out there that needs what you
have to give. ~Anonymous~*

Message from the Division Director

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over, and fall will soon be here. I hope you were able to enjoy this very nice summer. School has started for our university students and will start soon for younger ones. Best wishes to all the BSW/MSW students starting classes and field experiences, and to all of you who will be field instructors or teaching courses.

In this issue we are starting a new column to introduce members of the Division. Please consider sending me your bio for the upcoming editions of the newsletter.

As always, please let us know what's on your mind regarding the Division and how we can work together to meet your needs. You can always reach me at

nasw-nyswestern@gmail.com

Thanks for all you do,

Elaine

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS!!

WE ARE SO HAPPY THAT YOU HAVE JOINED OUR PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION AND LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE WESTERN DIVISION.

Virtual CEU events-presented

August 6, 2024 – 9-10:30 am by Dr. Steven Halady, University at Buffalo, School of Social Work, *Contemporary Social Work Issues: Lessons from History*. This was so interesting! I hope you were able to attend.

Upcoming-Virtual

September 6, 2024 – 12-3 pm Dr. Berg Miller, Buffalo State University, Department of Social Work, *Putting Intersectionality into Practice to Serve Multiply Marginalized Groups* **NOTE DATE CHANGE**

October 10, 2024, 9-10:30 am by Ms. Kerry Causey, LCSW, *Trauma-Informed Supervision: Practical Strategies for Workforce Resiliency*

October 17, 2024, 2:30-4:30 pm by Mr. James Coco, LCSW, Mitigation specialist for the federal defender of the Southern District Indianapolis, Indiana, doctoral candidate, *The intersection of forensic and mental health social work practice*.

November 9, 2024 – 9-10:30 am by Dr. Mark Frank, University at Buffalo, Professor, Department of Communication & Director, Communication Science Center, *Deception and Detection: Skills and Strategies to Read Behavior and Elicit Truthful Information*.

Possible Upcoming Chapter Chats – Parachute a wonderful, free financial planning organization, and working on a Special Interest Group (SIG) Chapter Chat for later this year with Elaine and Cecily Mitchell, LMSW to determine interest for mentoring of professional development for new graduates.

BSW/MSW Program Visits

Sylvia Gold notes that she and Jesse Grossman participated in the orientation of UBSSW new students on Friday, August 23. The students were very interested in learning about NASW and how the benefits apply to them as students. They asked pertinent questions and seemed satisfied with our answers.

Overall, it was a positive experience for all.

A video introduction to NASW, its purpose, and benefits of being a member was created by Elaine for the Niagara University Town Hall student event.

We will be visiting, either in person or virtually, Buffalo State University, Fredonia University, and Daemen University as the semester progresses.

NPR spots

Our media campaign on NPR will be between 9/25-10/4 from 6-10 am and 4-6:30 pm. Please listen to it and encourage others to do so. Let's get some new members and get more of our members active in the Division!

Meet the Members

Meet Toni

I retired from Rochester Institute of Technology Counseling & Psychological Services in 2022 and relocated to Buffalo, where I have family.

Along with my work in higher education, I also contracted with a licensed adoption agency in Mineola, NY and provided adoption Social Work Services for over 30 years, placing children from all over the world in permanent homes. I currently volunteer for NAMI Buffalo/WNY (National Alliance on Mental Illness), serving as Co-Chair of their Advocacy Committee and facilitate a Family Support Group for persons who have a loved one or significant person in their life who is struggling with mental health and or substance use challenges.

I am interested in becoming involved with the Buffalo/WNY Chapter of NASW, having been an NASW member for years and wish to learn Buffalo area resources and connect with fellow Social Workers! Mentoring new Social Workers has always been rewarding to me as well.

Antoinette (Toni) Gauthier, LCSW, ACSW

Meet Cheryl

I participate in the State Chapter to ensure my voice is heard on issues relating to the profession and the needs of those we serve. I think it's important to serve on the State Chapter committees as it bolsters professional relationships and highlights Division representation on the Chapter level. I participate on the Division level to ensure our collective voice is heard regarding issues in the Division and that social issues in our local area are communicated to the Chapter. Also, it allows us to inform the Chapter of our unique ideas that support the Chapter agenda. Finally, it provides the opportunity to develop professional relationships and friendships while having fun in the process.

Cheryl Mills, LCSW-R

Connection with PAWNY – Psychological Association of WNY

This connection was re-established with a great welcome. We look forward to working together on trainings and other events.

MSW student from UB possible – Unfortunately, this didn't work out. We will try again to have a student in the future.

Schedule of upcoming division meetings.

These are all virtual. Just go to the NASW-NYS website to register and you will be able to log in to the meeting. Hope to see you at any of these meetings that you are able to attend. Here is the link <https://naswnys.org/>

Western Division Meeting Calendar for 2024-2025		
	Steering Committee First Tuesday of the Month 6-7:30 PM	Clinical Meeting Third Monday of the Month 6-7:30 PM
July 2024	7/2/ 2024	No meeting
August	8/6	No meeting
September	9/3	9/16/ 2024
October	10/1	10/21
November	11/5	11/18
December	12/3	12/16
January 2025	1/7/ 2025	1/20/ 2025
February	2/4	2/17
March	3/4	3/17
April	4/1	4/21
May	5/6	5/19
June	6/3	6/16

Sincerely,

Elaine Rinfrette, PhD, LCSW-R, NASW-NYS Western Division Director

Steering Committee Members: Sylvia Gold, LCSW-R, Cheryl Eberl, LCSW-R, Cheryl Mills, LCSW-R, Jesse Grossman, LCSW-R, BCDCSW