

NASW-NYS WESTERN DIVISION

Upcoming Events in the Western Division!

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~



Happy New Year Everyone!

Message from the Division Director

Welcome to 2025! Where does the time go? I hope that you enjoyed the holiday season, and that life is a little less hectic now that it's over. Now we can really focus on the Buffalo Bills and their bid for the Super Bowl! Sorry if you aren't a football fan but I just have to mention them as they are so popular and such a big part of WNY.

Please consider sending me your bio for the upcoming editions of the newsletter to introduce yourself to all our wonderful members.

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

February 18th

1:30pm - 2:30pm ET

Creating Safe Spaces and Implementing Gender-Affirming Care: More Than Just an Ally

NASW-NYS Members: \$15

Other Chapter Members: \$20

Non-Members: \$30

Student Members: FREE

NYSED Approved for 1.5 CE Credits

[Click here for Program Information & Registration](#)

Registration for additional programs in spring and summer 2024 will open soon!



Save the date! CAPITOL ACTION DAY TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025

SOCIAL WORKERS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE. SOCIAL WORKERS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE. SOCIAL WORKERS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE.

Capitol Action Day is Feb. 11, 2025, in Albany, NY at the Capitol and Legislative Office Building.

For further information go to the chapter website and click on the Advocacy tab then click on Capitol Action Day in the drop down. You need to scroll way down to the 2025 Legislative Priorities (the Chapter's priorities).

The Chapter's Legislative Priorities for 2025 include:

1. Address Inequities in Social Work Salaries, click below to read the Chapter's position paper
2. Expand Loan Forgiveness Programs for Social Workers Across the State, click below to read the Chapter's position paper.
3. Improve the Ratio of Students to Social Workers in Schools & Mental Health Services for School Aged Children, click the link below to read the Chapter's position paper.
4. Social Work Licensure Requirements, click the link below to read the bill text

If you can't attend Capitol Action Day you can participate in Action Alerts sent by the Chapter in emails containing a drafted letter, which you can add to, write and send to your State Senator & Assembly Representative, or you can call, write, email, or visit in person at their local offices or call, write, or email their offices in Albany.

We are at the very beginning stages of planning the resumption of the social work awards luncheon. The luncheon was not held during the pandemic, but we want to resume this great event. The **tentative** date is April 16, 2025, from 9:30am - 3:00pm. It will be held at Niagara University.

We will have a keynote speaker and hope to have CEUs for those who attend the whole presentation. There will be light snacks in the morning and afternoon, and lunch will be served. Following lunch, the awards ceremony will take place for *Student of the Year* from all five local social work programs, and *Social Worker of the Year* will be awarded to a WNY social worker. There will also be time built in for some socialization and networking. So, we have big plans and are hard at work putting the event together. More information will follow in the newsletter but be sure to check the Chapter site for advertisement and registration when it opens.

That's all for now. Stay warm and take care!

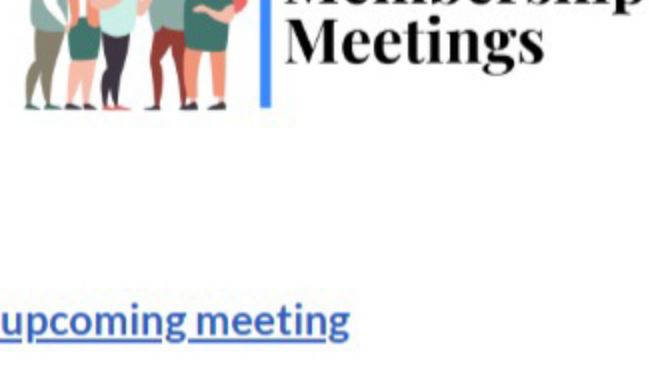
Sincerely,

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

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

Monthly Membership Meeting

Join us for our Monthly Membership meetings on the **first Tuesday of each month from 6:00 - 7:30pm**. They are virtual and you can attend by registering at the link below. We hope to see you there!



Monthly Membership Meetings

[Click here to register for an upcoming meeting](#)

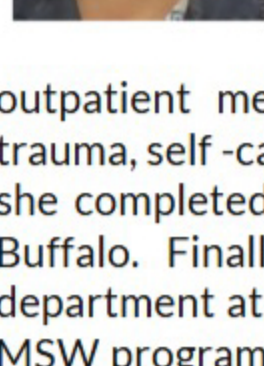


Special Interest Groups

Special Interest Groups (SIG) are member led networks of social workers across New York State and beyond. SIGs connect like-minded social workers on topics, practice areas, client populations, and other common interests for the purpose of sharing resources, and further developing support systems through the NYS Chapter. Current Special Interest Groups include:

- Strengthening Rural Social Workers
- Senior and Retired Social Workers Peer Support
- Social Workers Working With Older Adults
- One Team Veterans Book Club
- Private Practice Work Group

[Click here](#) to learn more about getting involved with a Special Interest Group. Want to create one of your own? Contact us at info.naswnys@socialworkers.org



Meet Your Division Director Western

**Elaine Rinfrette, RN, PhD, LCSW-R
Western Division Director**

Elaine's career began as an RN upon graduation from the University of Rhode Island. After eleven years of nursing, she obtained her MSW from Boston University. Following this, Elaine worked for 20 years in

outpatient mental health treatment where she developed her interests in trauma, self-care, and co-occurring disorders. Eventually she wanted to teach, so she completed her PhD in social work from the State University of New York Buffalo. Finally, Elaine became an associate professor in the social work department at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania where she served as faculty, MSW program director for five years, and department chair for three years. She retired in May 2022 after eleven years on the faculty.

Elaine is married with two adult sons. She has two rescue cats, one dog, and lives in a rural area outside of Buffalo. She enjoys travel, playing bridge, doing some volunteer work, and socializing with her wonderful friends.

