

SSWAG Virtual Executive Board Meeting **Tuesday, April 19, 2022** **9:00 am**

Dr. Jacqueline
Brown-Pinkney
President

Vice President
Crystal Wright

Dr. Katina Cooper
Past President

Erin Woodcock
Treasurer

Chrystal Gillis
Secretary

Keith Wilkey
District 1

Latrina Kendrix-
Sims
District 2

Maggie Brown
District 3

Lois Word
District 4

Kimberly Chinn
District 5

Maria Josey
District 6

Cory Lowe
District 7

Teri Hendrix
District 8

Mallory Hollis
District 9

Stephanie Taylor
District 10

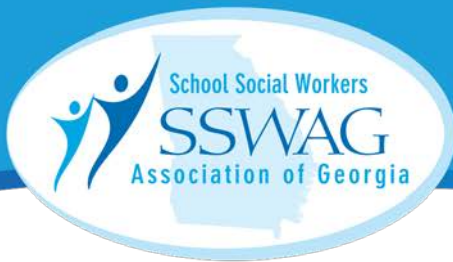
Welcome
Installation of Executive Board members
District Updates
Secretary Report
Treasurer Report
Awards Chair Updates
Community Relations
Legislative Chair Updates
GNETS Report
Historian Report
Journal/Research Chair Report
Long Range Planning Updates
Mentor Committee Updates
Membership Chair Report
NASW Affiliate
Nominating Chair
Parliamentarian
Procedural Guidelines
Professional Development
Public Relations Chair
Retirement Co-Chairs
SSWAA/GaDOE Report
University Updates
Vendor Consultant Chair
Webmaster Updates

SSWAG New Business:
2022 Summer Retreat
2022 Fall Leadership Institute
2023 Spring Conference
University, GAE, NASW participation
Code of Ethics Workshop-Dr. Starks

SSWAG Old Business:
Procedural Guidelines updates

Dr. Brown-Pinkney
Dr. Brown-Pinkney
3-5 minutes
Chrystal Gillis
Erin Woodcock
Dr. Tracie Hogan-Simmons
Dr. Ursula Harris

Allison Jones
Burine Hill
Dr. Cynthia Turner and Lois Word
Petrina Fowler and Heather Anderson
Kitina McCants and Crystal Williams
Kashera Robinson
Vacant
Keith Wilkey 2021-2022
Dr. Lisa Hill
Mary Gail Lindsey
Michelle Blackburn
Vacant
Ida Hadford Brown and Bevelyn Gosby
Dr. Lindsey Oliver
Vacant
Sonya Cruel
Jarod Anderson



Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am by President, Dr. Brown-Pinkney

Dr. Brown-Pinkney advised all of the required installation of officers absent from the installation conducted during the Spring Conference. The following members were installed:

- Corey Lowe, President, District 7
- Lisa Clarke Hill, Parliamentarian
- Julie Hawkins, University Liaison (sworn in at the conclusion of the meeting)

District Updates

District 1: Report provided by President, Dr. Brown-Pinkney (on behalf of President Wilkey); Spring meeting is set for 4/29/2022

District 2: Report provided by Latrina Sims. She noted their meeting was held prior to Spring Conference; they are still seeking VP nomination

District 3: Report provided by Maggie Brown; no updates; Spring meeting held prior to Spring Conference

District 4: Report provided by Lois Word; Spring meeting scheduled 4/28/2022 with GSU & 3.5 CEs available- Ms. Word will share the information so that interested individuals may participate; she noted that District 4 agreed to a 2 yr. term and didn't realize that they were still required to hold annual elections.

District 5: Report provided by Kimberly Chin; no new updates since Spring meeting; elections held prior to Spring Conference; noted the discussion of the movie Hamilton by members scheduled for final meeting in May- CEs will be provided

District 6: Report provided by Crystal Wright (on behalf Maria Josey, President); newly elected President Josey sent a welcome email to the members; a Spring meeting is scheduled for May; Ms. Wright noted that she was sworn in during Spring Conference on behalf of Ms. Josey

District 7: Report provided by Corey Lowe; elections held prior to Spring Conference; however, they did not convene the required Spring meeting; the meeting is scheduled for 4/29/2022-CEs provided

District 8: Report provided by Dr. Bianca Booker (on behalf of President Terri Hendrix); no updates to report since Spring meeting

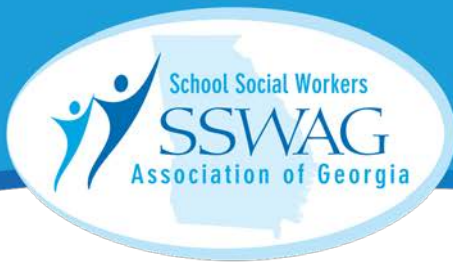
District 9: Mallory Hollis: No report; she is the newly elected president

District 10: Report provided by Stephanie Taylor; Spring meeting held 3/30/2022; Ms. Taylor was sworn in for year 2 of the agreed upon 2-year term; they are planning a second Spring meeting in May

Treasurer Report: Report provided by Erin Woodcock

Main Report

- Income balance~ Total Income Balance ~ \$71, 034
- Membership Income~ \$16,135
- Fall Institute Income~\$7,075
- Spring Conference (to date)~ \$47, 804
- Checkbook balance ~\$128,802.46



Spring Conference Summary

194 paid conference registrations

- \$1350 received for CEs
- 2 payments pending totaling \$400 due to payments being mailed to former treasurer
- Vendor Contribution~ \$7363
- 1 outstanding vendor payment due to being added at the last minute
- Master Bill from hotel~\$26,637 (noted approximately \$19,000 in food cost)
- Noted possible increase in registration fees to cover the increased cost of food
- Conference expenses ~\$36,910.80
- Conference profit~\$10,913.20
- At the conclusion of the treasurer's report, Madame President advised Ms. Woodcock to forego paying the president's SSWAA dues; Madame President advised she would continue to pay the dues individually

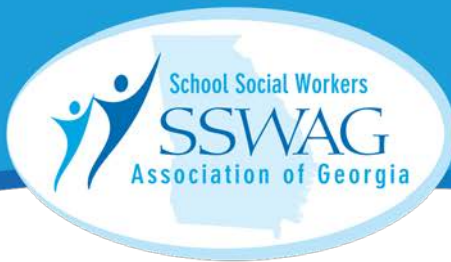
Please review the full Treasurer's Report for more details including expenses to date.

Awards: Report provided by Dr. Tracie Hogan-Simmons

- Acknowledged that Dr. Brown-Pinkney is serving double duty (SSWOTY and State President!)
- Encouraged all to hold their Fall meetings earlier in the Fall to accommodate the nominations for SSWOTY
- Nominations are due in December
- Information will be shared with all districts in August

Community Relations/Legislative Chair: Report provided by Dr. Ursula Harris

- The legislative session was described as contentious and divisive; not many bills directly pertaining to SSW but impact the work of school social work
- Dr. Harris agreed to send the highlight of all bills to Madame President
- She noted that there is a bill that would allow retired teachers to return to work and receive their full salary (required separation for 1 year); the teachers could potentially earn their regular salary and retirement; must work in high need areas; local RESAs will determine the high need areas; this is set to be in place through 2026
- HB 1084-Parent bill of rights will enable parents to opt of certain curriculum; the bill also encompasses a fairly detailed appeals process
- Bill supporting Mandatory Recess returned this session despite a previous veto by the governor
- Unmask GA Schools Act is making traction; also includes the inability to mandate vaccines
- Bill proposing written procedures to address how individuals shall be escorted out of local school board meetings when they are deemed disruptive
- Highlighted the \$2000 supplement to be paid to staff this month; another \$2000 increase provided by GaDOE to the certified pay scale; she noted that SSWs were not initially referenced to receive the pay increase due to the omission of the CPI code aligned with SSW positions



- Inquiries were sent to Dr. Lindsey Oliver to investigate the omission of SSWs; she was able to confirm the inclusion of SSWs despite the initial omission from the FAQ shared with districts across the state
- Bill to recognize a student's participation in 4-H activities as an excused absence
- SB 397-supports changing the name from GED to High School Equivalency
- All of the above referenced bills passed
- Dr. Harris noted there were several bills that did not pass; she declined to list them by name
- SB 1084 was amended to include language regarding the Georgia High School Association including provisions allowing the GHSA to provide oversight /guidance specific to transgender student athletes; they will determine if it's necessary to prohibit a student whose gender is male from participating in athletic events designated for females
- Dr. Harris is seeking additional individuals to join the legislative committee; she would like to assign individuals to follow specific bills
- She acknowledged that she overlooked the Senate Study Committee Report to raise the compulsory age to 17; she gave kudos to those who participated in the info sessions across the State; a special kudos to Cobb County Representatives; the report findings agreed that in order to raise the age, we must provide additional supports
- Legislators are still unclear about the role of school social workers; legislators are most familiar with teachers, administrators, and school counselors
- She encouraged school social workers to be more intentional about connecting with our respective legislators
- Dr. Harris participated in a Zoom meeting with one of the candidates running for State School Superintendent; she recommended inviting the candidates to participate in a meeting to educate them on the role of school social workers
- Madame President was in agreement with the idea and suggested the Zoom meeting be open to all not simply the Executive Board

GNETS: Alison Jones not present at time of report

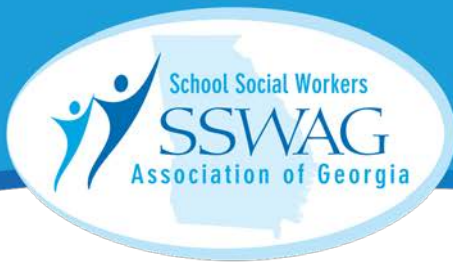
- Madame President noted Ms. Jones agreed to support Webmaster, Jarod Anderson. She will also serve as the Correspondence Secretary to answer and/or direct questions from the website to the most appropriate person

Historian: Report provided by Burine Hill

- Requested historical information along with photos
- Interested in resuming her work on the PowerPoint presentation to add pictures of SSWOTY, Retirees, and Deceased members
- Madame President noted that she spoke to Webmaster Anderson to request a history tab on the website; this would enable us to highlight the history of the organization

Journal Research: Report provided by Dr. Cynthia Turner

- Dr. Turner noted she has reached out to professors in many MSW/Ph.D. Social Work programs without success
- She noted she will begin reaching out to the Deans of those same schools



Long Ranch Planning: Report provided by Petrina Fowler and Heather Anderson

- Summer Retreat is scheduled June 14-15 in Macon; seeking to confirm a hotel after confirming the prices of all options
- Ms. Anderson noted that they will send out a survey to see how many are planning to attend and if attendees will need single rooms or plan to share rooms (you're required to pay half of the room cost if you select a single room)
- Due to the overwhelmingly positive feedback from conference attendees, LR planners are considering a return to Jekyll Island for an additional year; they will confirm rates and share with the Board ASAP
- VP Crystal Wright noted she has the PLC Center in Macon reserved if needed~ at no charge; she noted most hotels charge a fee to utilize their meeting space
- Kashera Robinson noted it is more convenient to have the meeting space within the hotel; one location is ideal to prevent driving between a meeting space and lodging

Mentoring: Report provided by Kitina McCants

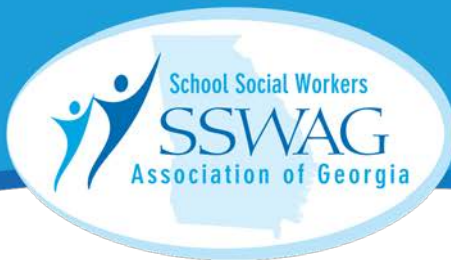
- Shared an assessment of the program to participants with only 2 responses
- Requested emails and names of mentors and mentees to solicit feedback from participants
- Noted the plan to add mentor and mentee forms on the website
- Kashera Robinson noted her experience serving as a mentor was not great; she shared that her mentee's supervisor was offended
- Robust discussion around the purpose and/or function of the mentor/mentee role
- Dr. Simmons noted it be worthwhile to distinguish the difference between a mentor for SSWAG (i.e. learning more about the organization) or for a job (the role of school social worker)
- Ms. McCants added a similar question on the mentee form additional questions include geographic preference, frequency of contact
- Discussed the option to expand mentoring to offer support to non-SSWAG members
- Discussed the need to have access to a database containing the contact information for school social workers across the state
- Dr. Harris noted the benefits of having a Mentor who is employed in another system; Crystal Wright suggested mentors make contact with the mentees supervisor
- Madame President advised all to send further recommendations to Ms. McCants

Membership Chair: Report provided by Kashera Robinson

- As of April 11, we have 286 paid members (an increase of 25 more than last year)
- We had 292 paid members prior to the cancellation of the Spring Conference 2020
- Dues are being accepted for the 2022-23 year (3 received to date)
- Encouraged all to send creative ideas to attract additional members

NASW/GAE Liaison: Still vacant

Procedural Guidelines: Report provided by Mary Gail Lindsey



- Reminded all to review the guidelines and submit feedback concerning potential changes to their respective areas
- She noted she will send out individual emails as needed
- Madame President drafted procedures for the Mentoring, Retirement, and the Vendor Committees; the drafts were shared with the committee chairs for feedback; the goal is to finalize the procedures at the Summer Retreat

Professional Learning: Report provided by Michelle Blackburn

- Spring Conference offered 10 Core and 2 Ethics hours
- 120 participants received CE certificates
- Certificates were emailed to all on April 8
- She noted she has received some emails from individuals who are contesting the total hours referenced on the certificate; in response to the questions, she has requested copies of the email confirmation for the disputed session. After consulting with Petrina Fowler and Madame President, it was determined they will only revise the certificates when documentation supporting the change is provided.
- Reminded all to make sure they follow all directions for submitting and tracking their session evaluations
- Petrina Fowler noted that she did not receive any requests for assistance during or after the conference
- Ms. Blackburn noted she makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of all certificates
- Reminded all to make copies of the certificates upon receipt- doing so will eliminate the need for people to request a second email copy of the certificate

Public Relations: Report provided by Recarlo Williams

- He will reach out to District Presidents within the next month in preparation for the upcoming newsletter

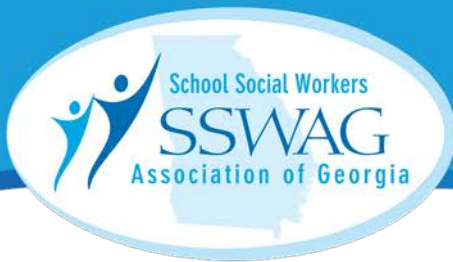
Retirement Committee: Report provided by Ida Hafford-Brown

- Thanked the conference planners for a great conference
- Committee seeks to increase participation from other retirees by reaching out via email, by phone, and scheduling Zoom meetings
- Will share more details during Summer Retreat

SSWAA/GaDOE Liaison: Report provided by Dr. Lindsey Oliver

SSWAA Updates

- Southern Region Representative; attended SSWAA Conference and led a session for southern states
- During the session she explored 3 questions: 1. What are your successes? 2. What are your struggles? 3. What do you need from SSWAA?
- Many southern states were already working to hire additional school social workers (specifically referenced the addition of mental health positions across all districts in Alabama and the use of branding strategies and social media in Texas to highlight school social workers)



- **Struggles/Challenges:** State Boards still not fully knowledgeable of the expertise held by school social workers, shifting from the “pigeon hole” SSW roles (i.e. truancy officer); increase the number of state organizations across the south
- She will begin hosting quarterly Southern Regional Meetings

GaDOE Updates

- Excited to serve as the first School Social Work Specialist for GaDOE; establishing infrastructure for the role
- Acknowledged that SLPs and SSWs were initially omitted from the FAQ; however, both groups will receive the \$2000 pay increase from GaDOE
- Highlighted the communication process at GaDOE; she noted multiple channels include communication department >legal department>return to the original department>shared with the public (or targeted group)
- 741 Active school social workers in the state (all with CPI code 704)
- Advised all of the process to request data from GaDOE (i.e. total number of SSWs with their email address); noted the department is subject to Open Records
- Encouraged all to review the GaDOE Communities link to see relevant PL webinars

University Liaison: Report provided by Julie Hawkins

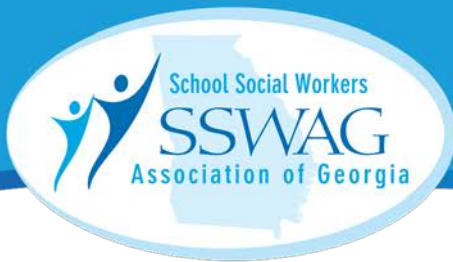
- Recently agreed to serve as the Univ Liaison after speaking with Dr. Brown Pinkney
- Reached out to Dr. Woodside of SSWAA; to learn more about how the university reps/liaisons function
- Plans to reach out to schools with Social Work Departments
- Madame President noted she would share contact information with both Dr. Cynthia Cooper and Ms. Hawkins
- Dr. Cynthia Cooper referenced previous efforts to engage various Social Work Departments across the state; hopes that we can secure MOU’s with the universities in the near future

Vendor Consultant: Report provided by Sonya Cruel

- As the newly appointed vendor consultant, she recommends shifting to annual sponsors in lieu of the current event sponsorship model
- The annual sponsorship period would begin July 1
- Creating a list of sponsors with levels
- Encouraged all to send the contact information for potential sponsors
- Will develop a sponsorship letter for review during the Summer Retreat

Webmaster: Report provided by Jarod Anderson

- Reported updates visible on the website
- Advised some of the conference photos shared with him did not make it to the website due to the size
- Encouraged all Board members to send a photo along with a brief professional summary; the information will be added to the new section on the website
- Acknowledged Alison Jones’ assistance with the inquiries received via the website; typically there is an increase around conference time



- He suggested maintaining contact with many of those individuals; could evolve into potential SSWAG members or future collaborators/supporters
- Thursdays is the day to update the site

Past President Updates: Dr. Cooper had to leave the meeting

Vice President Updates: Report provided by Crystal Wright

- DP meeting last week; discussed goals, expectations, and plans for their respective districts
- Welcomed all feedback

President Updates: Report provided by Dr. Brown Pinkney

- Encouraged all to consider another Virtual Fall Institute~it generates great revenue to support the Spring Conference
- Reminded everyone of the webinar (Changes to NASW Code of Ethics) on June 11 9am-12pm with Dr. Starks
- Chairs are needed for Fall and Spring Conference
- Thanked everyone for their hard work and looking forward to a great year!

Meeting adjourned at 10:38 am