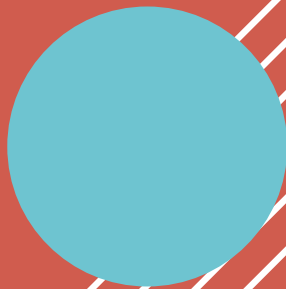




OSSWA

ANNUAL REPORT

2021



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Reflecting on 2021, one word comes to mind...THANK YOU!!! Thank you to all the AMAZING social workers out there that have worked harder than ever to help meet the needs of our students, families, staff, schools and communities. This year has been just as tough, if not tougher, than 2020 and social workers continue to show up and not give up! We'd also like to thank our faithful members that continue to be a part of OSSWA, whether by attending our annual conference, our online trainings or continuing your membership to keep abreast of the most current legislative and professional practices.

As an organization, we also continue to stay strong. We have received a personal invitation by Representative Blackshear in District 39 to meet and discuss the Student Mental Health Act. This proposed legislation allows school districts to give high school students three mental health days a year. This bill is designed to accommodate the mental and emotional challenges that high school students are facing, and to try to provide a way for them to communicate with their teachers, school administrators and parents how they are feeling, and how their community can help them. This is a huge step, to be asked to come to the table and have our voices heard in proposed legislation.

In February 2021, we held our annual conference online via Zoom- Trauma, Grief, Fear, and Racism: The Road to Healing by Leading Courageous Conversations in Schools. We had some great presenters and the conversations were very rich and thought provoking.

In June, we held our annual retreat, also via Zoom, where we set goals for the upcoming year. Our goals include: (1) Respond to and educate on HB 442 regarding school social work licensing requirements. (2) Fill Board Positions. We currently have four, maybe soon to be five, positions to fill. (3) OSSWA members taking a more active role in the organization, including members partaking in committee roles. (4) Include more evaluations and outreach after events and hold regional events to gauge interest and get more members involved.

As you can see, WE NEED YOU!!! Our members, who volunteer their time, are the only thing that keeps our organization up and running. The more man-power we have, the more visible and heard we become around our state! We have created many opportunities to try to get you, as members, more involved. We have several webinars planned, and are hoping to reschedule Life as a Social Worker that was canceled in December due to the health of our presenter.

Our annual conference should not disappoint this year. It will again be held virtual on Friday, Feb. 25th and is titled Addressing Increased Violence/Aggression and Decreased Civility in our Schools. Finally, we have added several online support group opportunities to come and talk with other social workers about what you are doing, any struggles you are having, or just to spend some time with like-minded people for some self-care. We hope you plan on joining us for these events!

As your state organization we are here to support you, advocate for you and engage in rich conversations. We hope that part of your 2022 New Years plan is to become more involved and even consider volunteer opportunities within the Ohio School Social Work Association! Stay STRONG and know that you are NEEDED and VALUED!!!

Sincerely,
Jill Miller- OSSWA President

AWARDS 2021

School Social Worker of the Year

Martha Jones, LISW

Martha Jones is a graduate of The Ohio State University, earning both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Social Work. She has a certification and licensure through the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Counselor, Therapist, and Social Work Board. She is also a member of the Ohio School Social Work Association.



For six years, she has served the students and families in the Columbus City School district. She values the opportunity to provide a turning point for a child. Martha is passionate about Restorative Practice and is willing to facilitate a training every opportunity she gets. Martha has worked with adults through a correctional rehabilitation program. She could not help but feel like she was getting to them too late. She often thought if someone had intervened earlier in their lives, they would have avoided traumatic experiences and given more life opportunities.

Martha sees herself as that child on the beach trying to save all the starfish, giving them the tools to swim - one at a time and throwing them back in the ocean. Seeing one "back in the swim" being successful gives her the energy to assist more.

AWARDS 2021

Friend of School Social Work

John Marschhausen, Ph.D



Dr. Marschhausen was nominated due to the impression he made with the Vimeo message he sent out to his Secondary staff. In this video, he stressed the importance of meeting students' social-emotional needs and helping them with dealing with trauma in their lives, due to the COVID pandemic. He recognized the importance of students' mental health issues and gave them permission, or more of "a directive", to not get through all the content and curriculum. In his address, he also encouraged his staff to slow down and definitely recognized the stress and workload anxieties of staff. Dr. Marschhausen emphasized the "need to take care of our kids and ourselves" and gave staff permission to support each other; "grace to grieve." The nominator wrote: (Dr. Marschhausen's) "message was so impactful to myself, as a school social worker, seeing the importance of taking care of our (staff) and students' mental health needs from the top leader. Dr. Marschhausen recognizes the need for self-care and to focus on the whole child, not just the academics. Not too often is this message seen/received from superintendents and we as SSW's are often the ones struggling to be the voice of our students and these needs. He delivered the message that we, School Social Workers, are pushing and preaching on a daily basis." In his final words, Dr. Marschhausen said (video reference): "We have to be the light, providing hope for students, and getting through this by focusing on kids, not content. "

AWARDS 2021

Champion of Children

Meryl Johnson



Meryl Johnson is a retired teacher with 40 years of teaching experience in the Cleveland Public Schools. A graduate of Glenville High School in the Cleveland District, she received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Kent State University and her Master of Education degree from Cleveland State University. She was elected to the State Board of Education in November 2016 and was reelected November 2020. Ms. Johnson continues to be an avid student advocate as well as an advocate for school social work services. Her experience teaching in the in Cleveland School District taught her the importance of school social workers in meeting the needs of the whole child.

During her years as a teacher, she helped students develop leadership skills by training them in mediation through the Winning Against Violent Environments (WAVE) Program, voter registration, letter writing to newspapers, and speaking at community forums. She also taught her students the importance of advocacy and assisted students in preparing testimony and transporting Student Council leaders to Columbus to lobby for fair school funding.

Throughout her life, Mrs. Johnson has demonstrated values and priorities consistent with those promoted by the Ohio School Social Worker Association. That is why Meryl Johnson is awarded the 2021 Champion of Children Award .

FINANCIAL REPORT 2021

INCOME SOURCES

Membership Dues: 51%
Programs/Annual Conference: 43%
Promotional Sales: 5%

EXPENSES

Membership Dues: 11%
Office Supplies, Postage, Etc: 20%
Board Meetings: 15%
Awards: 17%
Communications, Website Fees: 17%

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The legislative committee has focused its most recent efforts on exploring information related to the recently adopted Ohio Department of Education school social worker registration, preparing a chart describing the differences between the Registration process and requirements and Licensure to access authorization to provide social work services in schools in Ohio, identifying Ohio Counseling, Social Work and Marriage and Family Therapy Board guidelines regarding supervision and a scope of practice informational sheet listing the skills of a Licensed Social Social Worker compared to a Licensed Independent Social Worker. The informational sheets are available on the OSSWA web site.

Members of the Legislative Committee also serve on the Ohio Department of Education's Whole Child Advisory Group. At the most recent meeting on December the 6, 2021, specific information regarding the recently created Whole Child Network was provided to the members, including an invitation to share with educators and support personnel in the state to join the Network.

Any OSSWA member interested in is encouraged to [apply to join](#) the network by Jan. 22, 2022
For more information, contact: wholechild@education.ohio.gov
The invitation is below:

The Ohio Department of Education is seeking 150 diverse education professionals, community partners and family members to join the groundbreaking [Whole Child Network](#). The network will be a place where members can learn from each other, share successes and share best practices that support the whole child.

District and school personnel will learn from colleagues, across the state and nationally, implementing whole child policies and best practices and the positive effect it is having on student learning, educator practice and wellness for all. Learn how to align and integrate whole child strategies and practices into existing improvement plans and systems including Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS), Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), and academic instruction.

Selected members will:

- Participate in whole child webinars;
- Learn and share whole child best practices; and
- Participate in a community of practice with peers.

The Department will consider applicants in the following categories:

- District and school administrators;
- Early childhood through grade 12 teachers and paraprofessionals;
- School student support staff, such as counselors, social workers, psychologists, school nurses and related services, food service and transportation and safety personnel;
- Representatives from state and local agencies;
- Professionals from the higher education community

BOARD MEMBERS



Jill Miller
President



Cindy Johnson
Treasurer



Samantha Hess
Secretary



Faith Gordon
Membership
Director



Caryl Yoo
Programs
Director



Briona Burgos
Communications
Director



Martha Jones
Awards
Director



Leah Berdysz
NE Regional
Director



Brenda Rinkes
Legislative
Co-Chair



Andrew Smith
Legislative
Co-Chair

AGENCY ADVISORS

TERI KINSWAY, MSW, LISW-S | OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
SARAH ANDREWS, LISW-S | CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
DR. ANNE ROMA | UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI
DANIELLE SMITH, MSW, LSW, CAE | NASW OHIO
NICOLE KAHLER | OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

LEAH BERDYSZ | NORTHEAST
ERINN SMITH | NORTHWEST
BRENDA RINKES | SOUTHEAST

We have open positions on our board! If you are interested in getting involved, email us at osswadrive@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Spring Conference

**SAVE
THE DATE:
ANNUAL
SPRING
CONFERENCE**

**ADDRESSING INCREASED
VIOLENCE/AGGRESSION
AND DECREASED CIVILITY
IN OUR SCHOOLS**

When: Friday, Feb. 25th
8a - 4p

Where: Virtual



OSSWA
Ohio School Social Work Association

**02.
25.
22.**

More details to come.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Virtual Webinar Series

January 14, 2022

McKinney Vento: Addressing the Needs of Students and Families Experiencing Homelessness in the School Setting

Presenter: Edie Fiala, MSSA, LISW-S

Time: 8:00-10:05am (2 CEUs Pending)

Location: Virtual

February 4, 2022

Ethical Record Keeping in the Internet Age

Presenter: Rachel Meffe, LSSW, LISW-S

Time: 8:00 - 11:10am (3 Ethics CEUs Pending)

Location: Virtual

**For more detailed information and to
register go to OSSWA.ORG**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Board Meetings

Board Meetings are open to all our members and are a great way to get involved with OSSWA and connect with other School Social Workers! Register on our website!

- **February 12, 2022 (9am-11am)**
 - **Annual Conference Preparation**
- **March 12, 2022 (9am-11am)**
 - **Annual Conference Reflection**
- **May 21, 2022 (9am-2pm)**
 - **Full Board Meeting**
- **June 13, 2022 (Time TBA)**
 - **Board Leadership Retreat**

STAY CONNECTED WITH US!



OHIO SCHOOL
SOCIAL WORK
ASSOCIATION



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OSSWA.ORG

EMAIL US:
OSSWADRIVE@GMAIL.COM