



## Our Mission

The legislature declares that, in order to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare of the people of this state against unauthorized, unqualified and improper practice of social work, it is necessary that a proper regulatory authority be established and adequately provided for.

WINTER 2019

# News | Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners

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## From The Chair

*John S. Shalett, LCSW-BACS*

At the request of the Board, the NASW-LA Chapter appointed an Inter-organizational Committee (IOC) to review the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act. Co-chairs are Carmen Weisner and Rebecca Chaisson. The first meeting took place on May 10, 2018, and the committee hopes to be finished its work by May of this year. The IOC has been diligent in their work reviewing the Statutes and making positive recommendations for changes that reflect current thinking. In their deliberations, the committee reviews much of the Association of Social Work Board's (ASWB) Model Social Work Practice Act. The Board will review the recommendations of the IOC. This summer, the IOC will host a number of Town Hall meetings across the State. These meetings will be an opportunity to comment on the recommended

changes to the current statutes and to ask questions. I encourage your participation in these Town Hall meetings. Look for the schedule of these Town Hall meetings on the LABSWE website.

I have appointed a Rules Committee that will review our current Rules. The committee will begin its work in late March. Upon completion of their work, the Board will host a Public Meeting for open discussion of the suggested changes to the current rules.

In addition to Carla Moore, the Board Secretary-Treasurer and Regina Dewitt, Board Staff, I attended the recent ASWB Delegate Assembly meeting. I am pleased to announce that Carla serves as the Chair of the ASWB Nominating Committee. Know that your Board members are highly regarded by the ASWB leadership. In addition to Carla's appointment, I received an appointment to the Regulation and Standards Committee.

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## BOARD MEMBERS

John Shalett, LCSW-BACS  
**Chairperson**  
New Orleans, LA

Brent Villemarette,  
LCSW-BACS  
**Vice Chairperson**  
Opelousas, LA

Carla Moore, LMSW  
**Secretary-Treasurer**  
Grambling, LA

Jennifer Burch,  
LCSW-BACS  
**Board Member**  
Baton Rouge, LA

Robert Showers, RSW  
**Board Member**  
Independence, LA

Ruth Weinzettle,  
LCSW-BACS  
**Board Member**  
Alexandria, LA

Evan J. Bergeron,  
**Consumer Member**  
New Orleans, LA

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# LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS



**VACANCY**

## Board Vacancies

The Registered Social Work position on the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners expires June 6, 2019. The Licensed Master Social Work position expires October 4, 2019.

La. R.S. 37:2704 mandates the following qualifications for board members:

Citizen of the United States  
Resident of the State of Louisiana  
Hold a current and valid social work credential  
Must have five (5) years of social work experience

The RSW position can only be applied for by a RSW. The LMSW position can only be applied for by a LMSW. If you are interested in serving on the Board, you should submit a letter stating your interest, along with a current resume to:

Louisiana Chapter of National Association of Social Workers  
700 North 10th Street, Suite 200  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
astehr.naswla@socialworkers.org  
Fax (225) 346-5035

The deadline for submission for the RSW position is close of business on March 6, 2019, and the deadline for submission for the LMSW position is close of business on July 5, 2019.

### **FAQs about serving on the Board:**

#### **What is the time commitment for serving?**

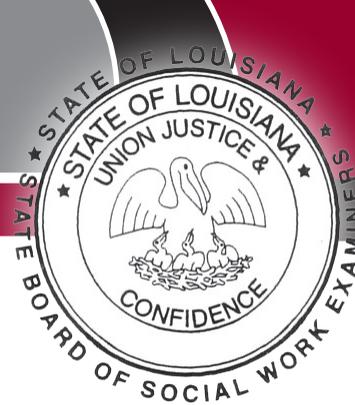
An appointment to the Board is made by the governor for three consecutive years. Meetings are held approximately every 5 weeks on a Friday at the board office in Baton Rouge. Meetings begin at 8:30 a.m. and carry-over to Saturday, if necessary. Other examples of board activities include, presenting at the NASW-LA Annual Conference and serving on committees.

#### **Are board members paid?**

Board members are reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred on board business. For example, mileage driven to and from a meeting is reimbursed at the state rate, which is currently .54 per mile. We also reserve a hotel room for board members that are required to travel a significant distance to meetings. We provide breakfast and lunch at the meeting. If you need to stay overnight, dinner can be reimbursed up to the amount allowed by the state's travel guidelines.

If you have any questions concerning the board's activities or the time commitment required of board members, please email the Board's Administrator, Emily DeAngelo at [edeangelo@labswe.org](mailto:edeangelo@labswe.org).

# LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS



## Scheduled Events

**Board meetings** for the rest of the year are scheduled on April 5, May 10, June 14, July 19, August 23, September 27, November 1, and December 13.

Meetings are held at the board office located at 18550 Highland Road, Suite B, Baton Rouge, LA 70809. The meetings begin at 8:30 a.m. and carry-over to Saturday to complete the agenda, if necessary. Meeting agendas are posted on the board's website, [www.labswe.org](http://www.labswe.org), 24 hours prior to the meeting. LABSWE falls under the Louisiana Open Meetings Act. This law specifies that every meeting shall be open to the public, unless the subject of the meeting relates to the character and professional competence of a person, or to the investigation of a complaint or negotiation of litigation. Compliance Hearings (to ensure people comply with the licensing law) and Disciplinary Hearings (to address public complaints about professional practice) fall under the open meeting law. Any member of the public who wishes to address the board should submit a request in writing at least 24 hours before a public meeting to be included on the agenda. All votes are public, as are all minutes of the meeting.

Continuing education hours are issued to social workers attending the meeting who indicate on the sign-in sheet

he/she is attending for the purpose of obtaining continuing education. Credit is issued based on the time spent in open session.

**A Legislation Review Committee** meeting will be held on April 4, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. This meeting will be open to the public.

**Board Orientation Workshops** are scheduled for March 29, May 24, June 21, August 16, October 18, and December 6.

This orientation is required to apply for Board-approved Clinical Supervisor (BACS). LCSW-BACS can attend the orientation as a refresher and receive two hours of continuing education. The orientation DOES NOT qualify towards the renewal of the BACS designation. The orientation workshops are held at the board office located at 18550 Highland Road, Suite B, Baton Rouge, LA 70809. To register, complete the registration form and submit to the board office, along with \$15.00 non-refundable registration fee. Payment can be made via money order, cashier's check or credit/debit card. Space is limited to 16 registrants. Go to <https://www.labswe.org/page/supervision> and click on Board Orientation Workshop Registration.

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### **From The Chair**

Robert Showers will continue as a member of the By-Laws committee. Our immediate past-Board chair, Judith Haspel continues to serve on the REAL committee, which is the committee that plans the annual spring Education Conference.

The Board convened its quarterly Strategic Planning meeting in January. Discussions focused on the ASWB Mobility Plan and its impact on our Statutes and Rules. We also reviewed the recently adopted ASWB Strategic Plan. See this Plan in another section of the Newsletter.

I am proud and honored to serve as Chair of the Board. I could not be more pleased to have this opportunity to work with a dedicated group of men and women who are both diligent and serious in their role as members of the Board. As always, know that your Board is available for comments and input.

I encourage you to attend a Town Hall Meeting in your area. It is important that you take the opportunity to voice your opinions.

# LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

## Association of Social Work Boards

**CORE MISSION:** Provide support and services to the social work regulatory community to advance safe, competent and ethical practices to strengthen public protection

**VISION:** All social workers are licensed in order to protect clients and client systems

### Strategic Framework 2019-2020

#### **Goal 1--Advance knowledge and acceptance of social work as a licensed profession**

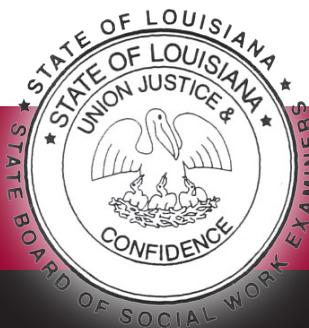
- Awareness raising of the consumers of social work services to seek out licensed social work professionals
- Decrease # of social work exemptions
- Collaboration with social work educators to accept regulations of professional social workers
- Educating legislative stakeholders to increase their acceptance of the importance of social work regulation for public protection (make available a copy of the ASWB Licensing and Regulation Curriculum Guide)

#### **Goal 2—Facilitate Mobility by licensure through endorsement**

- ...allows a licensed registered social worker in good standing in one jurisdiction to practice in other jurisdictions w/o having to undergo significant additional training, experience, examination or assessments
- Develop and maintain processes and data systems that are used by members to support social work practice mobility
- Collaborate to protect the public by accepting that the knowledge, skills and abilities of licensed social workers needed to perform the scope of practice are equivalent across jurisdictions
- Educate social workers and the public about rights and responsibilities related to how and where social work practice occurs

#### **Goal 3—Curate research for best practices in regulation**

- ASWB is the conduit for and repository of quality research about best practices in social work regulation
- Develop and manage a library of research to benefit the social work regulatory community
- Conduct and commission regulatory research and collaborate with other researchers
- Develop and provide useful information to member boards and the social work regulatory community in pursuit of best practices for public protection



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