



## 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.

OCTOBER 2020

# News | Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners

18550 Highland Road, Suite B | Baton Rouge, LA 70809

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## From The Chair

*John S. Shalett, LCSW-BACS*

What an outstanding staff we have as Board Members and as licensees. I want to take this opportunity to express my unqualified thanks to not only Emily DeAngelo, but to the entire Staff—Regina Dewitt, Holly Freeman and Jasmine Offord. I, along with the entire Board are in their debt for both their “care and feeding” of the Board and their unconditional devotion to duty and carrying out of their responsibilities. As I know that each of you reading this Newsletter should be aware of how each have “stepped up to the plate” during the Pandemic. Each of these remarkable women have provided both superior services to the Board and Licensees. It is remarkable that each does so with a smile on their face.

It is no secret that there have been many changes due to COVID 19. Know that the two decades of service by Both Emily and Regina are never underestimated. We all know that Boards come and go, but for two

staff to serve over two decades is remarkable. I ask that each of you in your own way, reach out to the staff with a thanks and acknowledgement of their dedication and commitment to the Social Work Profession.

A mention of my personal thanks to Brent Villemarette, LCSW-BACS, immediate Vice-Chair of the Board. Brent has been a dedicated Board member for the last three years. He has provided me unconditional support the past two years. I thank Brent for his leadership and as a critical voice for the profession. His 30 + years with DCFS have provided invaluable input and expertise that has anchored the Board. We will miss his knowledge and more importantly his wisdom.

We welcome Dr. Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS, as a new Board member. Hyacinth has a Doctorate in Behavioral Health. I am confident the Board will continue to grow with her input and expertise.

*Continued on page 3...*

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

Ruth Weinzettle,  
LCSW-BACS  
**Vice Chairperson**  
Alexandria, LA

LaTonya Charles, LMSW  
**Secretary-Treasurer**  
Alexandria, LA

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

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

Ada Nelson, RSW  
**Board Member**  
Gretna, LA

Hyacinth McKee,  
LCSW-BACS  
**Board Member**  
Slidell, LA

**BOARD MEMBERS**

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• 2021 Board Meeting Dates • Board Vacancies



## Welcome

Dr. Hyacinth McKee is a native of Louisiana. She is a Doctor of Behavioral Health and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker-Board Approved Clinical Supervisor specializing in both general psychotherapy and behavioral health with an emphasis on disease care management. She has conducted research on chronic health conditions, its impact on behavioral health, disease care management in urban communities. She has practiced in the field of educational and clinical social work for more than 20 years. Her professional experiences include developmental, intellectual disability advocacy, diversity, inclusive practices, social work higher education, mental health treatment, school-based intervention and support services. She served as a school based social worker in traditional and charter public schools. She is a graduate of Ursuline Academy of New Orleans, holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Xavier University of Louisiana, Master of Social Work from Southern University at New Orleans and a Doctorate of Behavioral Health from Arizona State University. She served as the President of Louisiana Association of Clinical Social Workers, Board of Directors Regional representative, School Social Work Committee and Membership Committee member for NASW-LA Orleans Region, President of Families Helping Families of Southeast Louisiana, is currently the Vice Chairperson of the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Dr. McKee is clinically trained in Cognitive-Behavioral therapy, Motivational Interviewing, Biodyne model and Trauma Response. She is a certified trauma practitioner and a trained approved clinical evaluator. She holds additional national and state certifications in the areas of school social work and school based mental health counseling. She has conducted national presentations on school social work supports and services. She continues to provide direct clinical supervision to social workers in the community and teaches in Higher Education in various Schools of Social Work programs. She is considered among her colleagues as an expert in the field of behavioral health, mental health and school social work.

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### **From The Chair**

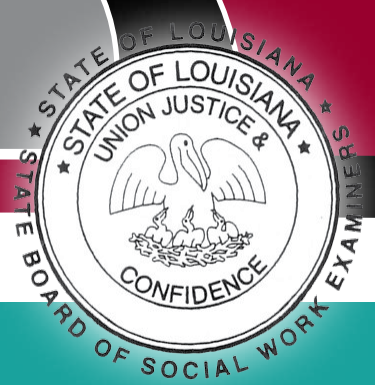
I recently read a piece In the Professional Licensing Report. This short piece focused on six “sound bites” of why it is important for licensing of professionals. I share this with you as we are all advocates and ambassadors of our profession.

*Measures to weaken professional licensing standards have five negative effects, contends the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing*

- **They put the public at risk**
- **They leave the public on its own and ill equipped to determine qualifications**
- **They ignore the critical role that licensing plays in enforcement, compliance, continued education, and remedies**
- **They replace assurance of quality at the front end with case-by-case, costly litigation after the fact**
- **They threaten career mobility and destroy good licensing models that are working**

For each of you, I wish continued health during this pandemic. I applaud each of you for the work you are engaged in with those experiencing both trauma and mental health concerns. Stay well as we begin to enter the Holiday Season.

John Shalett, LCSW-BACS  
Chair, LABSWE



## ATTENTION **LCSWs**



ASWB is seeking qualified social workers to write questions for the licensing exams used in the United States and Canada. Deadline for applications is December 31, 2020.

Practicing social workers—item writers—write all the questions on the ASWB social work licensing exams. These writers are selected for their social work expertise and balanced to reflect diversity in practice area, geography, and demographics. Item writers work on a contract basis and are paid \$1,500 for 30 questions approved for review by the ASWB Examination Committee.

For more information, click here: <https://www.aswb.org/news/examination-writers-sought/>

## **Accommodations Extended Through June 30, 2021**

- ✓ Social workers can obtain all the required hours of continuing education by virtual and distance learning.
- ✓ Supervision towards licensing can be conducted through live, virtual, face-to-face means.
- ✓ Copies of supervision forms and electronic signatures will be accepted.

Add [socialwork@labswe.org](mailto:socialwork@labswe.org) to your email address book. Updates and other important information are sent by email.



## 2021 Board Meeting Dates

**January 22 • February 26 • March 26 • April 23  
June 4 • July 16 • August 20 • September 17  
October 29 • December 10**

Meetings are held at the board office located at 18550 Highland Road, Suite B, Baton Rouge, LA 70809. It is unknown at this time when we will be able to open the meeting room to the public due to the necessity of social distancing; however, we will continue to have the public join us via live streaming. 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. 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.



## Louisiana State Board Of Social Work Examiners

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## Board Vacancies

There are three positions on the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners expiring in 2021. One on February 1st which must be filled by an LCSW, one on March 1st which is the consumer member position, and the other on August 13th which can be filled by an RSW, LMSW or LCSW.

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

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

The consumer member of the board shall be selected from the state at large and shall possess the following qualifications:

- (a) Is a citizen of the United States and has been a resident of Louisiana for at least one year immediately prior to appointment.
- (b) Has attained the age of majority.
- (c) Has never been licensed by any of the licensing boards identified in R.S. 36:259(A), nor shall he have a spouse who has ever been licensed by a board identified in R.S. 36:259(A).
- (d) Has never been convicted of a felony.
- (e) Does not have and has never had a material financial interest in the healthcare profession.
- (f) Shall not be an elected official.

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 position expiring on February 1st is close of business on December 1, 2020, the deadline for submission for the consumer position (non-social worker) is close of business on January 4, 2021 and the deadline for submission for the position expiring on August 13th is close of business on June 1, 2021.**

### 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 .57 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).