SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK ASSOCIATION DELEGATE ASSEMBLY REPORT 2017

This report is due electronically to Rebecca Kunkel at rkunkel@sswa.org by 5pm on 7/14/17. Please be prepared to share one item, from the report below, during the DA that you wish to receive to feedback.

STATE ORGANIZATION: Iowa School Social Workers’ Association (ISSWA)

A. State Association Officers and Contact Information:
   Please list the names of the officers, legislative chair, website manager and social media manager their contact information, including email address, and length of term of offices.

   President; Jean Boger, jboger@heartlandaea.org 2015-17
   President Elect: Emilie Souhrada, esouhrada@aea267.k12.ia.us, 2016-17
   Secretary: Sarah Downey, sdowney@aea267.k12.ia.us, 2015-18
   Treasurer: Patricia Heisterkamp, pheisterkamp@aea267.k12.ia.us , 2016-18
   Promotions Chair: TBD
   Legislative Chair: TBD
   Website Manager: Melissa Ford mford@centralriversaea.org

1. Permanent Committees within the State Association: Legislative and Promotions Committee are being formed; will be finalized 8/2/17
2. State Conference (Y or N and date for 2017): Y, 10/27/2017
3. Organization’s Website address: www.isswa.org
4. Newsletter (Y or N, frequency and type, electronic or paper, of circulation): Y, electronically distributed 3 times per year
5. Facebook Page Address (Y or N. If yes, please list the page address): Y, Iowa School Social Workers Association –ISSWA
6. Twitter Handle (Y or N. If yes, please list the page address): N
7. Blog address (Y or N. If yes, please list the page address): N

B. Number of State Association Members:
   • 69, including 61 regular members, 3 students and 5 retirees

C. Number of School Social Workers in the State:
   • According to the Board of Educational Examiners, there are approximately 280 school social workers in Iowa.

D. Annual Budget and Dues Structure:
   • Dues structure:
     o Regular membership: $45/year
     o Retired membership: $10/year
     o Student membership: $20/year
Currently there is approximately $15,000 in our ISSWA account. A formal budget is to be proposed at our annual retreat (8/2/17).

E. State Evaluation:

1. Current Strengths of State Association:
The ISSWA board has made a concerted effort to recruit membership and board members from areas of our state that have not previously been connected with ISSWA. We are proud that our membership has increased and look forward to working with our new members to meet the needs of school social workers across Iowa.

ISSWA has a committed board that meets monthly via video conferencing. In addition, board members take on additional responsibilities such as conducting a needs assessment for school social workers in Iowa, planning our annual conference, and promoting our organization via social media. Our website allows members or event attendees to register online, thus easing membership renewal and event participation. In addition, our new Facebook page allows us to promote school social work in Iowa and provide timely information to our members.

This past year ISSWA contracted with The Capitol Group, a lobbying group based out of Des Moines, Iowa, to advocate for school social workers at the state legislature.

2. Current Weaknesses of State Association:
Although we have made great strides in membership, ISSWA members represent only 22% of all school social workers in the state. We will continue to reach out to school social workers to promote our organization and have discussed additional ways to promote ISSWA and encourage membership, such as offering CEU opportunities more often.

There is currently no school social work representation at Iowa’s Department of Education, and school social workers hold few leadership positions in their AEAs.

3. Future Plans of State Association:
ISSWA has recently formed two new standing committees. The Legislative Committee will assist all members in remaining informed on issues of interest to school social workers and those we serve. We are collaborating with NASW Iowa’s lobbyist in the formation of this group. The Promotions Committee will help “brand” ISSWA via social media, including strengthening our Facebook presence as well as other social media platforms.

4. Future Threats to State Association:
Budget cuts to public education were passed very quickly by the 2017 Iowa Legislature with little time for reaction or advocacy before voting occurred. Iowa also recently voted to limit collective bargaining rights among non-law enforcement groups, including education, which has caused great dissent. Now more than ever our voices need to heard at the state or legislative level to ensure elected officials understand the importance of school social work services.

5. How can SSWAA assist your state?
   • Continue to keep us informed of national issues and legislation effecting our work