STATE ORGANIZATION: Virginia Association of School Social Workers (VASSW)

A. State Association Officers and Contact Information:

Executive Board:
President: Susan Daly, sdaly@apps.fluco.org  (October 2014 – October 2018)
President Elect: Monica Williams, monicawilliams@spsk12.net  (October 2014-October 2018)
Treasurer: Jessica Hawkins, hawkins.jl@augusta.k12.va.us (since 2016)
Secretary: Shannon Long, longsk@lcsedu.net (since 2015)

Two year terms. President may serve a second consecutive term at the will of the board. Treasurer and Secretary may serve multiple terms.

Other board members serving unlimited terms (not including regional chairs):
Parliamentarian: Pat Montenegro, pmontenegro@campbell.k12.va.us (several years)
Legislative Chair: replaced by legislative committee
Website Chairs: Tara Funches FUNCHETW@pwcs.edu and Candance Walton candancewalton@spsk12.net
Social Media Manager: Emily Piercy emilypiercy@gmail.com

1. Permanent Committees within the State Association: New Legislative and Public Relations committees are in the process of forming. Other committees: Nominations/Elections, Website and Membership.

2. State Conference (Y or N and date for 2017): No. Two day full conferences on even years and one day institutes on odd years. This year’s institute will be October 27 at the Chesterfield Technical Center. 2018 Conference will be Oct. 29 and 30, also in Richmond.

3. Organization’s Website address: www.vassw.org

4. Newsletter (Y or N, frequency and type, electronic or paper, of circulation): none (IP)

5. Facebook Page Address (Y or N. If yes, please list the page address): Virginia Visiting Teachers/School Social Workers

6. Twitter Handle (Y or N. If yes, please list the page address): none

7. Blog address (Y or N. If yes, please list the page address): on website

B. Number of State Association Members: 71

C. Number of School Social Workers in the State: unknown (750?)

D. Annual Budget and Dues Structure: Annual dues remain at $50 for 10/1 through 9/30; students and retirees are $20. Balance as of 5/15/17: $14,587.12.
E. State Evaluation:

1. Current Strengths of State Association: Our board has stabilized and is comprised of strong advocates who are dedicated to the association. We have congealed as a board and meetings, when attendance is good, are focused and productive. We have improved our use of technology and our website is progressing. Our finances are stable (new treasurer has settled the account). We actively participated in the initiative to get school social workers in the Standards of Quality and have been invited by the state superintendent to participate in discussions about how to make the goal a reality.

2. Current Weaknesses of State Association: Board members have too much responsibility and not enough time and support to complete short and long term association goals. Facebook and logo need to be updated (IP). Northern Virginia region is struggling and the southwest region has not been involved in state activities as a region. There is some tension among the few remaining visiting teachers due to the association dropping that title from our name.

3. Future Plans of State Association: We want to increase our association membership with involved members ready to actively participate in moving us forward. We would like to make the membership process fully electronic (application and payment). It is currently still on paper only and payment is by check or cash. We would like more presence in state and national initiatives that involve us. We would like to eventually hire a part time lobbyist. We have begun to strengthen our ties with colleges and universities with social work programs in the state.

4. Future Threats to State Association: Board members have difficulty attending meetings, which makes it difficult to conduct business. Our state DOE representative retired effective 6/30/17 and it is unknown if she will be replaced. As noted above, there is some tension between one region and the state due to past financial issues (which have been resolved), as well as individual members who are visiting teachers.

5. How can SSWAA assist your state? Education on how to better use technology (such as adding online billing); membership initiative ideas; advocacy, especially with state level legislation and promoting our professional value; conference budgeting and planning.