



Society Members Hear Federal, State Advocates on Pending Legislation Annual Meeting Held May 16th

Approximately 80 people attended the annual general membership meeting of the NYS Society at the Gramercy Park Hotel on Saturday, May 16th. The meeting followed a Champagne brunch in the Green Tree Room, with some 50 members and guests attending. Many of those present at the meeting were new members, having joined the Society during the past year.

President Marsha Wineburgh welcomed all those present and introduced the Society's officers, chairs of standing committees, chapter presidents, staff and guests. She reviewed the objectives of the organization, noting the increased recognition of clinical social work and emphasizing the Parity Bill now before the State Legislature and its importance to clinical social workers.

The meeting agenda included presentations by Kenneth L. Adams, National Advocate for the National Federation of Societies of Clinical Social Work; Barry K. Mallin, Legislative/Legal Counsel for the

NYS Society; and Susan Finkelstein and Andrew Stromberg, co-chairs of the Society's Parity Committee.

... in Washington

Ken Adams spoke at length, reviewing his role as representative for the Federation over the past 6 years, and presented a full picture of the situation in Washington regarding mental health care providers in general and clinical social workers in particular.

He distributed a packet of materials to all those present, among which were copies of pertinent bills to be presented at this session of the House and Senate; a memo from him detailing steps Society members can take to push legislation favorable to clinical social workers by communicating with their representatives; and a copy of a letter from Jay B. Constantine, Chief Health Professional Staff to Gerald L. Klerman, M.D., Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The letter

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NATIONAL FEDERATION MEETING

Report by Marsha Wineburgh, CSW,
President, NYS Chapter

The spring meeting of the National Federation of Societies for Clinical Social Work was held in Washington, D.C. April 30th through May 2nd. All member states were present except Tennessee.

As usual when we meet in Washington, time is set aside to lobby with our national legislators, and this was one of the priority items on our agenda. Federation hosted a reception on April 30th in the Dirksen Senate Office Building honoring Senator Spark Matsunaga (D-HI) for his leadership in mental health legislation. Although a number of senators and their staffs attended, New York's representatives did not appear. On Friday, May 1st, State representatives met with their senators or aides. As president of the NYSSCSWP, I met with Faye Drummond of Senator Moynihan's office and Antonia Greenman, aide to Senator D'Amato. The purpose of our meeting was to urge each senator to consider co-sponsoring S. 123, the bill which amends the Social Security Act to expand the provider category for medicare and medicaid mental health services to include clinical social workers as well as psychologists, board certified psychiatrists and psychiatric nurse specialists. A companion to this bill (H.R. 3373) was introduced by Congressman Fithian in the House of Representatives while we were meeting in Washington.

On Friday evening, May 1st, the Federation celebrated its 10th anniversary with a cocktail and dinner party at the Washington Marriott Hotel. Crayton Rowe, currently our State chair for the Committee on Psychoanalysis, was honored as

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Kenneth P. Adams, national advocate for the Federation; Marsha Wineburgh, NYS Society president; and Barry K. Mallin, Society counsel/advocate

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