

NASW Peace and Social Justice Petition Campaign Successful!

Our heartfelt thanks to the SWAA/NASW members who signed the petition requesting that the reinstatement of the national Peace and Justice Committee as a standing committee of the organization be placed on the August 2008 Delegate Assembly agenda. Anne Anderson and I hand-delivered the petitions on January 18, 2008 with 824 signatures from 42 chapters. Given that the minimum number of signatures is 500, and the minimum number of chapters represented is five, we believe that we have collectively demonstrated that NASW members want this issue addressed.

Last fall, Teri Cardwell, President of the Indiana Chapter, circulated the message reprinted below. Now that this issue will come before the Delegate Assembly, we must strive to make sure that our chapter's leaders, members and delegates to the Assembly understand the need for this committee. **Please volunteer to contact your chapter officers and delegates to develop support for the reinstatement of the P&SJ Committee.** I can help with information and strategies and can be reached at 703-941-3707 or by email at moyaatk@att.net.

“Peace and social justice. Embodied in the hallmark NASW Code of Ethics and the Social Work Congress Imperatives, it is the guiding mission and value of the social work profession. National and international events in recent years have left an indelible stain on the human condition. At this critical time, we need a national committee to work on national and international issues of war and peace, civil liberties and social justice.

In response, groups of committed social workers have been seeking reinstatement of Peace and Social Justice as a standing committee of the NASW National Board of Directors.

While the Social and Economic Justice and Peace Specialty Practice Section is one of the fastest growing within NASW with a 700+ membership, a standing committee of the National Board of Directors would provide a vehicle for raising the stature of peace and social justice to the level of the 156,000 members. A standing committee would provide a voice for the profession at the national level of NASW. As such, a committee would support the traditions our profession was founded upon and recommend appropriate action when worldwide efforts seek to diminish or abolish these very fundamental human rights.”

Moya Atkinson
Co-Chair, SWAA Peace and Social Justice Committee