

Louisiana Association of Clinical Social Workers

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Dear members and visitors to our website,

If you are a member of LACSW let me thank you for your support. If you are visiting this website let me share a little about who we are and the benefits of being a member of this organization.

LACSW is the only organization in Louisiana specifically dedicated to the interests of clinical social workers in Louisiana. I am personally a proud member of NASW and fully appreciate all they do to support and promote social work nationally and locally. However, in Louisiana, as I am sure it is in other states, we have a unique predicament to our state and a unique predicament for clinical social work in Louisiana. Every state has unique and specific laws and circumstances that affect social workers and related professions and it is important that we stay abreast of ours.

This is a very dynamic and exciting time that is full of change and opportunity. This is true for our colleagues in related fields as well and keeping up with this is one of our primary responsibilities. This is where we spend most of our budget, with our professional lobbyist that has been a part of our organization for many years. I wish I could say that we did not have to worry about others infringing on our ability to practice our profession but that is simply not the case. Whether it is other related fields trying to carve out an exclusive use of one of our skills to compete in this marketplace or if it is simply legally protecting and expanding our rights with third party payers vigilance is necessary.

While the issues involved in the legislation are a big part of our purpose we are also involved in many other areas of interest to clinical social work. This includes the managed care committee that keeps abreast of that dynamic area. Also, we provide training several times a year relevant to our needs. We can approve CEU's for social work for others that want to provide training. These are just some of the benefits being part of this organization can accommodate. However, my favorite benefit is the collegiality and connection I find with professionals I like, admire and learn from. So once again, let me thank you and hope that you will also become and/or remain a part of this wonderful organization.

Respectfully,
Gary Tiemann, LCSW, President, LACSW