



International Network for School Social Work

<http://internationalnetwork-schoolsocialwork.htmlplanet.com>

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A New Web Site for U. S. School Social Work History and Literature

www.schoolsocialworkhistory.com

A non-profit site with no charges and no fees for downloading the resources. This site is not affiliated with any association, university or publisher.

Randy Fisher

This web site has recently been launched. It contains a variety of pages dealing with school social work literature and history. This gives school social work practitioners, students interested in school social work, researchers and professors access to a comprehensive source of literature and history in school social work starting at the very beginning of the profession. The earliest articles are dated 1917. This rich history and literature of school social work is now available electronically for the practitioners, students, professors, historians and associations in the school social work community.

School Social Work in the United States is almost 110 years old. Originally they worked under the title of Visiting Teacher and that title lasted in some places for over 50 years. Gradually the title switched to School Social Worker. The literature and national professional association made various name switches to their Bulletin and the name of the association to reflect the progression of the changing title.

Within the web site the literature is divided into three time periods (Early Era 1906-1955; New Skills Era 1956-1994; & Current Era 1995-present time). Most of the documents are PDF's.

The early literature era goes from the birth of the visiting teacher service in the 1906-1907 school year until 1955 when the National Association of School Social Workers (NASSW) joined the newly formed National Association of Social Workers (NASW). The documents cover the complete history of the National Association of Visiting Teachers, American Association of Visiting Teachers, American Association of School Social Workers and the National Association of School Social Workers. Many association newsletters are in the collection as well as an almost complete set of the Bulletins. Those Bulletins contain the majority of scholarly articles written from the early 1920's to the mid 1950's when NASSW joined 6 other social work groups to form NASW. This collection of bulletins and newsletters in an electronic format makes them

available for the first time. The bulletins and the newsletters give the opportunity to explore the early history of visiting teacher/school social work in local school districts and individual states.

The new skills era begins with the birth of NASW and goes until 1994 when the School Social Work Association of America was formed. During these years school social work became more sophisticated and went from a casework emphasis to an expanded role in the schools.

Milestones in this 40-year period include the growth of new models of school social work from primarily a casework model to include group work and system interventions. In the middle of the 40 years P.L. 94-142 (The Education for All Handicapped Children Act) became law, and working with special needs students became another significant role for school social workers. During this era the number of school social work positions grew tremendously.

The final section, the **current era of school social work**, begins with the formation of the School Social Work Association of America (SSWAA) and runs from 1995 until the present. The Current Era includes newsletters from SSWAA starting in 1994 through 2006. The section also lists current journals, school social work textbooks, and other resources for school social workers in print. One trend is the use of evidence-based practice. Since the late 1970's there have been at least two school social work journals, published by NASW and IASSW (Illinois Association of School Social Workers). Other journals appeared briefly. Specific journal articles and books are not linked because of copyright restrictions.

Increased awareness of school social work across the globe can in part be traced to the 1st International Conference for School Social Work in Chicago in 1999, sponsored by SSWAA and Illinois Association of School Social Work. The subsequent international school social work conferences and the Newsletter for the International Network for School Social Work hosted by Marion Huxtable are important parts of the current era of school social work.

Of special interest to the readers of this newsletter is the availability in this web site of every issue of the International Network newsletter beginning in 2006. Many thanks go to Marion Huxtable for sharing the newsletters.

There is a provision in the School Social Work History web site for submitting documents to be included in the web site updates. This gives state, regional and national school social work associations a place to store and share their publications. Any national association that wants their resources to be included under the International pages should send PDF documents along with a signed release to Randy Fisher at bigfishman@aol.com.

Randy A. Fisher is a retired school social work practitioner with over 30 years experience. He was the first SSWAA President and later the first executive director. He first brought up the idea of an International School Social Work Conference in 1996. As President of SSWAA he worked closely with Greg Petty (Illinois President) and Marion Huxtable on the conference held in Chicago in 1999. He has traveled to Japan, Korea, Singapore, and Sweden talking about school social work. He hosted school social workers from Japan and Korea. He ended his active career as a professor at Aurora University. He has authored many articles about the history of school social work and published a school social work bibliography for NASW in 1979. In retirement he has organized this website so that everyone will have access to the history of school social work.