Hello and welcome back! Another summer has passed, and it’s time to hit the ground running. I hope you all took advantage of our warm summer days to rejuvenate yourselves in whatever ways are most useful and peaceful for you.

I was fortunate enough again to attend the SSWAA Delegate Assembly this summer in Minneapolis, Minnesota and felt very proud to represent our state. This is such a valuable experience, and I hope to incorporate new ideas from other thriving states to grow our profession here in Kentucky. Our relationship with SSWAA is an important one, and we hope to use their expertise and resources more throughout the coming years to increase our visibility as school social workers locally and at the state level.

You won’t want to miss out on great ideas from the upcoming KASSW event. SAVE THE DATE for our Conference on October 20, 2016. We are so excited about our new location for this year’s conference at Buffalo Trace Distillery in Frankfort. They have truly scenic grounds and meeting spaces. If you haven’t been there before, you are in for a special treat!

KASSW has several speakers ready to address hot topics and trends for School Social Work. But most importantly, we will include time for networking and reconnecting with other School Social Workers around our state.


School is here again so, let’s plan to get together in October! Melinda McClung, President
Shericka Smith was born and raised in Lexington, KY and obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from Transylvania University with a minor in Psychology and a Master of Science in Social Work with a certification in School Social Work from the University of Louisville. She has no children, but has a sweet dog named Ellie Mae. She has 5 nieces and nephews who are a huge part of her life and loves to sing in the church choir. Other hobbies she enjoys are music, reading, and traveling. She studied abroad in Segovia, Spain and is fluent in Spanish.

Shericka became interested in social work while working at The Salvation Army homeless shelter alongside her mother. She worked at Wellspring Crisis Stabilization Unit in Louisville, KY assisting adults with schizophrenia and other mental health issues then worked at Brooklawn Child and Family Services (presently known as Uspiritus) in Louisville, KY assisting children at a mental health residential facility. She began her School Social Work career at Booker T. Washington Academy and stayed there for 7 years. She then transferred to Tates Creek High School and is currently in her 2nd year there. Shericka is a Certified Youth Mental Health First Aid instructor and frequently trains staff, parents, and community members across the district. She is currently in supervision to obtain her LCSW, which will be completed in 2019.

Shericka is currently a member of the following professional organizations: KASSW, NASW, KY-ACAC, CKCA.

KASSW is proud to honor Shericka Smith as our state’s School Social Worker of the Year.

KASSW
School Social Worker of the Year

What is KASSW doing with SSWAA?

KASSW President MCClung shares her summer leadership work with our National Organization...

At the end of July, I was honored to represent Kentucky at the SSWAA Delegates Assembly meeting in Minneapolis Minnesota. Thirty states were present, and each brought great ideas and energy to the table. Many of our state issues are the same…how to increase our visibility and influence in our school systems, how to establish a stronger voice on the legislative front, and best ways to support school social workers in their daily practice. Many great ideas were shared, and I walked away feeling a strong connection to the larger school social work community. I had offers from other states to come HERE to provide trainings on current practice and advocacy. I hope this will happen in the next year, so my feeling of connection to our larger professional circle will spread to you. We are truly stronger TOGETHER than we are apart, and our SSWAA community is ready to support us in any way they can! Learn more about Midwest School Council on Facebook or at midwestssw.org.

You won’t want to miss this day of learning at our exciting Conference Site at the Buffalo Trace Distillery in Frankfort on October 20th. Hurry and get your Registration in to Bethany Dewsnup.

Our Keynote Speaker is Geoff Wilson and he will be talking about the Impact of Drug and Alcohol Use on our Youth. Then we will be updated on the latest issues impacting education from State Representative, Derrick Graham. He is the Chairperson of the House of Representatives Education Committee. He also represented us on the KTRS Pension Work Group. Next is Andrew Olson. He will help us look at effective interventions for helping Latino students. Danielle Sanders will be helping us with emotional cycles of students. There is a fun optional tour & tasting event following the Conference end. Don’t miss this special Day of Learning in Frankfort!
School Social Workers We Won’t Forget...

Remembering two important Change Agents in our field!

This summer two wonderful School Social Workers died but, it is important to remember their early roles in leading the way for today’s change agents in School Social Work.

Diana Fehr died in February, 2016. She graduated with her MSW degree from the University of Kentucky. Diana was one of the first Title 1 School Social Workers hired in Fayette County Public Schools. Later, Diana became one of the first School Social Workers to accept the newly created role of Child Guidance Specialist at Cassidy Elementary.

Diana served as a mentor to so many of us in Fayette County Public Schools. She was always ready to share information and resources to school social workers in our community. When KASSW first evolved, Diana was an early member. At her funeral service everyone was asked to remember her by, “just doing something kind for someone.” Kindness and generosity to others is what Diana’s life so special as a change agent in our field and lives.

Nancy Rawlings is the next wonderful agent of change we lost this year. Nancy died in June, 2016 but like Diana, her spirit of giving lives on. She began her career in teaching and then received her MSW from Kent School of Social Work.

Nancy was also one of the first School Social Workers hired in Fayette County Public Schools under Jane Roe. Her impact began locally and then moved into the state/national service area. She was very interested in collaboration and effective implementation of social services. In Fayette County, she represented the schools in the formation of the Fayette County Children’s Services Committee and served on the Human Services Council. She worked tirelessly to advocate juveniles not be housed in adult jail and helped with creating a Juvenile Facility. She went on in 1979 to serve as the Director, Division of Children’s Services for the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government. She was instrumental in creating the Crimes Against Children’s Unit, the new Juvenile Services Center.

Her service to Kentucky’s children and families expanded statewide when she was appointed Director, Kentucky Division of Family Services, Cabinet for Health and Family Services in 1985. She served nationally as President of the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators, chair of the National Family Preservation Network. Nancy became Lexington’s Commissioner of Lexington’s Department of Social Services in 2000. She was a leading force in the development and construction of the Lexington Day Treatment Program.

She has received many awards including being named as the Friend of Children in 2009 from the UK Center for the Study on the Violence Against Children. She had helped to secure the funding for a partnership between the UK College of Social Work and the UK College of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry.

Nancy and Diana represent the best of the helping profession. They have made an indelible mark on improving the lives of so many children and families and our profession. It is so important not to forget the hard work of the school social workers who led the way for all of us.

We celebrate the lives of these remarkable Kentucky School Social Workers!
If you are like most educators, this year’s election cycle may make you feel queasy. But, there are very important issues you need to consider as you cast your vote this year. Not voting isn’t an option as who is elected whether at a local, statewide, or national level directly affects your personal future retirement and medical needs as well as the funds for your job and education resources. Just remember that everything from your job to education/community resources is determined by local/state/federal legislators. So, here is a list of things to consider:

- Has this candidate supported public education?
- What is this candidate stand on funding for mental health services?
- What is this candidates stand on violence against families and children?
- Is this candidate supportive or non-supportive of Social Security, Medicare, Defined Benefit Pensions? (For more information on these issues, go to AARP or Kentucky Education Association as these issues impact your future retirement.)
- Does this candidate support limited public school monies being used for Charter Schools which don’t face the Accountability Standards of Traditional Public Schools? (The National Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, and Kentucky Education Association websites have more information on how Charter School public funding is impacting public schools.)
- What is this candidates stance on LGBT, undocumented, and immigrant students and their public education needs?

There are many issues to consider as you exercise your voter voice. Will School Social Work be important to future legislators? Education Votes is a site for even more information.

As contentious as this year’s Elections are—an even bigger concern is emerging on how the comments being made and demonstrated are impacting the children we serve every day. Educators are greatly aware of increased bullying responses that may often be traced to some of the racial rhetoric being displayed on tv, radio talk shows, Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, other media sites.

Well, America’s children are listening and we as School Social Workers need resources to help our biggest clients—children. The education sites: www.kids.gov, www.edutopia.org, and www.teachervision.com offer information on learning the election process and branches of government but, what about helping children learn to deal with the intense issues being raised that children are hearing re: immigration, police/community trust, terrorism, name-calling?

You can go to election.scholastic.com and help children see age appropriate election 2016 information. They also offer Election Skills books for $2.99. They also show Kids’ views of the Democratic and Republican Conventions. They also provide resources for parents and teachers. “Candidates Teach Youth on Bullying,” is an article on how the current election process has “...highlighted real world examples of how adults, candidates for Presidency, are not demonstrating the values and practicing the tolerance that we preach to our children.” This article can be found on psychologytoday.com.

October is National Bullying Prevention Month. There are some awesome resources to use at: stopbullying.gov. Astronaut Scott Kelly has a video on this site addressing bullying and there is a video titled, “Labels Don’t Define You.” Another site which addresses the negative effect on children and classrooms this election year can be found at: splcenter.org. This article highlights that more than 2/3’s of teachers have reported that primarily immigrant children and Muslims have expressed fear and anxiety over the increasingly uncivil political discourse. 40% of teachers are hesitant to teach about Election 2016.


Want a more upbeat look at politics? Let kids look at Kid President videos and start a conversation on making a difference in our world with friendly, empathic, caring actions.
Buffalo Trace Distillery is the place for KASSW’s Fall Conference but, we have been fortunate to have the support of the following wonderful sponsors:

- Asbury University Master of Social Work
- KVC
- Rivendell
- The Ridge Behavioral Health
- University of Kentucky College of Social Work
Kentucky Association for School Social Work  
Fall Conference Registration Form  
NEXT STEPS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS  
October 20, 2016  
Buffalo Trace Distillery—Frankfort, Kentucky  

Name: ___________________________________________________________________  
Address: ___________________________________________________________________  
City: ___________________________ State: ___________ Zip Code: ___________  
Telephone No. (Work) ______________ (Cell) ___________________________  
Employed by: ___________________________ Position: ___________________________  
Work Location: ___________________________ Supervisor: ___________________________  
Work Email: ___________________________ Home Email: ___________________________  

Check applicable Conference Registration Information:  
❑ $85 Early Bird Rate Includes Conference, Luncheon, & KASSW Membership (for School Social Workers)  
❑ $85 Early Bird Rate Conference, Luncheon, & Associate Membership (for other Professionals)  
❑ $60 Early Bird Student/Retired Rate (also includes luncheon/associate membership)  
❑ $100 Regular Rate (applies after October 4th)  
❑ Please check here if you plan to attend the optional tour and tasting event following the Conference  
❑ Please check here if you require a vegetarian lunch option  

Total: $_________________________  

Payment Method:  
❑ Check made payable to KASSW  
❑ Paypal: Visit the www.KASSWKY.org website for more information  
❑ Purchase Order:  
  Purchase Order #: ___________________________  
  School Board Name/Organization: ___________________________  
  Mailing Address (for Invoice): ___________________________  
  Contact Person: ___________________________  

Refund Policy: All Cancellations must be made in writing. Written requests postmarked before October 4th will be refunded minus a 25% administrative fee. Substitutions are welcome. Please e-mail the name of the substitute and bring written verification from the original registrant. ADA Accommodations should be e-mailed and must be received by September 28th.  

Registration receipts will be provided at the Conference. For advance receipt, contact KASSW Treasurer, Bethany Dewsnap.  

Mail payment and completed registration forms to:  
Bethany Dewsnap  
3837 Everetts Dale  
Lexington, Kentucky 40514  
Bethany.Dewsnap@fayette.kyschools.us
KASSW 2016 Conference

Here and Now:
Next Steps for Social Workers
Mental Health Struggles Facing Our Families
Education and Intervention

Featuring:
Keynote Speaker Geoff Wilson of Ridge
"The Impact of Drug and Alcohol Use on our Youth"

Optional Post-Conference Tour and Tasting
and more!

Thursday, October 20th
Buffalo Trace Distillery - Frankfort, KY
8:30-4:30

$85 (includes KASSW membership)

Pending approval for 6 hours:
KY Board of Social Work ~ CEUs
& EILA hours