

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES 2017 - 2018

H.B. 318- Passed by House and Senate, & signed by the Governor: Designates \$10 mil for School Resource Officers (SROs) in every school, active shooter training for school staff and training for teachers to recognize mental health issues. Will also provide money for districts for PBIS.

OSSWA is working with #Counselorsnotcuffs initiative organized by the Juvenile Justice Coalition and attended by NASW, ACLU, Children's Defense Fund and the Office of Disability Rights. The goal of the initiative is to divert funding away from SROs and towards teacher training to recognize and respond appropriately to mental health issues. The bill also designates funding for nurses, counselors and social workers in schools.

H.B. 658 - "Parent's Rights" bill regarding parents' ability to refuse treatment for gender dysphoria (the diagnosis currently associated with a transgender identity). This bill is connected to our work on Counselors Not Cuffs because it may require school districts to work against the best interests of the students in requiring school staff to report any "signs of gender dysphoria" immediately to parents. This could put children at risk of abuse and neglect, and it undermines the necessary trust that must be present if a child is to benefit from the services of a helping professional. It also makes the treatment of gender dysphoria without consent a fourth-degree felony. This could mean that any school staff (particularly a mental health provider) that is supportive to a student who has come out, or is exploring their gender identity could be held criminally liable.

S.B. 314 and H.B. 713 - These are exact companion bills that essentially fund a school psychologist or intervention specialist in every school district, require additional staff to be hired for every 600 students, increase awareness of trauma/mental health, and require a mental health screening tool be used annually.

H.B. 702 - This bill designates \$50,000 for each of the state's 52 ESC offices to hire a school social worker. This is not nearly enough, but I have been informed that this is just the beginning and a way to introduce the idea of mandating social workers in schools.

What Can We Do?!?

Contact your representatives!!! They work for us – the constituents, we have a right to be heard! Visit the following websites to find out who your representatives are and how to contact them.

B www.contactingcongress.org

C www.usa.gov/elected-officials

D U.S. Senators: https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

E U.S. Representatives: <https://www.house.gov/representatives>

F State Governors: <https://www.usa.gov/state-governor>

G State Legislators: <https://www.congress.gov/state-legislature-websites>

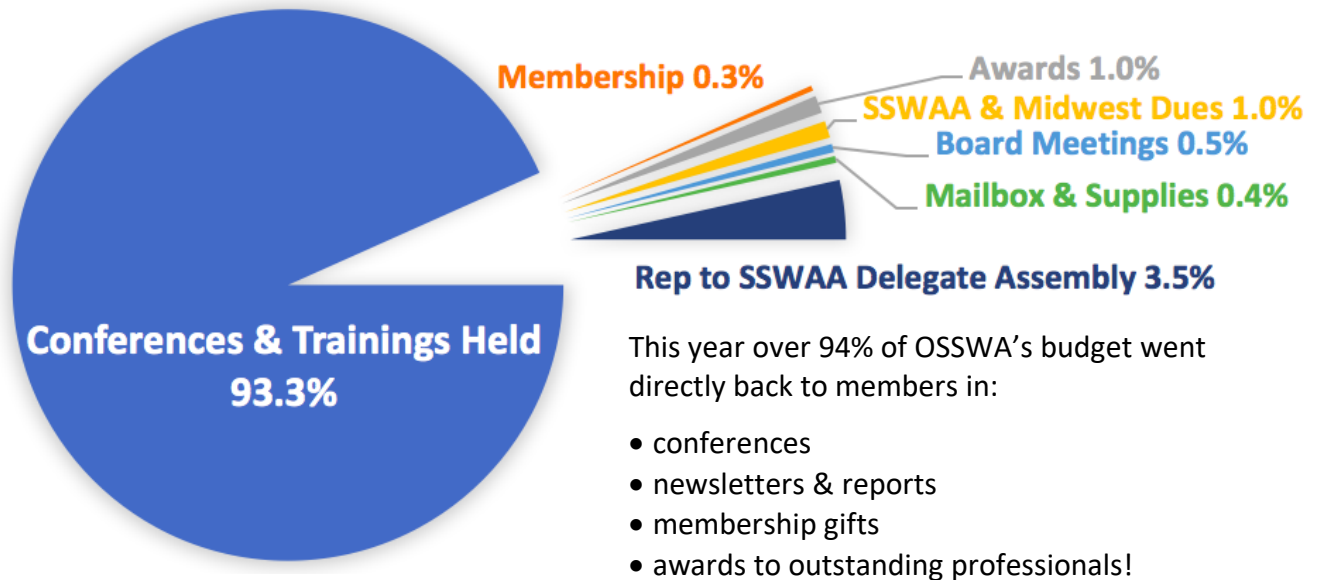
H U.S. Mayors: <https://www.usmayors.org/mayors/>

I Other Local Govt. Officials: <https://www.usa.gov/local-governments>

- Present annually to the school board, PTA and faculty in your district about the value of school social work services in schools and what you are doing/have done in the present school year to meet the needs of students and families.
- E-mail your Superintendent and ask to be put on the state board agenda to present about the value of SSW services in schools.
- E-mail superintendents, district representatives, school administrators and anyone else who has a say in allocating funds for student supports with information about the role of SSWs and include data to show the impact of our work.

FINANCE REPORT 2017 - 2018

2017 - 2018 EXPENSES



Your membership fees and attendance at OSSWA events are **crucial** to keeping this organization going!

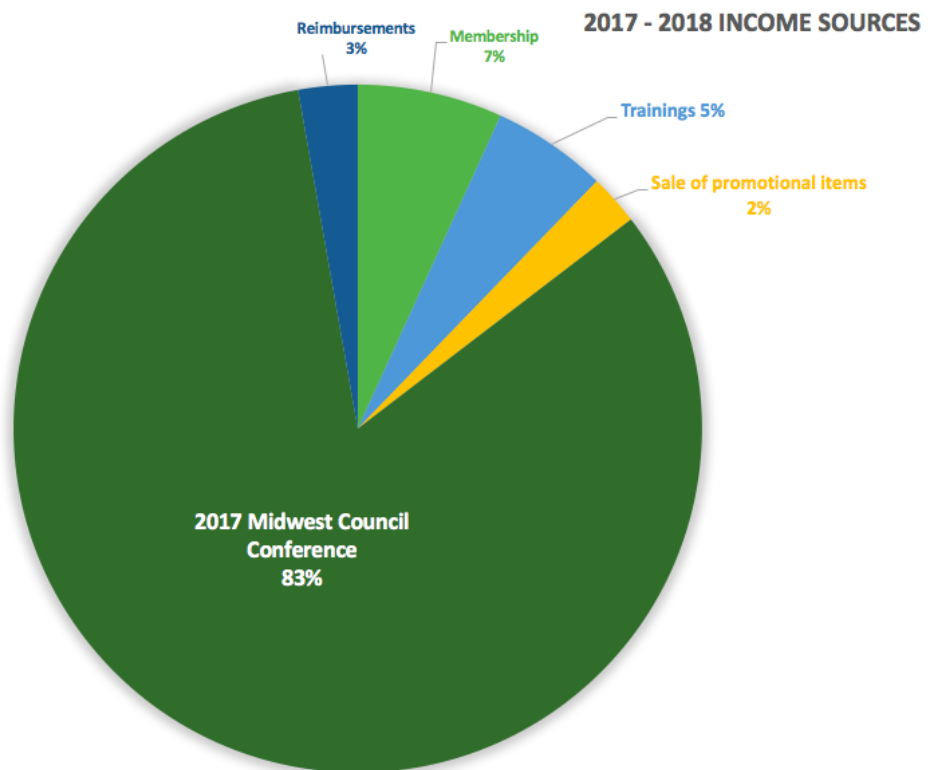
*If your membership has expired, please renew!

*Bring a friend to our events!

*Tell us what you would like us to do as an organization to support you!

There is much to do in SSW across Ohio so **help us build momentum by getting involved!**

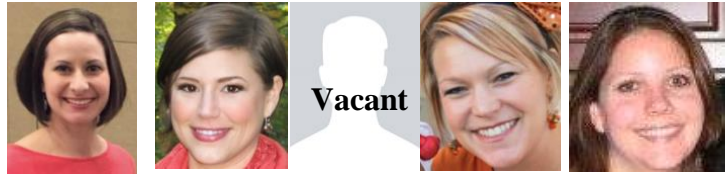
Visit osswa.org for ways to get involved.



SLATE OF OFFICERS 2017 - 2018

Executive Board

President Rachel Meffe, MSSA, LISW-S
Past President Michele Patak-Pietrafesa, LISW-S
President Elect Vacant
Recording Secretary Jill Miller, MSSA, LSW
Treasurer Cynthia Johnson, MSSA, LSW



Board Committee Directors

Legislative Directors Brenda Rinkes, LISW-S, LSSW & Andrew Smith, LISW-S
Membership Director Sean Delaney, MSW, LSW
Programs Director Lindsey Neag
Communications Directors
 Michele Patak-Pietrafesa, LISW-S & Abbey Rutschilling, MSW, LSW
Awards Director Jessica Romanelli, BSW
Promotions Director Betsy Youse, LISW-S



Board Region Representatives

Central Region Martha Jones, LISW
South East Region Brenda Rinkes, LSSW, LISW-S
North East Region Faith Gordon, LSW, LSSW
North West Region Rachelle Griffin
South West Region Vacant



Board Agency Advisors

Ohio State University Advisor Vacant
Case Western, University Advisor Sarah Andrews, LISW-S
University of Cincinnati Advisor Carol Wheeler-Strother
NASW OH Advisor Danielle Smith, MSW, MA, LSW
Ohio Dept of Education Advisor Emily Jordan, LISW



Several board positions open!



President Elect: VACANT
South West Region Representative VACANT
Ohio State University Advisor: VACANT
Case Western MSASS Student Representatives (2): VACANT
University of Cincinnati Student Representatives (2): VACANT
Ohio State University Student Representatives (2): VACANT



Email rachel.meffe@gmail.com for more information.

LOOKING FORWARD 2018 – 2019: UPCOMING EVENTS



2018 Board Meetings

- Saturday, September 15, 2018, 10am – 4pm, Columbus Metropolitan Library – Hilliard Branch - the Hilliard Room (4500 Hickory Chase Way, Hilliard, OH 43026).
- Saturday, November 3, 2018, 10am – 4pm, Mansfield OH. Exact Location TBD.
- Saturday, January 12th, 2019, 9am – 12pm, Online video conference.
- Saturday, April 13, 2019, 10am – 4pm. Stay tuned for details.

As always, our board meetings are open to all current members. Just RVSP through our website at www.osswa.org



2019 Annual Spring Conference: Safe Kids Safe Schools

February 22, 2019, Stay tuned for details!



2019 Annual Leadership Retreat and Planning Meeting

Thursday, June 13, 2019, Stay tuned for details!



2018 Midwest School Social Work Council 51st Annual Conference & Meeting

October 17th – 19th, 2018 @ Sheraton Clayton Plaza Hotel, St. Louis, MO
Visit www.sswam.org/motivate for more info and to register



30th Annual –

National Dropout Prevention Network Conference

October 28th – 31st, 2019 @ Hyatt Regency, Columbus

Visit www.dropoutprevention.org/conferences/2018-ndpnc/ for more info



School Social Work Association of America

2019 National School Social Work Conference

Wednesday April 3rd – Saturday April 6th, 2019
Caribe Royale Orlando Hotel & Convention Center, Orlando FL
Visit www.sswaa.org/nationalconference for more info and to register

2019 SSWAA Delegate Assembly & Legislative Institute

July 19th – 23rd, 2019 Alexandria, VA

2018 – 2019: REGIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

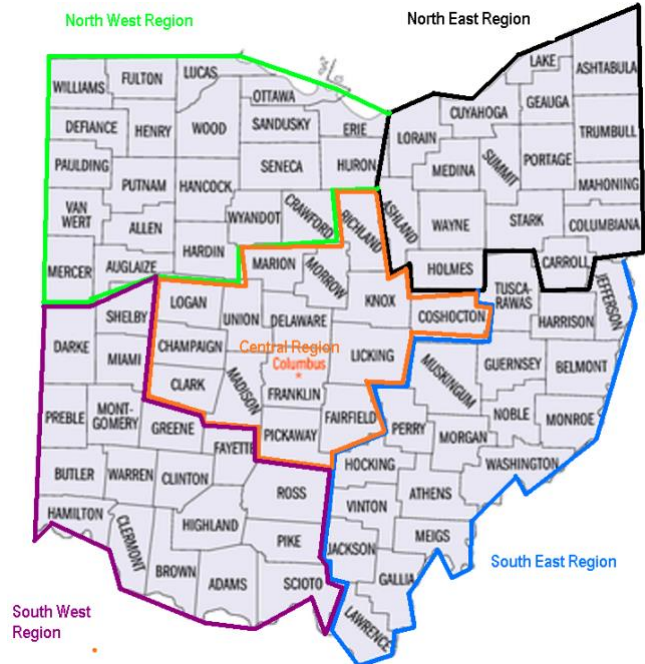
Region Changes

The OSSWA board has voted to change the state region map in an effort to more evenly distribute members across the regions. See the maps below for details.

Old Region Map



New Region Map



Central Region:

If you live or work in this region we want to hear from you!

Contact Marty Jones at givens62000@yahoo.com for resources and support in your area.

North West Region:

If you live or work in this region we want to hear from you!

Contact Rachelle Griffin at griffinr@fremontschools.net for resources and support in your area.

North East Region:

If you live or work in this region we want to hear from you!

Contact Faith Gordon at faith.gordon@whcsd.org for resources and support in your area.

South West Region:

If you live or work in this region we want to hear from you!

Contact Rachel Meffe at rachel.meffe@gmail.com for resources and support in your area.

South East Region:

If you live or work in this region we want to hear from you!

Contact Brenda Rinkes at Brenda.rinkes@westliberty.edu for resources and support in your area.