

WELCOME ALL MEMBERS TO THE MASTER'S OF SOCIAL WORK STUDENT ASSOCIATION

At the initial meeting held on September 7th, officers were elected for this year. The officers will hold their positions until the end of the Spring semester next year (May 2007). The officers are as follows:

- President: Jeenee Hines
- Vice-President: Paul Theodore
- Treasurer: Jermona Ellis
- Secretary: Suzanna Chipman

We had 16 people attend the initial meeting, and 11 people joined the Association. I want to welcome each of you that have joined the group, and I urge you to encourage your fellow classmates to join us as well. Together, this can be a fun and fulfilling organization!

The Association has a group page on Yahoo that will be used to post information for members. If you have not yet received an invitation to this group from Dr. Helton, it should be on the way soon. All emails I send to the members of the Association will also be posted on the Yahoo page. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MSWSA/>

I have included below a segment from the Constitution of the MSWSA that outlines our Association's purpose (the emphasized section is verbatim).

The purpose of the association shall be recognized and promote scholastic achievement and socialization processes between students and faculty involved in the Joint Master of Social Work program at Cleveland State University and the University of Akron by:

- **Advocating for the right, and needs of the students enrolled in the Joint Master of Social Work Program**
- **Recognizing, improving and participating in activities that will further goals of social work in society**
- **Stimulating interest in preparation for a career in social work**
- **Encouraging continued study and research at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and in professional practice**
- **Recognizing those professional social workers whose contributions to and service and leadership in the field of social worker are held in esteem**

The purpose of the association shall also be to coordinate and promote programs which support the urban missions of the Cleveland State University and The University of Akron.

Also, according to the Constitution, we are required to meet as a group at least once a semester for a general membership meeting. Officers are to have an executive committee meeting when called by either the President or Vice-President. Financial

matters are handled by the Treasurer and the Faculty Advisor (Dr. Helton). The Association is allowed to undertake fundraising as it sees fit as long as it does not violate any CSU or U of A policy (and is voted on by the all members of the Association).

Ok – now that all of the necessary business stuff is out of the way, I wanted to share my thoughts on where I would like to see this group go and the things I hope to accomplish.

This is a group that epitomizes the reason we all want to be social workers – to effect change in society for the oppressed populations we will serve. We must also keep in mind the sanity of MSW students. By working together, we will be able to help people in Cleveland and support each other as students as we continue on this journey of completing the Master’s Program. I take this officer position of President very seriously, and hope that each of you take your role as a member equally so.

I am hoping to complete at least two community service projects that will benefit the greater population (possibly more if time and resources permit) each semester. We have the ability to accomplish great things together because we bring multiple perspectives and passions to the table.

As far as the supportive role of this organization, we must be here for one another. The MSW program has the potential to be overwhelming and stressful in and of itself. We should continue to form social networks to share ideas on how to survive and better ourselves as students, social workers and people in general. I encourage all members to socialize outside of the meeting times to cultivate a network of peers and colleagues that can benefit you in a variety of ways.

Please remember to regularly check the Yahoo group page for updates on activities, events, meetings, etc., that are coming up.

Remember – this is your organization. Please feel free to email me (or find me on campus) and alert me to any ideas or concerns that arise this year. I will do my best to address them on an individual basis and bring them up during our scheduled meetings.

Jeenee Hines
President, MSWSA
Full time, 2-year day student, MSW program
JMarie681@aol.com
216-469-9762 (cell)