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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy Holidays STSW Members,

I've drafted a few versions of this letter, and each time there's a somber tone that seems a bit dour for the Holiday Season. I think it's reflective of the many somber, challenging issues in our country and the world at large. I'm not going to delve into those issues, as they're far out of the lane for transplant social work. However, I'd like to share a couple of statements a colleague recently made that resonated with me: "As social workers we always live in the complexities of life", and "we can make an impact on important social issues in our community by getting engaged ourselves and teaching our students how to engage in productive civil discourse".

I'm reminded of the impact of social work in all areas, and the tireless work that we do to affect change in policies and practices that impact our patients and programs at every level. I'm reminded of the joys and challenges inherent to our roles, and the need to protect our hearts while being present for the pain of others. I'm saddened that productive civil discourse often seems so far away, but hopeful that we'll get there.

I've also been reviewing comments from the STSW conference surveys, and one especially stood out to me: "excellent as in the past, the caliber of SWs is phenomenal". What a powerful recognition of the work, expertise, and dedication that is being done by social workers in our field. I'm grateful and proud to be associated with such talented, resourceful professionals.

I would like to express a world of thanks to **Dawn Warfield**, Secretary; **Kristen DeVoe**, Treasurer;

**Beth Piotrowicz**, National Program Co-chair; **Kate Artin**, Research Co-Chair; and **Daniela Matz**, Multicultural Chair, who are completing their board terms this year. Their leadership and stewardship of STSW has been critical to our success and well-being. I'm excited to welcome **Chrissi White** to the role of Treasurer, **Lara Tushla** to the role of Secretary, and **Hannah Graves** to the role of Public Policy Chair. I hope as we look to 2024, we can continue to capitalize on our skills to connect through the forum, committee calls, and conference to support each other as we continue to navigate the complexities of life. All the best to you for a safe, joyful Holiday Season; and cheers to a healthy, prosperous 2024.

Sincerely,  
*Clif*

Clifton Hill, MSW, LCSW, CCTSW  
President, STSW

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## 2023 CONFERENCE UPDATE

Kay Kendall, MSW, LISW-s, CCTSW-MCS  
National Conference Chair

Three hundred social workers attended our 2023 STSW conference in San Diego the week of October 9<sup>th</sup>! The program began with a pre-conference workshop given by Dr. Scott Winder, *Addiction in Organ Transplant* on Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. Our keynote presentation, *Four Decades of Transplant Social Work* given by **Kay Kendall**, was the opening presentation on the first full day of the conference, October 10<sup>th</sup>. The evening of the 10<sup>th</sup> we gathered for the Welcome Reception, hosted by our Distinguished Sponsor, COTA. The 2½ day program offered a number of general and breakout sessions. The setting was beautiful, the conference received positive feedback, and it was a wonderful opportunity to connect with other social

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workers. Attendees appreciated the opportunity to meet with our exhibitors and we thank them for their support of the conference. Many thanks as well to our amazing conference planning committee. Slides from the presentations continue to be available on the conference website for attendees.

The planning process for our 2024 conference has begun! We will be meeting in Madison, Wisconsin the week of October 7<sup>th</sup>. Please check the STSW website for updates.

## 2023 CONFERENCE AWARD WINNERS

Two awards, The **Lee Suszycki** and the **Judy Midelfort Memorial awards**, are presented at each annual conference to two members of the Society who have made significant contributions to the field of social work in transplantation. (To read more about Lee Suszycki and Judy Midelfort, click [here](#).) Nominations are sought from the STSW membership. This year the **Lee Suszycki Memorial Award** went to two winners, **Beth Piotrowicz** and **Kathy Dailey**.



**Beth Piotrowicz** served for many years as a member of our conference planning committee. She was our first national program chair, and she developed this position. She worked for a number of years by herself in this complicated process – call for abstracts, review of abstracts, CEU submission to NASW, complying required information – planning the program and problem solving many issues that arise when one is working with multiple presenters. Beth effected many improvements, resulting in a more efficient process. She is ending years of working in this position, a position which has required non-stop work twelve months of the year.

Beth is a credentialed transplant social worker at Cleveland Clinic. After working with adults, she made a career change in 2020 –moving to children’s programs, and also changing the organ group she works with. She has been a conference presenter and has been an active participant of the Cleveland Clinic Enterprise Initiative of pediatric to adult age transition, “On My Way”. She displays energy, a positive attitude, a great sense of humor, an openness to work with colleagues, and a commitment that serves her patients and the Society with skill and heart.



**Kathy Dailey** is a credentialed social worker at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center. She has been a member of our conference planning committee as well as a co-chair of the program committee since 2015. In this role she, along with the conference planning groups, meets 12 months of the year. There are many steps to planning the program and Kathy’s work is integral in shaping these pieces into a well-rounded conference program. During the time Kathy has served on this board position many changes have occurred. She has helped streamline the process, which has led to a more thorough review of the abstracts and improved the quality of presentations at our conference. While Kathy was involved in this work, she also made a major career change – continuing in transplant but changing from adult to a pediatric program and changing organ groups – a challenge that she wanted to take for her professional and personal growth. Kathy has presented at a number of our conferences and her presentations have been thought-provoking and well received. Kathy is always willing to step in and help and brings a sense of humor and fun to everything she does.



**Emily Walz** is the winner of this year's **Judy Midelfort Memorial Award**. Emily serves as a transplant social worker at UPMC in Pittsburgh, as well as the Outreach Coordinator for the

National Living Donor Assistance Center (NLDAC). Emily's passion for living donation and advocacy led her to spearhead an "NLDAC Process" that resulted in every potential living donor candidate being screened for NLDAC assistance, and for those who are eligible, helping those donors apply as part of their living donor work-up. Since implementing this process applications have doubled, and in 2022, \$285,937 in assistance was provided to living donors. The system has also proved to be sustainable and replicable. So far in 2023, over 101 applications have been submitted! Emily now trains other transplant centers on the UPMC NLDAC Process, which will result in other centers offering this assistance in a more organized way to all their eligible donors. Emily exemplifies excellence in transplant care, both to her patients and her transplant center. In 2020, Emily saw the need for a dedicated position to care for the living donors at UPMC, and began advocating for a dedicated living donor social work position. She researched, advocated, and developed a plan that was implemented. The position was approved and continues today. Emily continues this important work by actively serving on the STSW Living Donor committee. She treats every person with the utmost kindness, compassion and respect.

Please join us in congratulating Beth, Kathy, and Emily as this year's prestigious award winners.

## COMMITTEE UPDATES

For those members looking for CEUs for CCTSW, CCTSW-MCS, or CCSW-MCS credentialing, know that attendance on some Committee Calls, as noted in the updates below, may earn you 1 contact hour specifically to be used toward credentialing. A maximum number of these STSW contact hours can be used toward each credentialing application: 8 for the initial application, and for recertifications, 3 for MCS and 5 for CCTSW. (These contact hours are not NASW approved so can only be used toward STSW credentialing, not licensing.)

Let your call host know if you would like an attendance certificate.



### ► Tech Committee:

Katie Newton, Chair

We are excited to share some recent changes to our STSW website's [home page](#). In addition to a recap of the latest Instagram posts, our home page now features a quick recap of all of the most recent forum posts. Be sure to log-in before heading to the forums section as forums are only available to members and do not show up on the menu for those not logged in.

Have an idea for something to include on the STSW website? Or another way to use technology with STSW? We are always looking for members to join our tech team! Send an email to [tech@stsw.org](mailto:tech@stsw.org).



### ► Credentialing Committee

Molly Dugan, Chair

The Credentialing Committee has been busy in 2023! We welcomed 25 new CCTSWs, 5 new CCTSW-MCSs, 1 new CCSW-MCS, and 1 MCS add-on to the ranks of our credentialed members from October of 2022 to September of 2023.

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Since returning from the conference in October, we have added 11 new CCTSWs, 2 new CCTSW-MCSs, and 1 new CCSW-MCS! That might be a record!

Our committee is going to meet in January 2024 to discuss the plans to move the application process to completely online through the website. We are very excited and hope to streamline this process for everyone!

Please reach out if you would like any additional information about the credentials.

### **The Credentialing Committee needs you!**

We are seeking credentialed members to join our team of dedicated folks who help review and approve new credential applications. This committee is a great way for you to get involved in the Society and help members achieve their credential goals! Please reach out to me at [credentialing@stsw.org](mailto:credentialing@stsw.org) if you are interested and would like more information!



#### ▶ **Research Committee**

Colleen Satarino, Committee Co-Chair

### **2024 STSW research grant:**

We are currently accepting applications for the 2024 STSW research grant. This is a \$10,000 grant, two-year timeline and application deadline is March 15, 2024. See the grant guidelines and application in this link: <https://stsw.wildapricot.org/Research>

### **New Co-chair:**

Welcome **Gloria Chen** from University of Texas, Austin- Dell Hospital as our new co-chair. Thanks to **Kate Artin** for her 6 years of service! We also want to welcome new committee members who joined us at our first post-conference meeting- **Maria Sanchez, Chelsey Flohe, Leah Vandermark, Tracey Braithwaite, Melissa Calnon and Megan Fecht.**

### **Recent publications by STSW members:**

Please reach out to Colleen or Kate and pass on any recent publications for us to include on our website.

Thanks,

Colleen Satarino, [collsata@med.umich.edu](mailto:collsata@med.umich.edu)

Kate Artin, [katherine.artin@unchealth.unc.edu](mailto:katherine.artin@unchealth.unc.edu)

Happy Holidays!



#### ▶ **Mentor Committee – The Year of the Mentor**

Alexandra Radomsky, Chair

It was an immense privilege to attend this year's STSW Conference in San Diego, and to represent the Mentor Committee during those four days. I had the great pleasure of speaking with so many of our members about the positive impact of mentoring in our field and found it highly rewarding to witness the level of interest in this possibility. Our committee saw tremendous interest from STSW members in pursuing both mentor and mentee opportunities, as well as participating in our committee. We have sent further information about these opportunities to a number of potential mentors, mentees, Mentor Committee members. We encourage those we have contacted, as well as any other interested STSW members, to reach out to us at [mentor@stsw.org](mailto:mentor@stsw.org) to discuss further.

In addition to promoting the Mentor Program, I was pleased to be able to present data from a compilation of Mentor Program-focused surveys at the poster presentation session. This survey project sought to discover real-world outcomes and impressions of participating in a peer mentoring program and included input from 24 respondents. 100% of survey respondents felt their participation in the STSW Mentor Program was worthwhile, indicated they would choose to participate again, and would recommend participation to a colleague.

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Other key takeaways from the surveys included mentee reports of gaining greater confidence in professional roles, expanding their clinical skills and resource portfolios, growing their professional networks, having a safe/nonjudgmental space to problem solve, process experiences, and practice interventions, as well as developing skills to manage difficult cases/unique scenarios. Mentors reported feeling the time spent volunteering was well-worth the investment and provided enrichment and additional opportunities to reflect on their own professional awareness, as well as being a rewarding experience overall.

Another project we were pleased to present at the conference was a Mentor Program video, which included first-hand accounts from mentees and mentors about the reasons they chose to participate in the Mentor Program, and what their participation meant to them. The video was played at the end of the business lunch and will be available for viewing on the STSW website. Be sure to check it out!

Personally, I have also had the chance to reflect on how meaningful it was for me to connect with several of my own informal STSW mentors (many in-person for the first time!) while at the conference. Though I could happily expound on the benefits of mentorship at any time, this experience reinforced for me how valuable these relationships are in keeping me engaged, confident, and committed to growth within my profession. I owe so much to these individuals and cannot thank them enough for what they have given me. This theme was additionally reflected in the keynote presentation given by **Kay Kendall**, in which she recounted her experiences over four decades in transplant social work. It was impactful to hear Kay speak on the importance of mentors as key to providing support, growth, learning opportunities, thus allowing us to endure - and *flourish* - in our complex field. The Mentor Committee couldn't

have asked for a better, or timelier, endorsement!

With gratitude,  
Alexandra Radomsky



### ► Social Media Committee

Tiffany Coco, Chair

The Social Media committee continues to work on bringing robust content to members and friends. We have some great content planned over the next several months. Please encourage your colleagues to join (social work or otherwise) even if they are not a member of STSW. This is a public page meant to continue to bring awareness to the Society of Transplant (and LVAD) Social Work, as well as the field of Transplant/LVAD Social Work.

That being said, we are always looking for ways to highlight our members. If you are involved in projects, unique initiatives, and/or research within the community of transplant/LVAD, we would love to highlight this. Please send an email to [SocialMedia@stsw.org](mailto:SocialMedia@stsw.org) and one of our committee members will be reaching out to you for additional information.

We are also hopeful to start highlighting our members in general. If you would like to be highlighted or have a colleague who is also a member who you believe should be highlighted, please let us know. If you are nominating someone else for getting highlighted, please include their contact information (and get their permission to nominate them because that could be awkward).

If you have an idea for the social media team, reach out to us. We want this to be “our page,” to give a voice to the organization.

#STSWSocialMediaCommittee #STSW  
#STSWMSNCON24 #TransplantSocialWorker  
#LVADSocialWork

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## ▶ Pediatric Committee:

Tina Cole, Chair

The pediatric social workers had a virtual call/meeting this month with a great turnout. We introduced ourselves and shared our organ groups and hospital. We talked about what we want to get out of these meetings in the future. And we were even able to have a case discussion with great advice for one of our colleagues. We are excited to continue this connection into the new year and will plan to have calls on alternating Tuesdays and Thursdays afternoon. Please reach out to [pediatrics@stsw.org](mailto:pediatrics@stsw.org) if you would like to join us.



## ▶ Public Policy and Resource Updates:

Lara Tushla, Chair

It is my pleasure to share that **Hannah Graves** has agreed to take over the leadership of the Public Policy Committee of STSW. We will gradually make that transition. We, as transplant social workers, have unique perspectives which should be taken into consideration as policy decisions are made impacting people facing end stage organ failure. If you would identify areas and opportunities for STSW to weigh in on, please let Hannah or myself know!

Below are some policy matters that you can share your thoughts on:

- [Take Race Out of Kidney Transplant Equation.](#) This calls on OPTN to remove the race variable from the Kidney Donor Risk Index (KDRI). The KDRI "scores" kidneys from Black deceased kidney donors less favorably than those from non-Black individuals.
- The National Kidney Foundation believes using race and ethnicity in clinical calculations harms patients and perpetuates racism in kidney care. [voices.kidney.org](http://voices.kidney.org)
- Honor Our Living Donors (HOLD) Act eliminates recipient's income from factoring into NLDAC eligibility HE6020.
- OPTN Regional Meetings: [Regional meetings - OPTN](#) Regional meetings are held twice each year during the winter and summer public comment periods. Regional meetings are an opportunity to influence policy proposals, prepare for upcoming changes, and hear perspectives from the transplant community about improvements to organ allocation.
- Winter 2024 Public Comment: [Public comment - OPTN \(hrsa.gov\)](#)
  - Public Comment period will be from 1/23/24 to 3/19/24.
  - Will be keeping an eye out for areas we should share our recommendations on
- Living Donor Protection Act (S 1384, HR 2923)
- Living Donor Tax Credit Act of 2023 (S6171) Would provide national refundable tax credit for kidney donation



## ▶ Membership Committee:

Sarah Larmore, Chair

Hello everyone, it has been an exciting quarter for Membership. This quarter we have been lucky enough to have 5 amazing social workers join us on the Membership Committee. Welcome **Brooke Bolliger, Amy Denuzzio, Stefanie Marsh, Ze'Ann Windle** and **Heidi Shapiro!**

We would like to welcome the 57 new members who have joined us this quarter! Our current membership totals 505 people. We'd also like to thank all those who have renewed your membership, you are all valued members of our society! If anybody has any membership questions or needs, please email [membership@stsw.org](mailto:membership@stsw.org).

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## Membership Committee Expands

Lookout world here we come! Introducing fantastic new ventures!

STSW Membership Committee is taking up the gauntlet to expand our STSW family throughout Canada, as well as more centers in the USA. Through promoting the benefits we offer, we hope to grow the number of members and possibly help enhance resources for current members. STSW values the sharing of ideas and collaborative growth of the transplant social work field.

Our organization is also excited to announce that STSW will be joining the LinkedIn world! LinkedIn is a great place to make professional connections, join groups, and meet like-minded people. You can also get information about the evolving transplant world, news about STSW ongoings, fresh and new ideas about working with multidisciplinary teams, building your personal brand and more. LinkedIn is free and easy to use. Once fully up and running, we will let you all know so you can take a look and share with your friends!



### ► Kidney/Pancreas Committee:

Kristen Bennett, Chair

Happy Holidays Kidney/Pancreas Social Workers! Our committee continues to have monthly meetings where we discuss topics and challenges related to our patient work. Examples of topics we have covered include complex case discussions, summarization of research findings that impact social work practice, discussion of processes and polices for best practice, substance use disorder assessment and treatment, caregiver support, regulatory updates and challenges, patient adherence, and evaluating/transplanting patients on parole/probation.

If you would like to be added to the email distribution list, which is used for meeting calendar invites, agendas, and minutes, please send me an email ([kbennett6@pennstatehealth.psu.edu](mailto:kbennett6@pennstatehealth.psu.edu)). Meeting dates, times, and links are also on the [Events page](#) of the website and posted on the forum. Anyone is welcome to join!



### ► Heart Transplant Committee

Shay M. Rogillio, Chair

The Community of Heart Transplant Social Workers has had an exciting couple of months. We had a great meeting in October where we continued our discussions from the amazing STSW conference. We are taking a break in November and December but will start things back up in the new year. We are always looking for exciting topics to discuss and I appreciate all of the involvement that we have had this year. Please reach out to me at [heart@stsw.org](mailto:heart@stsw.org) if you have any questions or ideas for topics to discuss.

We continue to have our monthly meetings on the **4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 1pm – Central Standard Time**. Please join us if you can!

### STSW Heart Committee Monthly Call

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month, 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Time zone: Central Standard Time

Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/opa-vtky-kam>

Phone: (US) +1 574-404-3607

PIN: 854 790 053#

Wishing everyone a very successful 2024!



### ► VAD / MCS Committee:

Kristin Malaer

The LVAD/MCS Committee is in full swing with monthly calls every third Friday of the month at 3:00 Central Standard Time via Zoom. This is a great opportunity to discuss

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VAD related complex cases (maintaining HIPAA compliance) or other VAD related topics. The calls are co-hosted by **Kristin Malaer** and **Jennifer Nixon** who has joined the committee as Co-Chair! We also discuss opportunities for advocacy, discussion of

“best practice” and the latest research in the LVAD world. We look forward to having you on the calls! Please email Kristin at [kristin.malaer@memorialhermann.org](mailto:kristin.malaer@memorialhermann.org) if you need the Zoom invite information.

## SPOTLIGHT CORNER



We are delighted to spotlight **Kay Kendall** in this edition of *Society Pages*. Kay, as you will read, has been an exceptionally active member of STSW for more than three decades and has contributed

so much to STSW. Born and raised in South Dakota, she has lived in Cleveland Ohio for thirty-five years. She received her BA from the University of North Dakota in 1971 and her MSW from the University of Iowa in 1974. She began working for the heart transplant team at the Cleveland Clinic in 1989. In 1991 the team began working with Left Ventricular Assist Devices / Mechanical Cardiac Assist Devices. She worked with both teams as the only social worker for 28 years, and about 6 years ago, she states, two “most wonderful social work colleagues” joined the team.

Kay attended her first STSW conference in 1994 in San Diego and has never missed a conference since then! Her memories of that first meeting include meeting a couple of social workers with whom she maintains close collegial relationships and friendships to this day. She has served on our Board and Executive Committee continually and in multiple capacities, serving as Secretary, as

President for five years, then as Past-president, and for the past fifteen years as the National Conference Chair. We have relied on her for her level-headedness, wisdom, and broad understanding of the local and national issues in our field. In 1998 she became the 7th winner of the STSW *Lee Suszycki Award*.

Kay’s contributions to STSW and to the field of transplant social work have been numerous and impressive. She has presented at almost every conference, often delivering workshops for the New Transplant Social Worker – thus introducing and mentoring numerous new transplant social workers to the field. This year, she describes having had the “great honor” of being the keynote speaker – so appropriately presenting the topic “*Four Decades of Transplant Social Work: Past and Present*”. She has also published widely in the field of transplant social work – you can see some of her publications listed [here](#). She is proud to have been a helpful colleague and mentor to many social workers.

Kay has become known for her expertise as a transplant social worker. As such she has been afforded the opportunity to present both nationally and internationally, to write chapters in books about transplant, and invited to be involved in the ISHLT (International Society for Heart & Lung Transplantation) Consensus Paper as one of the leaders on the project. Kay credits her involvement with STSW in having her expertise recognized and offered the above experiences. About these opportunities and experiences, Kay states “I learn and gain so much from all of these experiences”.

She is actively involved in other professional activities, including: founding and board membership of the Transplant House of Cleveland, leading (x30 years) weekly nursing rounds on the floor where their patients are cared for, leading (x20 years) a monthly support group for pre and post heart transplant patients, collaborating with a nurse

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colleague on establishing opioid guidelines for their transplant and LVAD team where they worked to establish an opioid sparing regimen that significantly reduced the use of opioids with these patients.

It's hard to imagine, with all of her involvements, that Kay has room for a personal life ... but she assures us she does. She has been married for 46 years to Gerry Taylor, a pediatric neuropsychologist. They have two sons; Nathaniel Kendall-Taylor, age 45 (an anthropologist who gave the keynote address at the 2021 STSW conference) who is married with three children, and her son Jacob Kendall-Taylor who lives in Chicago and works at JAMA in publishing. She considers herself a “lucky human to have my family” and has a large network of “kind and wonderful friends”. Exercise: aerobics, spinning/cycle classes, swimming, running, and hiking, has been part of her life for 50 years, and she makes a point of trying to exercise daily. She has no immediate retirement plans because she loves what she does and feels she continues to make a difference to her patients and to STSW.

Finally, Kay states: “I would be a very different person today if STSW hadn’t been a part of my life. I am forever grateful for what I have learned—how I have grown as a social worker and person because of the Society and so happy to have so many dear friends and colleagues that I met because of my STSW involvement.”

On behalf of STSW – we thank *you*, Kay, for all you have done for us and for so many.

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## DOES STSW HAVE A LIST SERV?

### About the STSW Forum

Katie Newton, Chair, Tech Committee

Our annual conference brings a unique opportunity to connect with Social Workers from around the world. While we can never replicate that in person

connection, we are always looking for ways to connect with each other throughout the year.

In recent months, we have considered whether there might be software or services, such as a list servs or social media platforms, that might serve our organization’s needs for connecting virtually throughout the year. Unfortunately, due to significant cost and manpower needs, there are limited options available.

The **forums** on our [website](#) offer a way to connect to one another and we would like to promote using the forums to all STSW members. The more members engaged the more worthwhile the forums become!

We currently have twelve forums: general, living donor, liver, lung, kidney/pancreas, heart, pediatric, VAD/MCS, OPO, mentor program and multicultural issues. In the forums, you can pose a question, start a discussion, or share a resource. You can upload files if desired. You can subscribe to any forums and have a summary of new posts/replies sent to your email.

We encourage you to check out our forums, subscribe and participate as often as you can!

Link to forums

- <https://stsw.wildapricot.org/Forums>

“How To” guide for assistance on how to use the forums and subscribe

- [https://stsw.wildapricot.org/resources/Document s/Online%20instructions/STSW%20FORUM%20HOW%20TO.pdf](https://stsw.wildapricot.org/resources/Document%20s/Online%20instructions/STSW%20FORUM%20HOW%20TO.pdf)

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## LOCAL CONFERENCES

Our website has a [section](#) for posting upcoming conferences and educational opportunities – both local and national. At the moment nothing is posted there – but it would be great to keep it filled! Please

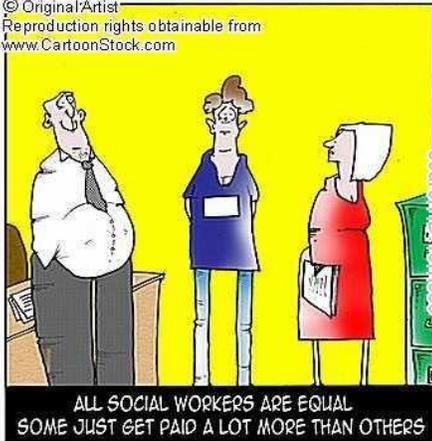
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reach out to [help@stsw.org](mailto:help@stsw.org) if you have a local conference you would like to be posted at [Society for Transplant Social Workers - Education and Trainings \(wildapricot.org\)](#)

## WEBSITE UPDATES and OPPORTUNITIES

One of the great benefits of STSW is the breath of resources available to you on our website. Help us keep our website current and useful for you!

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Read about salary and caseload trends in transplant programs across the country, to learn about and perhaps justify changes in your programs, by checking out our annual

STSW [surveys](#). (2023 data now posted.)

Has your support group returned to in-person meetings from Zoom ... or do you have other additions/deletions for the [support group page](#)? Or do you know of excellent transplant-related resources that should be posted on our [resource page](#)? Check out the guidelines for posting new job opportunities at the bottom of the [Current Job Openings](#) page. Let us know if you have recently published and would like your article listed on our

[publications](#) page. Are you interested in doing research and applying for a research grant from STSW? Read about it [here](#). Looking to connect with other transplant social workers around a topic of interest to you? Check out our [Forum](#).

Reach out to [help@stsw.org](mailto:help@stsw.org) for any questions and suggestions.

## IN THE NEWS

### ➡ SECURING THE U.S. ORGAN PROCUREMENT AND TRANSPLANTATION NETWORK ACT

On September 22, President Biden signed [H.R. 2544](#) into law that will reform how patients are matched to organs. The job formerly held by UNOS for almost 40 years will now be put to bid by multiple competitors. The new law hopes that fostering competition will inject innovation and accountability into the system, ultimately shortening waiting times, addressing racial inequities, and reducing deaths on the waiting list. Officials say their first task is to upgrade the outdated computer system that matches organs to patients; they are now seeking bidders to do that work. The Biden administration has also rolled out [a website](#) that will provide detailed, anonymized data on transplant wait lists, donors and recipients, also including outcomes for individual hospitals to help patients and their families make decisions about where to seek care.

Many articles addressing this new law can be found on internet, including NKF article [here](#) and New York Times article [here](#).

Greetings of the Season  
and Happy New Year  
From  
The Society for Transplant Social Workers