



From the President's Desk

By: Michele Delafronconi, LCSW

The end of 2008 brought about many reasons for me to **Reflect and Renew**:

- I was thrilled about the success of our 25th Anniversary conference "Cruising Through the Past Present and Future of Oncology Social Work." It was good learning and great fun! Thank you conference co-chairs Katie Noble and Irene Sullivan and their committee members for a job well done!

- I also celebrated a personal anniversary...20 wonderful and adventurous years with my life-partner.
- I was glued, like much of America, to various news media's debating the US Presidential race. I don't remember a time I felt so passionately about politics and the true meaning of public service.
- & many more reflections.

Renew...I am happy to introduce to you the new members of the FSOSW Executive Board:

- President-Elect, **Irene Sullivan**. Irene also continues her role as Membership Chair on the board. I am so happy to have her help in navigating FSOSW into our next 25 years of this outstanding organization.

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New Ways to Get Involved!

By: Angela Fitts, MSW

Changes are taking place on the FSOSW newsletter and website. There are plenty of new and exciting (and easy!) opportunities to impact oncology social work in Florida. There is a wide range of knowledge within the FSOSW ranks. The upcoming conference is an excellent way to share this knowledge. However, there is no need to wait until September! Here are some ideas for sharing your thoughts year-round:

1. Write a book, article, resource, or news event review.
2. Submit news, special events, job listings, or continuing education information from your region
3. Nominate a colleague for a future 'social worker to know' newsletter spotlight
4. Submit photos of yourself or your colleagues

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Conference 2008 Wrap-Up

By: Irene Sullivan, LCSW & Katie Noble, LCSW

The Florida Society of Oncology Social Workers had its 25th Annual Conference, "Cruising Through the Past, Present and Future of Oncology Social Work", from October 16 to the 20th aboard the Carnival Destiny. This unique conference at sea was a great success and educational and enjoyable time was had by all.

Conference goals

- Gain increased awareness about the history of Oncology Social Work including challenges that our field has overcome over in the last century.
- Increase knowledge about current programs (strengths and challenges) throughout our state, region and nationally with a view to improve our own practice.
- Demonstrate understanding



of our future challenges as oncology social workers AND improve our practice/ knowledge base today to prepare us for the future.

- Improve our clinical skills in oncology social work by exploring evolving evidenced-based clinical interventions.

Attendees

Our two keynote speakers, Marcia DeSonier and Kimberly Lawson, were both past FSOSW presidents. The conference faculty was comprised of Joan Beder, DSW, Dana Nolan, LMHC, Irene Sullivan, LCSW, Cara Kondaki, LCSW, Bryn Dunham, LCSW, Mary Turney, LCSW, Jolene Rowe, LCSW, Bettye Bradshaw, LCSW, Christina Austin-Valere, LCSW. 12 CEUs were offered during this conference and the sessions were held in various rooms on the ship.

We had several past presidents in attendance, including Marcia DeSonier, Kim(Kauss)Lawson, Christina Austin-Valere, Paulette Craft, Bettye Bradshaw, and Mary Turney.

Awards & sponsorships

The business meeting took place on October 18 in Cozumel, Mexico at Sting Ray Park. During the business meeting, Linda Sapp was awarded Social Worker of the Year.

Sponsorship for this conference was provided by Skyemed, Advocare, Florida Hospital Cancer



Posing Presidents

Institute, Air Trek, Res-Q-Jets, Catholic Hospice, Mount Sinai Cancer Center, and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The money we received from our

Conference 2009 is coming!

Mark your calendars -
- information about the call for abstracts, sponsorship, and hotel reservations is now available online!

This year's theme is "The Whole Person: Greater Than the Sum of the Parts."

When: 9/30/09 to 10/2/09

Where: Embassy Suites
Fort Lauderdale

Visit fsosw.org for more details!

The Whole Person:
Greater Than the Sum of the Parts



Social Worker of the Year Award

President's Desk, cont'd . . .

- Secretary, **Allison Winfrey** is going to help us in continuing our goal of a paperless system by submitting and mailing minutes and board reports via e-mail rather than traditional printed reports.
- Treasurer, **Robin Gowda** will be keeping us on budget and implementing a new "checks and balances" system of all spending to be approved by the president and double-checked by the president-elect or past-president (this alternates).
- The role of CEU Chair has been assumed by **Cara Kondaki** who is helping FSOSW in being able to provide mandatory education such as Ethics & Boundaries and Domestic Violence.
- **Angela Fitts**, our new Communications Chair, brings

to us her experience and talent of her "former career-life" as a graphic designer. She is going to help our website and newsletter gather a following of new proportions.

- **Seth Berkowitz** and co-chair **Katharine Campbell** have taken on the challenge of planning the 2009 conference

Thank you to all our board and committee members both present and past for contributing your time and efforts to FSOSW over the past 25 years! Also, congratulations to our Social Worker of the Year **Linda Sapp** and ACS Leadership award winner **Marcia DeSonier**. I hope when election time rolls around you will consider service to FSOSW in some capacity. You will gain much more than you give...I can promise you that!

Get Involved!, cont'd . . .

5. Tell us about research you or your facility is conducting
6. Submit a story regarding how you maintain balance and self-care as an oncology social worker
7. Submit a 'tutorial' to common issues (i.e. Medicare, Medicaid, SSA programs, etc) as they apply to oncology social workers in Florida
8. Contribute to our 'new oncology social worker toolkit' feature on the website
9. Submit web resources you find useful in your practice
10. Encourage your colleagues to join or renew their membership

Please visit fsosw.org for more information. (By the way, writing help is available for those willing participants who are nervous about their grammar or internet skills!)

Contact Angela Fitts, MSW, at 407 303 2294 or angela.fitts@flhosp.org for more information or to provide suggestions for web or newsletter features.



FSOSW Executive Board

President

Michele Delafronconi, LCSW

President-Elect

R. Irene Sullivan, LCSW

Secretary

Allison Winfrey, LCSW

Treasurer

Robin Gowda, LCSW

Membership Director

R. Irene Sullivan, LCSW

Continuing Education Director

Cara Kondaki, LCSW

Communications Chairperson

Angela Fitts, MSW

Regional Coordinator Chairperson

Charles (Chuck) Miceli, LCSW

Nominations

Katharine (Kitty) White, LCSW

Historian

Linda Sapp, MSW

Conference Chairperson

Seth Berkowitz, MSW, CCLS

Conference Co-Chairperson

Katharine Campbell, LCSW

Other

C-CRAB Representative

Mary Broccard, LCSW

ICC Coordinator

Bettye Bradshaw

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

FSOSW members are oncology social workers or other healthcare professionals who provide a wide variety of direct patient services in public and private health care institutions and agencies. Some members hold positions of administration, education, and research directly related to the common mission of providing quality psychosocial support services to cancer patients and their families.

Full members have an undergraduate or graduate degree in social work and are actively engaged in clinical practice, administration, education, or research in oncology social work.

Associate members are professionals who are functioning in a psycho-social oncology role without a professional social work degree or those interested in supporting the purpose of FSOSW.

Students in accredited social work degree programs may enroll for associate student membership but must provide proof of student status.

Goals:

- * Promote the highest professional standards and ethics in practice on oncology social work.
- * Foster communication and support among oncology social workers
- * Advance oncology social work practice and knowledge through regional and state continuing education.
- * Advocate for programs and policies to meet the psychosocial needs of oncology patients and their families.
- * Promote liaison activities with the American Cancer Society and other professional organizations.

Membership Benefits:

- * Professional development through continuing education at regional meetings and conferences.
- * Support from individuals working in similar areas through the organization's network.
- * A quarterly newsletter which includes current news on clinical, educational, and research activities, relevant public issues, meeting announcements, career opportunities and more.
- * A yearly membership directory to increase opportunities to network.
- * Discount on the FSOSW Annual Conference which provides professional presentations, panels, and workshops addressing the clinical, academic, and administrative topics of interest to oncology and social workers

Name: _____

Degree (circle one): BSW MSW LCSW LMHC Other

Employer: _____

Work Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ ext. ____

Fax: (____) _____ ext. ____ E-Mail: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ ext. ____

Preferred mailing address (circle one): Work Home
Please provide your work information for our membership directory, even if you prefer to receive mailings at your home address.

Membership Fees

New Member:

- Full \$25
- Associate \$10
- Student \$10

Renewal:

- Full \$25
- Associate \$10
- Student \$10

Renewal after January 31st:

- Full \$30
- Associate \$15
- Student \$15

Mail this form with payment to:

**R. Irene Sullivan, LCSW Mt. Sinai
Comprehensive Cancer Center
4306 Alton Road Miami Beach,
FL 33140 (305) 535-3347**

Angela Fitts, MSW
Registered Clinical Social Worker Intern
601 E. Altamonte Drive
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701

Back to School: Erikson Revisited

Social workers seek to “meet the client where he/she is.” Perhaps dusting off our knowledge of development theory can provide understanding about the lifestage concerns our clients may be experiencing during treatment.

Erikson’s stages of development is just one framework to consider.

- Trust vs. Mistrust (Birth to about age 18 months)
Sense of safety vs. insecurity and anxiety
- Autonomy vs. Shame (18 months to 3 years)
Developing a self-view as capable of bodily control and able to make things happen vs. feelings of inability to control events
- Initiative vs. Guilt (3 to 6)
Confidence as an initiator and creator vs. lack of self-worth
- Industry vs. Inferiority (6 to 12)
Adequacy in basic social and intellectual skills vs. feelings of failure and lack of self-confidence
- Identity vs. Role Confusion (Adolescent years, 12 to 20)
Comfortable sense of self vs. fragmented, shifting or unclear sense of self
- Intimacy vs. Isolation (Early adulthood, 20 to 40)
Development of the capacity for closeness and commitment to another vs. feelings of aloneness and separation or denial of need for closeness
- Generativity vs. Stagnation (Middle adult years, 40 to 65)
Focused concern beyond oneself to family, society and future generations vs. self-indulgent concerns and a lack of orientation toward future
- Ego Integrity vs. Despair (Later adult years, 65 on)
Sense of wholeness and basic satisfaction with life vs. feelings of futility and disappointment

Visit [FSOSW.ORG!](https://www.fsosw.org)