

Social Welfare Text Journal #1

Through exploring the Milestones in the development of Social Work and Social Welfare I have learned about the impact NASW, and its members have had on society and the profession in the past 67 years. Jane Addams established both Hull House and the American settlement house movement in 1889 on Chicago's West Side. Addams was driven to better understand the poor and improve their lives. She started programs that helped with literacy, employment, education, and programs in Arts. This is the start of what paved the way for the social work profession. During this time frame People of color played a key role in creating the profession in the same way as Jane Addams. Their roles have often been overlooked even though they played a major role in social work.

Later in the early 1900's The National Social Workers' Exchange, originated, this helped to set professions standards and made social work a professions. This was a way for social workers to help those in need and have set rules to follow. Seven organizations joined forces to become the National Association of Social Workers and formed the NASW. Once the NASW was formed many first started to occur such as the First NASW President, and Delegate. Publishing was made visible by Publishing the First Social work Journal and the NASW-published book delineates the values, purposes and methods of the social work profession.

The first NASW National Conference was held in St. Louis. Making the Social Work profession better known and seen more. The NASW has always been a form of protection for those facing social injustice and it has helped to Strengthen the civil rights stance as it helped to find equal rights amongst everyone. It has made Civil Rights its No. 1 priority and has called for new laws to protect the civil rights of African Americans and welfare legislations such as protecting the voting rights of African Americans and other minorities to vote in the earlier years.

Through the NASW a lot of changed has been made by advocating for women, racial equality and diversity, political activism, racial inequality, and helping to improve the image of social workers. It has also assisted with raising public awareness and visibility of Social Workers and how they impact those that are in need. Most recently The NASW has helped to change the Affordable Care Act, Exposing In equality of the LGBTQ community. raising mental health awareness and assisting with bridging the gap during the most recent COVID 19 pandemic by pushing for reforms to allow social workers to provide telehealth and get better protective gear to help serve those facing domestic violence, child abuse, neglect, economic hardship and lack of educational resources for some students during the pandemic.