Angelina Rivera Spring 2023

SWP&S Reflection #1

"Milestones in the Development of Social Work & Social Welfare"

The NASW site inspires me and that is just a site. The content, the visuals, the activism, the startups, the program, the history, the legacy, the forward thinking about the future of social work and social welfare initiatives is 'mind-blowing'. It is clear that the social workers of the past totally inspired and have motivated social workers today to be such vibrant forces in society on every level. I hear me and see me all over the NASW site because that site was my ***mirror*** today, that site represents me, my vision, my mission, my spiritual mandate and my core values to help people in need, to protect families, to advocate and to fight for social justice in our society.

It is interesting because the NASW site was LOUD, I could literally hear & feel the movements, and the changes happening in the world because of caring, dedicated people and much like myself whose goal is nothing more than to care for humanity while eradicating the social injustices that represent the very obstacles social workers aim to tear down. I feel the fight and the call to action. I see and hear people proactively working towards not only local but global change.

I see you Dr. Herrera, you wanted me to see me, who I am and who I will be after the regalia is laid to rest after the event. You wanted me/us to see the change agents we are signing off to become, I totally get it! It was not about the site, the membership, the education, the conferences, it was about connecting with the 'movement' & I am elated to be a part of such a legacy. Thank you, you always open my eyes!

I learned that social workers are forward thinking visionaries who advocate, lobby, speak out, march, legislate, and all for the sake, as the site suggested, 'for good trouble', to help those who cannot help themselves and to fight for the causes that end social injustices. I learned that we influence the masses, media, in invoking realities that provoke awareness regarding mental health and the attention and light that has to be shed on it. The issues around women's rights, the LGBT communities and the people who just want to be understood, we may not all agree with their world because of our spiritual beliefs, but they are still human and what social workers want to do and inspire other to do, is to show dignity & respect for their person because they too matter.

I learned that we fight for racial, economic, & health care threats, for child abuse issues, & health insurance bringing awareness to these platforms. Social workers fight against the social ills in communities as well and it is the leadership of social workers that shows up every time. Social workers touch & have a history in all of these spaces, and I have not even scratched the surface of what we have accomplished throughout history and what we are still embarking on to help the present and future generations of people and even for social workers.

& I love this, and even though I kind of understood this concept when I read this on the site, it blew my mind because I actually heard what I read, it said that 'the NASW is an ***advocate*** for social workers, social justice and social welfare', it is not just a membership platform, but a family of advocate's being advocated for. That moved me because we know that advocacy is the cornerstone which social work practice is built, and I am set because throughout my life's journey as a social worker, I will always know

that someone is advocating for the advocate and that is ***me.*** Social workers will never be alone!