



Our Mission

The legislature declares that, in order to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare of the people of this state against unauthorized, unqualified and improper practice of social work, it is necessary that a proper regulatory authority be established and adequately provided for.

SUMMER 2019

News | Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners

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From The Chair

John S. Shalett, LCSW-BACS

I want to take this opportunity to share news and updates from the Board. Elections for Board positions for the coming year (July 1, 2019—June 30, 2020) took place at the June Board Meeting. Election results:

John Shalett, LCSW-BACS-Chairperson

**Brent Villemarette, LCSW, BACS-
Vice-Chairperson**

Carla Moore, LMSW, Secretary-Treasurer

Robert Showers, RSW, completed his Board service at our June meeting. Robert served with excellence for six years. He was a credit to the Board, bringing a very important perspective. Robert also has served on a number of ASWB committees. His voice and expertise will be missed. We wish Robert well in whatever he chooses to do in the future.

We also say goodbye to George Papale who served for 40 years as the Board's Independent Legal Counsel. George always brought a voice of reason and challenged the Board to engage in serious and thoughtful conversation and deliberations as we conducted our

business. We wish George the best in his future endeavors. He served the Board well for many years.

The Board conducted a thorough review of a number of proposals from firms seeking the Independent Legal Counsel contract. After review and interviews, the Board unanimously approved the firm of DAIGLE FISSE & KESSENICH as Independent Legal Counsel. The Staff and Board look forward to this new relationship. This contract is effective July 1, 2019.

We also sought proposals for the Impaired Professional Program Manager contract position. There were three bids considered. Kathie Pohlman, LCSW-BACS, the current program manager, was selected for the contract.

We also congratulate our Board member, Dr. Ruth Weinzettle, LCSW-BACS, who was just promoted to Department Head, Department of Social Work, Northwestern State University.

John Shalett, LCSW-BACS
Chairperson
New Orleans, LA

Brent Villemarette,
LCSW-BACS
Vice Chairperson
Opelousas, LA

Carla Moore, LMSW
Secretary-Treasurer
Grambling, LA

Jennifer Burch,
LCSW-BACS
Board Member
Baton Rouge, LA

Robert Showers, RSW
Board Member
Independence, LA

Ruth Weinzettle,
LCSW-BACS
Board Member
Alexandria, LA

Evan J. Bergeron,
Consumer Member
New Orleans, LA

BOARD MEMBERS

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Board Vacancy

The **Licensed Master Social Work** position expires October 4, 2019.

La. R.S. 37:2704 mandates the following qualifications for board members:

Citizen of the United States
Resident of the State of Louisiana
Hold a current and valid social work credential
Must have five (5) years of social work experience

The LMSW position can only be applied for by a LMSW. If you are interested in serving on the Board, you should submit a letter stating your interest, along with a current resume to:

Louisiana Chapter of National Association of Social Workers
700 North 10th Street, Suite 200
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
astehr.naswla@socialworkers.org
Fax (225) 346-5035

The deadline for submission is close of business on August 31, 2019.

FAQs about serving on the Board:

What is the time commitment for serving?

An appointment to the Board is made by the governor for three consecutive years. Meetings are held approximately every 5 weeks on a Friday at the board office in Baton Rouge. Meetings begin at 8:30 a.m. and carry-over to Saturday, if necessary. Other examples of board activities include, presenting at the NASW-LA Annual Conference and serving on committees.

Are board members paid?

Board members are reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred on board business. For example, mileage driven to and from a meeting is reimbursed at the state rate, which is currently .54 per mile. We also reserve a hotel room for board members that are required to travel a significant distance to meetings. We provide breakfast and lunch at the meeting. If you need to stay overnight, dinner can be reimbursed up to the amount allowed by the state's travel guidelines.

If you have any questions concerning the board's activities or the time commitment required of board members, please email the Board's Administrator, Emily DeAngelo at edeangelo@labswe.org.



Daigle, Fisse and Kessenich



Established in 1993, Daigle, Fisse and Kessenich, PLC is a full service law firm maintaining offices in Baton Rouge and on the North Shore. The firm employs 15 full-time attorneys and a dedicated staff of paralegals and legal assistants, and is well known for representing governmental entities.

Many of the firm's attorneys, including James L. Bradford, III (managing partner) and Sheri M. Morris possess specialized knowledge, experience, and expertise in the Administrative Procedure Act, the Open Meetings Law, and the Public Records Act.

Daigle, Fisse and Kessenich will employ a team approach to ensure availability and timely completion of assignments. Sheri Morris, who will lead the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners' legal team, is a member of the Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards, the Public Law and

Administrative Law Sections of the Louisiana State Bar Association and the Governmental Section of the Baton Rouge Bar Association.

Sheri Morris manages and practices in the firm's Baton Rouge office, focusing on representing public agencies. For more than 25 years, Ms. Morris has practiced in the area of administrative law representing public agencies, public employees and public officials in federal and state courts, and before the Louisiana Legislature. She has over 20 years' experience advising licensing agencies and participating in administrative proceedings.

Since 2000, she has served as legal advisor and Hearing Officer for the Louisiana State Board of Cosmetology. Since 2007, she has served as legal advisor and Hearing Officer to the Louisiana Used Motor Vehicle Commission. She currently serves as City Attorney for the City of Central in East Baton Rouge Parish. Ms. Morris has throughout her career served as counsel to licensing boards including the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychology and the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy.

Additional information about Daigle, Fisse and Kessenich is available on the firm's website: www.DaigleFisse.com.

Impaired Professional Program Manager Contract Offered and Accepted by Kathie Pohlman



Kathie Pohlman holds a Master's Degree in Business, Social Work and current LCSW -BACS credential with the LABSWE. Employed by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN) as a Monitoring/Recovering Nurse Program (RNP) Manager since June of 2010, the LABSWE Impaired Professional Program (IPP) since October of 2013, and the Program Manager for the Recovering Physical Therapy Program (RPTP) of the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board (LPTB)

since January of 2018. Kathie's primary responsibility is the case management of social workers who have been determined to be impaired due to addiction, medical, mental or physical conditions. She sees a Participant through the process of self-report, signing of his or her Program Agreement, treatment, return to work, recovery monitoring and the eventual successful completion of the agreement.

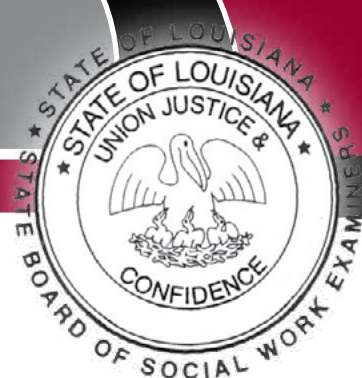
North American Pass Rates For the ASWB Examinations 2018

Exam Category and Group Type	Total Number of Examinations	Pass Rate	
		Number	Percentage
Masters			
First-Time	16,781	12,669	75.5
Repeat Group	5,536	1,418	25.6
Total Group	22,317	14,087	63.1
Clinical			
First-Time	15,991	11,713	73.2
Repeat Group	6,771	2,274	33.6
Total Group	22,762	13,987	61.4
Total	45,079	28,074	62.3

Pass Rates of LA in 2018

Exam Category and Group Type	Total Number of Examinations	Pass Rate	
		Number	Percentage
Masters			
First-Time	314	174	55.4
Repeat Group	374	42	11.2
Total Group	688	216	31.4
Clinical			
First-Time	229	154	67.2
Repeat Group	130	42	32.3
Total Group	359	196	54.6
Total	1,047	412	39.4

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS



Pass Rates of LA in 2017

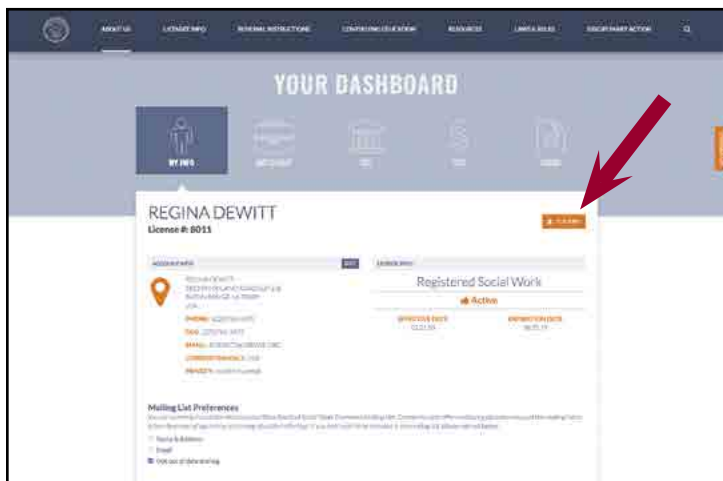
(Included for comparison)

Exam Category and Group Type	Total Number of Examinations	Pass Rate	
		Number	Percentage
Masters			
First-Time	355	214	60.3
Repeat Group	378	85	22.5
Total Group	733	299	40.8
Clinical			
First-Time	162	111	68.5
Repeat Group	140	54	38.6
Total Group	302	165	54.6
Total	1,035	464	44.8

Explanation from the Association of Social Work Boards:

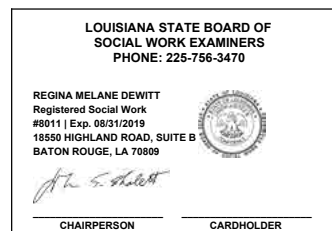
The best indication of a true pass rate for both Louisiana and overall is the first-time rate rather than the total group. Percentages of pass and fail are most representative for groups of candidates numbering more than 200. These percentages are not representative of groups with fewer than 100 candidates, and generalizations should not be made from rates for these groups.

ID CARD



To access and print your current id card, you will need to login to your online dashboard located on the Board's website. Once logged in to your dashboard, you click on the orange button to the right labeled "ID CARD." This will generate your current id card in a PDF file that you can print for your records.

Please find enclosed your renewal identification card for the current fiscal year. Licenses are renewed annually. Your renewal notice will be mailed to the address listed below in June of each year. Please keep this office informed of any name or address change. Changes can be made on our website www.labswe.org through the "Licensee Login" or contact the Board at 18550 Highland Road, Suite B, Baton Rouge, LA 70809.





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