



School Social Work Association of America

Member Benefits & FAQ

SSWAA | www.sswaa.org |
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School Social Work Association of America (SSWAA)

Member Benefits Package Information & FAQs

[What is included in the SSWAA Member Benefits Package?](#)

[Besides all the great benefits, why should I join SSWAA?](#)

[What are the membership categories?](#)

[What benefits are included with the various categories of members?](#)

[Can I pay dues in installments?](#)

[Does SSWAA offer Professional Liability Insurance?](#)

[Can I join my state association and SSWAA at the same time?](#)

[What if my state is not yet affiliated?](#)

[Are my dues tax deductible?](#)

[How can I get involved beyond a membership?](#)

[How do I join?](#)

[How do I renew my membership?](#)

[I'm not sure if my membership is current.](#)

[What if I don't want to renew online?](#)

School Social Work Association of America

What is included in the SSWAA Member Benefits Package?

Professional Liability Insurance (Malpractice Insurance)

- All SSWAA members receive \$250,000 Professional Liability Insurance from Forrest T. Jones & Company
- For an additional \$25, SSWAA members can upgrade to \$1,000,000 of Professional Liability Insurance which includes Job Protection Benefits. [Check out the details](#)
- **Exception: International Members do not receive Malpractice Insurance*

Electronic News Briefs

- “E-Bell” - electronic newsletters with the latest SSWAA activities, opportunities to participate in research, partner updates, as well as information and resources for School Social Workers.
- Note: “E-Bell” newsletters are distributed twice monthly to Full and Premiere Members and once per month to Basic Members.
- Note: Consider putting your personal email as your primary contact so that you don't miss out during breaks and the summer.

Website

- Full & Premiere Members have full access to SSWAA’s website including:
 - Access to the Member Information Center where members can manage their account, search upcoming events, participate in committees and forum discussions, search the membership and state directories, and so much more!
 - Usable practice tools, evidence-based practices, research findings, position papers, and resolutions to assist you in your daily tasks.
 - Promotional products designed to educate school boards, school administrators, and other professionals about school social workers' skills, function, and role on the school team.
 - Access to advocacy tools/resources and legislative updates.
 - Access to past webinars for information and expanded learning.
 - *Premiere Members* also have access to School Social Work Resource Library (SSWRL) with an extensive curated collection of resources that members can search, rate, and mark as favorites.

Advocacy & Public Policy Development

- SSWAA Employs a Government Relations Firm to lobby on our behalf.
- Provides professional advocacy and training at the national level via our Bi-Annual Legislative Institute and Advocacy sessions at the SSWAA National Conference.
- Provides an active voice in the development of public policy via an active Legislative Committee in collaboration with our Government Relations team.
- Participates in numerous national collaborations to influence national policy and legislation. See [Advocacy and Legislation Section](#) for all the work being done on behalf of School Social Workers and the people we serve.
- Provides advocacy “Action Alerts”, tools and resources to support advocacy efforts at national, regional and state levels.

School Social Work Research

- SSWAA Actively supports and promotes School Social Work Research.
- Provides opportunities for member participation in research studies related to School Social Work practice.
- Collaborates with Researchers to host “Research to Practice” sessions at the SSWAA National Conference to share and promote research in the field.

Member Discounts

- Full & Premiere Members receive discounts to SSWAA events such as webinars, the SSWAA National Conference, and on products.

Professional Community and Networking

- Full & Premiere Members have access to a professional village of like-minded professionals via the SSWAA Membership App, social media platforms, forums and discussion groups.
- *Premiere Members* also have access to School Social Worker to School Social Worker (SSW 2 SSW) Peer Assistance Groups. SSW 2 SSW offers peer assistance in a way that protects confidentiality and is a safe space for sharing strategies, support, and assisting one another with ideas that may help the school social worker with practice issues. Peer assistance groups provide practical help and counter isolation and burnout. Being a part of a peer assistance group may be helpful but does not replace all forms of professional support. Thus, it is distinguished from professional supervision. This resource is only available to Premiere members.

Support to States

- SSWAA is invested in the success of the profession at the state and national levels and therefore, has active collaboration with state associations who are affiliate partners with SSWAA.
- Annual Delegate Assembly (DA) Meeting which is a forum each year for state input on issues in the field, suggested goals and priorities for SSWAA’s consideration, a voice to SSWAA in decision making, and a setting for states to support and learn from one another.
- Provides support to state associations through bi-annual summer leadership trainings.
- Developed the opportunity for formal [State Affiliations](#) with state school social work associations.
- **Coming Soon!** SSWAA will be offering the opportunity for members to join SSWAA and their state association at the same time via the SSWAA website. *State Associations must opt in to this option and more information will be coming in the weeks to come.

SSWRL/SHELF – School Social Work Resource Library

- SSWRL is a virtual library included in SSWAA Premiere Membership. Through SHELF, Premiere members have access to hundreds of additional resources on trauma informed practice, SEL, crisis intervention, professional practice, and so much more. New resources are added weekly. This is a powerful tool you will not want to miss out on!

Why should I join SSWAA? Established in 1994, SSWAA has been dedicated for more than 20 years to providing the latest research, trends, and other career resources to school social workers across the United States. SSWAA has been able to stay on the cutting edge of our field, encouraging each individual to broaden their knowledge throughout their career growth so that they can elevate their

skills and practice while enhancing their professional networks. The benefits gained through membership strengthen the professional as well as the students, families and communities which they serve. In addition, SSWAA encourages individuals to learn to love what they do by staying inspired and motivated and connected with the profession. It is imperative to be proactive about things one can discover on the career journey! So join SSWAA to be part of this vibrant professional community and gain support for your day to day practice!

What are the membership categories? SSWAA offers various membership options for a variety of professionals. All SSWAA Memberships are for 12 months from the date that SSWAA receives payment for your membership. If you apply and pay by credit card online, your membership begins immediately. If you send us a check, pay your state association for joint membership or submit a purchase order from your place of work; your membership will begin when we receive payment.

BASIC MEMBER – Any School Social Worker or Social Work student can join as a Basic Member.

FULL MEMBER - A Full Membership is applicable to a professional who meets their state requirements for the position of **school social worker** and is actively **employed** in a school setting or a professional who meets the requirements for the position of school social worker and is employed as an **administrator, supervisor, or university faculty** involved in school social work instruction/supervision.

PREMIERE MEMBER – Any member can upgrade to Premiere Membership for the added benefits for a small fee *at the time of renewal*.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER - An Associate Membership is applicable for a professional person working in an **agency** providing services to children or a professional that performs **similar duties** to a school social worker without a school social work degree or designation. *Associate Members do not have voting rights and cannot hold office but will enjoy all other full member benefits.*

RETIRED/UNEMPLOYED MEMBER - An individual with school social work training/degree who is currently retired or unemployed.

STUDENT MEMBER - Student Memberships are applicable for **full-time** students in undergraduate, masters, or PhD social work programs with an interest in school social work. *Students have all the rights and privileges of active membership including seeking/holding office as a student representative.*

INTERNATIONAL MEMBER - A professional is eligible for membership if living outside of the USA with a degree or interest in school social work. *International members do not have voting rights, cannot hold office, and do not receive professional malpractice liability insurance, but will enjoy all other benefits.*

What benefits are included with the various categories of members?

Membership Benefits	Basic	Full	Premier
Professional Malpractice Liability Insurance	X	X	X
Electronic Newsletter (EBell)	1/month	2/month	2/month
Legislative Action Alerts	X	X	X
Member Only" access to website resources & Member Info Cent		X	X
Ensuring a voice in Washington, DC for our professional advocacy		X	X
Participation in relevant research related to the field		X	X
Conference, Webinar, and SSWAA Event Discounts		X	X
Membership App		X	X
Tools and Resources to enhance practice		X	X
Access to a network of like-minded professionals		X	X
Resource Platform Access			X
Consultation Sessions			X

SSWAA offers 3 Tiers of Membership. Please see the chart below for details on what is included in the various Tiers of Membership.

BASIC MEMBERS receive [Tier 1 Benefits](#).

FULL MEMBERS, INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS, and ASSOCIATE MEMBERS receive [Tier 2 Benefits](#). **Exception: International Members do not receive Malpractice Insurance*

PREMIERE MEMBERS, RETIRED/UNEMPLOYED MEMBERS, and STUDENT MEMBERS receive [Tier 3 Benefits](#).

Can I pay dues in installments? SSWAA members can choose to pay in installment payments by credit card. Members can choose bi-annual payments, quarterly payments, or monthly payments. Individuals requesting an invoice and/or paying by check payment will only be able to pay in one payment. **Exception: Basic Membership dues are only available by one payment due to the extremely low membership rate.*

Does SSWAA offer Professional Liability Insurance? Yes! SSWAA members receive \$250,000 Professional Liability Insurance as an included member benefit. For an additional \$25.00, SSWAA members can upgrade to \$1,000,000 of Professional Liability Insurance which includes Job Protection Benefits. [Check out the details.](#)

Can I join my state association and SSWAA at the same time? **COMING SOON!** A few of our affiliate states provide for joint memberships. More information will be coming soon on this feature.

What if my state is not yet affiliated? If your state association is interested in becoming affiliated with SSWAA or if you would like assistance in forming a State School Social Work organization, contact us for assistance. contactus@sswaa.org

Are my dues tax deductible? SSWAA dues are not deductible as a charitable contribution for U.S. federal income tax purposes, but may be deductible as a professional business expense. SSWAA estimates that 85% of your membership dues will be permitted as a tax deduction and 15% of your dues are not deductible because of SSWAA's lobbying activities on behalf of its members.

How can I get involved beyond a membership? SSWAA welcomes your active participation! SSWAA has a variety of committees and volunteer opportunities. Want to write a blog? Interested in planning our National SSW Week theme and activities? Want to help plan a SSWAA event? Looking for a way to

develop your leadership potential? Want to get involved in your region or state? Contact us and let us know of your interest and we will get you connected with the right person. contactus@sswaa.org

How do I join? [Click here to join now!](#)

How do I renew my membership? When it is time for you to renew your SSWAA membership, you will receive a renewal email reminder notifying you of the due date and payment options. This email will be sent **two weeks** before your renewal due date. Once you are ready to renew your membership, you will click the link that will be provided to you in the renewal email. Payment can be made with a credit card or request for an invoice. *If no action is taken, an additional courtesy reminder will be sent 3 days before the renewal date.* There will be a grace period of two weeks once the renewal date is reached. If no action is taken during the grace period, the membership will be dropped. *An individual wishing to renew their membership will need to contact SSWAA to reinstate their membership.*

I'm not sure if my membership is current. If you have logged in before: Log in. Then, on the left hand side click "My information" and then at the top of that page select "Membership." You can then click on your SSWAA Membership to see your membership history and current expiration date. If your email address or anything else has changed, see tutorial on How Do I Update My Profile With Changes? Need to make other changes, see additional tutorials.

If you have NOT logged in, but may be a current or past member: See tutorial How Do I Sign In to the Website for the First Time? If you are unable to Sign in, your membership has probably expired. If you have tried and still need to confirm, feel free to contact us.

What if I don't want to renew online? If you prefer, you can download a membership application form and submit to SSWAA - Membership, P.O. Box 3068, London, Kentucky 40743

Who should I contact if I have questions? We have a small staff of dedicated individuals ready to serve you. Questions related to conference can be directed to conference@sswaa.org. If you have general questions about the association, SSWAA events, resources, or membership, please email contactus@sswaa.org.