



AOSW Nomination 2022



First Name: Leora

Last Name: Lowenthal

AOSW Member? Yes

Position: President-Elect

Are you willing to be appointed to a committee? Not Sure

Please indicate social work credentials (select all that apply): LICSW, OSW-C, FAOSW

AOSW Leadership History: Association of Oncology Social Work (AOSW), Awards Committee, 2016-2019. Association of Oncology Social Work (AOSW), State Representative NY: 2006-2007 MA: 2016-Present. Association of Oncology Social Work (AOSW), BOD, Director of Education, 2008-2010 Association of Oncology Social Work (AOSW), Co-founder/leader of Ethics SIG, 2007-2008.

Other leadership information from local, state or national organizations: Board of Oncology Social Work Certification (BOSW-C), Board of Directors, 2017-Present. Cutaneous Lymphoma Foundation (CLF), Medical Advisory Board, 2017-Present. Association of Cancer Online Resources (ACOR), CTCL listserv, Online moderator, 2007-Present. Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC), CLL Advisory Committee, 2019-2020. Cutaneous Lymphoma Foundation (CLF), Board of Directors 2006-2011 Joe's House, Board of Directors, 2006-2008.

Position Statement: Dear AOSW members, I will start with the acknowledgement that I've always found the idea of this presidency daunting. Some of that comes from my recognition of the work involved and importance of the mission and some from my belief that there is always a moment in the future when I will know more and be better prepared. I am a planner. For those who do not know me I am also a proud oncology social worker, originally from NYC and now living in Massachusetts. I have spent the last 25 years working in hospitals and most of those years as a member of AOSW. This organization has provided me with my most treasured community of colleagues and friends and my most invaluable education as an OSW and over the past year and a half, the membership and work of this organization served as my North Star. As noted, my preference in life has always been to plan, prepare, plot and just maybe to overthink everything. With that said, the pandemic gave no one a chance to "know more" and "be better prepared". It called on us to use all the skills we already had and learn new ones on the fly, while reaching out to one another for support. For many it was a time of providing unceasing compassionate care while also experiencing their own deep grief and loss. Lastly, while the sociopolitical landscape offered moments of hope, healing and progress, it also showed us clearly that there is much work still to be done. Now as we enter this time of recovery, I am still quite daunted but also inspired by the opportunities before us as a community and deeply invested in seeing AOSW and the world of oncology social work thrive.

My primary goals would include:

- Continuing to develop new OSW leaders within the organization and larger professional community.
- Explore and build upon the new possibilities for professional collaboration and education that exist in the post-pandemic digital world.
- Engagement of individuals in related fields who may wish to pursue a SW degree and/or social workers who do not identify as OSWs but may want to (underlying goal of increased diversity within membership and the larger profession).
- And perhaps my greatest goal: consider how we, the OSW community can ensure that we are able to continue performing our work with the same standards of care and compassion that we have always striven for. In the context of the pandemic this was easier said than done but as a unified voice I believe it is something we can achieve. It would be my honor and privilege to serve as President-Elect and thanks to all for the consideration.