



AOSW Nomination 2022



First Name: Maureen

Last Name: Rigney

AOSW Member? Yes

Position: Communications Director

Are you willing to be appointed to a committee? No

Please indicate social work credentials (select all that apply): LICSW

AOSW Leadership History:

I joined AOSW in 2007 and since have attended and exhibited at the annual conference. I began to play a more active role in AOSW when I presented a webinar training on lung cancer stigma in 2015 and went on to help plan and execute the AOSW conference in Tampa in 2016 through serving on the conference committee. That experience led to serving on the Advocacy Committee from 2017 to 2020 and since have served on the Professional Development & Leadership Series subcommittee of the Education Committee.

Those experiences have all been wonderful but a particularly impactful experience was mentoring another AOSW member as she submitted her first abstract. What a joy when the abstract was accepted as a panel and I was able to attend her session at the 2018 conference.

Other leadership information from local, state or national organizations:

While working in behavioral healthcare in Chicago, I was very active in community organizing efforts to ensure affordable housing, economic justice, violence prevention, mental health justice, civic participation, and high-quality education within the areas I worked.

Although a national cancer organization is a natural fit for a social worker, I was the first hired by my organization. I resolved not to be the last and strive to infuse the tenets of social work into our patient services and beyond.

Throughout my career, I have enjoyed mentoring, empowering and supporting younger, less experienced social workers and other staff. I also enjoy presenting on our programs and initiatives regularly at national and international conferences.

Position Statement:

I knew from my first AOSW conference in 2007 that I had finally found a social work home. It is a special organization that brings us together. Our paths are often very different and I am constantly amazed at the depth of knowledge and skills of our members. Individually, and collectively, we have a lot to offer people with cancer, their loved ones and our communities!

The strong connections we make as members of AOSW foster personal and professional growth. It would be a great honor to serve as Communications Director and to build on the great work currently underway to keep us updated, informed, connected and supported.

My long tenure at GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer has provided many experiences that would serve me well in the Communications Director position, including newsletter and website content creation; volunteer management; and working with external funders. And, although I don't post often, I am an avid SWON follower!

What makes me most excited about this opportunity is that, as a non-traditional AOSW member, I believe I bring fresh perspectives to both our internal and external communication efforts.