Recognizing careers of service in leadership

The Sunny Andrews and Glenda McDonald awards are given annually and are named after social work regulators who exemplified the attributes and character of outstanding board members and staff through their service to their individual jurisdictional boards.

“He denies being a hero,” said Florence Huffman, executive director of the Kentucky Board of Social Work, “but he is steadfast and tireless doing the work he does because he says he owes a debt to those who helped him.” She was describing Jay Miller, chair of the Kentucky board, as she presented him with the Sunny Andrews Award for Outstanding Commitment to Social Work Regulatory Board Service at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly. Huffman shared highlights of Miller’s journey from foster care to leadership in child welfare and juvenile systems, in academia, and in public service. And she spoke of his leadership within the Kentucky board, saying: “He encourages his fellow board members and his board staff to be leaders ourselves.”

“I never thought having an interest in licensing as an undergraduate student and starting to conduct research around how we think about licensing…and now being an academic…would lead me into this place,” Miller said. He noted that the award was a testament to the other members of the Kentucky board, who understand that “we are not just issuing licenses, that we are indeed protecting vulnerable people to ensure that they receive adept social work services.”

This year, two administrators who happen to be social workers themselves received the Glenda McDonald Board Administrator Award for Outstanding Commitment to Social Work Regulatory Board Service: Richard Silver of Québec and Stanley Weinstein of Maryland.

Guylaine Ouimette, chair of the Ordre des travailleurs sociaux et des thérapeutes conjugaux et familiaux du Québec, presented the award to Silver, who recently retired as legal counsel to the order.

“In its statement of value, the order promotes excellence, professional diligence, and social...
commitment,” Ouimette said, “Mr. Silver embodied these values that are central to the mission of the everyday life of our order. During his mandate, Richard oversaw a number of important initiatives intended to promote the ethical, responsible, and effective functioning of the order, and to ensure public protection.”

She concluded by thanking Silver for the legacy he left and pointing out one area of valuable service outside the realm of regulation: “And a little bonus—he always finds us a good restaurant!”

In his acceptance of the Glenda McDonald Board Administrator Award, Silver recalled his time working with McDonald, who was founding registrar and CEO of the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers and served the organization for 15 years. “We started as professional colleagues, and we became very good friends over the years,” Silver said. “I have very poignant memories of Glenda, so to receive an award which is named in her memory is particularly significant for me.”

He added, “And if I was able to do all those great things that were mentioned, it certainly wasn’t me doing it alone. It was in collaboration with my colleagues at work. And so, I feel that when I receive an award for work as a professional regulator, it’s not just for me personally but for all of us who do this work which is so important.”

The second Glenda McDonald Award went to Stanley Weinstein, executive director of the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners. Presenting the award was board chair Denise Capaci, who described the theme of Weinstein’s tenure as one of partnership and accountability. “Stan has also helped to eliminate fear and to work with a clear momentum and always move us forward,” she said.

Weinstein recapped his career, one marked by diversity. In the social work profession, he said, “…you can be so many different things, and I’ve tried to taste them all.” His past roles have included family therapist, teacher, leader of a mental health scholars program at a historically black university; director of several mental health programs, and regulatory board member. The difference between his five years of service as chair of the Maryland board and his work now as its executive director, he said with a smile, is that “today I get paid.” He credited the staff and regulators he works with for their contribution to earning the award. “I’m the point person, but I’ve been blessed with some great people.”