



# School Social Work Association of America

## Member Benefits & FAQ

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SSWAA | [www.sswaa.org](http://www.sswaa.org) |  
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## What is included in my 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 four times 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 our Advocacy and Legislation page 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 and provides opportunities for member participation in research studies related to School Social Work practice. SSWAA also 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, SSWAAed (SSWAA’s on-demand learning platform), 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.

### 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. SSWAA hosts the 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. SSWAA also provides support to state associations through bi-annual summer leadership trainings, as well as developed the opportunity for formal [State Affiliations](#) with state school social work associations.

### 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. 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 to providing the latest research, trends, and career resources to school social workers across the United States. SSWAA is on the cutting edge of our field, encouraging each professional to expand their knowledge throughout their career and 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 we serve. In addition, SSWAA provides advocacy for the profession at a national level to ensure we are recognized as the mental health professionals on our campuses. We are only as strong as our membership. It is imperative to be proactive about things one can discover on their career journey! Join SSWAA to be part of this vibrant professional community and gain support for your 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.

**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?

<div><b>Basic</b></div> <div><b>\$50</b> <i>billed annually</i></div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Professional Malpractice Liability Insurance</li><li>✓ Membership Newsletter (2/month)</li><li>✓ Legislative Action Alerts</li><li>✓ Professional Advocacy Voice</li></ul></div>	<div><b>Full</b></div> <div><b>\$135</b> <i>billed annually</i></div> <div><b>BASIC BENEFITS, PLUS</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ 2 Additional Membership Newsletters</li><li>✓ Member Only access to tools, resources &amp; Member Info Center</li><li>✓ Discounts to National Conference, Webinars, SSWAAed, and more</li><li>✓ Membership App</li><li>✓ Access to network of like-minded professionals</li><li>✓ Access to School Social Work Journal</li><li>✓ Virtual Member Network Meetings</li></ul></div>	<div><b>Premier</b></div> <div><b>\$160</b> <i>billed annually</i></div> <div><b>FULL BENEFITS, PLUS</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Access to School Social Work Resource Library (SSWRL)</li><li>✓ Additional Premier Member Networking</li></ul></div>
<div><b>Associate</b></div> <div><b>\$135</b> <i>billed annually</i></div> <div><b>FULL MEMBER BENEFITS</b><p>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.</p><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✗ No Member Voting Rights</li><li>✗ Cannot Hold Board Position</li></ul></div>	<div><b>International</b></div> <div><b>\$65</b> <i>billed annually</i></div> <div><b>FULL MEMBER BENEFITS</b><p>A professional is eligible for membership if living outside of the USA with a degree or interest in school social work.</p><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✗ No Member Voting Rights</li><li>✗ Cannot Hold Board Position</li><li>✗ No Professional Malpractice Liability Insurance</li></ul></div>	<div><b>Student/Retired</b></div> <div><b>\$80</b> <i>billed annually</i></div> <div><b>PREMIER MEMBER BENEFITS</b><p><b>Student:</b> 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.</p><p><b>Retired:</b> An individual with school social work training/degree who is currently retired or unemployed.</p></div>

## 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 and must be set up as auto-payments. Individuals requesting an invoice and/or paying by check payment will only be able to pay in one payment. Membership dues paid in installment plans are still for a one year term. All memberships are for one year, regardless of membership type, installation, or one-time 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.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:contactus@sswaa.org)

## 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 conferences and webinars can be directed to [pdlearning@sswaa.org](mailto:pdlearning@sswaa.org). If you have general questions about the association, SSWAA events, resources, or membership, please email [contactus@sswaa.org](mailto:contactus@sswaa.org).