

Submission of Proposal for 2018 NASW National Conference

Title: My Experience as Write-In Candidate for Mayor

Name: Phillip W. Weiss

Credentials: MSW, LCSW, ACSW

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Abstract

Social workers are known for their social activism. As professionals dedicated to advocating for social justice, social workers have an interest in formulating public policy. For social work, this is nothing new. The roots of social activism can be traced back to the very founding of social work as a profession. Jane Hull is credited with being the first social work activist. Several public leaders began their careers as social workers. Currently eight members of Congress, one Senator and seven Representatives, are social workers. The careers of two American presidents, Herbert Hoover and Barack Obama, included work with the disadvantaged. Inspired by this tradition of social activism and deeply concerned about the numerous problems besetting my community and wanting to do something proactive to affect change, I decided to enter the race for the mayor of the City of New York as a write-in candidate. Although I did not win the election, indeed I did not even come close to winning, nevertheless I found it to be a valuable experience, one that I believe worth sharing with my social work colleagues, especially those who may aspire to public office.

Brief Bio:

A native of Brooklyn, New York, Phillip W. Weiss has over thirty years of experience working with disadvantaged populations, including the homeless, frail elderly, psychologically and physically challenged, and children at risk. After retiring, he entered a new field: theatrical production and playwriting. He founded the company, Phil's Literary Works LLC. His company produces staged readings of original plays. As a producer and playwright, Phil's goal is to educate, inspire and thereby make the world a better place in which to live.

Presentation

Length: 30 minutes.

Equipment: Power point and flat screen projector.

During my presentation I plan to discuss the following:

- 1. Why I decided to enter the race for mayor.**
- 2. What I expected to accomplish.**
- 3. My campaign plan.**
- 4. Lessons learned.**

My presentation will include use of visual and audio aids to display some of my campaign material and demonstrate my campaign technique. Time permitting, I will take question.