

Paul Burton



Paul was a founding member of the Association, when it was formed as the Association of VA Social Work Managers. Over decades, he served in most of the officially-elected leadership positions of the organization, including President, Newsletter Editor, and Treasurer. He led membership and advocated for the profession in his uniquely perceptive, courageous, clever, and creative manner. He moderated annual Chiefs' Conferences for years with such wisdom and wit that his extemporaneous remarks were treasured as much as the content of planned presentations. Likewise, his newsletter articles and editorial commentary were anticipated and valued for their searing insight and unabashed humor. He was instrumental in influencing the expansion and inclusion of membership eligibility to all VA Social Workers. He has instructed and mentored countless VA Social Workers throughout more than 30 years of his career. His love for Social Work, its professional outcomes, its impact with the VA, and the roots of our Association are all reflected in the history he cared enough to capture in writing.

Paul's legacy is the undying appreciation of the many lives of VA Social Workers he has touched in so many positive ways.