



## Meet the NYSSSWA Board: Peg Barrett

### **Past President, Buffalo-Western Regional Representative**



I am a licensed Clinical Social Worker and worked in the Lancaster School district (every Elementary school and the High School) for 30 years until 2016. My role included providing counseling to children, K-6<sup>th</sup> grade, in regular and special education, and their families, as well as consulting with families and staff regarding academic, social, emotional, and behavioral concerns for students. My role also included recommending and implementing specific intervention plans to improve their academic, social/emotional, and behavioral performance in schools.

I organized and facilitated intervention groups such as Banana Splits, Social Skills, Anger Management, and Grief groups for students. I also facilitated prevention programs such as homework helpers, healthy lifestyles, and Good Citizens Clubs. In my role I also assisted in planning and implementing districtwide trainings for parents and staff, such as Olweus Bullying programs, and Parenting Education Programs.

I was a field educator for U.B. M.S.W. program and Buffalo State B.S.W. programs. I served as the Field supervisor for about 20 years supervising students. I am passionate about mental health for children and adults and after I retired, I went back to work for the Mental Health Advocates of Western New York where my original career in community service and advocacy began some 40 years ago.

I do Mental Health presentations for teachers and parents as well as supervise and assist our Youth Peer Advocates with planning and presenting to students from 4th through 12th grade about mental health, mental illness, coping strategies and where to get help if you need it. We present to schools all over the 8 counties of Western New York. I feel very passionate about educating people about mental health, mental illness, and reducing stigma around mental illness. I am the past president of NYSSSWA, (New York State School Social Workers Association) and a current Board member. I am the regional representative for NYSSSWA in the Western New York area.