



**IASWG Board Meeting Minutes**  
**November 20, 2021**

PRESENT: Barb Muskat, Joyce Webster, Ginnette Berteau, Donna Guy, Nancy-Angel Doetzel, Mark Smith, Hilda Baar, Georgianna Dolan-Reilly, Carol Cohen, Emily Santonocito, Anite Martin Marseille, Kristina Lind, Ann Bergart, Reineth Prinsloo, Mark Doel, Michael Wagner, Lorrie Gardella, Mamadou Seck, Andy Malekoff, Sera Godfrey-Kaplan, Adina Muskat, Helene Fillion Onserud, Kyle McGee, Greg Tully, Shirley Simon, Mark Macgowan, Alexis Howard, Sari Skolnik, Jen Currin-McCullough, Sam Benbow, Gloria Kirwin, Donna Mclaughlin, Linda Ducca, April Parker, Roshini Pillay, Jorune Rimkiene, Sophia M., John Genke, Cheryl Lee, Stephanie Baird, Padraic Stanley, Charles Garvin

NOT PRESENT: Poppy Masinga, Namoonga Chilwalo, Neil Hall, Roseprimevere Jacques, Anne Jones, Werner Lieblang, John Lukach, Andrew Spaumer, Poppy Masinga

- Welcome & Introductions
  - Barb called the meeting to order at 11:05am and welcomed new and returning members. Members provided brief introductions and shared their role on the Board.
- Approval of Agenda
  - Ginette Berteau moved, Ann Bergart seconded; All voted in favor to approve the agenda
- Approval of Minutes - [IASWG Board Meeting Minutes - June 2021](#)
  - Mark Smith moved, Sam Benbow seconded; No changes or discussion; All voted in favor to approve the minutes from the May 2021 meeting
- State of the Organization
  - Barb provided a brief overview of the organization this past year. She noted the depth and breadth of the committee work that is taking place between board meetings. She highlighted positive changes to the virtual symposium in 2021 and noted that the financial status of the organization remains strong. Despite global challenges, the state of the organization is moving along well.
- 2021 Symposium Recap
  - Barb and Emily reported positive feedback from the most recent symposium. Members noted it felt more inclusive. Ann requested that recordings be available for a longer period; Carol suggested posting on our website; Barb noted there are legal concerns that the organization's attorney is looking into.
- 2022 Symposium Update
  - Barb reported that Reineth made a presentation to the Executive Committee last month about the pros/cons of holding the 2022 Symposium in person (Reineth will send this presentation to the entire board for review). Due to the uncertainty of COVID, the committee determined that the 2022 symposium should again be held virtually. Barb

and Mark Doel extended the organization's appreciation and support of our Lithuanian colleagues who were originally planning for next year and noted we should strive to highlight Lithuania throughout the virtual symposium. Barb stated the dates are likely going to be June 14-18, 2022, that the theme will remain as written, and that the board needs to brainstorm ideas for plenaries, invitationals, etc and invited participation in symposium planning meetings. Sam noted we have an opportunity to make the 2022 symposium as unique, inclusive, and creative as possible and echoed the call for assistance from board members. Ann proposed a joint project with Lithuania for a pre-symposium institute.

- Treasurer's Report, Proposed Budget, and Vote to Approve Budget
  - Donna McLaughlin thanked Emily and the budget & finance committee for their partnership around budget & finance issues. Donna noted that we are doing okay financially. Income is coming in for individual and organizational membership renewals; Expenses are pretty stable, given that most work is happening virtually. Donna provided the full report and proposed budget:
  -  TreasurersReport11.20.2021
  -  Copy of IASWG Operating Budget - Updated 11\_15\_2021.xlsx
  - Donna motioned that we accept the proposed 2022 budget, Mark Doel seconded. Discussion: Padraic and Barb suggested we think about additional sources of revenue, as our only sources are membership (which is now graduated) and the symposium. Barb reported that Kristen Perron has stepped down as chair of the fundraising committee and we need to consider if/how we generate additional income. Discussion around fundraising was tabled until the next meeting. All members voted in favor of adopting the proposed 2022 budget as written, with the exception of two abstentions.
  
- Chapter Updates
  - Sharing of recent & upcoming virtual events
    - Jen from the Western US Virtual Chapter shared recent and upcoming events, and invited anyone to attend; Barb shared the Mass. Chapter is hosting an event on 12/1 for their new video project; Adina noted the Ontario chapter will host an event on 12/3; Angel noted the Alberta chapter is working on an event around Healing Circles; Hilda reported the German chapter hosts a monthly online skill swap and will be hosting two chapter events in the new year; Ann shared that the Illinois Chapter has broadened to become the Greater Illinois Chapter and has been working to put together peer consultation groups but with limited response; Anite and Ginette reported the Francophone Chapter is active and working on a variety of projects, including developing activities in the Caribbean islands; Mamadou shared that the NE Ohio held a workshop on ethical issues in group work which was recorded and will be shared; Helene noted that the NY Read Apple chapter is rebuilding, with an

eye towards diversity; Donna reported the Australia New Zealand Chapter is eager to get back to in-person events but has been a bit quiet due to COVID

- *Please continue to send your chapter events to Emily for posting on the IASWG website.*
  - Shirley shared that the Chapter Development committee has been meeting routinely, and serving as a place where chapter reps can gather to provide support, share events, and discuss struggles around recruitment, retention, social media/marketing events, etc. The next Chapter Development Meeting is Dec. 14 at 2 pm. Central Time (Chicago). Zoom link will be forthcoming. If you do not think you have been receiving email notifications of the meetings, please send me an email at [shirleysimon@gmail.com](mailto:shirleysimon@gmail.com).
  - Barb noted our bylaws haven't been updated since 2008 and don't adequately address contemporary issues with chapter development and maintenance. Members went into breakout rooms to discuss: *What is a chapter? What does it say in our bylaws? What is a regional chapter/language chapter/opening closing chapters/fiduciary link to IASWG?*
    - *Small group discussion highlights: chapters bring life to the organization; strong support for the idea of moving away from geographic chapter groupings to special interest or affinity groupings (same benefits as language-based chapters ie. Francophone); how to ease the burden on chapter chairs/ reps?; chapter activity tends to be cyclical in nature, ie. natural ebbs and flows; chapters have reciprocal relationship to the larger IASWG organization; what content/events are offered free to members?; specific language within chapter section of bylaws is too narrow for our current structure; chapters used to be important in organizing and running local symposium but that has changed; membership requirement of 25 seems burdensome*
  - Barb proposed this topic be considered as a priority for the Board in the coming year; it was decided that the chapter development committee will devote part of their meeting in December to discuss basic principles or concepts that they recommend for defining a chapter and then the exec committee and/or larger board will gather prior to the next formal board meeting to review and proceed with the discussion/action items.
- Brief verbal committee updates were offered, with full written reports available here - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HQKet1UD3spd49x4GGvi8qhgEOWiaXnvUCjDNz3qQsA/edit?usp=sharing>.
  - Committee action items requested of the Board include:
    - Nominations & Elections: *Requesting discussion to create a succession plan for President and VP roles, as this will be their last term.*
    - Membership: *Requesting newsletter content from committees, chapters, and individual members.*
    - International Issues: *Requesting members continue (or begin) using the International Impact Form.*

- Language Access: *As the committee gets many requests for translation, please follow these translation guidelines: The committee will take on translating documents that include content that is central to the mission and work of the association, of a committee, or relating to other important aspects of the association. Here are a few examples: the president's pen; the budget; norms of practice; nominee statements of candidates for board members; by-laws. In relation to the symposium, the committee will take on translating publicity and general content. However, that does not include logistical content such as travel and lodging information. Other less central content can be translated either directly on the website through Google translate or separately through DeepL.com automatic translator (generally better than Google). How to proceed- There is one point person who will be receiving material to be translated through the committee and sending it back. At this time Hélène Filion Onserud will be that point person. If a situation arises when someone is not clear about which process to use for the translation of a document, the committee will discuss it with the person and, ultimately, will make the decision.*
- Commission on Group Work Education Committee: *It is particularly difficult to identify educational programs and leaders outside of the US, and we seek everyone's cooperation in this effort.; Web Resources at [www.iaswg/teaching](http://www.iaswg/teaching): We have continued to build on the progress last year, and have made structural revisions and added new content to our well-used web page. The page also includes links to other, related IASWG pages. Please continue to visit, contribute, and publicize the site.; A small group of members are working on a proposal to launch a standing Special Interest Group on Group Work Research as part of the Society for Social Work Research Conference (SSWR). Please let us know if you are interested in this.*
- SPARC: Carol Cohen presented the November 2021 SPARC Report and called a vote for SPARC endorsements and funding - [https://docs.google.com/document/d/10bWz1JPY8ftSkeKSYKyxkvl\\_Nv7cIVl\\_UwB1PMH\\_DfWc/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/10bWz1JPY8ftSkeKSYKyxkvl_Nv7cIVl_UwB1PMH_DfWc/edit). Ann Bergart motioned to approve the recommendations, Donna McLaughlin seconded; no discussion; all voted in favor, with Hilda Baar abstaining.
- Chapter Development: *The next Chapter Development Meeting is Dec. 14 at 2 pm. Central Time (Chicago). Zoom link will be forthcoming. If you do not think you have been receiving email notifications of the meetings, please send me an email at [shirleysimon@gmail.com](mailto:shirleysimon@gmail.com).*
- Marketing: *Watch for announcement of Doodle poll for Marketing Committee meeting.*
- Other Updates
  - Standards for Online Social Work with Groups - Mark Macgowan presented a powerpoint (will be shared out via email) about the status of the development of the Standards for Online Group Work.
  - Journals

- Gloria noted special issues coming up for *Groupwork*; looking for more reviewers, please reach out; student from New Zealand won the student essay prize; recommendations for group work books to review or willingness to write a book review, please email Shirley at shirleysimon@gmail.com.
- Andy shared a Call for Papers for a special issue of *Social Work with Groups*, “Origins of Social Group Work: Local Stories from Around the World” - [https://think.taylorandfrancis.com/special\\_issues/origins-social-group-work/?utm\\_source=TFO&utm\\_medium=cms&utm\\_campaign=JPG15743](https://think.taylorandfrancis.com/special_issues/origins-social-group-work/?utm_source=TFO&utm_medium=cms&utm_campaign=JPG15743); also there is an upcoming special double issue of Social Work with Groups on the IASWG SPARC Program
- Proceedings
  - Reineth, Lorrie, Mark, and Carol noted that there is discussion with David Whiting about moving the proceedings from print to electronic; this will be good for both expenses and inclusivity.
- Watch for news of scheduling for an interim working meeting/retreat to address some of the above issues, likely in February 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joyce Webster  
IASWG Communications Secretary