



**IASWG** International Association for Social Work with Groups, Inc.

## GROUP NEWS - SPRING 2016

### 2016 Symposium Quick Links

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### IASWG SPARC Review Cycle Deadline is May 20, 2016!

Do you have a innovative group work project that IASWG can help spark? We review proposals twice a year for IASWG endorsement only or endorsement and funding.

## REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

IASWG INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

In New York City, USA

June 15 - 18, 2016

### PRESIDENT'S PEN

Dear IASWG members and group work advocates:

**IASWG 2016 NYC Symposium:** Group News is an opportunity to share the most recent IASWG news, and our most exciting news right now is that we are just ten weeks away from our IASWG 2016 NYC Symposium at the New York University Global Center. The IASWG 2016 NYC Symposium Planning Committee members (Christine Wilkins, Sari Skolnik, John Genke, and Emily Wilk), led by IASWG Symposium Chair, Dana Leeman, are busy planning a symposium event in New York on June 15-18 that promises to be a memorable experience held on the beautiful Washington Square campus of NYU. We have many workshop and paper presentation submissions, so many group workers from across the globe will be joining together at NYU to share group work knowledge and skills. Our 2016 Plenary, Invitational, and Institute/Outstitute events promise to be dynamic. One Plenary panel will address the role of group work in the current global refugee crisis, and another Plenary panel will examine group work education worldwide including the growing number of online group work courses. Two of our Invitational sessions will focus on group work with Muslim women, and with surviving children of 9/11 victims. The NYC 2016 Symposium is going to

[Click here for more details.](#)

## Membership News

If you have not yet renewed your IASWG membership for 2016, please do so today by visiting our [Membership Application](#).

If you have questions about the status for 2016, please [e-mail us](#).

## US CSWE Group Work Track

Alex Gitterman and Carol Cohen thank everyone for contributing to the excellent and plentiful submissions to the [US Council of Social Work Education](#) Group Work Track.

The review process is underway, and we look forward to seeing you in Atlanta, November 3 - 6, 2016.

be a lovely event; all of you should make plans (and encourage others to make plans) to attend in June!

**IASWG Committee and Chapter Activity:** The recent IASWG Board meeting was engaging and energizing. We had full representation from our many IASWG Chapters and Committees, and the result was an active and productive meeting. Each of our chapters had a representative at the Board meeting: South Africa, Germany, North Carolina, Northeast Ohio, European, Lithuania, Southern California, Central Florida, Toronto, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Florida, Long Island, Francophone Chapter, Illinois, NYC, and Pennsylvania. Committee Chairs/Co-chairs have begun working with their Committee members on various activities for the 2016 year. In addition, Chapter folks have announced upcoming chapter events or are actively planning them. Important priorities/goals for 2016 have emerged across all 17 IASWG Chapters and 7 IASWG Committees. The Executive Committee of the Board phone conferenced recently to discuss current IASWG issues; the Treasurer Report presented at the November Board meeting by our Treasurer, Dominique Steinberg, demonstrated that we are moving forward with financial prudence and with financial health; we continue to discuss new ideas for increasing revenue through sound investment strategies and creative fundraising (one idea being worked on by Maria Gandarilla and Amirthini Ambrose is to produce IASWG group work webinars for paying consumers).

**Steady/Strong Membership Numbers:** Members have been joining or renewing as "2016 IASWG members" for months now. The Membership Committee (Meghan O'Donnell and Ann Bergart, Co-Chairs) will be challenging all of us to work with them in 2016 to maintain and grow our currently healthy membership base. Be sure to renew your IASWG membership for 2016! Communication with all members will continue during 2016 through our various forms of IASWG contact: website, email, e-blast, phone, mail, Facebook, Twitter, and Group News. Membership Committee efforts have resulted in a steady/strong membership number for IASWG each year, and our new membership system, MemberClicks, (coming soon!) will be providing more opportunities/methods for membership outreach, website operation, and member/chapter communication. Renew your membership for 2016, and please

# Groupwork Student Essay Prize

[Whiting and Birch](#) are happy to announce the second *Groupwork Student Essay* Prize of \$100. The deadline for entries is April 29th, 2016. The winner will be announced at the 2016 Annual Symposium of IASWG.

## Call for Papers Group Work and the Arts

[Social Work With Groups](#) is inviting articles about the use of the arts in clinical and community practice. Group work, with its long history of the use of program, has been at the forefront of incorporating the arts into clinical and community practice. **The deadline is June 30, 2016.** **Download the complete Call for Papers [here](#).**

Donate to

reach out to other group workers you know to encourage them to join.

**IASWG Chapter Growth:** We are adding one or two new IASWG Chapters each year. Our IASWG origins were in North America, where we continue to thrive (many of our U.S. IASWG Chapters have strong membership numbers currently, and our chapter activity in Canada has increased with the recently approved Francophone Chapter, a language-based IASWG Chapter that will welcome global IASWG French speaking members.) In addition, we have successfully spread our group work advocacy and activity beyond North America. Our IASWG Chapter members from our European Chapter, German Chapter, South Africa Chapter, and Lithuania Chapter are active and productive, and each of these IASWG Chapters will be sending presenters and attendees to our 2016 NYC Symposium. Visit our website for evidence of the good work being done by our Chapter Development Committee members, led by Chapter Development Chair, Tanja Schmitz-Remberg, and our many global IASWG Chapters.

**IASWG Global Promotion of Group Work:** Throughout the years IASWG has advocated for group work recognition and celebration globally. Our IASWG 2015 Group Work Camps in both the U.S. and Lithuania successfully brought together group workers young and old for experiential group work educational and socialization sessions. In addition, many of our IASWG members will be presenting workshops on group work at 2016 global conferences, and IASWG will again play a prominent role at the U.S. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) conference with a good number of group work presentations as well as our annual IASWG-CSWE Partnership Presentation; it is important for IASWG to connect and network with major global social work organizations to promote group work education and practice internationally. Finally, the IASWG SPARC Committee also promotes group work globally by supporting innovative group work education and practice projects of IASWG members. At the recent Board meeting in NYC, Carol Cohen and the SPARC Committee members reported very positive news about recent SPARC projects supported or endorsed by IASWG.

**Our IASWG Mission:** IASWG continues to successfully

# IASWG

Please help IASWG, so crucial to the life blood of social group work, to promote ethical and effective social work. Exciting opportunities to implement our mission abound, but they are set into motion only with your support! **To make a tax-deductible donation please [click here](#).**

support and foster group work internationally. We are a strong organization right now, and we are successfully carrying out our IASWG mission to ensure that group work practice, education, research, publication, and field instruction survives and thrives. As always, thank you to all of you, our active IASWG members throughout the world, for furthering the IASWG mission to support and strengthen the cause of social group work. We will look forward to celebrating group work together at our 2016 IASWG Symposium in New York!

All the best,

Greg Tully  
IASWG President



## TO LEARN MORE:

Visit: [www.iaswg.org/nyc2016symposium](http://www.iaswg.org/nyc2016symposium)

Contact: [symposium@iaswg](mailto:symposium@iaswg)