



**Association for the Advancement of Social Work with Groups, Inc.
An International Professional Organization**

www.aaswg.org

advocacy & action in support of group work practice, education, research, & publication

AASWG GROUP NEWS JANUARY 2011

JANUARY 2011 NEWSROOM

SYMPOSIUM 2011

**Join your colleagues
aboard the historic
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in Long Beach,
California, USA**



Four days of
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PRESIDENT'S PEN

We are at a crossroads. The profession of social work is experiencing a crisis of relevance. We did not begin as a profession whose services were limited to people who could afford to pay or who had adequate public or private insurance. As social workers, we have an ethical commitment to serve the oppressed and disadvantaged. We have an obligation to not just acquiesce to limits imposed by government, but to also extend our services and skills to effect social and government change.

Isn't group work the historical and appropriate method to meet these obligations and commitments? Group work is not only effective at helping those with greatest need, with crises, with ongoing difficulties, and with normal growth and development; group work is also effective at facilitating community organizing, community building, self-help advocacy, effective administration, and economic development.

But what is happening to social group work? It has been reduced to an afterthought in our professional schools. It is being underutilized and underfunded in the private and public service delivery sectors. Social group work is increasingly becoming a short-term curriculum-driven service facilitated by undertrained workers (often not social workers) who are supervised by folks who are undertrained and undereducated in social group work.

The AASWG, this association, your association, is fighting an uphill battle to sustain and revitalize this crucial method. We need each other in this battle. Individually and together we must plan, strategize, and act. Begin by renewing your membership.....now! AASWG membership is on a calendar year basis, so renew now to ensure your 2011 membership.

**Treasury Notes -
Named Invitationals**

**Call for Proposals for
Emerging Leadership**

**Commission on
Group Work in Social
Work Education**

**CSWE Group Work
Track Remains**

**Group Assessment
Tools from Mark
Macgown**

**New Book by Norma
Lang**

Renewing your 2011 AASWG membership, and making any tax deductible contribution you can afford, are both important to the future of AASWG and to our futures as group workers. In addition, follow up your membership renewal by contacting the chapter nearest you and lending your skills and resources to building that chapter.

Strength in numbers is a fundamental concept in group work. AASWG continues to add new chapters; chapters in Pennsylvania and South Africa have recently achieved chapter status. Furthermore, our 2010 Montreal Symposium welcomed participants from 11 countries. In addition, a wonderful new proposal spearheaded by our strong German chapter and approved by our Board, will give all chapters a financial stake in recruiting institutional members; this initiative has the potential to strengthen AASWG's group work presence in schools of social work, in social agencies, and even in corporations. Finally, AASWG is involved in two new and exciting group work training efforts, with plans to expand these projects.

I repeat, we need one another. Let's hear from you! Let's be together in June at the XXXIII Annual International Symposium in Long Beach, California. Together, let's "make joyful noise!"

Best wishes for a happy 2011!

[Steve Kraft](#), AASWG President

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL
INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIA**

As you may know, Whiting & Birch have been appointed to produce the Proceedings of our annual Symposia. They are now working to ensure that Symposia Proceedings from 2003-2010 are soon in print. So far, two volumes have been produced, and a third is imminent.

The two already in print are:

2003 (Boston) *Creating Connections: Celebrating the power of groups* Edited by Lucia Berman-Rossi, Marcia B. Cohen and Holly Fischer-Engel
ISBN 9781861771216. US\$35.00

2006 (San Diego) *Orchestrating the Power of Groups: Beginnings, Middles, and Endings (overture, movements, and finales)* Edited by Dominique Moysé Steinberg
ISBN 9781861771278. US\$35.00

[San Diego Symposium Proceedings Cover](#)

How to obtain copies of the Proceedings

1. If you were a full-rate attender at a Symposium, you will receive a free copy of the relevant proceedings.

2. Others can purchase copies in the following ways:

i. Through the booktrade.

ii. From Amazon, Barnes & Noble and other mail order booksellers.

iii. Direct from the publishers - visit www.whitingbirch.net. Online orders will be billed in sterling. If you wish to pay in any other currency, please email enquiries@whitingbirch.net so that Whiting & Birch can arrange for you to pay in your local currency (provided it is on their list of over 20 supported currencies).

Want to be alerted as each set of proceedings is published?

If you wish to be alerted as each set of proceedings is published, email enquiries@whitingbirch.net. They will put you on the list.

GROUP WORK PUBLICATIONS

OFFICIAL PUBLISHERS FOR AASWG, INC.

[Whiting & Birch](#)

(Journal: *Groupwork*)

(AASWG Symposia Proceedings)

[Taylor & Francis-Routledge](#)

(Journal: *Social Work with Groups*)

AASWG MEMBERSHIP

Invite a colleague to join! Forward this email!

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[AASWG Membership Form 2011](#)

Invite a colleague to join! Forward this newsletter to someone who may be interested!

**For More Information about AASWG Membership
Contact**

[AASWG Operations Administrator](#)

CHAPTER NEWS

[New York Long Island Chapter News](#)

[New York Red Apple Chapter News](#)

SPEAKERS' BUREAU

Through its Speakers Bureau the Association for the Advancement of Social Work with Groups, Inc. provides highly professional training and consultation in group work curriculum design, private and organizational group-services design, group-based policy and program development, program and practice evaluation, and direct facilitation of large and small groups of all kinds from the playroom to the board room.

For Information Contact Steve Kraft, AASWG President