



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

[www.aaswg.org](http://www.aaswg.org)

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

## **AASWG GROUP NEWS JANUARY 2012**

### **JANUARY 2012 NEWSROOM**



**You are invited to  
the AASWG  
Symposium this  
June**

**Extension for  
Submission of  
Proposals**

**LAST CHANCE TO GET  
SUE HENRY'S BOOK**

**UPDATE FROM THE  
COMMISSION ON  
GROUP WORK IN  
SOCIAL WORK  
EDUCATION**

### **PRESIDENT'S PEN**

I'd like to respond to folks who wonder why they should belong to the Association for the Advancement of Social Work with Groups, whose mission is to promote the practice, teaching and scholarship in social group work.

Why social group work? For me the important philosophical underpinnings include in part the following:

- 1- We each create our own sense of the world with its similarities and differences from others.
- 2- We need to learn to respect differences in understandings, beliefs, behaviors and abilities.
- 3- A small group that learns to respect self and difference can have a significant impact on their families, organizations, communities and societies.

When I look at what's happening in the practice and academic communities I see an emphasis on hierarchical structures and didactic/psycho-educational practice. I don't see enough emphasis on group decision making or helping people find their own reality.

The AASWG is an organization that helps practitioners, teachers, and scholars hold onto our core values of democratic functioning, respect for difference and focus on the needs of people who are disadvantaged and oppressed.

Membership in AASWG affords us an opportunity to learn and contribute to the maintenance of these core values.

Steve Kraft, President

**AASWG  
COMMISSION  
NEWS**

**MEMBERSHIP  
COMMITTEE  
UPDATE**

**LONG ISLAND  
CHAPTER NEWS**

**FLORIDA CHAPTER  
NEWSLETTER**

**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

**I have a comment  
or suggestion  
about AASWG**

**NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING REPORT**

In reviewing the work accomplished at the AASWG Fall Board Meeting held at Fordham University (New York, USA) in November, it is clear it was a weekend of hard work and accomplishment. Each Board member participating in the weekend's general meetings and various Committee meetings contributed actively and effectively. It was a productive interaction with Board colleagues. Of special note is that these Board meetings always offer the wonderful opportunity for all of our chapter folks to report on their exciting chapter activities and to work on strategizing for the future.

Since meeting at Fordham, the AASWG Board is focusing on many items in 2012. These are 13 specific items the Board is focusing on in the first few months of 2012:

- 1) The Nominations and Elections Committee left the Fordham meetings with a solid list of potential nominees for the Spring 2012 Board elections. The process will be moving along in the upcoming months.
- 2) The Board approved Change Agent Productions to redesign the AASWG website. A formal contract has been finalized with Change Agent. Work is beginning.
- 3) A template for a training/research project protocol is being finalized, and a process for promoting the opportunity to those interested in submitting projects will be agreed upon soon.
- 4) The 2012 membership renewal process will be very active in the first few months of 2012. The Membership Committee hopes you will renew soon.
- 5) Changing our name from AASWG to a different name was discussed at the Fordham meetings. The discussion should keep moving ahead for future resolution.
- 6) On Sunday morning at Fordham the entire Board discussed the idea/impact of increasing Board communication. We suggested adding an additional Board Meeting (by phone) each year, increasing the number of Committee meetings between the President and various Committees, and the possibility of Committee Chairs or Chapter Chairs joining the Executive Committee (ExCo) on ExCo phone calls from time to time. The ExCo has continued this conversation, and some of these ideas may be implemented soon.
- 7) At the Board meeting several AASWG sponsored publications were discussed, with plans for their immediate development or revision. Several folks on the Commission on Social Work Education Committee have continued to follow through on this effort.

8) North Carolina was discussed as a potential new chapter. North Carolina members have been communicating with various Board members in recent weeks, and it looks possible that with additional effort by the Chapter Development Committee we will be welcoming North Carolina as a chapter soon.

9) The effort to support our chapters with an increased annual Chapter Support Payment was recently approved by the Board. In addition, as agreed upon at the 2011 Fordham Board meeting, chapters will soon be given additional financial support through Organizational Membership monies already collected in various chapter locations during 2011.

10) A group is being developed by several of our student/recent grad members. It will support our new and ongoing members who are students and recent grads.

11) The Marketing Committee is finalizing plans to fund an AASWG promotional table at the IASSW/IFSW conference in Stockholm, Sweden in July, 2012.

12) There have been many meetings related to the 2012 Long Island Symposium. The Long Island Planning Committee, in tandem with the AASWG Symposium Committee, is working hard to create an exciting 2012 Symposium. Jean Bacon and Steve Kraft (Long Island Symposium Planning Committee Co-chairs) report that good progress is happening.

13) Planning for the 2013 AASWG Symposium in Boston is emerging. AASWG Symposium Committee Co-chairs Dominique Moyses Steinberg and Dana Leeman are working with the Massachusetts Chapter Symposium Planning Committee and the Massachusetts Chapter Board/membership to keep the process moving along.

We have a lot to focus on in 2012!

Steve Kraft (President) and Greg Tully (Vice President)

## AASWG MEMBERSHIP

Invite a colleague to join! Forward this email!

[Join or Renew Online](#)

[AASWG Membership Form](#)

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

For More Information about AASWG Membership  
Contact

[AASWG Operations Administrator](#)

## GROUP WORK PUBLICATIONS

OFFICIAL PUBLISHERS FOR AASWG, INC.

[Whiting & Birch](#)

(Journal: *Groupwork*)  
(AASWG Symposia Proceedings)

[Taylor & Francis-Routledge](#)

(Journal: *Social Work with Groups*)