

Minutes – IASWG Board Meeting June 15, 2016

Members present: Marilyn Ghezzi (NC Chapter), Barbara Muskat (Practice), Mark Macgowan (Commission), Meghan O'Donnell (Membership), Anna Nosko (Toronto Chapter), Andy Malekoff (Editor, SW with Groups), Jorune Vysniauskyte-Rimkiene (Lithuania Chapter), Hilda Muller (German Chapter), Hilda Baar (Member-at-large), Mamadou Seck (NE Ohio Chapter), Carol Cohen (Commission), Martin Camire (Member-at-large), Maria Gandarilla (So Cal Chapter; Member-at-large), Zaneta Smith (Member-at-large), Werner Lieblang (European Chapter), Tanja Schmitz-Remberg (Chapter Development), Mark Doel (VP), Ginnette Berteau (Francophone Chapter), John Genke (NY Chapter), Sam Benbow (PA Chapter), Dominique Steinberg (Treasurer), Edna Comer (Member-at-large), Olga Molina (Central Florida Chapter), Reineth Prinsloo (South Africa Chapter), Sari Skolnick (Long Island Chapter), Joyce Webster (Secretary), Elizabeth Dressel (MN Chapter), Kristen Perron (MN Chapter), Ann Bergart (Membership; Illinois Chapter), Charles Garvin (Practice), Kyle McGee (Nominations & Elections), Michael Wagner (Historical Secretary), Brian Kelly (Marketing), Dana Leeman (Symposium), Martin Birnbaum (Life Member), Christine Wilkins (Member-at-large), Greg Tully (President), David Carpenter (Massachusetts Chapter), Jay Sweifach (Member-at-large)

Visitors: William Pelech, Scott Sorenson, Andres Arias Astray, David Alonso Gonzalez, Sagrario Segado Sanchez-Cabezudo

Absent: Laura Farley (Florida Chapter), Jennie Fleming (Co-Editor, Groupwork), Daniela Riccelli (Member-at-large), Rhonda Hudson (Tennessee Chapter), Amirthini Ambrose (MN Chapter)

IASWG Board Meeting Agenda

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| 1. Welcome/Introductions | Greg |
| 2. Approval of Agenda/Approval of Minutes | Joyce |
| 3. General Activity Report | Greg |
| 4. Treasurer's Report | Dominique |
| 5. Committees meet for 60 minutes | All |
| 6. Symposium Committee Report | Dana |
| 2016 New York Symposium Report | Christine, Sari |
| 7. Commission on SW Educ. in Group Work Committee Report | Mark M/Carol |
| 8. Chapter Development Committee Report | Tanja |
| 9. International Issues Ad-hoc Committee Report | Mark D. |
| 10. Practice Committee Report | Barb/Charles |
| 11. Marketing Committee Report | Brian |
| 12. Membership Committee Report | Meghan/Ann |
| 13. Nominations/Elections Committee Report | Kyle |
| 14. Economic Development Ad-hoc Committee Report | Maria |

Welcome/Introductions/Approval of Agenda:

Greg Tully (President) called the meeting to order at 1:15pm. Forty members and five visitors offered brief introductions. Three visitors attending from Spain were welcomed by the Board and indicated their interest in forming a Spanish-speaking chapter of IASWG. William Pelech (2014 Calgary Symposium Co-Chair) presented Greg Tully (President) with an honorary Calgary Certificate to thank him for his contributions to the Calgary Symposium.

Brian Kelly made a motion to approve the agenda, Ann Bergart seconded, and all were in favor. (*Note: minutes from the November 2015 Board meeting were approved via electronic means prior to this meeting.*)

General Discussion:

Members took several minutes to reflect on and discuss the tragic mass murder in Orlando that took place a few days ago. Olga Molina (Central Florida Chapter) indicated many of her students at UCF were personally impacted by the event and that there is much work to be done when she returns to Orlando. John Genke reflected on the impact on the LGBTQ community. Mark Doel indicated time will be set aside at the Membership Meeting to explore ways IASWG can help members with their group work and that this might be one area where IASWG can be of assistance. Carol Cohen suggested IASWG look into mobilizing its professional resources during future tragedies/disasters.

Greg Tully acknowledged the passing of two long-time IASWG members, Bob Salmon and Steve Kraft. A spontaneous moment of silence took place as members reflected.

Greg Tully described and acknowledged the good work being done across the entire IASWG organization. He also offered thoughts about this year's symposium: NYU is a new site this year; the symposium will generate revenue for the organization; it seems the financial success of this symposium will alleviate some of the monetary concern that was felt and discussed at the November 2015 Board meeting. Greg suggested a discussion following the Treasurer's Report about: 1) keeping the symposium in NYC into the future; and 2) recognizing the significant income that symposia can generate for covering expenses of operations/activities/initiatives.

Treasurer's Report:

Dominique Steinberg reported the overall numbers look good, but that we should remain conscientious and conservative about our financial picture.

Budget Table highlights (The complete treasurer's report and budget is available by request):

- 2015 budget ended in the black
- Total cash on hand is about \$318k
- Need to finish funding Catherine Papell Invitational (about \$2,700)
- By moving most of our endowment to an annuity fund, we are now earning \$6k/year in interest

Endowment Discussion: Dominique suggested moving remaining \$30k left in our endowment fund into an interest-bearing vehicle and opened discussion to the group. Carol Cohen asked to know the terms of liquidity (i.e. are there penalties to accessing that money, if needed, etc.). The group agreed this would be important information to have before making any decisions. Greg and Dominique will explore this topic for a Board discussion (via email in the coming months) to

address moving additional endowment funds into an annuity. If the terms are clear for a new plan, the Board will vote electronically. If the terms are not clear, further discussion will be held over for November 2016 Board meeting.

Fundraising Discussion: Dominique opened discussion related to fundraising, specifically for support to reinstitute the International Scholar and Diversity Fellow at future symposia. Several ideas were raised including: adding a specific category for donations on the membership form, adding an option to donate specifically to this fund during the symposium registration process, earmarking a small percentage of symposium income for this purpose, exploring university partnerships to share costs, charging fees to attend scholar & fellow presentations, utilize money raised from publishers/book tables, and preview who the scholar/fellows will be to help to get donations to bring them.

The discussion about future symposia outlined prior to the Treasurer's Report resumed. Many members (including Marilyn Ghezzi, Anna Nosko, Ann Bergart, Greg Tully, and Barbara Muskat) voiced support for both the idea of keeping the symposium in NYC and of utilizing symposia funds to raise organizational income. Reasons for support cited were: local planning group is committed to return in 2017, significant freeing-up of human capital, many logistics already in place, opportunities to build on current structure and generate additional revenue (advertising, silent auction, etc), location is popular and easy to access, registration numbers are strong in NYC, increased revenue may allow us to finance additional activities in other locations (mini-conferences, more international camps, etc).

Greg adjourned the group to committee meetings at 2:35pm, with a call to reconvene at 3:30pm.

When the meeting reconvened after committees met, Emily Wilk (Operations Administrator) spoke to the group about recent organizational upgrades, including the MemberClicks membership database system, the revamped website with interactive features, and the Guidebook symposium program app. The Board acknowledged and applauded Emily's tireless efforts.

Committee Reports:

Symposium: Dana Leeman reported that this year's symposium would offer a robust program planned by a fantastic local planning group (Emily, Christine, John, and Sari). She indicated her excitement at returning to NYU again next year for the 2017 symposium. Dana asked the Board to consider International IASWG Honoree nominees for 2017 with less restricted eligibility rules, and she suggested she will make a motion to that effect at the November 2016 Board meeting.

Commission: Commission on Group Work in Social Work Education: (Report available in Membership Report distributed at symposium, or by request). Mark Macgowan reported the Commission is still requesting syllabi for posting on the IASWG website, as well as other educational resources. These will be posted on the website by the November Board meeting. Carol Cohen reported on the SPARC project. In this, the fourth year for IASWG SPARC, the Review Committee (Carol, Barb Muskat and Zaneta Smith) recommends approval of 4 proposals: two for endorsement (both dynamic training proposals with possible implications for IASWG expansion), and two for endorsement and funding (a community development project with people who were formerly homeless, and an evaluation of support group program for people who are recent immigrants). After describing the recommended proposals, Carol asked for a motion. Ann Bergart

made a motion to approve the proposals, Edna Comer seconded. The motion was unanimously approved, with abstentions by members involved in projects.

Chapter Development: Tanja reported on the 17 chapters and indicated the committee is looking for ways to better connect chapters and help them share ideas. She indicated the committee is going to develop a questionnaire to find out how each chapter operates, with the hope of gathering information for a more in depth discussion at the November 2016 Board meeting. Tanja further reported on the development of a Tennessee chapter, spearheaded by Rhonda Hudson. Tanja made the motion to accept the new chapter, and Kyle seconded. Vote was unanimous. Barb Muskat suggested the Board should create an “onboarding” process for new chapter chairs. This idea was well received.

International Issues: Mark Doel reported the committee had a fruitful discussion about the communication challenges that occur during meetings as a result of the international makeup of the Board. He suggested we set aside time at meetings for processing in small groups, consider how to better explain the official process that takes place in meetings so everyone understands its meaning, and offer transition and mentoring for new Board members. These suggestions were well received and Mark will present a detailed proposal at the November 2016 Board meeting.

Practice: Barb Muskat reported that the committee will be connecting with the Marketing committee to place practice tips on the IASWG website.

Marketing: Brian Kelly reported on plans to represent IASWG at CSWE in November, as well as progress on the development of “webinars” (see Economic Development Committee report).

Membership: Meghan O’Donnell reported that IASWG currently has 500+ individual members and is targeting 600 for the year. She indicated organizational memberships were building and that we should always be looking for additional organizational support. She reviewed the inaugural “welcoming project” underway for new attendees at this year’s symposium. She further reported that today’s committee discussion focused on increasing the diversity of the IASWG’s membership. Ann Bergart indicated the committee plans to poll current members to see how they identify, and she also suggested a change to the membership applications to gather this information, in the hopes of assessing the diversity of our membership.

Nominations/Elections: Kyle McGee introduced his committee (Martin, Sam, Jorune, and Daniela). Kyle reported there will be three member-at-large positions available this year and circulated a list to Board members for suggested nominees. He encouraged Board members to consider nominees that bring diversity and/or fundraising skills. The call for nominees will also go out to all IASWG members next month. Voting will take place in September so new members-at-large can be seated for the November 2016 Board meeting. Ballots will again be available in four languages, and Kyle suggested we consider if we need to widen our international reach by providing additional translations.

Economic Development: Maria Gandarilla reported that she has developed and is piloting software to conduct fee-based webinars on the IASWG website. She reported beta testing was not far off, and she would have more information available for the Board in November.

Greg acknowledged the excellent service of three departing Members-at-large: Edna Comer, Christine Wilkins, and Hilda Baar.

Greg acknowledged an idea submitted from the German Chapter. The idea sought to change the schedule of Board meetings so that the two-day November meeting would instead take place immediately in advance of June symposia, with the meeting in November taking place briefly and virtually. There was some brief discussion about the benefits and challenges of this motion (cost savings, feelings of disconnection, trouble with technology, etc), with a decision to consider addressing the idea again in November.

The next Board meeting was scheduled for November 12th and 13th, 2016 in New York City.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce Webster
IASWG Secretary