



International Association for Social Work with Groups, Inc.
101 West 23rd Street, Suite 108 ♦ New York, NY 10011 ♦ USA
855.755.7045 www.iaswg.org membership@iaswg.org

JUNE 2014: ANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBERSHIP

Greetings from the Executive Committee! We offer you our report in writing to allow more time at our annual Membership Meeting to gather together for discussions, recognitions, and announcements. Please feel free at the Membership Meeting to ask any questions about this report.

President/Vice President Report: Greg Tully, President (g.tully@nyu.edu); Jen Clements, Vice President (jaclem@ship.edu). Thank you to all who contributed to our mission this past year: Board members, chapter folks, and our over 600 members! Our committees have been busy: Chapter Development (Chair Linda McArdle) distributed support funds to our many chapters; IASWG appreciates the enormous contributions by chapters across the world, many of which held exciting local events. The IASWG Symposium Planning Committee (Co-Chairs Dana Leeman, Leah Rosen) along with our 2014 Calgary Symposium Planning Committee (Co-Chairs William Pelech, Karen Ring, Sarah Larocque) have worked very hard to make our Calgary Symposium a success, with people from all over the world presenting. We eagerly look forward to our 2015 North Carolina Symposium (Co-Chairs Anne Jones, Willa Casstevens, Marilyn Ghezzi). The Commission on Group Work Education (Co-Chairs Carol Cohen, Mark Macgowan) has reviewed funding requests for IASWG projects; we encourage you to initiate projects that promote group work. The Commission supports group work research and writing, including Symposium *Proceedings*. The Marketing Committee (Co-Chairs Susan Ciardiello, Jared Kant) continues to promote IASWG with such activities as exhibit spaces at conferences, organizational banners, and various forms of advertising and promotion. The Practice Committee (Co-Chairs Charles Garvin, Barb Muskat) continues to move IASWG forward on a number of activities, with special emphasis on the use of the IASWG *Standards*, and most recently the role of mutual aid in group work. The Membership Committee (Co-Chairs Olga Molina, Rhonda Hudson) have been successfully conducting outreach to attain 2013 membership renewals; renewals are arriving steadily along with new memberships, and we hope to match or exceed our 2012 membership numbers. Many thanks to our Operations Administrator, Emily Wilk, who provides expertise and professionalism in managing our many membership-related activities. The Nominations and Elections Committee (Chair, Mark Smith) prepared a strong slate of nominees for 2013 elections, and are actively planning the 2014 elections to be held in September. In addition to the Executive Committee members noted above for their work on various committees, thanks also to Michael Wagner, our dedicated Secretary, and Dominique Moyse Steinberg, our committed Treasurer. Finally: 1) our new IASWG Website (Emily Wilk, Website Administrator) is working nicely; 2) our special Committee on Retention and Recruitment (Chair Ann Bergart) continues their good work; and 3) our summer Group Work Camp event (created by Ann Bergart) is already in planning mode for 2015. Thank you to all of you for your hard work in furthering the IASWG group work mission.

The Membership Committee Report: Co-Chairs, Olga Molina (omolina@ucf.edu) and Rhonda Hudson (rhudson@uu.edu). We have been working closely with Greg Tully, Nancy Sullivan, Emily Wilk, and the Membership Committee, Mayra Bagnoli, Edna Comer, Maria Gurrola, Kyle McGee, and Dorlisa Minnick, to ensure that our membership continues to grow in 2014. As of May 13, 2014, we have 335 members who have paid their dues this year. We are hopeful that we can reach our goal of 600 members by the end of the year. Last year we had 620 members by the end of December. We continue to have a diverse international membership made up of 17 countries. They include Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Canada, China, England, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Namibia, Netherlands, South Africa, United Kingdom, and the USA. In order to recruit new members and renew memberships, the Committee has continued our monthly eblasts to membership this year. Chapter Chairs have been encouraged to recruit new members and renew past members. An ad hoc committee just finished sending out a large mail outreach to previous IASWG members from 2013, 2012 and 2011 and we

expect good results. Kyle McGee is planning another mail outreach for next month. Nancy Sullivan, our Operations Administrator, continued to manage all the tasks related to membership enrollment. Thank-you for your help, Nancy! We are now working with our new Operations Administrator, Emily Wilk. Welcome to your new role and thanks for your help with our committee! Please help us keep spreading the good word about IASWG to those still considering joining or renewing for 2014! Feel free to E-mail membership@iaswg.org or phone toll-free 1-888-775-7045 with any questions, concerns, or suggestions about IASWG membership. Remember to tell others that they can join IASWG or renew online through the www.iaswg.org website.

Commission Report. Co-chairs Carol S. Cohen (cohen@adelphi.edu) and Mark Macgowan

(macgowan@fiu.edu). **Members:** Martin Birnbaum, Jen Clements, Marcia Cohen, Mark Doel, Charles Garvin, Dana Grossman Leeman, Linda McArdle, Kyle McGee, Donna McLaughlin, Barbara Muskat, Sonia Spelters, & Mark Smith. Here are some highlights of our new and ongoing initiatives, by topic areas (for information about the Commission, click on http://iaswg.org/Commission_GW), or contact Mark or Carol. **Planning New Initiatives:** At the most recent IASWG Board meeting (October 2013), the Commission met and discussed curriculum innovations and trainings. Specifically, members discussed the following: (1) Developing teaching modules across the foundation (infusion model of group work) and advanced curriculum to incorporate the Standards into teaching. Potential venues are local, national and international conferences, as well as posting and circulating through the website. An ad hoc group was formed consisting of Mark Macgowan, Mark Smith, Willa Casstevens, Carol Cohen, Rhonda Hudson, and Jen Clements. Additional volunteers are welcome! (2) In addition, the committee reaffirmed that the Commission should be concerned with not only advancing group work in higher education but also the training of group workers in continuing education. We are interested in developing webinars, trainings by IASWG members. To explore this further, an ad hoc committee was formed consisting of Linda McArdle (taking initial lead), Kyle McGee and Jen Clements. Additional participants are invited. **Proceedings Update:** The proceedings are excellent resources for teaching and training. The Montreal and Long Beach Proceedings are expected to be published by the Calgary Symposium. That leaves the proceedings from Detroit, Boston and Calgary! Thanks to everyone who worked on bringing all these volumes into print. Remember, a benefit of being a full symposium registrant is you will receive a complimentary copy. For a list of all proceedings and their availability, click on http://iaswg.org/Symposium_Proceedings, all published through Whiting and Birch. In addition, selected papers that have been published through Whiting and Birch will be made available free on the IASWG website. Thanks to Whiting and Birch for making these available. **IASWG SPARC Project:** Affiliated with the Commission, has now been through two rounds of review, with recommendations from the 3rd round to be presented to the IASWG Board in June for new projects approved for endorsement only, or endorsement or funding. The Project is publicized by EBlasts, Chapters and at Conferences – we welcome ideas for dissemination. More information on SPARC is at <http://www.iaswg.org/sparc>, including information on awarded projects, flyers, application information and requirements. The next round of proposals will be reviewed October 31, 2014. In Calgary, the SPARC Committee Members and Awardees will be presenting an informational (and hopefully inspirational) forum on Saturday, 10-11 AM. **Recent/Upcoming Publications:** A number of special issues of *Social Work with Groups* and *Groupwork* have recently been published and some are in development, including those related to education for social work with groups, field education, criminal justice, and service users in groups. We can continue to support the journals through including articles in syllabi and incorporating them in our curriculum. We will be following up with David Whiting on publication of two compilation volumes of papers from previous proceedings. At this point, we anticipate one volume on *Groupwork in Education* and another on *Groupwork in Practice*. **IASWG Website:** We continue to update the Commission section on the IASWG website. We hope to refresh content, such as adding experts willing to serve as outside members of dissertation committees, provide sample syllabi, and downloadable copies of the Standards. We would like to add videos related to teaching social work with groups. Material and suggestions are welcome!