

Meeting of the IASWG Board of Directors
Saturday, Nov. 17 and Sunday, Nov. 18, 2017
Fordham University, NYC
Minutes

Members Present: William Pelech (*member-at-large*), Alexis Howard (*member-at-large*), Shirley Simon (*co-chair, chapter development; member-at-large*), Lorrie Gardella (*member-at-large*), Ann Bergart (*Illinois chapter*), Anna Nosko (*Toronto chapter*), John Genke (*NY red apple chapter*), Reineth Prinsloo (*vice president*), Mamadou Seck (*NE Ohio chapter*), Kristen Perron (*Minnesota chapter*), Sam Benbow (*chair, membership; Pennsylvania chapter*), Hilda Baar (*German chapter*), Christine Wilkins (*co-chair, symposium*), Mark Macgowen (*co-chair, commission*), Kyle McGee (*chair, nominations & elections*), Dominique Steinberg (*treasurer*), Greg Tully (*most recent past president*), Andy Malekoff (*editor, social work with groups*), Jennie Flemming (*editor, groupwork*), Charles Garvin (*life member*), Helene Onserud (*member-at-large*), Michael Wagner (*historical secretary*), Kristina Lind (*northern new england chapter*), Ginette Berteau (*vice president*), Carol Cohen (*co-chair, commission*), Mark Doel (*chair, international affairs*), Barbara Muskat (*president*), Joyce Webster (*communications secretary*), Emily Wilk (*operations administrator*), Olga Molina (*central florida chapter*), Dana Leeman (*co-chair, symposium*), Sera Kaplan (*massachusetts chapter*), Sari Skolnick (*long island chapter*), Linda Ducca (*member-at-large*), Poppy Masinga (*member-at-large*), Roseprimevere Jacques (*member-at-large*), Christiane Jalbert (*francophone chapter*), Beni Hernandez (*southern california chapter*), Matthew Miller (*alberta chapter*), John Lukach (*minnesota chapter*), Rasa Vejelyte (*Lithuania chapter*), Mark Smith (*South Florida chapter*), Zaneta Smith

Members Absent: Tanja Schmitz-Remberg (*co-chair, chapter development*), Martin Birnbaum (*life member*), Rhonda Hudson (*tennessee chapter*), Werner Leiblang (*europa chapter*), Reshawna Chapple (*member-at-large*), Maria Gandarilla (*co-chair, marketing*), Willa Casstevens (*north carolina chapter*), Brian Kelly (*co-chair, marketing*)

Sunday Morning

Barb Muskat, President, called the meeting to order at 8:43am. Barb welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked others to do the same in any language, in an effort to acknowledge the "I" in IASWG.

The following motions were made and carried with full agreement:

- Agenda - Michael Wagner moved to accept the agenda as written, Anna Nosko seconded, all voted in favor
- Minutes - Lorrie Gardella moved to accept the minutes from the June 2018 Board meeting, Mark Doel seconded, all voted in favor
- New Chapter - William Pelech introduced Matthew Miller from Alberta and reported that they have completed all paperwork and membership requirements for chapter recognition. Anna Nosko moved to recognize Alberta as the newest chapter of IASWG, Dana Leeman seconded, all voted in favor.

IASWG General Issues: Barb spent a few minutes introducing her background and her vision for the organization. Reineth Prinsloo and Ginette Berteau, new co-vice presidents, did the same. Barb thanked Greg, Emily, Joyce, and Dominique for their support to her in her new role. She also acknowledged the generous support of Martin Birnbaum and the estate of Anna Fritz, who donated \$25k and \$80k, respectively, to the endowment fund of IASWG. Barb extended a warm welcome to the three new at-large members in the room: Poppy Masinga, Roseprimevere Jacques, and Linda Ducca. Lastly, she reviewed communication guidelines for the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Dominique Steinberg provided a written Treasurer's report that included a narrative about the financial health of the organization, an update on where the organization stands thus far in the 2018 budget, a proposed budget for 2019 (including special projects), and a 2019 Symposium budget proposal. Overall, the organization remains in a strong financial position and should be able to continue to provide funds for chapters to engage in special projects, due in part to recent monetary gifts. After some members reviewed the report, William Pelech made a motion to accept the 2019 Budget, Anna Nosko seconded. Prior to a vote, discussion took place: William was curious about end-of-year projections with regard to the surplus/deficit; Barb remarked on the need to monitor growing expenses related to board travel; Barb noted the board will be purchasing Board insurance in the near future; Carol Cohen thanked Dominique for reaching out to committees in advance of the meeting to discuss the budget; there was also brief discussion about the creation of a development/fundraising community. The motion to approve the 2019 budget carried, with all in favor and Dominique abstaining.

2018 Symposium Report: Reineth Prinsloo shared a power point highlighting the 2018 South Africa symposium experience and also reviewed the 2018 symposium budget which showed the symposium generated income for the organization. Mark Smith moved to accept the final 2018 symposium budget report, Sam Benbow seconded, and all voted in favor.

2019 Symposium Update: Co-chairs, Dana Leeman and Christine Wilkins, provided members with a draft of the 2019 Call for Proposals and much discussion ensued about how to modify some language in the call to better match our goals and organizational branding. Upon completion of discussion, Carol Cohen made a motion to approve the work of the symposium committee: the proposed theme, Call for Proposals, and 2019 symposium budget (with one edit to an error on the income page), with the understanding that the Board entrusts the committee to make additional edits to symposium materials based on the conversation outlined above. Sam Benbow seconded, all voted in favor, with the exception of Carol Cohen who abstained. Dana further reported the committee is working on ideas for building connections during the symposium, brainstorming events, etc, and she invited additional participation on the Symposium Planning Committee.

International Issues: Barb Muskat and Mark Doel recommended that, after several years as an Ad-hoc committee, International Issues should become a standing committee. Mark Doel made a motion to that effect, Christine Wilkins seconded. Some discussion took place with regards to the makeup, function, and goals of the committee. Dana Leeman suggested the committee be tasked with considering how to "de-americanize" our processes with regard to symposia and

meetings. There was much support voiced and echoed in the room for this idea, with a demand for work from the entire board to engage in this effort. All voted in favor of the motion as stated.

Barb introduced a proposal brought by the German chapter, with relation to the distribution of membership income among chapters. This topic was carried over for discussion during the Chapter Development committee meeting.

Journal Updates: Andy Malekoff reported the 41st volume of Social Work with Groups in print, with a special issue forthcoming on mindfulness. Jennie Fleming reported Groupwork is producing a French issue, is working to produce a Spanish issue, and will again be holding its student essay contest. Shirley Simon put forth a call for any interested members to talk with her if they would be willing to write a book review for Groupwork.

Group Work Camp: US group work camp is being planned for July 11-14th, 2019, with some decisions still needing to be made about location; Francophone group work camp is being planned in Quebec for July 5-7th, 2019; Lithuania had a camp in October 2018 with 52 people in attendance from six countries; Toronto will hold a “mini” camp this month.

Introductions/Chapter Reports/Committee Agendas: The group went around the room, so individuals could introduce themselves by their roles, offer updates and reflections on events from their chapters, and propose agendas for afternoon committee meetings. Sixteen chapter representatives offered remarks.

The group broke for lunch and committee meetings at 12:30pm.

The following committees met to discuss committee business and prepare reports for the entire Board for Sunday morning:

12:30-1:45	Budget & Finance	Commission on Group Work in Social Work Education	Symposium Planning
1:45-3:00	Ad-hoc Certificate	Nominations	International Affairs
3:00-4:15	Membership	Marketing & Webinars	Practice
4:15-5:30	Chapter Development		

Sunday Morning

Barb called the meeting to order at 8:42am and outlined the agenda: short committee reports (90 minutes), whole group talking circle (60 minutes), and sessional ending activity (15 minutes).

Nominations & Elections – Committee member, Sam Benbow, reported on behalf of committee Chair Kyle McGee that the committee debriefed about the process from the recent nominations and elections cycle, including challenges related to translating so many statements. The committee's future work will focus on improving the translation process.

Membership – Committee chair, Sam Benbow, noted the committee reviewed the outcome of a membership survey that was completed by chapter chairs, in relation to how the membership committee can support chapter efforts to recruit and retain new members.

Budget & Finance – As the 2019 budget was approved yesterday, Dominique Steinberg reported the committee discussed the following at its meeting: the use of the Marty Birnbaum fund and how to generate usable interest for special projects, as well as the growing expenses for Board members to travel to NYC every year as an expense line item that will need to be closely monitored.

Symposium – Committee Co-chair, Dana Leeman, reported the committee had a rich discussion and touched on the following subjects related to the June 5-8, 2019, Symposium in NYC: the need for abstract reviewers in the coming months, the possibility of raising symposium registration rates in an effort to increase the financial support for international students, the desire to look for a more globally diverse cadre of plenary and invitational speakers, a possible student host program, possible support for the expansion of outstitutes to include a skills training session coupled with site visits, improving language translation efforts, the reinstatement of "buddy program" for first time attendees, and the possibility of a harbor cruise as one evening event; watch for e-mails asking for help in the coming months, please respond. Much discussion ensued about fundraising efforts and ways to subsidize costs.

Practice – Committee Co-chair, Charles Garvin, reported on the group's idea to propose an interactive plenary presentation regarding the erosion of democracy around the world and the implications of social group work; committee members will continue brainstorming in the coming months and collaborate with the symposium committee as appropriate.

Ad-hoc Certification Committee – Committee Chair, William Pelech, reported the committee is working through the tension of how to create and institute a group work certification program on a large scale. Thus, the group determined they would "start small", implementing a foundational certification in "Group Work 101" at symposium as a pilot project, then scale up from there. The committee asked for support from the Board for the committee to work to create and implement the certification curriculum at the next symposium. The Board voiced broad support and appreciation to the committee for its thoughtful work. William made a motion asking for the Board to formally indicate their support to have the committee build and offer the foundational certification pilot program curriculum at the next symposium; Lorrie Gardella motioned to suspend the rules to allow for an immediate vote on William's motion, Mark Smith seconded; Barb Muskat called for a vote on suspending the rules, all voted in favor; some discussion of William's motion and the details of the certification process ensued, Barb called for a vote, all voted in favor.

International Issues – Committee Chair, Mark Doel, reported the committee discussed economic and financial equity and inclusion within the organization, specifically discussing membership fees as well as ways to offer resources for international scholars. Other topics included effectiveness of proceedings in a global context.

Marketing – Communications Secretary, Joyce Webster, offered a brief report on behalf of committee co-chairs, Brian Kelly and Maria Gandarilla. A power point presentation with data from a recent survey on social media use and presence was distributed electronically to Board members. Joyce directed members to reach out to Brian or Maria with any questions, comments, or suggestions related to the survey and/or the Marketing Committee.

Chapter Development – Committee Co-chair, Shirley Simon, thanked the chapter chairs for their ongoing efforts and reported on the possible creation of a new chapter in Australia and New Zealand; Shirley further reported on discussion, brought forth by the German chapter, regarding possibly modifying the process of allocating membership funds and chapter support. This open discussion took up the majority of the committee meeting and this discussion will continue; Shirley requested all chapter chairs complete the Annual Chapter Report for 2018 so support payments can be processed and disbursed.

Commission on Group Work in Social Work Education – Committee Co-chair, Carol Cohen, offered report (*power point available upon request*) about the committee's activities including: revamping and updating resources on the IASWG website (syllabi, publications, upcoming conferences, and new multimedia case studies) and the continuation of the SPARC program. Carol gave a brief history of SPARC, which is in its 5th year. This cycle the committee made four recommendations for endorsement and funding. Carol outlined the recommendations and asked for a motion to accept the recommendations, William Pelech moved, Ann Bergart second, no discussion ensued, and all voted in favor. After the vote, there was some discussion about the translation process and feasibility/alternatives to submitting and reviewing SPARC proposals only in English; the committee will continue to discuss this important issue and will also consider adding bi-lingual committee members to serve on the committee. Carol also noted that the committee discussed their collaboration with other committees, as well as how to better utilize the theme "Time for Group Work" to promote the organization and its efforts; Carol will forward notes on this discussion to Board members upon request.

Upon completion of committee reports, Barb initiated a "talking stick" discussion, allowing each member in attendance an opportunity to share their reflections and experiences related to this meeting, to the organization, and to social group work as a whole. After ninety minutes of sharing, Michael Wagner led the group in a brief sessional ending activity before the meeting was adjourned at 12:01pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joyce Webster
IASWG Secretary
November 19, 2018