**IASWG Board Meeting**

**November 21, 2020**

**10am-1pm EST (using Zoom)**

**Minutes**

*Members Present:* Barbara Muskat *(President)*, Ginette Berteau *(Co-vice President)*, Donna Guy *(Member-at-large),* Joyce Webster *(Communications secretary)*, Mark Macgowan *(Co-chair, Commission)*, Roseprimevere Jacques *(Member-at-large),* Ann Bergart *(Illinois chapter),* Charles Garvin *(Co-chair, Practice),* Carol Cohen *(Co-chair, Commission)*, Poppy Masinga *(Member-at-large)*, Alexis Howard *(Co-chair, Nominations & Elections)*, Kyle McGee *(Co-chair, Nominations & Elections)*, Padriac Stanley *(Member-at-large),* Hilda Baar *(German chapter)*, Anite Marseille *(Co-chair, Membership; Francophone chapter)*, Sari Skolnick *(Long Island chapter)*, Angel (Nancy) Doetzel *(Alberta chapter)*, John Genke *(NY red apple chapter)*, Lorrie Gardella *(Co-chair, International Issues; Member-at-large)*, Shirley Simon *(Co-Chair, Chapter Development; Member-at-large)*, Mamadou Seck *(NE Ohio chapter)*, Linda Ducca *(Member-at-large),* Helene Onserud *(Member-at-large)*, Cheryl Lee *(Western US Virtual Chapter),* Emily Santonocito *(Operations Administrator),* Sera Kaplan *(Co-chair, chapter development; Massachusetts chapter)*, Brian Kelly *(Co-chair, Marketing), Rachael Pascoe (Ontario Canada chapter),* Mark Doel *(Co-chair, International Issues)*, Kristina Lind *(Northern New England chapter),* Zaneta Smith (*Member, Budget & Finance committee),* Sam Benbow *(Co-Chair, Membership; Pennsylvania chapter)*, Michael Wagner *(Historical secretary)*, Adina Muskat *(Ontario Canada chapter),* April Parker *(North Carolina chapter),* Jorūnė Vyšniauskytė Rimkienė *(Lithuania chapter)*, Greg Tully *(Most recent past president)*, Reineth Prinsloo *(Co-vice President),* Andy Malekoff *(Editor, Social Work with Groups)*,Gloria Kirwan *(Groupwork Journal),* Namoonga Chilwalo *(Member-at-large),* Kristen Perron *(Chair, Money Committee; Minnesota chapter*), Maria Gandarilla *(Co-chair, Marketing)*,

*Visitors Present:* Rakia and Maya *(French translators),* Sophia *(member from Stockholm)* (This meeting was attended by two French translators who interpreted for our French-speaking members.)

*Members Absent*:*),* Donna Mclaughlin *(Treasurer),* Werner Leiblang *(European chapter)*, Stephanie Baird *(Ontario Canada chapter)*, Roshini Pillay *(South Africa chapter),* Rhonda Hudson *(Tennesee chapter)*, Mark Smith *(Co-chair, Practice; Florida chapter)*

**Welcome & Introductions** – Barb Muskat called the meeting to order at 10:11am EST. She welcomed 45 members from across the world (several first-time board meeting attendees) and acknowledged the hardships that continue to take place (COVID pandemic, racial injustices, social isolation, disconnection, etc). Barb invited members to self-introduce with their names and roles, as well as offer any updates since the last Board meeting. This was a robust portion of the meeting, with members spending time reflecting and connecting, as well as reporting on events taking place within their personal and professional lives. Some chapter representatives committee co-chairs provided brief updates as follows:

* Ann Bergart noted there is a highly effective group of IASWG members that have been meeting online to discuss teaching group work online.
* Charles Garvin noted there is a group working on updating the Standard to make them applicable for online group work.
* Andy Malekoff noted a special issue of *Social Work with Groups* on stories of the pandemic is in process, with many contributions coming from India.
* Several chapter representatives offered updates on recent and upcoming virtual chapter events. Be on the lookout for updates on upcoming chapter events; many are open for anyone to attend, despite chapter affiliation.

**Approval of Agenda** – Sam Benbow motioned to approve, Michael Wagner seconded, all voted in favor.

**Approval of Minutes** - [IASWG Board Meeting Minutes - June 2020](https://docs.google.com/document/d/12yKPD0CNX20BNoRb5yJuC0htQIe13xwaKQanJHzYuoY/edit?usp=sharing) – Greg Tully motioned to approve, Ann Bergart seconded, all voted in favor.

**State of the Organization** – Overall, the organization is both busy (what a great first virtual symposium!) and financially solvent. Barb noted several upcoming leadership openings, including on the marketing and symposium committees. The co-chairs of the marketing committee are both stepping down. The executive committee has been serving in advisory role for symposium planning; need to formalize the membership of the symposium committee.

**2020 Symposium Recap** – Barb presented the 2020 [Budget Dashboard and Symposium Recap](https://iaswg.memberclicks.net/assets/Budget%20Dashboard%20and%20Symposium%20Feedback.pdf) that was aggregated by Padraic Stanley. Overall, attendees were highly satisfied with the virtual symposium and the board thanked Emily for her heroic efforts. The symposium was able to generate income for the organization, since the costs were lower than an in person symposium. Due to many ongoing factors, the next in-person symposium will be held in Lithuania in 2022.

**2021 Symposium Update** – The 2021 symposium will be held virtually from ***June 9-12, 2021***. The theme is *Group Work in a Changing World: The Power of Connection.* A draft of the Call for Proposals was previewed by the board and will be widely distributed once translations are complete. Barb asked members to consider who might be good for plenary and invitational presentations. Barb noted the symposium committee is being rebuilt and current members are: Barb, Emily, Joyce, Reineth, Ginette, Jorune, and Greg. Other committee members are being sought. Padraic, Linda, Donna, and Namoonga volunteered.

***Members presented the following items for consideration for the next symposium. The committee will take these under advisement:***

* *How/if to improve upon virtual meeting platform; is there a low-cost company we can use to host vs. just having zoom accts? (commpartners.com was suggested)*
* *Schedule/timing could be adjusted to address varied time zones of members*
* *Language/translation access for more attendees*
* *Multiple meeting prior to sessions to ensure interpreting process is flawless*
* *CE credit administration (NYU may not be an option); who has other options?*
* *Commission can reach out to institutional contacts re: translation services and CEs?*
* *Addition of social/networking time/events*
* *Should registration prices be adjusted?*
* *Should we charge for Ronnie’s institute?*
* *Offer an invitational in a language other than English?*
* *Collaborate with Spanish symposium?*
* *Can we offer pre-recorded sessions? Can sessions be made available off-line? How would consent work? Legal implications?*
* *Can we reinstitute International Scholar since no travel costs?*

**Treasurer’s Report & Proposed Budget** – In Donna’s absence, Emily presented the IASWG Financial Dashboard provided by Padraic Stanley (linked above).

For 2020, income is strong in areas of organizational memberships, recent contributions (Normal Lang invitational) symposium, and endowment interest. Individual membership income is down but that is to be expected due to the move to online symposium. Expenses are come predominately from symposium and administration. No expenses from Board meeting travel this year. Emily reported she and Donna have been streamlining administrative costs (eliminating use of PayPal) and eliminating duplicate accounts. Recently, MemberClicks added option for members to automatically renew memberships. No chapter support payments have been made for 2020 due to chapters moving to virtual events.

The proposed budget for 2021 (available at the end of this packet) was discussed by the budget and finance committee, as well as the language access task group, prior to this meeting. The proposed budget is fairly similar to past budgets, showing an surplus at the end of the year, with the following changes included: reduction in individual membership income, addition of a $5,000 line-item for translation services, addition of a $2000 line-item for insurance, a reduction of SPARC spending down to $3000, and the elimination of costs associated with both an in-person symposium and Board meeting travel reimbursements. *Discussion:* There was a request from Mark Macgowan during the recent Executive meeting to increase the SPARC line-item back to its original allocation of $5,000. There was some discussion in this meeting about linking with institutions and grantors to secure technology resources and/or funding for symposium. Barb noted that members will need to step up to work on building relationships and exploring grants. Maria noted grants cannot be used for administrative costs and we should consider what our plan would be for any funds requested. There was additional discussion about investing in a virtual conference platform vs. hosting the symposium as we did last year. There was also some concern that $5000 was not sufficient for translation services and we could risk over-spending in this area. After this discussion, Lorrie Gardella motioned to approve the proposed 2021 budget as written, with the change in the SPARC expense line-item from $3000 to $5000. Cheryl Lee seconded the motion. During the discussion portion, Emily noted that translation expenses are difficult to project and questioned if this line item should be increased. Linda noted the language access group is working to secure student volunteers to offset translation costs. Barb noted there is not an easy way to know what our translation costs will be in 2021, as it is dependent on how many volunteers we can secure as well as how many meetings, sessions, etc. we hope to translate. This is still to be determined. On behalf of the language access task committee, Helene and Ginette noted they felt the current $5000 allocation was appropriate. Andy noted the proposed budget shows a surplus and could be adjusted. Forty members voted in favor of the motion as stated, Kristen Perron and Maria Ocampo opposed, and Zaneta Smith abstained.

**Committee Reports** - Due to the truncated nature of this meeting, at this point brief committee updates were offered. Full committee reports were provided in writing prior to this meeting and can be found at the end of this packet. Committee co-chairs spoke as follows:

*Nominations & Elections –* see report

*Marketing –* see report

*Membership –* see report

*Practice –* see report

*International Issues -* The International Committee motioned to make the language access task group into a standing committee. Greg Tully seconded the motion. All voted in favor, with the exception of three abstentions. Need to add description of committee to website.

*Language Access task group –* Addendum to report below: Ginette noted the group is seeking partnerships with institutions to try to obtain translation services. If anyone knows of any departments of translations at their home institutions, please let Ginette know. Linda will send PowerPoint to board members with more information. Maria will work on Call for Translators.

*Commission on Group Work Education Committee –* see report

*SPARC -* Carol Cohen presented the SPARC funding requests (see end of this packet) and motioned to approve the requests. Greg Tully seconded the motion. All voted in favor, with the exception of three abstentions.

*Chapter Development –* see report

*Money –* Addendum to report below: Please reach out to kmperron@gmail.com to chat about how we can make a more robust IASWG via the "money" committee

**Other Updates –**

*Journals -* Social Work with Groups report was provided by Andy Malekoff. He noted Group Work Stories on Pandemic 2020 deadline Dec. 20 (5-9 page first person narratives no references, no citations send to Anjru@aol.com; Coming attractions: Special Issue on Group work and Psychodrama, Sociometry etc. (Sari Skolnik, guest editor); Special issue on SPARC projects (Guest editors: Brian Kelly, Carol Cohen and a cast of thousands).

*Group Work Camp* – John Genke reported that Group Work Camp will not take place in 2021.

*Certification* – Michael Wagner reported the group is struggling with the question about what to offer. Work is ongoing.

*Online teaching/practice groups* – Ann Bergart reported on two groups that are currently running to offer support around teaching group work online. There has been broad support and engagement in this ongoing project. There are resources from the groups available at iaswg.org/teaching. Ann is looking for new facilitators.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:21pm EST. The next meeting of the Board of Directors of IASWG will take place in June 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce Webster

IASWG Organizational Secretary

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***COMMITTEE REPORTS***

***Budget & Finance (Donna) -*** The Budget and Finance met in advance of this meeting to review the budget proposal below. ***To be discussed: Budget needs to be reviewed and approved by the Board.***

***2020 Symposium Recap (Barb & Emily)*** - Facing the challenge of hosting a symposium amid a global pandemic, IASWG hosted its first virtual symposium in June. The theme, *The Climate is Ripe for Groupwork: Creating Connections and Restoring Hope in a Fragmented World,* was timely for many reasons. The symposium brought together 350+ group workers from around the world. One institute was offered in French and English; keynotes were simultaneously translated into three languages.

***2021 Symposium Planning (Barb & Exec)*** - We have postponed our Symposium in Lithuania until 2022. By then we hope that travel restrictions will be lifted and pandemic spread will be under control, allowing us to be able to travel to Lithuania and make that event a well-attended success. We will, however, be hosting anothervirtual symposium June 9-12, 2021. Planning is under way and the Call for Proposals will be available soon. ***Things to be discussed: should schedule remain the same?; NYU may not offer CEs, anyone’s institution able to step in?; other topics: plenary speakers and scholarship distribution process***

***Nominations & Elections (Kyle McGee & Alexis Howard) -*** Over the past year, the committee proposed to postpone the Board election due to the Covid-19 global pandemic and invite current At-large Board members to a one-year term extension. This decision was voted on and approved during the June 2020 Board meeting and since that time, the committee has confirmed that all current at-large members have accepted this one-year term extension. For this coming year, the committee intends to hold elections as usual. We are working on strategies to help promote the election and to create a process that is equitable given the ongoing pandemic situation. In addition, the committee is focusing on supporting development and connection of the newest at-large board members. These activities have been very successful and will continue moving forward. ***To be discussed: 1) Brief report on how we are supporting new Board members at-large develop in their role, and 2) how we are building strategy for the 2021 election.***

***Marketing (Maria Gandarilla)*** – Brian Kelly has stepped-down as co-chair and Maria will be ending her tenure in the near future. Since the symposium, our committee has not taken on any major endeavors. CSWE is typically an activity that our committee leads, however, this year we withdrew from participating as the conference was planned to be virtual and we did not have the personnel needed to carry out tabling effectively. We successfully received a refund of our registration fee. We have not had additional meetings or plans, in part due to uncertainty regarding the committee status once leadership fully transitions. The Marketing Committee will be meeting directly following this meeting. ***To be discussed: Do we want to continue having a table at CSWE APM? Should restructuring of committees be done to absorb marketing committee efforts? If not, what plan should we have for the leadership transition?***

***Membership (Sam Benbow & Anite Marseille)*** - The committee successfully implemented as well as synthesized the results of both the Membership and New Member surveys. Several initiatives are being worked on to include the New Member Network Hour (meeting dates and times are posted on the website), Outreach for members who are not linked to a specific chapter, ongoing meetings with the leadership team of our German Chapter, holding discussions about the reestablishment of an electronic newsletter or correspondence to members, and the recruitment of new members to the committee.

***To be discussed: Use of IASWG pins, membership survey results, recruitment of new committee members***

***Practice (Charles Garvin & Mark Smith) –*** A subgroup of the Practice committee is working on standards for online groups; a meeting is planned for this Sunday morning at 9:30. Email Mark Macgowan if you are interested in attending or contributing.

***International Issues (Mark Doel & Lorrie Greenhouse Gardella)*** –

*International Impact Form:* The International Impact Form ([International Impact Form](https://www.iaswg.org/international-impact-form)) was designed as a means of raising IASWG’s consciousness of international issues and to help committees communicate among one another about these issues. Chapters and committees are asked to respond to the International Impact Form in their annual reports to the Board.

*The Financial Structure Working Group* prepared a proposal, with the goal that the differential fee structure (which has been slightly re-worked; *see document at the end of this packet*) be endorsed by the Board and uploaded to the website by December before the annual renewal of subscriptions. The Fee Structure task group is working on different fees for symposia: in person; virtual; and/or hybrid.

*Future Symposia Planning Committees*: We encourage the planning group for future in-person symposia to consider a *hybrid format* as a means to continue our progress in advancing all issues on the International Impact Form.  Also, Symposium planning committees would benefit from international membership with language diversity. Various committees, including International Issues, Language Access, Membership, and Marketing might support and collaborate with the Symposia Planning Committees throughout the year.

*Racial Justice initiative*: The International Issues Committee discussed the possibility of a Racial Justice Initiative but it was decided that this was more properly a project for the full board than for a committee. One of the possible outcomes might be a call for specific actions by group workers.

*Language Access:*The International Issues Committee and the Language Access working group will be developing guidelines for providing language access in IASWG meetings and activities. Below is a summary of work by the group:

***Language Access and Translation Task Group (Ginette Berteau) -*** Summary of work done:

A) June 1 to 19

1) - Translation

·      Support to the Marketing Committee in promoting the Symposium

·      Translation into French of part of the Glassman workshop PowerPoint

2)  Interpretation:

·      Search for interpreters for the Glassman Institute (English - French) and   for the Symposium

for the plenary lecture and debate (French, Spanish and German)

·      Support to membership committee : Recruitment of bilingual member-volunteers to meet

with the members.

B) End of June - November

1)  Evaluation of 2019-2020 achievements (June),

2)  Participation in the international committee meeting (Impact Form - end of June)

3)  Work on 2020-2021 priorities

·      Concertation on priorities (by mail: September)

·      Discussion and development of strategies for partner search and symposium support (2

meetings: October 14th and November 4th)

·      Partnership Search (November)

-sending to the board to identify language and/or translation departments

-contacts made with 5 departments (June, August and November)

4) A new member from the German chapter joined the team in november.

    Members: Ginette Berteau, Carol Cohen, Linda Ducca, Hélène Onserud,  Hildegard Müller, Mamadou Seck.

***To be discussed: The International Issues Committee proposes two motions:***

***1)   The Language Working Group be made a standing Language Access Committee***

***2)    A budget item for translation and interpretation services be included in the annual IASWG budget.***

***Commission on Group Work in Social Work Education (Carol Cohen & Mark Macgowan) –***

*Bi-Annual Report, November 2020*

IASWG Commission Mission: To integrate and support group work education, generate knowledge and strategies for teaching, and strengthening teaching of group work within social work, and the dissemination of information for practitioners and teachers.

The following is an update of activities and initiatives since our June 2020 Report. Those who joined us in the November 2019 meeting included Michael Wagner, Brian Kelly, Donna McLaughlin, Mark Doel, Donna Guy, Lorrie Gardella, Barb Muskat, Shirley Simon, Padraic Stanley, Namoonga Chilwalo. We welcome others from the Board and Membership to join our mission! Please express your interest in continuing and/or joining us.  There are multiple opportunities and innovations not yet considered to advance education and training in Group Work and contribute to accomplishing the mission of IASWG.

 IASWG Presence at Professional Conferences and Events:

·        The SWED International Conference was cancelled for 2020:   The International Association of Schools of Social Work and International Council on Social Welfare decided to cancel after a postponement from July to November. IASWG affiliated presenters were going to present both our biennial Special Interest Group on Groupwork (The Time for Group Work) as well as a Symposium on key themes in social work with groups today. In 2022, there will be a combined IASSW, ICSW and IFW social work conference (location unknown at this time). At these types of conference sessions we reach out to connect with all IASWG members and others interested in group work at these international conferences. We have a model abstract for the Special Interest Group to share with IASWG members who want to mount a similar session at regional and international conferences. If anyone would like to see the accepted abstracts, please contact Carol Cohen.

·        Colleagues from Singapore are organizing a Social Work with Groups Conference:  They contacted Barb Muskat for speaker recommendations.  A small group from the IASWG Board met with the organizers in October, and made recommendations and gave support.  Mark Macgowan and Brian Kelly have been asked to present at the conference.

·        VI Encuentro del Nodo Internacional de Trabajo Social con Grupos:  This conference, with speakers from Argentina, Colombia, Italy, Mexico, Peru, Spain and United States, will take place virtually on 19 & 20 November, 2020.  On 11/20, Annamaria Campanini (IASSW President), Andres Arias Astray (IASWG Member, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, and Director of GrupoLab), and Carol Cohen will be panelists in a session, State of the art in international social group work: Research, academic production and professional practice on group work internationally.

·        The US CSWE (Council on Social Work Education) Annual Program Meeting has moved to a virtual conference from November 16-20:  As in the past, there will be a good amount of group workers presenting, and a Group Work Track (Brian Kelly and Carol Cohen, Co-Chairs) with 11 Sessions, and a Track Meeting. Two of the sessions were selected for “in person” presentations, and 9 were pre-recorded and will be available to registrants for a year.  One session will be a panel on the development of the IASWG: Intentional and imperfect growth: an international association’s commitment to inclusive practices, presented by Alexis Howard, Maria Gurrolla, Sam Benbow and Carol Cohen.

Unfortunately, with the conference online, it was decided to forego the IASWG Exhibit Booth this year.  Also sadly missing is the IASWG Partnership Session – CSWE decided to cancel all of these types of sessions this year.  Next year’s conference will be in Orlando (hopefully) in November, 2021.

·        Please let us know what you are doing to advance Group Work education and training: We welcome hearing about IASWG members’ conference participation, and how that is advancing the IASWG Mission.  We can post upcoming conferences (including calls for abstracts) on the IASWG website to garner greater IASWG representation.

Publications and Teaching Resources

·        Status of IASWG Symposium Proceedings and Compilation: As of November 2020, all Proceedings have been compiled and the volumes up to 2018 have been printed. The 2018 volume from the Symposium in South Africa has been submitted to the publisher. An editor has been assigned for the combined Proceedings of the NYC 2019 and 2020 Symposia, with an editorial team being assembled. A curated compilation of papers (with new prefaces by the authors) from the IASWG Symposium archives is about to be published with Whiting and Birch, focusing on group work in social work education.

·        Special Issue of Social Work with Groups focusing on IASWG SPARC Projects:  Following invitations to SPARC awardees, papers have been received and are being edited. The Special Issue’s Editorial Team is Brian Kelly (leader), Carol Cohen, Maria Gurrola, Helene Onserud, Barb Muskat and Greg Tully. A terrific group of additional reviewers were recruited – and there were multiple teams reviewing the submissions.  Publication will be in 2021.

·        Routledge International Handbook on Social Work with Groups: (While not a formal IASWG project, it is closely related to the Commission’s mission) Carol S. Cohen, Mark J. Macgowan, and Ronald Toseland (Editorial Team), along with the Handbook’s International Advisory Group (Andrés Arias Astray/Spain, Geeta Balakrishnan/India, Mark Doel/United Kingdom, Ephrat Huss/Israel, Carol Irizarry/Australia, Jorūnė Vyšniauskytė Rimkienė/Lithuania, Valérie Roy/Canada, Mamadou Seck/US, and Elithet Silva/ Puerto Rico, USA), have recruited Chapter authors internationally, to contribute to three sections of the book (group work internationally in Practice, Education and Research). Publication is anticipated in 2022. We have approximately 25 chapters identified at present. Please follow up with Carol and Mark with any questions.

·        Expanded IASWG web page with new material on Teaching Online: ([https://www.iaswg.org/teaching-group-work](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.iaswg.org_teaching-2Dgroup-2Dwork&d=DwMFaQ&c=lhMMI368wojMYNABHh1gQQ&r=Z8gpeb0vgoesJ4KibHOP_g&m=z5g_fj74QvtKHhapDmH8DTVhqwJaRrEGNPfV6erOmxY&s=KqDRQQtCuIWg8KxzQg-hF7xIX_s8uqykwub_3ggb9zc&e=)). In response to the COVID-19 and the growing need to adapt to remote/online teaching, we expanded this webpage. Sections include syllabi, activities, commentary, volunteer experts, and connections with other teaching materials already on the IASWG site, including Practice Tips and Case Studies. Contributions to this effort came from Ann Bergart, Emily Santonocito, Linda Ducca Cisneros, Donna McLaughlin, Dana Grossman Leeman and Mamadou Seck. All readers can use and provide feedback to the site, which is a collection of submissions from IASWG members. We encourage IASWG members to contribute resources for posting, and welcome contributions in any language. IASWG members must include their name and contact information to assist readers to follow up with them. To share your resources, please email membership@iaswg.org.

·        New to the IASWG teaching webpage are materials compiled by the IASWG Mutual Aid Groups for Members Teaching Group Work Online. Since July 2020 approximately 30 IASWG members from around the world have been meeting to share challenges and ideas about teaching group work in online settings. Part of this initiative’s mission is to share resources with those trying to better use the online environment to teach group work. Members have collected materials in this IASWG Mutual Aid Group Teaching Online Google Drive Folder to share with everyone. The materials are organized into sub-folders by topic.  Please contact Ann Bergart (annbergart@gmail.com) with any questions about the IASWG Mutual Aid Groups and the Google Drive Content.

·        New Publications: There have been many valuable books and articles published in the past few years. There is a publications page on the website (search members’ publications), but it is not up to date – Please let us know if you are interested in updating this format and material!

***SPARC (Carol Cohen) -***

*·*  A separate bi-annual IASWG SPARC report will be brought to the November Board Meeting:  This report will include recommendations for endorsement and funding of proposals for the 16th bi-annual cycle of review and awards, November 2020.  Since 2013, IASWG has endorsed a total of 50 SPARC Projects, 32 of them with funding, totaling $25,112.00.  Application for an IASWG SPARC award is restricted to IASWG members (all categories).  The IASWG SPARC Committee is composed of Maria Gurolla, Brian Kelly, Helene Onserud, and Carol Cohen (Chair).

***Chapter Development (Shirley Simon & Sera Godfrey-Kaplan)*** -

The Chapter Development Committee met twice virtually since the 2020 Symposium, on August 11 and Oct. 26. The committee addressed 1) chapter recruitment and retention strategies for chapter membership; 2) potential activities and connections during the pandemic, including advertising and attending events sponsored by other chapters; and 3) support for and participation in the activities of the Membership Committee including completion of the membership survey. Meetings were well-attended. Participants expressed appreciation for the meetings as a place to reconnect with one another and reflect on the roles and opportunities of their chapter. The next Chapter Development meeting will be mid-January, 2021 at 2:00 PM Central (Chicago) Time.

Currently there are 21 chapters, with interest expressed from Israel, Spain, and China/Hong Kong/Singapore. The California Chapter is now known as the Western USA Virtual Chapter, encompassing members across the western portion of the US. Overall, IASWG chapters continue their efforts at expanding group work education, practice, and research across the globe. Regardless of current challenges, a strong sense of enthusiasm and commitment to IASWG remains across our global chapters.

***Money (Kristen Perron)*** - Committee report is pending. Chair, Kristen Perron, is on maternity leave.

***PROPOSED 2021 OPERATING BUDGET***

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**IASWG SPARC Program**

**November 2020 IASWG SPARC Committee Report and Recommendations**

**Carol S. Cohen, Brian Kelly, Maria Gurrola & Helene Onserud**

**SPARC Committee: *Carol S. Cohen, Barbara Muskat, Zaneta Smith and Brian Kelly***

**International Association for Social Work with Groups**

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**IASWG SPARC Program Overview and Recent Activities**

The IASWG SPARC Program is completing eighth year of existence, with the purpose: *To "spark" IASWG members' innovative practice, education, training and research projects through endorsement and small grants to advance the IASWG*[*mission*](http://www.iaswg.org/mission-statement)*.* Since 2013, we have had 16 full funding cycles and we endorsed **50** projects, 32 of them with funding totaling $25,112‬.00. In November 2020, we are recommending 4 proposals for endorsement and 3 of those with funding, totaling $2,060.00. If approved, our 2020 expenditures would be $3,060.

The IASWG SPARC Program was developed by the IASWG Board and IASWG Commission on Group Work in Social Work Education from 2011-2012, and inaugurated the following year. Only IASWG members can apply for SPARC endorsement and funding to support their group work related projects, often in partnership with other organizations. The IASWG SPARC Committee is charged with reviewing SPARC protocols, outreach, review and follow up. We continue to review all of our documents, and welcome feedback. The IASWG Board reviews and votes on the SPARC Committee's recommendations at their bi annual Board meetings. The two review cycles each year, correspond with these meetings, generally in June and November.

SPARC information and application review is available in English, French, German and Spanish. Information is posted at [www.iaswg.org/sparc](http://www.iaswg.org/sparc). The IASWG SPARC webpage includes information on applications, the review process, agreements, project reports and videos of SPARC Awardees speaking about their projects and the application process. IASWG SPARC information continues to be distributed widely, including through conferences, EBlasts and IASWG Group News. We welcome suggestions for expanding our outreach.

Each year for the past eight years, we have presented an IASWG SPARC Workshop at the annual

International Symposium. This year’s session was held on June 20, 2020 via Zoom, and was recorded. We hope to make this video available on our webpage ([www.iaswg/sparc](http://www.iaswg/sparc)). Members of the SPARC Committee and SPARC Awardees presented, answered questions and encouraged application.

We are very happy to share the progress on the *Special Issue of Social Work with* Groups focusing on the IASWG SPARC Program and the Awardees’ outstanding projects. Following invitations to SPARC awardees, papers have been received and are being edited. The Special Issue’s Editorial Team is Brian Kelly (leader), Carol Cohen, Maria Gurrola, Helene Onserud, Barb Muskat and Greg Tully. A terrific group of additional reviewers were recruited, and there were multiple teams reviewing the submissions. Publication will be in 2021.

Participation in IASWG SPARC is promoted as an IASWG Member Benefit, as an opportunity to advance the IASWG mission and innovations in group work practice, training, research and education. Given the rich history, we continue to explore avenues for further dissemination, publication and utilization of material generated by SPARC endorsed projects.

**History of IASWG SPARC Endorsement and Funding**

2013­: June 2013/Cycle 1:  4 Projects were Endorsed, 3 with Funding ($2500.00 expended).

November 2013/Cycle 2: 5 Projects were Endorsed, 2 with Funding ($700 expended)

Total 2013: $3200.00 (9 Endorsed, 5 with Funding)

2014: June 2014/Cycle 3: 2 Projects were Endorsed, 1 with Funding ($695.00 expended).

November 2014/Cycle 4: 3 Projects were Endorsed, 2 with Funding ($2160.00 expended)

Total 2014: $2855 (5 Endorsed, 3 with Funding)

2015: June 2015/Cycle 5:  2 Projects were Endorsed, 1 with Funding ($1250.00 expended).

November 2015/Cycle 6:  8 Projects Endorsed, 5 with Funding $3675.00 expended)

Total 2015: $4925.00 (10 Projects Endorsed, 6 with Funding).

2016: June 2016/Cycle 7: 4 Projects were Endorsed, 2 with Funding ($1500.00 expended).

November 2016/Cycle 8: 1 Project was Endorsement and Funding ($1000.00 expended).

Total 2016: $2500 (5 Projects Endorsed, 3 with Funding)

2017: June 2017/Cycle 9: 1 Project was Endorsed with Funding ($1000.00 expended)

November 2017/Cycle 10: 3 Projects were Endorsed with Funding ($2075 expended)

Total 2017: $3075.00 (4 Projects were Endorsed, 4 with Funding)

2018: June 2018/Cycle 11: 5 Project were Endorsed, 4 with Funding ($2530.00 expended)

November 2018/Cycle 12: 4 Projects were Endorsed, 3 Proposals with Funding ($1480.00 expended)

Total 2018: $4010.00 (9 Projects for Endorsement, 7 with Funding)

2019: June 2019/Cycle 13: 4 Projects were Endorsed, 3 with Funding ($2100.00)

November 2019/Cycle 14: 3 Projects were Endorsed, 2 with Funding ($1.447.00 committed, $900 expended)

Total 2019: $3,000.00 (7 Projects for Endorsement, 5 with Funding)\*

\*Note: Total is adjusted --Due to the COVID19 pandemic, a project endorsed and funded in November 2019, *Assessing Student Achievement: A Mixed Methods Evaluation of Three Educational Support Groups*, was not able to be implemented, and the grant of $547.00 was not sent to them.

2020: June 2020/Cycle 15: 1 Project was Endorsed with Funding ($1000.00)

November 2019/Cycle 16: 4 Projects are Recommended for Endorsement, 3 with Funding ($2,060)

Total (if approved): $3,060.00 (5 Projects, 4 with Funding)

**November 2020 Recommendations to the IASWG Board**

Recommended for Endorsement (continuing): *Pinta tu Corazon con Amor: Proyecto de Trabajo Social y Arte,* Nancy Viana Vazquez, University of Puerto Rico.

This Social Work and Art Project aims to strengthen social-emotional learning in school-age children in Puerto Rico between the ages of 8 and 11. It includes workshops for children, training for educational leaders, and an activity guide that is available on Amazon. In the coming year, this project will be adapted to online delivery and the director will seek to have it become adopted by the larger educational system. The Book, *Pinta tu Corazon con Amor: Proyecto de Trabajo Social y Arte* is available at: <https://www.amazon.com/Pinta-corazón-amor-Proyecto-Actividades/dp/1661363865>

Recommended for Endorsement and Grant of $780.00: Jennifer Currin McCulloch: Recommend Endorsement and Funding of $780: *Photographs of Meaning: An Online Photovoice Group Intervention for Individuals Living with Cancer,* Jennifer Currin-McCulloch, Colorado State University School of Social Work

Photographs of Meaning: *An Online Photovoice Group Intervention for Individuals Living with Cancer*is an online group intervention that aims to support adults living with cancer in reducing social isolation, anxiety, and depression, while enhancing their sense of purpose and meaning. The goal of this project is to move from the pilot testing phase into the investigation of the feasibility and acceptability of the Photographs of Meaning (POM) intervention during two series of this 8-week online meaning-making group intervention. Additionally, the Project Lead will simultaneously develop a POM group intervention manual. The manual will support large-scale facilitator training and the ability to capture facilitator’s skills and fidelity in carrying out the POM intervention. Ideally, POM trained facilitators will support the implementation of POM with individuals who are experiencing cancer-related psychosocial distress in communities where mental health services are limited, and especially in communities where there are no cancer specialists.

Recommended for Endorsement and Grant of $640.00:*“Cafecito” A Spanish-language support group for breast cancer patients*, Angela Papalia, Adelphi NY Statewide Breast Cancer Hotline and Support Program.

The innovation of our proposed project is providing a Spanish-language support group to breast cancer patients via Telehealth. To date, our Cafecito Support Group is the only group of its kind, and utilizing a virtual platform to facilitate this unique group certainly speaks to our innovative method of service delivery. Providing a consistent, HIPPA-compliant ZOOM invitation to our group members (via text messaging), provides a link to crucial, psychosocial support services to our very vulnerable patients.  The Adelphi Breast Cancer Program is the only organization that currently provides a virtual, professionally led support group for Spanish-speaking breast cancer patients.  As immunocompromised patients face increased barriers in accessing support services in the midst of the continued COVID-19 Pandemic, the fact that our program is able to address this community's needs using telehealth is paramount. Funds will be used to support members’ celebratory breakfasts during the sessions (previously contributed by staff when meetings were in person.

Recommended for Endorsement and Funding of $640: *Field Supervisor Survey on the Current Use and Perceived Value of Group Work in Social Work Practice*, Shirley Simon and Teresa Kilbane, Loyola University Chicago.This study aims to provide evidence of the use and perceived value of group work expertise as a modality within the social work practice arena. The applicants developed and distributed a survey to field supervisors affiliated with their home institution. The survey posed questions on the use of group work methodology; the desirability of group work expertise in selecting field work students and hiring employees; interest in continuing education training(s); and/or a certificate in group work. To date, 164 surveys have been received. The authors are in the process of assessing the results of this data. Step two of this project aims to distribute this survey via additional US schools of social work. In order to conduct this study on a broader national level, the authors seek the endorsement and financial support of IASWG to hire a graduate student to facilitate communication, coordination, and data assessment.