

Western Division Monthly Member/Steering Committee Meeting Minutes for September 2023

Date: 09/05/23

Present: Cheryl Eberl, Sylvia Gold, Cheryl Mills, Elaine Rinfrette

Excused: Jesse Grossman

* Meeting start time was delayed by ½ hour. Refer to agenda item #10

Agenda: 1. Follow-up from August's Meeting, review of role assignments

2. Review of Student Orientation: UB & Daemen

3. Social Work Month: Program via Chapter Chat with 2 students from UB on Transgender issue & environmental Social Work

4. Division Book Club: what & when?

5. Student Film Night: what, when & where?

6. Reaching Out to People We Know Who Might Become Involved in the Division: Response to email from Ellen Silver, reach out to Diane Elze & Venus Wiggins

7. Western Division NASW Student Awards

8. Division email address

9. SWAG

10. Other Issues

1. Follow-up from August's Meeting, review of role assignments: Division Secretary: Cheryl Mills, Social Work Schools Liaison: Jesse Grossman, Division Historian: Cheryl Eberl, Division Newsletter: Gold (Fall & Spring), Social Work Student Supervisor: Elaine Rinfrette.

2. Review of Student Orientation: UB & Daemen: Elaine & Sylvia represented the Division At Daemen. Elaine thought it went well. She stated she used the NASWNYS website to organize the presentation. She stated there were 23 students in attendance. Elaine The Daemen Faculty were supportive of students joining NASWNYS Chapter. Elaine Elaine stated the presentation was 45 minutes. Wrote a thank you email and Diane Bessel replied.

Elaine & Jesse represented the Division. Elaine stated the UB Student Orientation was About one hour. She stated they had stations that the students went around. She stated The students were very animated and asked a lot of questions. Elaine stated she did a Poster.

Upcoming Student Orientations: Fredonia: 09/18/23: Elaine & Cheryl E. will attend & Represent the Division. Buffalo State University: 09/19/23: Sylvia & Elaine will attend & Represent the Division. Also, 10/02/23: Elaine will attend & represent the division. Both Will be in the evening for 2 BSW classes. Niagara University: Elaine stated will be Sometime in October.

3. Social Work Month: Program via Chapter Chat with 2 students from UB on a transgender issue & environmental Social Work. : Elaine decided we should table discussion of this until a future meeting.
4. Division Book Club: What, when?: Elaine asked the group's thoughts on book suggestions she provided: "Half the Sky," "A Mind that Found Itself" by Clifford Whittingham-Beers. Sylvia stated she liked "Half the Sky." The Group decided This book will be the one to discuss. It will be done online. The group decided to table Further discussion until Jesse returns.
5. Student Film Night: What, Where & When: Elaine asked the group about her recommendations: "We Were the Mulvaney's" & "Strong in Broken Places: Turning Trauma Into Recovery." Cheryl M. stated she liked "Strong in Broken Places" as It is about 38 minutes in length and has a lot of diversity. She stated "We Were the Mulvaney's" is a feature film and somewhat lengthy. We decided on "Strong in Broken Places." The group discussed possible location options such as churches or other Community meeting places. After much discussion, Cheryl E. stated it could be done Online as it would be easier for everyone. The film could be watched on YouTube & the Discussion would take place online. The group decided to table further discussion until Jesse returns.
6. Reaching Out to People we Know who Might Become Involved in the Division: Response to email from Ellen Silver, reaching out to Diane Elze & Venus Wiggins. Elaine stated Ellen replied to her via email that she could not attend this meeting But would try to attend a future meeting. Elaine stated she would reach out to Diane Elze & Venus Wiggins. She stated Diane expressed some interest in becoming Involved in the Division.
7. Western Division Student Awards: Elaine stated she wanted to know what criteria we Have used to determine the student awards. Cheryl E. and Sylvia stated academics, Outstanding projects have been a couple of criteria suggested to the schools. Both Sylvia & Cheryl E. stated it is up to each schools faculty to decide which of their students

Are selected. Cheryl E. stated we used to present the awards during Social Work month at our annual luncheon prior to COVID but since COVID we have mailed a certificate, a small honorarium (gift card) some NASW SWAG. Cheryl E. stated she has an old certificate template. She stated that the Stated Chapter wanted to create the template when she asked just to get the updated name of Chapter President. Sylvia stated each of the schools has their awards at different times in the spring. Both Cheryl E. and Sylvia have contacted the schools in the past usually in January/February to remind them to nominate their respective students. Elaine suggested doing both a phone call and sending a letter. Elaine stated she would like to see some alternative criteria as to How the student is selected such as student growth over the academic period.

8. Division email Address: Elaine stated she would like for the Division to have its own email address so we could communicate with our Division members more directly. She stated she will follow-up with the State Chapter about this.
9. SWAG: Elaine stated we are starting to run low on SWAG. She stated when the State Chapter sold and closed their office building, they got rid of all of the SWAG. Elaine stated for upcoming student orientations perhaps raffling off a couple of T-shirts might be an option. The group agreed. Elaine started looking at some websites To purchase pens during the meeting. The group agreed that pens are useful. We discussed seeing if we could put NASW Western Division and maybe a slogan/saying such as Social Work Proud or something similar. Elaine stated she will spend more time Looking into this.
10. Other: The start of the meeting was delayed by ½ hour. Apparently, the problem with getting on electronically to the Zoom Meeting was that the State Chapter had not made Elaine the meeting host. So we had to do it by phone. Elaine stated she will follow-up with The Chapter regarding this Sanfu. Also, Sylvia brought up inconsistencies of our meeting dates and times being incorrect on the Chapter e blasts and on our division web page her name and phone # had been removed. So there was nobody listed to contact. Elaine stated she will contact the Chapter about this.

Next Meetings: Clinical: 09/18/23 at 6:00 p.m. Member/Steering: 10/10/23 at 6:00 p.m. electronically via Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl S. Mills, LCSW-R, ACSW