

## Western Division Monthly Member/Steering Committee Minutes for November 7, 2023

Present: Elaine, Rinfrette, Cheryl Eberl, Jesse Grossman, Cheryl Mills

Excused: Ellen Silver

### AGENDA

-Minutes from last meeting accepted.

- Follow-up from last meeting

- Virtual meeting for entire Western Division will be planned.

We will ask Katie to send invitation blast to all members once we decide on a date.

-Membership list. We learned from a virtual meeting on 10/27/23 with Amelia, and Katie and Elaine and Jesse that National restricts digital mailing lists to divisions. However, we can have access to a hard copy membership list. Elaine is already in receipt of it. We will send out first letter introducing Elaine as our Division Director and invite members to Monthly Steering/ Membership and Clinical meetings. We will meet in person on Sat. Nov. 18 at 11:00 o'clock to compose the letter for Katie to send blast to membership.

### -Budget Flexibility

Meeting held with Amelia and Katie, and Elaine and Jesse where our concerns were expressed about our lack of current information on budget balance. They explained National sets the policy and the Chapter has to use the same process as do the Divisions to get approval on spending. They will check with Natalya whether she is able to send quarterly updates so we could stay current. Natalya agreed to this. Hopefully this will prevent surprise costs to our budget. The Chapter does not charge the Division for email, zoom, web site and administrative costs. We will be reimbursed for Division expenses related to activities.

### -Incomes

Money from CEU presentation - net proceeds are split between Chapter and Division. Our share is added immediately to our budget, our income rolls over to next year's budget. The Division keeps all the scholarship fund. We can spend all the income money before the end of the fiscal year and avoid sharing it with the Chapter.

Katie will advertise January CEU to generate income.

We still have no answer on fund raiser, ex: chicken barbecue.

### -Transgender conference - Fall 2024 or Spring 2025.

Elaine met with Kris Decker, Dir. Of Behavior Health of Evergreen Health, Jack Kavanaugh of GLYS, and Noelle from NASW. They were all enthusiastic about future event. In the planning stage.

### -Bus Assistance to LEAD.

Elaine found no money available for students' transportation to Albany due to d.c./ change in funding. NASW is no longer involved in organizing LEAD. It is the Deans and Directors group, NYS education, and a student group, Information about this change was sent to Dr. Fitzpatrick at Buffalo State College University who inquired on behalf of her Social Work students

### -Division Mission

It was decided this is not necessary since we operate under Chapter mission.

### -Review of Student orientations

All social work programs were covered in personal visits to UBSSW, BuffState College, Niagara University, Daemen, and Fredonia. Overall, the response was positive. One student suggested we should have a peer as part of the presentation. Discussion ensued on validity of the suggestion vs. ageism.

-Program via Chapter Chat on January 9 at 6 pm zoom. NASW state website  
Topic is Environmental Social Work presented by UB Social Work student, Alisa Chirico.

-Annual Student Awards

It was suggested we send a prerecorded video at the time of the awards to make NASW more personal.

-Social Work Month

Virtual Division Book Club

Half the Sky was identified for Tuesday March 26, 7pm. We will publicize in January and February

Virtual Student Film Night Thursday, March 21 at 7:45 pm.

Film is Strong In Broken Places that can be accessed on UTUBE

-Cheryl M reported next AGR meeting is next week. She will introduce Olivia Knox, policy coordinator, on Tuesday, Dec 5 at Steering/Membership meeting. Cheryl E will run zoom meeting since Elaine will be on vacation.

-Jesse G reported on reaction of Jewish Social Workers response to NASW comment on Hamas massacre on innocent Israelis. It was felt the statement was tepid and ignored the brutality of the attack. Discussion ensued on the rise of antisemitism and Islamophobia and the difference between the fight for liberty and murdering innocent citizens. Hamas is a terrorist group with the intention to eliminate Jews not negotiate.

\_Next Clinical Meeting, 3rd Monday of Each Month- Nov 20, 6pm

-Next Steering Meeting 1st Tuesday of each month - Dec 5, 6pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Sylvia G Gold. LCSW-R