

## NASWNYS Western Division Monthly Steering/Member Meeting, January 2024

Meeting Date: 01/02/24

Attendance: Cheryl Eberl, Sylvia Gold, Jesse Grossman, Elaine Rinfrette, Cheryl Mills

Meeting Agenda:

1. Review/Check Minutes from December 2023 Meeting
2. Outreach Letters & Response
3. Upcoming Event Details: Chapter Chat, CEU Presentation, Meet & Greet
4. Corrected Meeting Schedule Dates, January-June 2024
5. When to Send Information to Members & Students About Book Club & Movie Discussion for Social Work Month (March 2024)
6. Future CEU Presentations for Fall 2024, Spring 2025
7. NASWNYS Social Work Awards Nominations: Lifetime Achievement: Sylvia Gold, Nominated by Jesse Grossman; Social Worker of the Year: Cheryl Eberl, Nominated by Sylvia Gold
8. Update on Non-Educational Fund Raising Events
9. Other Issues

1. **Review/Check Minutes from December 2023:** Sylvia stated she felt the Minutes were too long. Cheryl M. replied stating it was necessary to include the information. Olivia Knox, NASWNYS, Policy Coordinator presented at the Meeting. Elaine and Jesse agreed. Minutes accepted, no changes needed.
2. **Outreach Letters & Response:** Elaine stated the Outreach Letters went out to identified Members. Elaine stated she heard from Warren Brown, who attended the July 2023 Meet & Greet. He stated he planned to come to this Meeting. Elaine stated he has a private practice in the area. The rest of the group has not received any responses from the Outreach Letters they had the Chapter send. Sylvia stated she was surprised the chapter sent the letters in a timely manner. Jesse stated she had some issues with parts of her letters being sent multiple times. Elaine stated she is hopeful that members will respond.
3. **Upcoming Event Details: Chapter Chat, CEU Presentation, Meet & Greet:**
  - a. Chapter Chat Topic is Environmental Social Work, virtually on 01/09/24 at 6:00 p.m.
  - b. First of our CEU presentations is Technology in Social Work virtually on 01/11/24 from 9:00-10:30 a.m.
  - c. Virtual Meet & Greet with Members in Western Division Counties will be 01/04/24 From 6:00-7:30 p.m. Elaine stated it is not necessary for us to attend the entire time. Jesse asked if anybody had registered for this event outside of us. Elaine stated she did not know but would check with Katie Huntington, NASWNYS Executive Assistant, Tomorrow.
4. **Corrected Meeting Schedule Dates January-June 2024:** Elaine stated she made the necessary

corrections to the Steering Committee Meeting Dates. They are the first Tuesday of the month: 01/02/24, 02/06/24, 03/05/24, 04/02/24, 05/07/24 & 06/04/24. Clinical Meeting Dates: They are the third Monday of the month: 01/15/24, 02/19/24, 03/18/24, 04/15/24, 05/20/24 & 06/17/24.

5. When to Send Out Information to Members & Students about Book Club & Movie Discussions for Social Work Month: Elaine stated she found some discussion questions for the book and will send several of them to each of us to review. She stated she hasn't found any questions for the film yet. She said she will talk with Katie Huntington about sending the information out to members & students once we have discussion questions together.
6. Future CEU Presentations for Fall 2024 & Spring 2025: Cheryl M. asked why the Chapter nixed the Transgender Conference we wanted to have in the Fall 2024. Elaine stated she was advised the topic was too broad and they don't have enough staff to support the technical logistics such as break out rooms. Also, they were concerned we would not make enough money. She stated Amelia Lochner Malave, Interim Executive Director will be going on maternity leave. Jesse stated why couldn't we turn the transgender issue into a CEU presentation. Elaine stated we could and that was a good idea. The group spent some time brainstorming other potential topics. Jesse suggested forensic mental health-new approaches, treatments, interaction with treatment courts i.e. mental health court, Veterans court, drug court. Cheryl M. suggested looking at the Erie County Department of Mental Health for information. Jesse stated she would look at their website.

Sylvia suggested effects of AI on the Social Work profession-assessments. Cheryl E. stated Better Help has some simple AI linking individuals to mental health providers. Elaine stated that some faculty at UB School of Social Work are interested in technology including Nancy Smyth and a married couple by the last name of Sage and perhaps they might have some resources, ideas or interest in presenting on this topic. Sylvia to follow-up on this. Jesse suggested voting rights as a possible topic. She stated peoples' anxiety level is High and people have lost their lives during the Civil Rights Movement and feels voter Rights are eroding now. Jesse stated the Social Work profession is to help empower People and our Code of Ethics supports this. Elaine stated she has no idea who to reach out to on this topic. Sylvia stated the League of Women Voters educates people on Voting and she is a member. Jesse stated Pat Maxon, a member of the Retired Social Workers Special Interest Group might be a good person to reach out to and will follow-up in contacting her.

Elaine stated she knows a couple of people who might be willing to do some CEU Presentations. One is Steve Halady, who has an MSW & PhD in Philosophy and she Attended a presentation he did on mental illness. Also, Kerry Casey has done a Presentation on trauma and supervision. Elaine encouraged us to keep thinking of topic Ideas.

7. NASWNYS Social Work Awards Nominations: Lifetime Achievement Sylvia Gold, nominated by Jesse Grossman; Social Worker of the Year, Cheryl Eberl nominated By Sylvia Gold. Sylvia asked Jesse if the Chapter received her nomination form And paperwork. She stated she did. Sylvia stated she did not receive any confirmation That her nomination was received by the Chapter. Elaine encouraged Sylvia to follow-up

With Katie Huntington regarding this.

8. Update on Non-Educational Fundraising Events-approved. Elaine stated the Chapter Approved for us to be able to do this. She stated she still likes the idea of a Chicken BBQ as a fundraiser. The group brainstormed other ideas. Sylvia suggested a raffle of 2 tickets to a performance at Musical fare on the Daemen University Campus. Elaine Suggested we think about expanding to other theater groups such as: Lancaster Opera House, O'Connell & Company, Springville Center for the Arts. Jesse suggested the Kavanoky Theater and Nickel City Opera. Cheryl E. stated if you google theater groups In Buffalo or western New York it will pull up a list of all of them. Elaine suggested Jesse And Sylvia put together a list of the theaters and create a letter introducing us as a Non-profit professional organization and what we are seeking to do.  
Cheryl E. stated we need to start reaching out to the SW Schools for Social Work Student Of the Year Awards. The group agreed Cheryl E. would contact Niagara University & Buffalo State University, Sylvia to contact Daemen University & Fredonia College and Jesse to contact UB. Elaine suggested phone call and or email would be preferable Means of contact. Cheryl E. stated she needs the Chapter to create a certificate.  
Elaine stated there is limited SWAG left , a few Tee-shirts and pens. She stated th/ere isn't Enough money in our budget to purchase more SWAG at this time.

Next Meeting Dates/Times: Clinical: 01/15/24 At 6:00 p.m. Monthly Member/Steering: 02/06/24.  
Both are held virtually.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl S. Mills, LCSW-R, ACSW