

NASWNYS WESTERN DIVISION MONTHLY MEMBER/STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 2024

Date: 04/02/24

Attendance: Wayne Brown, Cheryl Eberl, Sylvia Gold, Jesse Grossman, Christopher Ramnauth, Elaine Rinfrette, Cheryl Mills

- Agenda:
1. Review/Acceptance of March 2024 Minutes
 2. Student Awards
 3. Review of Student Events for March: Social Work Month
 4. Review of Member Events for March: Social Work Month
 5. Recent & Upcoming Virtual CEU Presentations
 6. Live Upcoming CEU Presentation
 7. Division Budget/Current Income Balance
 8. Scholarship Idea
 9. Other

1. Review/Acceptance of March 2024 Minutes: Minutes were reviewed and accepted.

2. Student Awards: Cheryl E. stated she has the names of each student award winner from the 5 Social Work schools in the Division. Elaine requested Cheryl E. to forward her a list of the student award winner names. Elaine stated she thought we agreed she would do a brief personal video presentation for each student award winner. Cheryl E. will work on finalizing the award certificate template this week. Cheryl E. stated she will try to do the free trial of the software allowing her to edit the template Katie sent to her. She stated if that doesn't work she will edit the old one she has. Elaine to forward a copy of her signature to Cheryl E. to include on the certificate. Also, discussed including the names of Shakira A. Kennedy, PhD, LMSW, Executive Director, NASWNYS and Victoria Rizzo, PhD, LCSW-R, President of the Board, NASWNYS Chapter on the certificate template. Elaine stated she will draft a letter to each student award winner, which will accompany each certificate. Discussed the importance of getting this together soon as Daemen University holds their award/dinner ceremony first on 04/19/24. The other schools hold their award ceremonies by the middle of May. Sylvia asked if we will include some gifts. After much discussion including ideas such as gift cards, paying for a photo booth and paying for an NASW Student Membership, it was agreed to send a Western Division pen and cover the cost of an NASW Student Membership paid for by the Division. Elaine stated she will work on the details of how to go about doing this. Also, discussed and agreed the Division shall purchase coffee mugs for each Social Work Student graduate from the 5 schools. Elaine will look into the cost of mugs.

3. Review of Student Events for March: Social Work Month: Elaine stated the Panel Discussion: Opportunities for Social Work Careers held on 03/07/24 at Buffalo State University was well attended. She stated the event was cosponsored by the Division and Buffalo state University's Social Work program's honor society chapter. Elaine stated she attended the event representing

the Division. She stated there was a panel of 8-9 social workers. She stated they discussed the type of Social Work they had done, successes and mistakes made along the way. Elaine stated the Documentary Film "Strong in Broken Places" followed by a discussion of the film, which was held on 03/12/24 in the evening at Buffalo State University was well attended. She stated the students felt the film was good but it was hard for them to discuss as it was quite emotional. Elaine stated Sylvia and she facilitated the discussion. She stated they discussed important issues raised in the film.

4. Review of Member Events for March: Social Work Month.: Jesse stated nobody showed up for the virtual Meet & Greet 03/07/24 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Sylvia and Cheryl M. stated nobody showed up for the virtual discussion of the film "Strong in Broken Places," on 03/21/24 from 7:45-8:30 p.m. Members could view the film virtually from 7:00-7:40 p.m. that date. Elaine stated nobody showed up for the book discussion "Half the Sky," held virtually on 03/26/24 from 7:00-8:30 p.m, which Sylvia and she facilitated. Sylvia stated we have to give members something, have more of a purpose. Elaine stated she agreed. Elaine stated a possible member event for Social Work Month 2025 might be having a fun event such as a Social Worker who does comedy. She stated she has researched this and found a number of Social Workers who do this. She suggested it could be held virtually. Committee members agreed this is a good idea. Cheryl E. suggested a possible idea for the virtual Meet & Greet would be to have members give an opinion on a topic of importance such as abortion. Jesse stated her concern about that would be managing the emotionality and lots of prep work involved. Elaine stated we would need to carefully think about a topic. Cheryl E. stated another idea would be to have members identify what is important to them related to the Division, the Chapter etc. Elaine stated sort of like an open mic.

Coffee/Breakfast: Scheduled for 05/06/24 at 10:00 a.m. at Dash's on Hertel Avenue. Elaine stated she has not seen any numbers in terms of registration/attendance yet. Jesse stated she has not seen any yet either. She stated Katie has sent 2 email blasts regarding the event to Division membership. She stated she asked Katie to send her numbers regarding registration/attendance but has not received any yet. Elaine stated she will be unable to attend the event due to a prior commitment on the same date.

5. Recent & Upcoming Virtual CEU Presentations: Elaine stated the 03/14/24 webinar on LBGTQIA+ Affirming Behavioral Health presented by Elaine Maccio, PhD had 33 attendees and positive feedback by attendees. She stated over 50 people have registered for Suicide Prevention-What's Working scheduled for 04/11/24 from 9:00-10:30 a.m. presenter: Mandy Fauble, PhD. Brad Linn, PhD will be presenting a webinar on Updates on Alcohol Use Disorders, 05/09/24 from 9:00-10:30 a.m. Steve Halady, PhD, LCSW will be presenting a webinar on Is Social Work Ethical, 06/13/24 from 9:00-10:30 a.m. James Coco, LCSW, Mitigation Specialist for the Federal Defender of the Southern Division, Indianapolis, Indiana; will present a webinar: The Intersection of Forensic & Mental Health Social Work Practice on 10/17/24 from 2:30-4:30 p.m.

*Elaine stated she has asked Katie to earmark the proceeds from the Linn & Halady webinars to the Scholarship Fund so we won't lose those monies when the NASW fiscal year ends on 06/30/24.

6. Live CEU Upcoming Presentation: Emma Fabian, MSW from Evergreen Healthcare will present Overdose Prevention and Naloxone (Narcan) Administration on 05/17/24 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. at Explore Buffalo Office located within First Presbyterian Church, 1 Symphony Circle, Buffalo, NY. Also offer attendees a free docent led tour of the church following the presentation. Elaine stated she is hopeful that people will attend. Elaine stated future live CEU presentations are in the works to be held in other counties in the division: Niagara & Chautauqua Counties at Niagara University & SUNY Fredonia. Discussed if it would be possible to make them hybrid in person and virtual. Decided the logistics with Zoom through the Chapter would be too difficult.

7. Division Budget/Current Income Balance: Elaine stated after much effort she was able to get our current income balance which is \$ 2,112.00 She stated the webinars we have sponsored have been a good source of income. She stated the Western Division has the 2nd highest income of all the Divisions.

8. Scholarship Idea: Elaine stated she has an idea to set up a scholarship fund at each of the 5 Social Work Schools in the Division for books & supplies. She stated she figured about \$ 225 for each school for 1 semester, likely the spring semester. She stated she has discussed it with each of the 5 schools. She stated most of the Schools are in support of this. She stated Daemen suggested donating to their student hardship fund as an alternative. This generated discussion about food donations, grocery gift cards, Amazon order/delivery. Elaine stated we could use the proceeds from the Linn & Halady webinars, which she has asked Katie to earmark for the Scholarship Fund.

9. Other: Wayne stated he will be doing an in person presentation on professional boundaries through UB some time in 07/24. Jesse announced she has established an award through the UB SSW for a student(s) who want to work with LBGTQ persons. The award will be for a duration of 5 years and is designated as the "Jesse Grossman Family Award." Also, Jesse acknowledged and congratulated Sylvia Gold for receiving the NASWNYS Chapter Lifetime Achievement Award given last month at the award ceremony held virtually 03/28/24. Sylvia stated it was an honor.

Next Meetings: Clinical: 04/15/24 at 6:00 p.m. held virtually. Member/Steering: 05/07/24 at 6:00 p.m. held virtually.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl S. Mills, LCSW-R, ACSW