

WESTERN MEETING DIVISION STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING SEPT.3,2024

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

1. STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Elaine met with Logan Hurley, president of Phi Alpha this year at Buffalo State Univ on 8/18/24. She was very interested in working with our Steering Committee.

Jesse and Sylvia participated in UBSSW orientation. They reported the students were very enthusiastic and seemed interested in learning the benefits of joining NASW. Tee shirts, pens, and brochures were distributed.

Elaine made a video about NASW, the Chapter and the Division describing the benefits of joining as students. This was in response to a request of the Department Chair, Niagara University, Social Work, for their Student Town Hall Meeting. Rolanda reported it was well received. She suggested students prepare their own video highlighting the benefits of student NASW membership. Cheryl Mills suggested we contact MSW student on the Chapter Board for their feedback on why they joined NASW as students.

Discussion ensued as to the future student NASW presentations at the Social Work schools. It was felt the video could be used for those schools at a distance - Fredonia and Niagara. Continue in-person presentations at the local schools - UBSSW, Daemen, and Buff State. We will continue discussion. Elaine will send videos to us. Sylvia suggested we do presentations during Social Work month to senior students.

2. BUDGET

Amelia has returned to work 3 days a week. We are awaiting a response to Elaine re new budget and how income from CEUS affects us, what we can afford as special projects such as breakfast, and Social Month activities.

3. CEU Events

8/4/24 DR. Steve Halady's presentation on Contemporary Social Work Issues: Lessons from History was very well received.

9/6/24 Dr. Berg Miller Putting Intersectionality into Practice to Serve Marginalized groups.

9/23/24 Tanya Rhodes Smith, MSW Healthy Democracy, Healthy Communities.

Additional presentations can be found on the Western Division website of NASWNYS.

4. ADVERTISING

Jesse finalized our arrangement with NPR. We will have 60 second spots airing for two weeks during morning and evening commutes prior to our October 7 meeting., last week of September, first week of October.

5. OPPORTUNITIES

A. Delegate Assembly. A national policy setting position. Meetings are virtual. Contact Shakira Kennedy, Chapter ED. and Warren Graham, BOD President.

link: <https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Delegate-Assembly-Test-Revamp>

And Warren Graham

B, Member of the NYS/NYC transition team. Contact Shakira Kennedy and Warren Graham

C. Ad hoc planning committee to develop mental health training programs in NYS.

Contact Misty Boldt Genesee Valley Division Director, BOD member.

D. Pace Committee seeking volunteers. Political Action Committee for candidate elections.

Contact Christina Lesyk, BOD secretary.

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6. AGR

Cheryl Mills reports Evelyn Williams will resume the position as Policy Director and Amanda Pressly is the Chapter Policy Coordinator and expects the next meeting notification.

7. NEW STAFF AT CHAPTER

A new person is starting in the technology position. The liaison position remains unfilled since Katie left. Amelia is filling in. It is a virtual position.

NEXT MEETINGS; ZOOM

October 1, Tuesday, 6-7:30 Steering Committee

September 16 Monday, 6-8 Clinical Meeting

Respectfully submitted

Sylvia g Gold LCSW