

NASWNYS WESTERN DIVISION MEMBER MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 2025

Meeting Date: 02/04/25

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

Excused: Rolanda Ward

Elaine announced Rolanda is not attending this meeting due to illness. Also, she announced Chris Ramnath has started a part-time job in the evenings and will be unable to attend these meetings.

Agenda Items:

1. Chapter Merger Update Status: This was not discussed as Rolanda was unable to attend.
2. Students: Elaine stated had contact with a student, Jennifer McCarthy from NU recommended by Rolanda. Ms. Mc Carthy will be doing the technology aspect of our Western Division video on Why Join NASW for Social Work month in March. Elaine stated Paige Johnson, a student from Fredonia is going to do an interview with a new member including why the member joined, which will be featured in the video. Elaine stated the video will be 90-120 seconds long. She said one of us should do an introduction to be included in the video. Elaine stated she will follow up with Ms. Johnson and Ms. McCarthy within the next week.

Capitol Action Day (CAD)02/11/25 in Albany. Elaine stated she reached out to local schools about CAD. She stated two schools Buffalo State and Daemen will be sending two faculty and about 36 students plus Elaine and Cheryl M., who serves on the Chapter's AGR Committee will be going as well. Elaine the meeting place for the bus will be at Buffalo State, student parking lot G 20, north side in front of Karner Hall. She stated the meeting time is 3:15 a.m. and the bus departs at 3:30 a.m. Elaine stated Shakira Kennedy, Chapter Executive Director approved the cost for the bus. Upon arrival in Albany, the bus will drop attendees off in front of the Capitol Building. The bus will depart in front of the Capitol at 4 p.m. Cheryl M. stated there will be a presentation by Evelyn Williams, Chapter Policy Director about policy and advocating. Cheryl M. stated the AGR Committee will be meeting 02/06 24 and will have more details about the agenda for CAD., Elaine stated the bus company has not been paid yet and she will contact Natalya, the Chapter's financial person about this. Elaine has put a lot of time and effort coordinating with the school, bus and chapter. Kudos Elaine. This should be a great learning opportunity for all who attend.

3. Western Division Awards Breakfast: The event will be held April 9, 2025 from 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at Niagara University. Michael Clarkson-Hendrix , PhD, LCSW-R will do his presentation in hybrid form from the breakfast, "Health, Disability, and Justice: Intersections and Opportunities for Social Workers." The cost for the CEU Presentation is \$ 15.00 for members, \$ 20.00 for non-members. The event fee is \$ 20.00 for members, \$ 25.00 for

non-members. The deadline for registration is April 01, 2025. Elaine stated she had Chapter Staff put together and emailed it to Western Division members. We informed Elaine that we did not receive it. She emailed it to us during the meeting. We liked it. Elaine to contact Chapter Staff of the issue and will have them send it again. Elaine encouraged us to nominate someone for Social Worker of the year and spread the word to colleagues to nominate someone. She stated we can self-nominate as well. Elaine said she would like to give the Social Worker of the Year an acrylic plaque and has been pricing them online and the cost is around \$ 25.00. Cheryl E. stated we used Martins Awards on Union Rd. in Cheektowaga, NY in the past. She looked up the cost of their acrylic plaque online and said it costs \$ 60-70.00. Elaine felt that was expensive but will stop by Martins and check it out. Sylvia expressed concern about notifying the schools about the timeframe for them to get the names of their awardees to us. Elaine said she has sent letters to the schools with timeframes to receive their awardees' names, date, time and location of the breakfast award ceremony. Elaine asked Cheryl E. to send her a copy of the certificate award. Elaine acknowledged and thanked Rolanda for her work in working on the location, getting the rooms reserved etc. at Niagara University.

4. Social Work Month (March): Elaine asked what we should do for the division membership for Social Work Month. She stated we could offer the March CEU webinar free of charge to members of the division. We agreed. The presentation is 03/14/25 from 2:30-4:30 p.m., "White People's Stake in Racial Justice: Mutual Interest as a Framework for Social Work Practice" presented by Josie Diebold.

5. Upcoming CEUs With No Rescheduled Dates; Elaine stated she still has no definitive dates for rescheduling the following: Ms. Kerry Causey, LCSW, University of Denver, School of Social Work, "Trauma -Informed Supervision: Practical Strategies for Workforce Resiliency." Mr. John Coco, LCSW, Mitigation Specialist for the Federal Defender of the Southern District Indianapolis, Indiana, " The Intersection of Forensic and Mental Health Social Work Practice." Elaine stated she has reached out to multiple Chapter Staff over 4-5 months, citing turnover in Chapter Staff a significant part of this issue. She stated she communicated her concerns about this to Shakira Kennedy, Chapter Executive Director, who expressed concern about the multiple times Elaine has reached out to staff about this. Elaine said Shakira wanted to know if the presenters had submitted the required paperwork and if we had a refund policy. Elaine stated she will continue to work on this. Elaine stated it can be confusing regarding who to contact at the Chapter about things given the turnover in staff and staff scattered geographically and working virtually and working toward merging NYS & NYC Chapters adds more confusion.

6. Reminder: Mandatory Child Abuse & Maltreatment & Boundary Training Needed to Renew Social Work License 04/01/25: The Child Abuse & Maltreatment Training is due 04/01/25. Elaine said she signed up for the training but thinks she already did the training in the recent past. Jesse said she did the training last month through UB School of Social Work Continuing Education with Wayne Brown, LCSW-R as the instructor. Jesse said you get 2 certificates and one has to be electronically sent or mailed to NYS Education Department, Office of Professions. Cheryl M. stated you can apply for exemption status if you can provide proof that your practice

involves no professional contact with children under 18 yrs. old or disabled adults 18 yrs. and older who reside in a residential school or other facility. Cheryl M. stated she has emailed the Office of Professions to get clarification on this to see if she can get an exemption since she is not practicing Social Work in a professional capacity. She discussed the information on the Office of Professions is challenging to understand. We all agreed about that.

I believe the Boundary training is to be completed within your 3 year cycle of CEUs.

Next Meetings: Clinical, 02/17/25 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. Member/Steering: 03/04/25 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Mills, LCSW-R, ACSW