

Minutes from 3/4/2025 NASW-NYS/NYC Western Division Steering Committee

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

Absent: Jesse Grossman, Rolanda Ward

Minutes: In the future the meeting minutes will be taken by committee members in the following rotation. Sylvia Gold, Cheryl Mills, Cheryl Eberl, Jesse Grossman.

Capitol Action Day in Albany on 2/11/2025 was attended by 23 students, 2 faculty from Buffalo State, 1 faculty from Daemen, Cheryl Mills and Elaine Rinfrette from the Western Division. There were 95 NASW attendees total so the Western Division was well represented. Representatives gave about 25 minutes to each group and discussion was productive. NASW-NYS issues included salary, increasing school social workers and loan forgiveness.

NASW video was completed by Jennifer McCarthy a UB student who is an intern at Niagara University and Paige Johnson from Fredonia State University to encourage students to join NASW. Elaine gives a short statement and Paige did an interview with a new LMSW Kelly Madden who graduated from UB last year and joined as a student. Elaine will send the video to the 5 local SW programs and see what kind of feedback we get. Elaine will also send a copy of the video to Shakira and to members of the steering committee. In lieu of payment for their services (they refused payment) we will send the video creators social work coffee mugs as a thank you.

Western Division Awards Breakfast will be held on Wednesday April 9th from 8:30am to 12:00pm at Niagara University in the Salvatore Dining Commons. The room has been changed due to a conflict but this room is larger and can hold more people. Rolanda and Alicia Yamashita are coordinating the site/food/set up etc at Niagara. Registration for the breakfast and the CEU presentation will be through the Chapter. Look for registration information from the Chapter in your email. The CEU presentation by Michael Clarkson-Hendrix, PhD, LCSW-R will be offered as a hybrid session. Elaine has received all the names of the student awardees except UB. SWer of the Year is still in the process of being chosen. Jesse, Sylvia and Cheryl M are on that committee. Cheryl M and Sylvia volunteered to help Elaine set up the room the day before, 4/8/2025 at 3pm. Discussed process to get the certificates updated with new names and signatures for President of the Board and the NASW-NYS/NYC Executive Dir. Cheryl E will send Elaine last years template for updating.

Budget and Social Work Month Update

Elaine updated us on our budget. As of 2/19/2025 we have \$538.36 for programs and meetings and \$200 for scholarships. The presentation on 2/18 had 15 paying attendees and 25 students and others at Fredonia who attended for no charge. We netted \$112.50 after subtracting for the presenter fee.

Elaine requested that Western Division members get free CEUs in March for Social Work Month. Shakira was supportive of this idea and a code was added to the registration form to reflect this.

Elaine noted we could use some additional CEU presenters and is looking for suggestions for topics and presenters. Presenters typically get \$150 per hour to present.

LMHCs supervising LMSWs After discussion the Western Division is against this change in policy.

Reminder Child maltreatment training is due by 4/1/2025 to renew your license. There has been some confusion if this is for the maltreatment update alone or the Culturally Competent Boundary Setting as well.

Clinical meeting will be on 3/17/2025 from 6-7:30. All are welcome.

April Steering Committee meeting will be held on April 1, 2025 from 6pm-7:30 via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Eberl, LCSW-R