

## Group News - August 2018

### President's Pen

Greetings!

This is our second IASWG Group Newsletter of the 2018 year, and it provides an opportunity to share the most recent good news about our IASWG advocacy and activities.

#### IASWG Chapter Activity

Our IASWG Chapter members share that they have been holding meetings and events during the past few months (or will hold events soon during the summer and fall months.) Our IASWG Chapters had representatives at the recent IASWG Board meeting held during the 2018 IASWG South Africa Symposium, and everyone was impressed with the reports by the Chapter Representatives detailing each of their chapter's accomplishments. The work of our chapters is vital to the success and growth of IASWG, and it was great to hear from the chapters represented at the Board meeting. Visit our website and you will see some evidence of the good work being done by IASWG Chapters. IASWG has recently grown to a record number of global chapters, and it looks like we will be adding yet another new chapter soon because our IASWG members in Calgary, Canada, have now submitted their formal application to start an IASWG Chapter. Our newest IASWG chapter, the Northern New England Chapter located in New Hampshire, USA, is developing beautifully; in fact, approximately 10 chapter members actively participated at the 2018 IASWG South Africa Symposium, and also shared that they have a big chapter event planned for the fall. In addition, the IASWG German Chapter members have shared that planning is moving along nicely for their IASWG German Chapter anniversary event to be held in the Spring of 2019. Finally, the Lithuania Chapter is readying their IASWG Group Work Camp event in Birstonas, Lithuania scheduled for this October, where all IASWG members are invited to attend for three days of group work experiential presentations and activities.

#### IASWG Symposium in South Africa

The IASWG 2018 South Africa Symposium, according to all those attending, was a big success. We saluted the noteworthy IASWG achievement of our 40th symposium (40 years!), and the significance of our 40th symposium being in South Africa. We had well over 200 attendees from across the globe, including lots of wonderful presenters who were group work practitioners, students, and academics. Our event contributed to South Africa social and economic development in many ways; for example, our symposium bags and symposium small gifts were made by groups of unemployed South African women, and our entertainers (choir, band) were local indigenous talent. The opening-day Outstutite took place at two community centers where approximately 110 of our attendees joined child care workers and children of both the Amukelani Centre and the Siyakhula Centre during the afternoon time when the children visit the Centres for two hours each day to receive what for many of the children is their

only meal of the day. All of the children are orphans and vulnerable children, so while all of us were struck by the beautiful work of the two Centres in supporting the children with a daily meal and group activities (for the day's activities, IASWG provided face painting activity materials and a drumming expert to do a drumming lesson, all of us realized how much the workers and children of these Centres are in great need of increased program funding and other financial supports. The following morning, at the big breakfast event/Plenary, attendees had the pleasure of being entertained by over 20 members of the Giyani Society for the Aged Choir. Throughout the 5-day symposium event, there were lots of excellent educational Plenaries, Invitationals, 30-minute presentations, and student posters, as well as many informal socializing opportunities such as: daily meals; coffee breaks; an evening Boma Brai barbecue dinner; a lovely IASWG Membership Meeting, featuring a PowerPoint presentation of welcome created by the IASWG Membership Committee, as well as testimonials from various global members about their experiences as IASWG members; and a big Gala event featuring a two-hour sunset/night game-viewing drive followed by a bush brai dinner and dancing to a Marimba band. The closing ceremony was held on the Kruger National Park soccer field, where many IASWG attendees played soccer with some local South African children who reside at the park in Skukuza (the children won the soccer game, but our IASWG folks gave their best effort.) Reineth Prinsloo served as Chair of the IASWG 2018 South Africa Symposium, and her efforts to create our wonderful IASWG 2018 South Africa Symposium were outstanding. Also impressive was the 25-member South Africa Symposium Planning Committee, and the 30 South Africa students (and 30 additional students from across the globe) who volunteered their time to complete much needed supporting tasks (even members of the Prinsloo family assisted.) The IASWG Symposium Planning Committee continues to make sure IASWG organizes successful symposia year after year in New York City and other global locations. At the big breakfast event we honored Reineth as the IASWG 2018 International Honoree, and she provided beautiful remarks in thanking IASWG for the award, a much-deserved recognition for her almost two decades of service to IASWG. At our lunch event on Friday, we honored six impressive local honorees from South Africa. We also thanked Emily Wilk numerous times during the event for once again successfully serving as our IASWG Symposium Planner by supporting Reineth with numerous tasks during the 8-9 month symposium planning process. *A few photos from the symposium:*



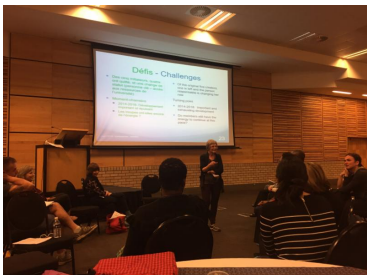
Opening Session



Outstite



Game Drive Jeep



Educational Presentation



Bush Braai



Outstite



Elephant Sighting



Accommodations



Group Soccer Game

### **IASWG Board**

The IASWG Board meeting held at the symposium in South Africa on Saturday morning was very productive. Each of our IASWG Committees made brief reports on recent progress, including the work of: the Nominations and Elections Committee on our upcoming election; the Membership Committee on maintaining member numbers; and the Commission Committee on various projects including recent SPARC endorsements/funding and IASWG Proceedings publications. The Treasurer Report outlined our current IASWG budget/finances, and demonstrated we have continued to remain in stable financial health over a good period of years. All of the IASWG Chapter Representatives (including Kristina Lind who brought ten student chapter members with her to represent their Northern New England Chapter!) described many upcoming chapter events and activities. At the Board meeting, we thanked Mark Doel for his excellent service of the past three years as IASWG Vice President; I know we all agree that Mark has been an incredibly effective Vice President, and we have benefitted greatly from his leadership. At one of the symposium lunch events a very nice presentation was made to me, which included giving me a lovely gift to recognize my IASWG service of the past six years as President. Mark and I continue to serve on the Board, so we will be working actively after our terms end this November. All IASWG Board members will continue our Board work/activities in the upcoming months as we move toward meeting together as a group at the November Board meeting in NYC on November 17-18.

### **IASWG Committees**

At the recent IASWG Board meeting, representatives from our IASWG Committees (Chairs/Co-chairs) reported they are working actively with their Committee members on various activities for the 2018 year. The Membership Committee has been holding regular phone conferences, continuing to brainstorm about ways to ensure all members are satisfied and planning to renew their IASWG memberships for 2018. In order to grow/support our members, several months ago the Membership Committee sent out a letter to all current members to thank them for their membership, and also recently designed a PowerPoint presentation shared with all members attending the IASWG South Africa Symposium. The IASWG Membership Committee in recent years has consistently reported that our member numbers are solid; be sure to renew your IASWG membership each year, and please reach out to other group workers you know to encourage them to join us as members of IASWG! The IASWG Nominations and Elections Committee members consistently work on considering innovations for more effective IASWG Board recruitment, and are moving along smoothly on their work on the 2018 election process; IASWG anticipates a strong slate of candidates for our upcoming elections, so look for lots of information about voting in October. The IASWG Executive Committee phone conferenced prior to the June symposium to discuss current IASWG activities and issues. The Executive Committee members on the phone conference (including various Chairs/Co-Chairs of all IASWG Committees) described many noteworthy accomplishments and progress currently happening in their Committee areas, and they outlined ways in which their Committees would continue to contribute to IASWG in the future. The IASWG Symposium Committee, following our very successful IASWG 2018 South Africa Symposium, will be focusing soon on tasks related to the upcoming IASWG 2019 NYC Symposium to be held next June once again at the



New York University (NYU) Global Center. The 2019 event promises to be a lovely event; all of us should make plans (and encourage others to make plans) to attend the symposium in NYC next June. The IASWG Marketing Committee, the IASWG Practice Committee, and the IASWG Commission on Group Work Education Committee continue to be productive, often combining forces to foster the promotion of group work scholarship globally. Through various projects such as: providing workshops on mutual aid at our symposia; setting up of our IASWG sponsorship of the annual U.N. Social Work Day; working hard to ensure that IASWG plays a prominent role at the U.S. Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) conference; increasing journal publishing in Social Work with Groups and Groupwork by encouraging the group work publications of IASWG members; adding new group work educational resources to the IASWG website; connecting and networking IASWG with major global social work organizations to promote group work education and practice internationally; and helping the IASWG SPARC Committee in supporting innovative group work education and practice projects of IASWG members across the world, these three IASWG Committees strengthen the mission of IASWG each and every year. The IASWG Chapter Development Committee has proudly added two new IASWG Chapters in the past two years, and IASWG is excited that soon we should be welcoming a new IASWG Chapter in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, and hopefully in Spain in the near future; IASWG Chapters are active and productive, and each of our IASWG Chapters sends a good number of presenters and attendees to our symposia each year. Regarding the work that falls into the area of our Budget and Finance Committee, IASWG has been thriving due to our strong budget and finance stability. We continue to move forward with financial prudence and with financial health, enjoying our solid balanced budgets of the past several years. In addition to our sturdy Endowment Fund of approximately 230K (located in an income producing annuity fund), IASWG is also secure financially due to our solid cash fund of approximately 50K. Each year we work hard to balance our income and expense areas; we raise our income in several areas such as symposium registrations, membership dues, fund donations, and interest on investments, with the income earned in years like the recent 2018 year allowing us to support many areas of IASWG expenses: IASWG Symposium; marketing expenses; Symposium Proceedings publications; chapter support payments; SPARC grants; administrative salaries; membership registration system and symposium registration system costs; November Board meeting expenses; and annual mailing/banking/website fees. In the past two years we have been able to dedicate a nice amount of budget money to provide needed support to our many chapters who wish to request funding for a special chapter event. Many thanks to our hardworking IASWG Treasurer, our responsible IASWG Budget Committee, and our IASWG Board members, for maintaining such a strong and consistent financial picture for IASWG. Our IASWG International Issues Ad-hoc Committee consistently examines/addresses current/future issues related to our expanding international identity (e.g. communication methods, travel costs, membership outreach, and translation needs); IASWG recognizes that our primary role is to support all group workers across the globe who are trying to sustain and promote group work practice, education, and research.

### **IASWG Website**

There are many pictures of our many IASWG events on our [website](#). In addition, our IASWG website continues to feature on our homepage our IASWG Standards in 3 languages. Finally, check out our IASWG website for helpful information on: resources for group workers across the globe; committee news/reports; member news; chapter updates; and information on IASWG international events/projects. We strive to keep the website updated and active.

### **Global Events**

Following our successful IASWG Group Work Camps in Wisconsin, U.S. and Quebec, Canada during 2017, and our recent IASWG symposium event in South Africa, we look forward to our IASWG Group Work Camp in Lithuania in October,

2018. In addition, several IASWG members from Spain, Ireland, South Africa, the U.S., and other global locations, recently attended and presented group work educational sessions at the Social Work and Social Development Conference in Dublin, Ireland. IASWG has made steady progress toward increasing our global identity, and it is our priority to continue to focus on enriching this identity. Through the work/activities/events of our organization, we try to make a concerted effort to represent the importance of global group connection; as an organization composed of international group workers, we know that without global group connection nothing of great significance can be achieved.

### **Conclusion:**

IASWG is a strong organization at present, and we are successfully carrying out our IASWG mission to ensure that group work practice, education, research, publication, and field instruction survives and thrives. As always, thank you to all of you, our active IASWG members throughout the world, for furthering the IASWG mission to support and strengthen the cause of social group work. We will look forward very soon to celebrating group work together at our 2019 IASWG NYC Symposium, and we look forward to continuing to communicate with you during 2018 and 2019 (and beyond).

Greg Tully, IASWG President

## IASWG News & Resources

### NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS UPDATE

The next IASWG Board Election will take place in October 2018. The Nominations & Elections Committee is currently in the process of developing a slate of six or more individuals for the following open positions:

- President
- Vice President
- At-Large Member (3)

All nominations must be received by August 5th, 2018 in order to be considered.

[For more information, click here](#) or contact committee chair, Kyle McGee, at [kylem.mcgee@gmail.com](mailto:kylem.mcgee@gmail.com).

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### IASWG PRACTICE TIP

#### Le groupe d'une seule rencontre en travail social de groupe

Le groupe d'une seule rencontre fait partie intégrante de la pratique en travail social de groupe, sans pour autant que cette réalité ne se reflète dans la littérature francophone. Le présent topo a comme objectifs de circonscrire le caractère distinctif de cette pratique de groupe, au regard des contextes d'utilisation, de ses inspirations théoriques et des considérations à prendre en compte lors de la phase préparatoire et de réalisation de la rencontre.

Le groupe d'une seule rencontre se retrouve dans des contextes variés d'intervention en outre en milieu hospitalier, scolaire, communautaire, de travail, etc... Il peut s'adapter à un large éventail de situations et de problématiques.

Retenons en outre, des situations:

- de transition tels le contexte migratoire, la parentalité ou encore le passage d'une étape de vie à l'autre ;
- de santé : prévention, hospitalisation, informations sur les services de santé;
- de crise ou lors d'un sinistre : crise sociale, fermeture d'entreprise, perte d'emploi, accident de travail ; inondation, incendie, canicule ;
- postvention : suicide, homicide, tragédie
- Une telle rencontre permet d'apporter une réponse rapide à des besoins d'information, de prévention et d'ajustement à une nouvelle réalité. Elle peut aussi contribuer au repérage des besoins liés à une problématique, à l'identification des personnes nécessitant une attention particulière tout comme elle peut faciliter la collaboration de partenaires face à l'émergence d'une nouvelle problématique.

[Lire la suite](#)

## Special Interest Groups in Dublin, Ireland

Here are photos of 2 Special Interest Groups (Groupwork in Social Work Education, Practice and Research: Being and Joining Together), held on July 6, 2018 at the Social Work and Social Development Conference in Dublin, Ireland. Carol S. Cohen (United States), Linda V. Ducca (Spain) and Roshini Pillay (South Africa) facilitated both sessions at this Conference co-sponsored by IASSW, IFSW and ICSW.

### SWSD2018 Conference

The first session, conducted in Spanish and English, was open to all conference attendees, drew 35 participants from approximately 15 countries.

The second session, with representatives of 5 countries, was more informal, and drew people who were familiar with the IASWG and who had attended similar sessions in the past (including IASWG Board Member Shirley Simon).

**Additional material, including countries represented, discussion summaries, and next steps will be published shortly [here](#).**

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[www.globalgroupworkproject.com](http://www.globalgroupworkproject.com)



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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