

**IASWG Board Meeting Minutes**  
**May 20, 2023 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

*PRESENT: Barb Muskat, Donna Guy, Donna McLaughlin, Mark Smith, Ginette Berteau, Lorrie Gardella, Andy Malekoff, Reineth Prinsloo, Kristina Lind, Carol Cohen, Kyle McGee, Michael Wagner, Mamadou Seck, Lorrie Gardella, Greg Tully, Shirley Simon, Ann Bergart, Georgianna Dolan-Reilly, Robert Martinez, Sera Godfrey-Kaplan, Linda Ducca, Adina Muskat*

Introduction & Welcome

Barb called the meeting to order at 10:03am ET, welcomed the Board, discussed the various impacts of family needs, moves, and health issues with various members of our board. The meeting started with brief introductions and updates from attending members. Barb reported that Joyce will no longer be serving in the secretary role. Emily took minutes for today's meeting.

- Action: Identify a new recording secretary.

Review and Acceptance of the Agenda & Minutes

We could not locate the November 2022 Board Meeting Minutes. There was a request for approval of today's meeting agenda. It was called by Michael Wagner and seconded by Donna McLaughlin.

Announcements

Andy Malekoff will pass off leadership of the *Social Work with Groups Journal* after 33 years. A new editor will begin early next year. The new editor will be Dr. Diana Coholic from Laurentian University, Sudbury, ON. Andy expressed his sincere appreciation for IASWG board members who reviewed or edited articles and mentored new contributors.

- Read [Andy's Farewell Article](#) | [PDF copy](#)

Financial Report

Donna McLaughlin, treasurer, reported that our income is down compared to last year; one factor may be that individuals are late to register for the symposium and renew their membership. Emily will contact past organization members to renew their memberships. Donna explained that we are seeing less revenue over the last few years with the graduated rates and less attendees/members these last few years. There were some concerns about returning to an in-person symposium next year in Spain and its impact on revenue. However, there is hope that holding an in-person symposium could generate renewed interest in membership and attendance. Mamadou Seck shared that there is funding available for students and Africans to become members and attend the symposium. Ann Bergart and Mamadou Seck explained how there is funding available, however, there is limited interest in individuals accepting the funds/scholarship. The suggestion was to use a personal invitation for scholarships.

- Action Items:
  - Would like to restart a Money/Fundraising Committee
  - Need to push for memberships and renewals, including Organizational Members
- Referenced Documents
  - [IASWG Operating Budget \(5-1-2023\)](#)
  - [Treasurer's Report \(5.09.2023\)](#)

## Symposium Updates

1. Overview: Symposium is the big event to focus on right now. There are many great events, including pre-symposium offerings, fun social experiences, and local events. There was encouragement to register and market the events: <https://www.iaswg.org/2023-virtual-symposium>.
2. International Honoree: Symposium Planning Committee recommended three international honoree candidates. The candidate with the most votes was brought to the Board. There was a unanimous vote of YES (20 total) for [Mark Macgowan](#) as this year's honoree.
3. For Students: Kristina Lind spoke about the focused efforts to encourage students to attend and engage in this year's symposium. There are specific events for students, including a pre-symposium institute with Alex Gitterman. In addition, there is a web page with flyers, videos, volunteer opportunities, and student contacts for students interested in attending the symposium: <https://www.iaswg.org/2023students>. The goal is to acquire 15 new student members. There is still a need for student volunteers.
  - Action Item
    - Reach out to students using [Kristina's template letter](#), and follow up with them to invite them to committees and further engage in the organization.
4. Online Standards Project - A group will discuss the progress of the project and then break up into smaller groups to develop practice tips for each standard.

## Committee Reports

*Commission* - Carol highlighted some items from the committee's attached report: focus of the commission has been outreach to educators, a series of webinars, upcoming external conferences, published proceedings, a call for editors for the 2022-2023 symposium proceedings, and SPARC applications which are due on May 25.

- [View Full Report](#)

*Nominations and Elections* - Kyle explained the committee's work on onboarding new at-large members with an information sharing meeting with current committee co-chairs. They will use a Googleform for new board member nominations due July 10, 2023. There will be a Sip & Chat event on Friday, June 9th at 6pm ET.

*Chapter Development* - Shirley and Sera shared how the committee has been discussing what it means to be chapter, the role of the committee, how to draw and maintain membership, and cross-chapter attendance of chapter meetings. There is an upcoming meeting on Tuesday, May 23rd at 3pm ET.

*International Issues* - Lorrie displayed the new webpage for [International Issues](#).

- Action: Each chapter and committee was asked to complete a [brief survey](#) before November's Board Meeting.

*Language Access* - Ginette announced that interpreters have been identified for French, Spanish, and English. The German Chapter will not have interpreters this year as they are comfortable speaking/listening in English.

*Marketing* - Linda mentioned that there are delays on projects and events due to busy schedules. There was one event held in Spanish. More events are in the works for the future.

Michael Wagner led a brief closing exercise and the meeting was officially adjourned at 2:22pm ET.