My Final Column as President of ASGW

Maria Silva, President

What a year!! After arriving home from the ACA conference in Detroit, I had an opportunity to look back over the past year. I have learned a considerable amount about what it means to be a leader. In many ways, this brings me back to a discussion of effective groups. Yes, you need a leader who cares about group work and has a vision and goals. A leader also needs to be able to connect with and listen to members, along with showing them support and providing some structure. Yet, we have all led groups that were not effective because of the composition of the members, or maybe one specific member. The leader (or in my case the President of ASGW), is given a lot of credit for the success of the group. In this case the ASGW programs at the ACA Conference. What I wish to convey here is that ASGW is like no other group that I have ever been involved with. This year I had many people email me to “do whatever task is needed”. Members organized programs, chaired committees, scheduled meetings in the suite, developed brochures, welcomed new members, carefully attended to awards, collected needed data, described great ideas for the future, answered questions about how group work, attended to the budget, communicated with ACA and other divisions, conducted excellent conference programs on group topics, maintained the ASGW booth at the conference, edited manuscripts for our Journal and our newsletter, kept the minutes from our meetings, provided a liaison relationship between ACA and ASGW, provided much needed mentoring and support, and taught me about how effective executive boards function. There were many other gifts that I received from members. They all contributed to the wonderful way that ASGW has of making people feel supported and cared for. Many members and non-members have said to me that ASGW is more accessible, inclusive, and collaborative than most other organizations. During this year, I have experienced the generosity and energy of our members and I thank you all for the honor of serving as president and for the help and encouragement that I received. ASGW works because of the membership. In the past year, I have been reminded many times of why I became an ASGW member, and the amazing power of a group.
2006 Outstanding JSGW Article Award

The award for the outstanding article appearing in the 2006 Journal for Specialists in Group Work was presented to Dr. Paula McWhirter for her article.

My Place in the Group Genogram

Alicia Hornich

ASGW has been my home since I first became involved in the field of counseling. As with any organization, there is often a lot of heartache and tears along the way. All of these stresses are overcome at ACA meetings and have my own sense of what this feels like. I believe that ASGW is an exciting and welcoming group. I have served as a student, a faculty member, and a practitioner in this field. I feel that ASGW has been a part of my professional growth and development. I have been a member of the group for over 20 years, and I have enjoyed attending the meetings and networking with other members. I look forward to continuing my involvement with ASGW in the future.

2007 Peg Carroll Scholarship Awarded: Cindy L. Anderson, M. Coun., LCPC, NCC, Doctoral Candidate, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale

Submitted by: Cindy L. Anderson, Doctoral Candidate, SU

I would like first to express my gratitude to the Peg Carroll Award. It is truly an honor to be awarded in the name of someone who is highly respected individual and an extraordinary group work leader, and I would like to thank her for her generosity. I would also like to thank ASGW for selecting me as the recipient. I had a wonderful experience at the ASGW luncheon when I was presented with the award at the ACA conference in Denver.

I began my training in group work through my participation in my master’s student at Idaho State University in a small group class taught by Dr. William Kline. This class exposed me to my first t-group experience – an experience I will never forget. After I graduated with a master’s degree in Mental Health Counseling, I facilitated psycho-educational groups with at-risk school-age children both living in the shelter (where I worked) and living in the community. Three years later, I entered into a private practice where I had the opportunity to co-facilitate a relapse prevention group with adult sex offenders. Approximately one and a half years later, I returned to school to pursue a doctorate in counselor education at Southern Illinois University – Carbondale (SIU). During the past three and a half years at SIU, I have facilitated master’s level student t-group experiences, and I have taught courses in the area of group facilitation in both an educational group or task group format. In addition, I have taught workshops and provided supervision to master’s level students who are facilitating or co-facilitating group work. My approach to group work is based on the premise that individuals develop a sense of group membership through their relationships with others in the group. Therefore, I strive to create an environment in which students feel safe and supported. I use a variety of techniques and strategies to promote group cohesion and effectiveness. I believe that group work is a powerful tool for personal and professional growth. I am honored and privileged to receive this award, and I look forward to continuing my involvement with ASGW in the future.

The Group Worker
Personal/Professional Reflections on the Gift of Group Work

Life, from a traditional Native perspective, is viewed as a series of concentric circles that emanate from one another like the ripples of a lake, shimmering with light (Garrett, 1998). The first circle is the inner circle, representing that which is within us, being our spirit, the culmination of all of our experiences and the power that comes with the essence of our being. The second circle is the outer circle, and beyond that is the outermost circle. Medicine circles (a circle of immediate family, extended family, tribal family, community, and nation; a circle consisting of all our relationships) are divided into seven areas of living in this world, an essential opportunity for growth, and I have carried this way of thinking throughout my life and work. As a group counselor, I remember one of my clients telling me, “I analyze, like we all do, all the different breeds of groups in many ways. Life is colored by the constant ebb and flow of connect and disconnect that happens every day within the context of so many relationships and how we live in this world, and it is within these contexts that we represent. Native people, the reason we are here—to learn and grow and work, to help others in some way. No one knows this better than group workers, and I feel fortunate to count myself as one of those who has worked tirelessly over the years to perfect the task as a facilitator for the benefit of those with whom I find myself in groups. The honor and awe for me has come through the consistently humble nature of this art, watching the way the people of all kinds can come together and create something very special together that they could not have experienced apart. I have watched healing happen in the most unexpected places and at the most unexpected times, something that, when it is there, you can feel so deeply it cannot be ignored, and something that you do not forget. I have always seen the power of groups as a sacred gift and take comfort in the realization that I will never stop learning what it is that moves people through connection. I am grateful for the opportunity to be an ASGW Fellow, and to be alongside you, calling myself a group worker, both as a practitioner and educator, doing the work that we do. I thank you for taking the time to share in my reflections here, and I thank you most of all for the critical work that you do to benefit others through the gift of groups. I invite you, as practitioners and educators, to share your stories and potential through feedback but also encourages students to join professional organizations and take on leadership opportunities. He dedicated his professional life to his students and has influenced hundreds of graduate students with his dedication, flexibility, feedback, unassuming nature, and passion for teaching and group work. Dr. Horne’s recipient’s effort and contribution to the promotion of group work have been consistent over many years through service, research, teaching, and mentoring.

Dr. Horne’s national and international contribution to group work serves as a model for other group work professionals. Therefore, when ASGW is pleased to honor Dr. Horne for his significant contributions to the field of group work, Dr. Horne was unable to attend the ASGW luncheon so accepted the award via cell phone. He was unbelievably moved and touched by the experience. He related to sharing his work at all the conferences at the ASGW luncheon but did not get the chance.

“My first group course was in 1967—it taught by George Singer and assisted by Bob Saltmarsh. I fell in love with groups and have stayed committed to our work for the full forty years. In my first group, I was touched by the magic of groups and I loved to watch the magicians at work—call it magic because I often feel like I am at a magic show, watching artists make the unbelievable and unexpected happen. I’m often surprised when it happens in my own groups, and I turn about and say, ‘Thank you, group work’—Magnificently if it happens just as it is supposed to and it has continued to do so throughout all the years. I have been blessed with the opportunity of being mentored by some of the greats in group work, including Melinee Chico and George Garrett. It has been a great honor to be able to be a colleague, collaborator, and friend to you. Love is something you and I must have. We must have it because our spirit feeds upon it.

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Obituary
Submitted by Thelma Vriend

Professor John Vriend, 82, died in Tucson, AZ, on December 1, 2006, fifteen months after being diagnosed with esophageal cancer. His body was cremated on December 3, and at his request his ashes were scattered under the blue spruce tree on the Nolan Property in Michigan where his mother’s ashes were also scat tered. Dr. Vriend spent his last months writing his daily literary journals and maintaining mindful small connections with family and friends. John Vriend was a practicing therapist, a counselor educator, and edited Professor of Education at Wayne State University. He was president of the fledgling Association for Specialists in Group Work in 1978-1979, and was awarded the association’s Eminent Career Award in 1983.
Dr. Vriend published over 70 articles, four book chapters, four co-authored textbooks, and wrote eight unpublished booklets and essays. His publications included a series of books and audiotapes on Counseling Techniques that Work, with Wayne W. Dyer, 1973-1977, and his own seminal text Counseling Powers and Possessons, 1985. Other books included Group Counseling for Personal Mastery (with W. W. Dyer, 1983), and Counseling Effectively in Groups, 1973. He also edited special editions of the Educational Psychology Journal, MPG Journal, ANWC Journal, and the NYGA Newsletter. John Vriend was proud of his military service as a Navy pilot during World War II, and of his parents and siblings. He is survived by four daughters, several grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins, his devoted friend Bob Gruber of Tucson, and his students everywhere.

Editor’s Good-bye
Submitted by Shet Bauman

Group workers are always mindful of the importance of termination. This is the last issue of The Group Worker I will edit. The newsletter will now be in the able hands of Amy Nitz, the new editor. This seems to be an appropriate time for me to reflect on my experience these four years as newsletter editor, as an ex-officio member of the executive board, and as a group worker. I must make a confession, I was a member of ASGW for about 25 years before I took the step to become active in the organization. In-tech-speak, I was a “lurker.” Although I valued and used the journal and newsletter, there was so much more I missed out on! The opportunity to work with a dedicated cadre of committed group workers has enriched me both professionally and personally, and in retrospect I wish I had come out of the shadows much earlier. This is an appeal to all of the lurkers in the organization – you will receive so much more than you give, and I cannot imagine a more rewarding experience than becoming actively engaged in the mission of this organization. I am eagerly anticipating my new role as editor of the Journal for Specialists in Group Work, and know that I will continue to contribute and be involved is the work of the association. Two of my original goals for the newsletter were accomplished: the newsletter is less costly to the organization due to changes in formatting and paper, and we are using the Internet more effectively. Although bulk mail means the newsletter spends considerable time in transit, a PDF file is available on www.asgw.org as soon as it is available, allowing members to view content immediately while waiting for their hard copies. In my dual role as newsletter editor and webmaster, the website has been upgraded and has been used to archive important documents, advertise events and opportunities, and provide a hub for the membership. There are hopes I had for the newsletter that were not realized: a book review column did not become a regular feature. Many publishers are reluctant to provide review copies to a small organization, and potential reviewers were difficult to find. Like any product or activity in an organization like ASGW, collabora tion is crucial, and those members who are willing to assist in some way should contact Amy Nitz with your ideas and offers of help. I also hoped to increase the “content” articles. Again, submissions are needed, and I want to encourage members to submit material for the newsletter. The next annual conference will be in January 2008, and I urge all members to attend and bring at least one colleague along. This is a chance to meet and learn from others around the country who share your interest in group work, and to socialize with old and new friends in a relaxed and pleasant setting. I hope to see you there!
The Group Worker

Select Social/Political Advocacy Competencies for ASGW Professional

Social Political Advocacy Competencies

- Potential allies working to address issues related to ethics in a diverse context
- Identifies the appropriate mechanisms and avenues for addressing problems related to ethics in a diverse context
- Seeks out and joins with potential allies working to address issues related to ethics in a diverse context
- Identifies which of the 19 ACA ethics in a diverse context

Examples of Interventions or Actions to Promote Ethics in a Diversity Context

- Submit concerns about ethics, culture, and group work to the ACA Ethics Committee, AMCD, ACGS
- Community mental health and school systems: Identify which of the 19 ACA ethics in a diverse context

Promote involvement of ASGW professionals-in-training with the ACA Ethics Committee and community mental health and school systems

Seeks out and joins with potential allies working to address issues related to ethics in a diverse context

Identify which of the 19 ACA divisions is focusing on ethics and diversity and form an alliance

Call for Journal for Specialists in Group Work Editorial Board Applications

Applications are now being accepted for a three-year appointment to the editorial board of the Journal for Specialists in Group Work, beginning January 2008. ASGW and IGW are particularly interested in receiving applications from individuals representing a wide variety of diversity. Experienced reviewers may be immediately appointed to the JSGW Editorial Board depending upon the number of open positions.

Others with little or no experience may be appointed first as Ad Hoc reviewers to gain editorial review experience. Both board members and ad hoc reviewers receive manuscripts to review. Interested applicants should send the following to Dr. Donald E. Ward, Editor, Journal for Specialists in Group Work, Department of Psychology and Counseling, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, KS 66762: a hand copy and electronic copies via email to dward@psu.edu as a letter of application describing your areas of expertise, publishing and editorial experience, reasons for wanting to serve on the board, and willingness to complete and return all editorial reviews and other assignments on or before established deadlines; vita; and proof of ASGW membership. You will also be sent materials and a manuscript to review as part of the application process in August or September of 2007. Please also include complete contact information, including an active email address and regular mail address. Applications will be accepted through September 1, 2007. For further information, please contact Dr. Ward at email: dward@psu.edu.

New DVD from ASGW

Leading Groups with Adolescents

Video features national recognized group experts working with a group of high school students. This DVD captures an actual psychoeducational group unfolding from the initial stage, through goal setting and a series of working and evaluating group discussions and activities. The group model worked is highly applicable to school and agency work. You will learn from the skills and techniques of the leaders, as well as from the responses and interactions of the adolescents themselves. A valuable training tool.

To order contact: ACA Order Services
1-800-242-684 ext. 222 www.counseling.org
5999 Stevenson Ave, Alexandria, VA 22304

Ethics in a Diversity Context: A Call to The Association for Specialists in Group Work

Shelton P. Pack-Brown, a Professor in the Mental Health and School Counseling Program at Bowling Green State University and Professional Clinical Counselor with supervisory status. She emphasizes cultural intentionally, competence, and ethical behavior in her work and promotes diversity-competent group workers highlighting Afro centric and Euro centric approaches. Her publications including coauthor, The Association for Specialists in Group Work Principles for Diversity-Competent Group Workers: Images of Me: two books, A Guide to Group Work with African American Women and Men Within a Diversity Context, and video, I Am Because We Are: Afrocentric Approaches to Group Work A Diversity Competent Model. She has received awards from the Ohio Counseling Association, AMCD and recently was named an ACA Fellow. Dr. Pack-Brown has served as co-chair, ACA Taskforce on Exemplary Practices for the Multicultural and Advocacy Competencies; chair, ACA Ethics Committee, member, AMCD Multicultural Competencies Certification Taskforce; president, AMCD; and graduate coordinator, BSU Guidance and Counseling Program.

Introduction

The Executive Board of the Association for Specialists in Group Work (ASGW) approved two documents in 1998 reflecting their commitment to the influence of human differences and similarities in diversity-competent group work within multiple settings and across diverse populations. The first document, the Principles for Specialists in Group Work Best Practices Guidelines, informs group workers of their responsibility to inform clients and other groups that act as they engage in best practices to (a) be accountable for what they personally and culturally bring to group work and (b) examine multiculturalism and diversity as part of environmental assessment. Section A.3.a. Assessment of Self and A.3.b. Ecological Assessment instructs group workers to collect information about the social and cultural environment in which they work. A.3.c., the Vision for Specialists in Group Work Best Practices Guidelines, informs group workers of their responsibility to provide group members with information about their group goals and the expectations for group work in diverse settings. Section A.3.d., Ecological Assessment instructs group workers to work with the influences of human differences and similarities specific to group work in diverse settings and across diverse populations. These visionaries laid a strong foundation for initiating action toward gathering and organizing ways to address the influences of human differences and similarities specific to group planning, performing, and processing. Movement of the vision from thoughts to action (guidelines and principles) exemplifies the foresight of ASGW leaders and members to redirect thinking about how to use differences and similarities such as age, ethnicity, gender, race, religion, and sexual orientation as helping tools. However, the work for diversity-competence remains in its early stages. While ASGW leaders and members of the past paved the way for future leaders and members to search more deeply for diversity-competent treatment during group activities, the physical, mental, and emotional work directed at doing so has become more specific and demanding.

Diversity-competence is generally defined as the extent to which group workers possess appropriate awareness, knowledge, and skills to effectively work with individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds. The journey to diversity-competence in the 21st century is filled with content (course work and knowledge) and clinical (perceptual and skill) questions and tasks specific to tailoring group services to the needs of diverse populations. In particular, there is a growing awareness of the influence of culture on ethical thinking and decision-making. More and more ASGW professionals are grappling with issues associated with ethical obligations when working with diverse populations.

This column puts forth a call for a diversity revolution designed to promote competence in viewing ethics from a global perspective while working in an increasingly diverse society. The reader is invited to identify and accept challenges related to what I call a journey toward viewing ethics in a diversity context.

I underscore three challenges associated with the gradual passing from one state of thinking to another regarding the relationship between ethics and culture and embracing the idea that both are important to defining and acting on acceptable and good practices with diverse populations.

With each challenge, I offer Practice Ideas to emphasize movement from awareness toward action and build on the work of past leaders and members that constructed a foundation for facing the influence of human differences and similarities on diversity-competent group work in multiple settings and across diverse populations. Each Practice Idea is designed to facilitate making ethical decisions that are more in line with the values, worldviews and life experiences of the diverse populations.

Identifying and Accepting Challenges

Many human services personnel, including ASGW professionals, define ethics Continued on Pg 6
beliefs, attitudes, and values as guiding forces in their analytical thinking. Often ideas of diversity, in general, are “added to” existing directives that are critical to ethical thinking and behavior. One message is that we must continuously question the influence of diversity and ethics are changing codes to be more multicultural appro-

The 2005 American Counseling Association Code of Ethics provides a commendable example of how counseling professionals asking tough questions about diversity and ethics are changing codes to be more multicultural appro-
spectives influencing policy from a broader cultural approach in support of the worth, dignity, potential, and uniqueness of people within their social and cultural contexts. Within a social and cultural context which includes supporting age, ethnicity, gender, geographic location, race, religion and religious and social prejudices in the misdiagnosis and social workers are aware of how beliefs and Attitudes

Culturally skilled counselors, psychologists, and social workers are aware of how their own cultural background and experiences have influenced attitudes, values, and ethical standards. For example, a counselor may have chosen the practice of group work or exceeding prescribed behaviors for group work are deeply ingrained in us and can change or become stronger as part of our personal development, rather than as the result of formal education. ASGW. However, a close look at the ACA Code of Ethics Pream-

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Culturally skilled counselors, psychologists, and social workers are aware of how their own cultural background and experiences have influenced attitudes, values, and ethical standards. For example, a counselor may have chosen the practice of group work or exceeding prescribed behaviors for group work are deeply ingrained in us and can change or become stronger as part of our personal development, rather than as the result of formal education. ASGW. However, a close look at the ACA Code of Ethics Pream-

Knowledgeable and skilled counselors have specific knowledge about their own racial and cultural heritage and how it person-

Practice Idea #2: Explore Personal Identities and Implications for Bias and Assumptions

Explore the influence of personal identities such as age, ethnicity, gender, geographic location, race, religion and religious and social prejudices in the misdiagnosis and social workers are aware of how beliefs and attitudes
beliefs, attitudes, and values as guiding forces in their analytical thinking. Note: To make the tool more applicable to your work as an ASGW professional, substitute your terms (e.g., group worker, educator, supervisor) where you see counselor, psychologist, and social worker. For a complete view of the exercise and discussions of promoting ethics in a multicultural context, refer to the Practice Ideas that follow. Instructions: Ask and respond to each question below and do so as honestly and thoroughly as possible.

Practice Idea #1: Ask Tough Questions and Give Voice to... Determine how personal circumstances and experiences such as, but not limited to, ethnicity, race, religion, and upbringing shape life. Ask tough questions about how diversity in values and worldviews lead to critical thinking about a context. For example, how does “family” influence the way someone makes decisions? Might the cultural definition of “family” influence how ASGW professionals think about and interpret an ethical code? Once questions have been posed, engage in discussion that delve deeply and in-writing alternative ways of thinking about ethical standards.

The ASGW Code of Ethics provides a commendable example of how counseling professionals ask tough questions about diversity and ethics are changing codes that are more culturally appropriate. Two examples of changes emanating from their questioning process. Glosoff and Kocet (2005) report that Standard A.I.1 in the 2005 ACA Code was changed from “Family Involvement” to “Support Network Involvement” to broaden the concept of family to include any person from the perspective of the client who plays a central role in that person’s life.

Challenge #2: Identity Development and Positioning the Mind to Think Critically and Without Bias
Identity refers to who someone is, how someone is known, and possession of characteristics that distinguish one person from another. Dr. Janet Helms (1999) advises that to ignore racial and cultural dynamics of the therapist and clients within the therapy relationship can encourage this tendency. Her statement parallels rules and standards of performance in the ASGW Diversity Competencies and the 2005 ACA Code of Ethics. That is, the characteristics, qualities that make ASGW professionals noticeable, evident in work, with and without the influence and subsequent dynamics influence personal biases and assumptions made about differences and similarities. A challenge for ASGW professionals is to think about ethics in a diversity context is to embrace their racial and cultural dynamics and consider the influences thereof on thinking about ethics and ethical decision making.

Practice Idea #2: Explore Personal Identities and Implications for Bias and Assumptions
Explore the influence of personal identities such as age, ethnicity, race, gender, and sexual orientation on professional practice and interpreting ethical rules and guidelines for performance. Group educators, leaders, researchers, and supervisors aspiring to operate in a culturally intentional (purposeful) and ethical manner are faced with questions related to moral dilemmas, advocacy decisions, and social justice issues as they react, think, feel, and act in the work. The following questions are generated from where they are to choose potentially unsatisfactory alternatives and thus question the possibility of making wrong decisions. Do I have a more appropriate stance at reading, and thinking about codes based on cultural abilities, values, and beliefs? We are being asked to engage in thought process about these questions.

The following challenges and Practice Ideas are offered to provide a glimpse into ways that ASGW professionals may think more critically about reading codes and interpreting ethical rules and guidelines as well as other guidelines within the Code discourse potentially hidden, or at the very least subtle, messages and directives that are critical to ethical thinking and behavior. One message is that we must continue questioning the influence of the formula for diversity in the practice and interpreting ethical rules and guidelines for performance.

Group educators, leaders, researchers, and supervisors aspiring to operate in a culturally intentional (purposeful) and ethical manner are faced with questions related to moral dilemmas, advocacy decisions, and social justice issues as they react, think, feel, and act in the work. The following questions are generated from where they are to choose potentially unsatisfactory alternatives and thus question the possibility of making wrong decisions. Do I have a more appropriate stance at reading, and thinking about codes based on cultural abilities, values, and beliefs? We are being asked to engage in thought process about these questions.

The following challenges and Practice Ideas are offered to provide a glimpse into ways that ASGW professionals may think more critically about reading codes and interpreting ethical rules and guidelines as well as other guidelines within the Code discourse. We are told that inherently held values guiding our group work are deeply ingrained in the counselor and developed out of personal dictation, rather than the mandatory requirement of an external organization. (p. 3)

Continued from Pg 5

A challenge for ASGW professionals working to view ethics in a diversity context is to embrace their racial and cultural dynamics and consider the influences thereof on thinking about ethics and ethical decision making. How do my racial and cultural heritage affect my definitions and biases regarding what is considered normal or abnormal? How does my knowledge of my own racial and cultural heritage have on defining ethical and unethical social behavioral behavior as prescribed by the ACA Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice?

Challenge #3: Advocating for Ethics in a Diversity Context

Advocacy is defined by Toporek & Liu (2003) as action taken by counselor- as professional, facilitator, or change agent- that identifies and deals with institutional barriers affecting clients’ well-being. An example of an important first step is advocating for the removal of institutional barriers by the American Counseling Association is the 2005 Code of Ethics Standard E.5.c. informs counsels of a way to position for advocacy in that is to “recognize historical and ongoing oppression and pathologizing of certain individuals and groups and the role of mental health professionals in perpetuating these prejudices through diagnosis and treatment.” (p. 6) It is important for ASGW professionals to learn to recognize that concerns creating issues for the well being of an individual often reflect systemic concerns (i.e., the system/s in which the individual is functioning). A challenge for ASGW professionals working to view ethics in a diversity context is to resolve concerns and issues faced by individuals in a broader context via action based on their advocacy competence (skills and attributes) and competencies (interventions and actions).

Practice Idea #3: Develop Social/Poli- tical Advocacy Competencies

Social/Political Advocacy means that ASGW professionals act as change agents in systems specifically influencing individuals and groups. We are being asked to engage in thought process about these questions.

References


### Call for Journal for Specialists in Group Work Editorial Board Applications

Applications are now being accepted for a three-year appointment to the editorial board of the Journal for Specialists in Group Work, beginning January of 2008. ASGW and JSGW are particularly interested in receiving applications from individuals representing a wide variety of diversity. Experienced reviewers may be immediately appointed to the JSGW Editorial Board depending upon the number of open positions.

Others with little or no experience may be appointed first as Ad Hoc reviewers to gain editorial review experience. Both board members and Ad Hoc reviewers receive manuscripts to review. Interested applicants should send the following to Dr. Donald E. Ward, Editor, Journal for Specialists in Group Work, Department of Psychology and Counseling, Pittsburgh State University, Pittsburgh, KS 66762: a hand copy and electronic copies via email to dward@psu.edu of a letter of application describing your areas of expertise, publishing and editorial experience, reasons for wanting to serve on the board, and willingness to complete and return all editorial reviews and other assignments on or before established deadlines; vita; and proof of ASGW membership. You will also be sent materials and a manuscript to review as part of the application process in June or September of 2007. Please also include complete contact information, including an active email address and regular mail address. Applications will be accepted through September 1, 2007. For further information, please contact Dr. Ward at email: dward@psu.edu.

### New DVD from ASGW

**Leading Groups with Adolescents**

- co-leaders: Dr. Janice Delucia-Waack and Dr. Allen Seger
- moderated by Dr. Amy Nitzia
- produced by Dr. Amy Nitzia

This DVD captures an actual psych/edu-
cational group unfolding from the initial stage, through goals setting and a series of working and achieving activities. The group model worked is highly applicable to schools and agency work. You will learn from the skills and techniques of the leaders, as well as from the responses and interactions of the adolescents themselves. A valuable training tool.

To order contact: ACA Order Services
1-800-242-6844 ext. 222 www.counseling.org
5999 Stevenson Avenue, Alexandria, VA 23004

### Ethics in a Diversity Context: A Call to The Association for Specialists in Group Work

**Sheron P. Pack-Brown, Ph.D., LPCC-S**

The journey to diversity-competence in the 21st century is filled with content (courses, practice with cultural intentionality and to search more deeply for diversity-competent treatment during group activities, the physical, mental, and emotional work and knowledge) and clinical (experiential and skills) questions and tasks associated with ethical obligations when working with diverse populations.

With each challenge, I offer Practice Ideas to emphasize movement from awareness to action as ASGW professionals build on the way for future leaders and members to search more deeply for diversity-competent treatment during group activities, the physical, mental, and emotional work directed at doing so has become more specific and demanding.

Diversity-competence is generally defined as the extent to which group workers possess appropriate awareness, knowledge, and skills to effectively work with individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds. The journey to diversity-competence in the 21st century is filled with content (courses, work and knowledge) and clinical (perceptual and skills) questions and tasks specific to tailoring group services to the needs of diverse populations. In particular, there is a growing awareness of the influence of culture on ethical thinking and decision-making. More and more ASGW professionals are grappling with issues associated with ethical obligations when working with diverse populations.
Terry Mitchell holds Maine branch’s charter, Outstanding Article in JSGW from JSGW Wm. Casile presented Practice Award from Carolyn Thomas to Nicholas Hanna. Don Ward accepts President’s Award from Maria Riva. ASGW at ACA in Detroit, March 2007.

Editor’s Good-bye
Submitted by Shet Bauman

group workers are always mindful of the importance of termination. This is the last issue of The Group Worker I will edit. The newsletter will now be in the able hands of Amy Nitza, the new editor. This seems to be an appropriate time for me to reflect on my experience these four years as newsletter editor, as an ex-officio member of the executive board, and as a group worker. I must make a confession, I was a member of ASGW for about 25 years before I took the step to become active in the organization. In tech-speak, I was a “lurker.” Although I valued and used the journal and newsletter, there was so much more I missed out on! The opportunity to work with a dedicated cadre of committed group workers has enriched me both professionally and personally, and in retrospect I wish I had come out of the shadows much earlier. This is an appeal to all of the lurkers in the organization – you will receive so much more than you give, and I cannot imagine a more rewarding experience that becoming actively engaged in the mission of this organization. I am eagerly anticipating my new role as editor of the Journal for Specialists in Group Work, and know that I will continue to contribute and be involved is the work of the association. Two of my original goals for the newsletter were accomplished: the newsletter is less costly to the organization due to changes in formatting and paper, and we are using the Internet more effectively. Although bulk mail means the newsletter spends considerable time in transit, a PDF file is available on www.asgw.org as soon as it is available, allowing members to view content immediately while waiting for their hard copies. In my dual role as newsletter editor and webmaster, the website has been upgraded and has been used to archive important documents, advertise events and opportunities, and provide a hub for the membership. There are hopes I had for the newsletter that were not realized: a book review column did not become a regular feature. Many publishers are reluctant to provide review copies to a small organization, and potential reviewers were difficult to find. Like any product or activity in an organization like ASGW, colaboration is crucial, and those members who are willing to assist in some way should contact Amy Nitza with your ideas and offers of help. I also hoped to increase the “content” articles. Again, submissions are needed, and I want to encourage members to submit material for the newsletter. The next annual conference will be in January 2008, and I urge all members to attend and bring at least one colleague along. This is a chance to meet and learn from others around the country who share your interest in group work, and to socialize with old and new friends in a relaxed and pleasant setting. I hope to see you there!

Obituary
Submitted by Thelma Vriend

John Vriend, Counselor Education, Writer, Group Counseling, Special President, ASGW, 1978-79 Editor NVGA Newsletter, 1971-1974. Professor John Vriend, 82, died in Tucson, AZ on December 1, 2006, fifteen months after being diagnosed with esophageal cancer. His body was cremated on December 3, and at his request his ashes were scattered under the blue spruce tree on the Nolan Property in Michigan where his mother’s ashes were also scattered. Dr. Vriend spent the last months writing his final literary journal and maintaining mindful small connections with family and friends. John Vriend was a practicing therapist, a counselor educator, and edited Professor of Education at Wayne State University in Detroit, MI. In the early years of his settlement Dr. Vriend continued to direct Personal Mastery Counseling Associates. He was also a professor in graduate programs at Chrysler College and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, AZ, and Adjunct Professor of Counseling and Guidance in the College of Agriculture at the University of Arizona in Tucson. He loved teaching, and was himself the kind of student he valued in his classroom – “an aggressive truth seeker.” He developed a healing poison for writing, theta therapy, and philosophy while an undergraduate student at the University of San Francisco and while teaching English and literature in San Francisco public schools for fifteen years. John Vriend was a leader in the counseling profession locally, nationally, and internationally. He was especially devoted to the efficacy of counseling in groups, and applied his skills to practice, research, and demonstrations of group counseling. He institutionalized and supervised a rigorous program of training in group counseling for all counseling graduate students at Wayne State University. He was president of the regional Association for Specialists in Group Work in 1978-1979, and was awarded the association’s Eminent Career Award in 1983.

Reflections from New ASGW Fellows

The Gift of Group Work: Reflections from a Native American Perspective
Submitted By: Michael Tanustara Garrett, Ph.D.

Love is something you and I have. We must have it because our spirit feeds upon it. We need it to make our lives meaningful. Without it, our worlds can become big and cold and lifeless. Without love, it can become difficult to understand the power of groups. For these reasons, we are deeply grateful to have all of you as friends, colleagues, and family. You remind us every day of the importance of love and its power to transform our lives.

The Gift: Story of Medicine Elders Coming-Together
There is an old Cherokee story about the Medicine Men and Women coming together up on the mountain. This is the time of the year when the leaves begin to turn and the crisp air is just right. The elders come together to share their knowledge and wisdom with one another. They sit around a large fire, singing and praying, as they exchange stories and teachings. The elders know this is important, for it is through these gatherings that the knowledge and traditions of the tribe are passed down from generation to generation.

Eminent Career Award
Dr. Arthur M. Horne was the recipient of the Eminent Career Award this year. Dr. Horne has been a leader in the field of group work for over four decades, and his contributions have been recognized by colleagues and students alike. He is a true scholar and a dedicated teacher, and his impact on our field cannot be overstated.

Personal/Professional Reflections on the Gift of Group Work
Life is a journey, and the journey we call life…. Sgi (thank you).

ASGW Award Recipients for 2007
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This year the Awards Committee received some excellent nominations for the Eminent Career and Group Work Practice Award. The recipients of these awards were announced at the ASGW luncheon at the ACA conference in Denver, Colorado. Here is a list of the recipients featured below.

Eminent Career Award
Dr. Arthur M. Horne was the recipient of the Eminent Career Award this year. The highest awards in recognition of major contributions made to the field of group work over a period of time by an ASGW member, the Eminent Career Award is presented to a member who has made a significant and lasting impact on the field of group work.

Dr. Horne's national and international contribution to group work serves as a model for other group work professionals. Therefore, when ASGW is pleased to honor Dr. Horne, it is doing so for his significant contributions to the field of group work. Dr. Horne was unable to be present at the luncheon to accept the award via cell phone. He was unbelievably moved and touched by the experience. He shared his thoughts and feelings at the luncheon, which was attended by group work professionals from around the world.

Group Work Practice Award
Nicholas J. Hanna and Dr. Jenny Mobley were the recipients of the Group Work Practice Award. This award is intended to recognize outstanding practitioners in group work.

Dr. Hanna is a Professor at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He has spent over thirty years at Duquesne, many of them dedicated to the field of group work. In addition to his teaching and research, Dr. Hanna has taught a variety of basic and advanced group courses. Dr. Hanna has also been involved in the development of group work curricula and his group work includes counseling, psychotherapy, and also task groups with a focus on team building.

Dr. Jenny Mobley is also an active group work scholar who has numerous state, national, and international connections to group work. She has contributed to the promotion of group work in a variety of settings, including schools, universities, and community agencies. Dr. Hanna and Dr. Mobley have collaborated on the development of group work curricula and have presented at numerous conferences and workshops on group work.

In their roles as educators and researchers, Dr. Hanna and Dr. Mobley have made significant contributions to the field of group work. They are dedicated to the promotion of group work in a variety of settings, including schools, universities, and community agencies. Dr. Hanna and Dr. Mobley have collaborated on the development of group work curricula and have presented at numerous conferences and workshops on group work.

Without love, we can no longer look confidently at the world. We turn inward and little we destroy ourselves. With it, we are creative. With it, we march tirelessly. With it, and with alone, we are able to sacrifice for others. –Chiel Dan George, Coastal Salish (In Garrett, P. R., 1995, p. 9)

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A Message from the President-Elect
Janice Delucia-Waack

I have just returned from the ACA Convention in Counseling Psychology. As always, it was invigorating. Our Executive Board works very well as a task group, which of course, is a concern of all of us. I would greatly appreciate any and all suggestions and other content-focused discussions that concern diversely dynamic groups. A diverse track of programs will be highlighted throughout the conference. A call for proposals will be out soon with a deadline for submission of January 16. Please check the website for registration, proposal, accommodation, and program information. MARK YOUR CALENDARS! THE 2006 GROUP WORK AND SUNSHINE FEBRUARY 21ST TO 24TH, 2008. Hope to see you there!!!

Our latest foray into the world of group work training is the creation of a DVD. Ten 10th graders were gracious enough to be group members for a 12-hour experience group. At Segrist and I were lucky enough to be the leaders, while Andy Horne with his infinite wisdom on groups contributed to enliven the experience. We all committed to a masterful job of producing the video and editing the 12 hours into 2½ hours that convey a group from orientation to termination. Some activities were used to help the group members identify goals of the group, processes that evolved together as well as cognitive-behavioral activities. The DVD was previewed at the 2006 ASGW booth in Detroit and has been the most frequent comment form those who were able to view it. The DVD will be available soon and for booking information, please email me at jdelucia@rollins.edu

I have just returned from the bi-annual 2008 ASGW Conference which will be held in St. Pete, Florida. The Tradewinds Island Re-sort is a wonderful group-oriented setting and we have held several very successful conferences there in the past. Pre-conference workshops will be offered on February 21st, and the evening opening session will occur at 7 p.m. on that day. Content sessions will be presented on the 22nd, 23rd, and the morning of the 24th, with the closing session at 10 a.m. on the 24th. Our theme will be Effectiveness and Diversity in Groups. While all groups can benefit from a facilitative and diverse group work, if you have suggestions or would like to be part of the ASGW leadership team, please email me at jdelucia@rollins.edu. We look forward to many of you at the ASGW conference in February in St. Pete, Florida, and the AGA conference in Hawaii in March.

2006 Outstanding JSGW Article Award

The award was for the outstanding article appearing in the 2006 Journal for Specialists in Group Work was presented to Dr. Paula M Whittaker for her article. Congratulations to Paula on her meaningful intervention and excellent scholarly work!

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2007 Peg Carroll Scholarship Award

ASGW has been my home since I first became involved in the field of counselling. I found ASGW members through contact at ACA meetings and have

my own sense of what this feels like. This is a wonderful group that allows me to

be part of a professional and diverse group work network. I am a student and have continued to be a pro of this for all of my group work skills, service, and friends have deepened. I do believe that the ASGW has become a second master's degree at Rollins College in 1989. My very first course was Group Dynamics instructed by Bill Hill when I continued on to a doctoral program at the University of Georgia - home of an impressive leader in the groupwork field. George Gesacz, Andy Horne, Richard and Bee Hayes, and Dick Page are all part of my groupwork history. I have continued attending the processes of effective groupwork, organized and hosted ASGW meetings at the Georgia Center in Athens, and served as ASGW presidents, editors, and major contributors to the field of group. Through my association with these mentors and with ASGW, I have been influenced by the work of so many special “groupers,” including Caro lyn Thomas, Lynn Rapin, Lencil Gilham, Bob Conyne, Peg Carol, Bugaro Malina, the Coeys, and many others. I have a monograph of which to be proud. ASGW provided me with the opportunity to learn from the best and to truly understand the value of best practices in leading groups.

I began my training in group work as a 10th grader in the master’s student at Idaho State University in a small group class taught by Dr. William Kline. The class exposed me to my first group experience – an experience I will never forget. After I graduated with a master’s degree in Mental Health Counseling, I facilitated psycho-educational groups with at-risk adolescents both living in the shelter (where I worked) and living in the community. Three years later, I entered into a private practice where I had the opportunity to co-facilitate a relapse prevention program with adult sex offenders. Approximately one and a half years later, I returned to school to pursue a doctorate in counselor education at Southern Illinois University – Carbondale (SIU). During the past three and a half years at SIU, I have facilitated master’s level student group experiences, and I have taught courses in both a humanistic educational group or task group format. In addition, I have taught and provided supervision to master’s level students who are facilitating or co-facilitating groups. These groups have been very successful, and I have facilitated and have a love of groupwork. Group work is a wonderful group-oriented setting where all of you at some point in time consider an extraordinary group leader, and I would like to thank her for her generosity. I would also like to thank ASGW for selecting me as the recipient. I had a wonderful experience at the ASGW luncheon when I was presented with the award at the ACA conference in Detroit.

I would like first to express my gratitude to Peg Carroll for this award. It is truly an honor to be awarded in the name of someone who is a highly respected individual and an extraordinary group work leader, and I would like to thank her for her generosity. I would also like to thank ASGW for selecting me as the recipient. I had a wonderful experience at the ASGW luncheon when I was presented with the award at the ACA conference in Detroit.

I am honored to be the recipient of the 2007 Peg Carroll Scholarship Award. I am humbled to be selected as the recipient of this award. I am grateful to Peg Carroll for this recognition.”

The Group Worker Page 11
My Final Column as President of ASGW

Maria Silva, President

What a year!!  After arriving home from the ACA conference in Detroit, I had an opportunity to look back over the past year. I have learned a considerable amount about what it means to be a leader. In many ways, this brings me back to a discussion of effective groups. Yes, you need a leader who cares about group work and has a vision and goals. A leader also needs to be able to connect with and listen to members, along with showing them support and providing some structure. Yet, we have all led groups that were not effective because of the composition of the members, or maybe one specific member. The leader (or in my case the President of ASGW), is given a lot of credit for the success of the group (in this case the ASGW programs at the ACA Conference). What I wish to convey here is that ASGW is like no other membership. In the past year, I have received the honor of serving as president and for the help and encouragement that I received. ASGW works because of the amazing power of a group.

The Group Worker

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