

## INSSWA Board Minutes

March 13, 2010

Board Members in Attendance: Cynthia Evans, Beth Hoban, Terry Miller, Dee Kempson, Pam Lawrence Puls, Linda Temme, Tammy Skinner, & Linda Kates

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. The November 6, 2009 minutes were approved by consensus.

**Treasurer's Report:** The financial report from 7/1/09 – 3/11/10 was presented. The current income to date is 21,945.97 and the expenses to date total \$19,797.11. The value of the certificate of deposit is \$15,545.81. INSSWA has been reinstated by the IRS. At the time of reinstatement we were informed by the IRS that we can't hold silent auctions unless we apply for a permit to do so. State and Federal tax forms have been filed. The next audit will be in May.

A discussion was held on the School Social Work packets that are mailed to members during March each year. Postage this year cost \$1.59 per packet which was a concern. INSSWA will explore bulk mailings in the future since members receive five mailings per year. A bulk mail permit is \$200.00 per year with an additional, but reduced, mailing rate per item mailed. A minimum of 200 items must be mailed in each bulk mailing. The problem noted with using bulk mail is that everything must be mailed from the same post office. This would be difficult since the two newsletters are mailed in northern Indiana, the membership packets are mailed in the Indianapolis area, the annual packets to celebrate School Social Workers month are mailed by the president which is the Kokomo area, and the Fall Conference brochures are mailed by the conference chairman which is now in the Indianapolis area. No decision was made at this time.

**Bylaw Committee:** Beth will continue to chair the committee which is comprised of the following members; Dee Kempson, Terry Miller, Pam Lawrence Puls, Cynthia Evans, and Jane Zobel. The committee will review the bylaws and make a final report at the June Board meeting.

**DOE Report:** REPA licensure is awaiting signature by the governor and once signed is to go into effect July 1, 2010. If your license is due to be renewed prior to July of this year, School Social Workers may renew their licenses in the same manner as they have done in the past. The document may be accessed at <http://www.doe.in.gov/news/2009/07-July/REPA.html>. Under the new mandate, School Social Workers will renew their licenses with a Professional Growth Plan. One CEU is equivalent to one Professional Growth Point (PGP). 90 PGP's will be required every 5 years. When renewing your license a letter of verification will be required from the

supervisor to confirm the CEU's have been earned. Each school district will decide who the supervisor will be (i.e. personnel director, principal).

HEA 1419 charges the Department of Education to develop a "master plan to improve student behavior and discipline" in collaboration with other state agencies working with students and families. Each school district will have one year to develop a school district plan modeled on the state plan. Dee has been writing this template and it is ready for review by key stakeholders. The final template is to be sent to all school districts in June 2010. It will be a paradigm shift from punishment and zero tolerance to proactive strategies of behavioral education and positive behavioral supports.

The IU School of Social Work is developing competencies which will be required to meet the new accreditation standards for the school. IU School Social Work students will need to demonstrate those competencies during their field placements.

**Communications Committee:** Pam reported that the current webmaster will continue until June. Prior to June a search will be conducted for a new webmaster. Pam asked to be relieved of her duties as liaison to the webmaster. Pam will ask Deidre, who is on the Communications Committee, to take this position.

It was suggested to add a "book corner" to the newsletter where a book would be reviewed to enhance members work in the schools. Currently newsletters are mailed to members in May and August, and sent electronically in February and November. Mim will poll members in the next newsletter as to whether to continue mailing 2 newsletters, due to the cost of postage, or to send all 4 electronically. The money saved on postage could be spent on the webmaster fees which will be increasing. This will be discussed further at the June Board meeting.

The Board discussed the number of e-mails sent to members by INSSWA. All e-mail requests will be sent to Cynthia for review. Once approved, she will send them to Megan to be sent out to members.

**Midwest Report:** In Regena's absence, Cynthia reported that INSSWA has paid their Midwest membership dues. All states are concerned about the downsizing of School Social Workers by school districts. Some former members of SSWA have started a new organization, the American Council of School Social Workers. INSSWA has decided not to join this organization.

**Scholarship Committee:** Upcoming conferences include the SSWA Conference, April 7-10, 2010 and the Leadership Conference July 18-21, 2010. \$850.00 has been budgeted to send INSSWA members to this conference, which will be held in Washington D.C. The DOE will no longer allow Dee to attend this conference. Cynthia is unable to attend this year. Traci, as a member of the Legislative Committee, will be asked to attend. The University of Southern Indiana will not hold their annual Summer Institute this year. It was decided by consensus that the money

budgeted for scholarships to attend that conference can be used for the Leadership Conference if the costs go over the \$850.00 budgeted amount. Cynthia reported that 2 scholarships were awarded to members to attend the SSWA Conference.

**Conference Committee:** The brochure for the Spring Seminar is being finalized. The seminar will be held May 7, 2010 at Northwest High School. Registration will be required this year and conference handouts will be sent electronically to registrants prior to the conference. INSSWA members will attend free and non-members will pay \$30.00 to attend.

The early bird Fall Conference fee will be \$90.00 (prior to Oct. 1). The fee will be \$120.00 to register after Oct. 1, 2010. If a member plans to have their conference fees paid by purchase order from their school corporation, INSSWA must receive a letter from the school district by October 1, 2010 stating that the district will pay by purchase order. Anyone who registers for the conference will receive a refund of their paid conference fees if they cancel prior to October 1. Anyone who cancels after that date will not receive a refund. Speakers will attend the conference free.

**Mini Grant Committee:** Terry reported that 2 mini grant proposals were received and 2 mini grants were awarded.

**Membership Committee:** Linda Temme stated that INSSWA currently has 216 members. She invited members of Youth First to join as affiliate members of INSSWA. There are two regional representative openings; South Central and the Southwest regions.

A discussion was held on membership fees for those who want to renew mid-year or later. It was decided by consensus that August 1 is the deadline to renew membership. The cost for membership is \$50.00. There will be no late fee for renewing after the Aug. 1 date. Membership will be from Aug. 1 (or the date of renewal) to July 31 of the following year. The membership fee will be \$50.00 any month a person joins INSSWA during the year (even if they join mid-year or later).

**Member concerns:** It was decided by consensus that retiring officers and board members will pass on all INSSWA books and records for their office to the newly elected officer who will be replacing them at the November Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m. Cynthia Evans will host the next INSSWA Board meeting on Saturday June 12, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,