

NASSW

Membership Newsletter

May, 1950

I. ASSOCIATION PLANS

I am happy that I can tell you that our Executive Office will remain open, and that Miss Sikkema will continue as our Executive Secretary. These decisions, so important to the future of our Association, were reached in an Executive Committee meeting on May 15, 1950.

Of the \$7,000. needed to maintain our Executive Office and employ an Executive Secretary until July 1, 1951 -- \$3,300. in money and pledges has been received. This amount represents a response from approximately 115 members and friends of the Association, and includes \$500. from an individual to whom Mrs. Weiss interpreted the program and needs of the Association, and \$300. from the Crosby Family Foundation, secured by our Minneapolis members.

We have \$3,700. to raise within the next eight months. To raise this amount will require the earnest and sustained effort of the membership.

Your Executive Committee decided in passing the following two Motions, that we could count upon such effort:

MOTION I

That the national office be kept open until June 30, 1951.

MOTION II

Each member of the Board be charged with the following responsibility:

- (a) Immediate action - For working with his region to help finance the current deficit of \$3,700. within the next eight months. This would provide for the continuance of the executive office until June 30, 1951. It must be kept in mind that this will require great and sustained effort inasmuch as it would be disastrous to the professional status of the organization, in view of the commitment with A.A.S.W., to leave the joint study incomplete. To finish the study an additional \$1,500. may be needed beyond June 30, 1951.
- (b) Immediate and long term Plan - For helping to work out and effect a PLAN for raising money through individuals and organizations for financing the Association for the ensuing fiscal year as well as for the future.

I hope that we will not stop with the necessary \$3,700. but will see to it that we give our Association a chance to become a more effective organization through a greater degree of financial security. We shall need that security if we are to continue to assume a leadership role in the important developments which are taking place in social work in the schools throughout the country. We need it in order to be ready to enter into a new Inter-Association structure when the opportunity is presented to us.

Thinking that those of you who did not attend the Membership Meeting of the Association in Atlantic City, would like to read the report, I, as your President, submitted at that time, the Executive Committee has asked that excerpts from it be given in this issue of the Newsletter.

EMILIE RANNELLS
President

May 17, 1950

EXCERPTS OF PRESIDENT'S REPORT -- BUSINESS MEETING, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS, APRIL 25, 1950, ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY

I want to try to give you, in brief, a report of the present status of the Association and of the problems facing our Association.

Miss Sikkema, our Executive Secretary, has been with us three years this month. As you know, I am sure, through the Membership Newsletter, if not through close personal contact during these years, she has done outstanding work for the Association. School social work, throughout the country, is in a far stronger position than it has ever been. During our Executive Secretary's three years with us, two presidents have worked with her - Miss Batschelet from April 1947 to June 1949, and I from that date.

The establishment of an Executive Office and the employment of our Executive Secretary has been made possible by a number of Foundation grants as you know. These grants with the exception of two, the Field Foundation and the Whitney Foundation, have now expired. (These two grants, however, are dependent upon our ability to maintain an Executive Office with an Executive Secretary.) For assistance in obtaining Foundation grants, we have many people to especially thank. You have heard Mrs. Wilson speak this afternoon and you realize how much our Association is indebted to her and to her co-workers. I do want to mention one other person particularly. Mrs. Louis S. Weiss has been our Chairman of Fund Raising, as well as our Treasurer and she has never missed a meeting of the Executive Committee. Mrs. Weiss will continue as a Board Member. To Mrs. Weiss, Mrs. Wilson and others as well as to Miss Sikkema, all of us in the N.A.S.S.W. I feel sure, wish to express our deep appreciation.

Foundation assistance for operating programs is difficult to secure. This is a general difficulty and not unique to school social work. The most valiant efforts have been made to, little avail insofar as continuing or new Foundation support is concerned.

We have known, of course, that the Foundation grants could be for a limited period only. Your Board hoped to be able to place consultant service in school social work in a larger organization by 1950, (or at the latest by early 1951). One of our bright hopes has been the new Inter-Association structure, of which Miss Smalley will later speak.

The Executive Committee of the Board has struggled with very knotty problems, indeed, during the past three years. What other Foundations or organizations could we approach in order to assure the continuance of an Executive Office and an Executive Secretary for at least a minimum of consultant service? How could we function if our Executive Office must be closed and if paid consultant service proved impossible to provide? How much more could we ask of our own members in the way of financial contributions? You will recall the efforts to secure more contributing members and the special appeal made to Senior members and others (about 300 in all) in May 1948. (The response to this appeal brought in approximately \$1,000.) I want to quote from the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held in December 1949 in order that you may know again just how critical our financial picture has been.

"Miss Rannels read the letter of resignation from Miss Sikkema, resignation to be effective not later than July 1, 1950. Motion by Miss Smalley, seconded by Mrs. Weiss, that resignation be accepted with an expression of great regret and deep appreciation for the service Miss Sikkema has given. It was noted that the Committee had no alternative other than to accept the resignation since the executive office cannot continue beyond July 1 with the financial situation of the Association as it is."

I want to tell you now of three attempts we have made to assure more adequate service to our members, and to school social work programs, throughout the country,

than we can possibly supply without funds far beyond those available through membership dues. Plans for the action I shall outline were begun last year, and were worked on particularly in the spring of 1949, during Miss Batschelet's term of office as President.

First, request to United States Public Health Service. In November of 1949 we made a formal request that the National Institute of Mental Health appoint, as a member of their staff, a Consultant in School Social Work who would work closely with the United States Office of Education as well as with the National Association of School Social Workers and other appropriate groups at national, state and local levels.

The request was formally turned down in a letter of April 6, 1950, stating that during the current year funds were not available to provide this type of service. Interest in our type of work was, however, expressed in a statement regarding a proposed plan of the Institute to add in the future a consultant to work in the field of school mental health.

In addition to the request of which I have just spoken, a request was made to the U. S. Public Health Service. This request was that money be allocated for the purpose of developing additional field placements in school social work in accredited schools of social work and for a study of training for school social work. This request was rejected by the Training Committee.

Second, was the American Association of Social Workers. The N.A.S.S.W. request to the A.A.S.W. concerned two aspects:

1. A cooperative plan for a study of education and practice in school social work.
2. A plan for a professional person on the A.A.S.W. staff to give part-time to the above study and to consultation on school social work pending some permanent new inter-association structure.

In January of 1950 four of us from the N.A.S.S.W. -- Miss Poole, Mrs. Weiss, Miss Sikkema (ex-officio) and I met with members of the A.A.S.W. Board -- Mr. Clyde Murray, Executive Director of Manhattanville Neighborhood Center, Mr. Peter Kasius, Deputy Commissioner, New York State Department of Welfare, and Mr. Joseph Anderson, Executive Secretary of the A.A.S.W. (ex-officio). A fourth member of the A.A.S.W. Committee, Miss Marian Schumacher of the Guidance Clinic, Board of Education of Schenectady, was not able to be present. At this meeting it was agreed that the A.A.S.W. representatives recommend to their National Board that the A.A.S.W. join with N.A.S.S.W. in sponsoring the study of education and content of practice of school social work and that the A.A.S.W. National Board strongly support the continuance of the full N.A.S.S.W. program. In a meeting of the National Board of the A.A.S.W. in Chicago in February, "The Board was unanimous in expressing the conviction that the developments now taking place in school social work had significance for the total social work profession. It was equally convinced that the consultation, interpretation and service programs which have been initiated and carried on for the past two years by the N.A.S.S.W. have had influence in these developments and that their discontinuance would constitute a serious loss. Board members agreed that it was of the greatest importance that a study of the content of school social work practice be undertaken as soon as possible in order that a progressive and responsible development of this area of social work practice be facilitated. The Board took action authorizing a financial contribution or subsidy to the N.A.S.S.W. not to exceed \$1,500. for the fiscal year of 1950. This sum would be made available only with the understanding that sufficient funds from other sources would be obtained to carry on the consultation and other services of the N.A.S.S.W. Office and that the proposed study of the content of school social work practice could be started during the coming program year."

Third, was the U.S. Office of Education. At the National Conference of Social Work held in Cleveland in June 1949, Commissioner McGrath, who spoke there, stated his hope to place a social case worker on his staff. Consequently, our Executive Committee agreed that we should meet with Commissioner McGrath to explore his interest, to inform him of the program of N.A.S.S.W. and to ascertain whether there might be a possibility of the appointment of a well-qualified school social work consultant on the U.S. Office of Education Staff. Mrs. Weiss, Miss Sikkema and I have an appointment with Commissioner McGrath for May 2.

Unless we secure a minimum of \$7,000, in addition to the amount we may reasonably expect to have if we can secure this amount, we shall have to close our Executive Office as of July 1, 1950. During a five and a half hour session of the Board on Sunday, the following motion was passed: "That the Executive Office be closed July 1st, unless by the end of the first week in May a substantial amount of money has been obtained."

If our Executive Office has to close, our present budget will permit the continuance of the Bulletin, and we could hope to be able to continue the Membership Newsletter. In order to assure the continuance of some activity in relation to our tremendously important committee work, our meetings with outside groups (National, state and local) in the National Social Work Educational Association, the new Inter-association structure, etc., we need an increase in dues. At the Board meeting on Sunday the Board recommended that the dues be increased to \$8.00 for Senior members, \$6.00 for Active members, and \$4.00 for Associate members. The amount of our dues is determined by our By-Laws, and a change in dues necessitates a mail vote in which the majority of all Senior members and members of the National Board vote in favor of the amendment.

If our national office closes, great responsibility will have to be carried by every Board and Committee member, and by every individual member of our Association. If we carry this responsibility, our Association can live, and continue to fulfill its purpose which is stated in the following way in our By-Laws:

"The purpose of this corporation is to help to adapt mental hygiene principles to the educative process through advancing the quality of social service in the schools, to interpret the need for such service, to define and promote personnel standards, including professional education and standards of organization and administration affecting practice, and to advance the body of knowledge and skill relating to said field of practice."

However, we must realistically face serious limitations, aside from the greatest loss which we shall suffer which is the lack of ability to render consultant service on the spot. This is so badly needed.

In the three years that we have had an Executive Secretary, our office has become a very busy place. The average number of inquiries coming into the Executive Office a month now run between 90 and 100 which gives clear indication of the problem we may have to face in our period of reorganization. The demands made upon our service are totally unlike anything experienced before we had an Executive Secretary. Also, because most of us now are public school employees and bound by heavy pressure of work, limited secretarial service, and lack of freedom to be absent from duty, your Officers, Board and Committee members can give less time to Association affairs than was true some years ago. Miss Sikkema has generously offered to help us, as she can.

Now, I want to stop and give you the opportunity to discuss the Board action concerning Association plans and the increase in dues. We have all worked to obtain financial assistance for the program in which we have been engaged. Is there anything further that we can think of to do now? Can we ourselves make greater financial contributions?

In the matter of the raising of dues we should keep in mind the need for this regardless of the course we find that we must take, and also the fact that the increase will benefit us next year, rather than this year.

After our discussion, we have two more items of business. These are Miss Smalley's presentation of the status of the new Inter-Association structure and Miss Sikkema's report of the National Council on Social Work Education.

II. ASSOCIATION ACTIVITY

Reports on Regional Representatives, Committee membership, etc., will come in the first Fall Newsletter. The Board believed that you would want material from the business meeting now!

Inter-Association Activity. The Inter-Association Committee brought to the joint meeting of Boards of the various professional membership associations (American Association of Group Workers, American Association of Medical Social Workers, American Association of Psychiatric Social Workers, American Association of Social Workers, American Association of Schools of Social Work and National Association of School Social Workers) its report and recommendations. It recommended that a Council of the Membership Associations replace the Inter-Association Committee. The Council would have as its major responsibility the preparation and dissemination of materials bearing on this subject and the promotion of study and discussion of the material by its member associations. Consideration was given to the duration of such a group.

The consensus of the joint meeting of Boards was brought to the Board meeting of N.A.S.S.W., and later to the membership meeting. This is the deliberation and action of the Board which was discussed and accepted in the membership business meeting: "Following discussion of the three proposed alternatives (1. withdraw from interassociation committee; 2. approve council as proposed by the committee; 3. recommend continuation of present Interassociation Committee with additions and additional structure) Miss Janvier moved: The Board favors some type of group consideration of the problem of Interassociation Structure, preferably the council type as presented at the Joint Board Meeting on Saturday, April 22, or as a second choice the continuation of the present Interassociation Committee with additions as suggested; the group to bring a report and recommendations at the latest to a Board meeting by the time of the National Conference of Social Work in 1951. Motion carried.

"Though the narrower interest of N.A.S.S.W. would obviously be served better by an immediate merger of the 5 associations, the Board believes that professional social work progress will be best made if associations can move together. The consensus of opinion was that the 'grass roots' can be heard best through the implementation of a formal council."

There are copies of the Report and Recommendations of the InterAssociation Committee which were provided for members attending the meeting. Will you let us know if you are interested in receiving a copy?

National Council on Social Work Education. A progress report on the work of the National Council on Social Work Education was given at the membership meeting. Lack of space necessitates omission here. A report will be included in the Fall Newsletter.

III. SCHOOLS OF SOCIAL WORK OFFERING APPROVED TRAINING FOR SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK

Following are the graduate accredited schools of social work now offering approved training for school social work. You will recall that the American Association of Schools of Social Work serves as the approving body for school social

work specialization. Several other graduate accredited schools of social work have initiated training and some will likely be ready for review during this next year.

- Department of Social Work, Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh, Pa.
- School of Social Work, University of Connecticut, Hartford, Connecticut
- School of Social Work, University of Denver, Denver, Colorado
- Division of Social Welfare Administration, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.
- Division of Social Service, Indiana University, Indianapolis, Indiana
- School of Social Work, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- School of Social Work, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.
- School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa.
- Smith College School for Social Work, Northampton, Massachusetts
- Tulane University School of Social Work, New Orleans, Louisiana

IV. TRAINING SCHOLARSHIPS IN TEXAS

Through a special grant made by three citizens interested in the improvement of visiting teacher services in Texas, the Hogg Foundation will offer during 1950, \$2,200. in scholarship funds. This will be administered under the name of "The Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Randolph Scholarship Fund". It will be divided into \$500. scholarships awarded to a school system with the understanding that the local Board of Education will match the amount. Persons selected must be eligible for graduate study in social case work in a school of social work.

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