

NASSW

Membership Newsletter

November, 1950

Because of lack of space in this issue of the Newsletter no separate is carried of the work of the Program Committee. Reports on completion of Committee rosters will be held, as will notes of interest from the field. Report on the research project in Harlingen, Texas (jointly financed by State Dept. of Health, Mental Health Division and the Hogg Foundation) Public Schools will come later. This project is studying methods of coordination and integration of services of counselor, nurse and visiting teacher services. You will also have a report re our representatives on National Committee on Social Work in Defense Mobilization later.

I. VOTE ON CHANGE OF AMENDMENT FOR INCREASE OF DUES

The returns on this vote carried the necessary majority affirmative votes and therefore the increase in dues goes into effect as of November 1, 1950. Applications in process up to November 1st remain at the old rate for the year.

Those people who voted against the change took time to write thoughtfully about their vote. Some believe there should be one membership organization for all groups, some thought it unwise to increase dues at a time when the Association is working on membership.

Dues now are: Senior \$8.00; Active \$6.00 and Associate \$4.00.

II. MIDCENTURY WHITEHOUSE CONFERENCE

Miss Florence Poole, Chairman Education Committee and Mrs. Clarence Sager, Member, Board of Directors will be NASSW representatives at the Whitehouse Conference December 5 - 7, 1950. Report in next Newsletter.

III. JOINT REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD FINANCE COMMITTEE AND REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

The emphasis of these two groups has been directed primarily toward the financial problem of the Association, especially ways of raising the money to meet the \$5000.00 deficit in the budget for the current year. Of equal concern has been the long time planning that must be done if we are to continue to function on the sound financial basis necessary to a constructive continuing program of the Association for the development of school social work.

Through correspondence and through a few personal contacts these problems have been placed before regional representatives, members of the finance committee and some few individual members within each region who have agreed to assume leadership for developing plans for fund raising for a particular local group, state or region. There has not been sufficient time for all to receive material and get information of progress back to the committee. However, information has been received from each region, either from individuals or representatives, that the membership in that particular area is working on the suggested quotas which, if raised, will make it possible to meet the deficit for this year. The efforts being put forth by the membership make us feel confident that this goal will be reached by the first of the year.

Some of the activities reported underway or in the planning stage are: benefit book review, stimulating interest of local P.T.A. groups in contributing, special contributing memberships from members or non-members, contributing memberships from other organizations related to or interested in this specialized field of social work such as State Attendance groups, State Visiting Teacher groups, local chapters of American Association of Social Workers, etc. Most groups have reported putting special emphasis on membership recruitment. The Finance Committee and Regional Representatives plan to work directly with the Membership Committee on an intensive membership drive particularly to develop contributing memberships which will be renewed from year to year.

In October, Bertha Leming, Chairman of Finance Committee, Alma Laabs, Representative for Region VI, Ruth Karlson, Representative for Region V and Opal Boston, National Chairman of Regional Representatives met in Chicago to do some joint thinking and planning. This meeting, as well as reports from other regions indicate, in general, a conscientious, cooperative response to the immediate financial problems facing the Association. At the same time most have pointed up the need to develop plans to prevent recurrence of the kind of dilemma in which we have found ourselves in the last two years. Your National committees, Regional Representatives, Board and Executive Secretary are also giving this phase of the financial problem priority for the immediate future.

Regional Representatives hope to give time soon to other Association Activities which are a part of their general plan and assignment. Illinois is working on the organization of a State Chapter. Other groups have made inquiry about State Chapters and some study will be given to consideration of structure and relation of such chapters to national office by a special committee. Following study and recommendations to the Board, more help can be given.

Bertha Leming, Chairman, Finance Committee
Opal Boston, Chairman, Regional Representatives

IV. TEMPORARY INTER-ASSOCIATION COUNCIL OF SOCIAL WORK MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

The Newsletter has carried regular reports to you on Inter-Association Activity. This summary reviews and brings you up to date.

On January 24, 1949, on the joint call of the Board of Directors of the American Association of Social Workers and the American Association of Schools of Social Work, a Committee on Inter-Association Structure held its first meeting in New York City. Our Association was one of six represented by three members at that meeting -- the others (in addition to AASW and AASSW) being the American Association of Group Workers, the American Association of Medical Social Workers and the American Association of Psychiatric Social Workers.

The organization of the Inter-Association Committee was the result of long felt and increasing interest in the field in finding some way for professional social work membership organizations to make a more unified approach, than had been true in the past, to such problems as the promotion of standards of service, interpretation of service to the general public, and appropriate representation of social work whenever concerted leadership and action is required.

Over a period of a year and a half the Committee worked on various ways such a unified approach might be achieved and formulated plans for consideration by the several organizations varying all the way from a program of cooperative activities to the creation of a single professional membership organization with divisions devoted to the special interests of the several represented groups. These plans were discussed by the Boards and memberships of the various organizations including our own.

At a meeting of the Boards of Directors of all of the organizations represented on the Inter-Association Committee at Atlantic City at the time of the 1950 National Conference of Social Work it was apparent that there was marked difference of opinion on the part of the Associations represented as to how and at what pace a more unified approach to common problems and purposes could best be achieved by social work membership organizations.

There was general agreement that a kind of structure was needed in the Inter-Association Committee itself which would assure the collection and dissemination of study materials necessary for the memberships and Boards of the several organizations to take action which would really represent their considered judgment. Accordingly, in the early summer of 1950, the Committee on Inter-Associati-

structure was dissolved, and in its stead was created a Temporary Council of Social Work Membership Organization with elected officers and a financial base for operation. This Council is made up of four representatives from each of the five professional social work membership organizations (AASW, AAGW, AAMSW, AAPSW, NASSW) with one non-voting consultant from AASSW. NASSW representatives are Mrs. Jean Schoffstall, Reading, Pa.; Mr. Robert Taber, Philadelphia, Pa.; Miss Ruth Smalley, Philadelphia, Pa.; and Miss Mildred Sikkema, our executive secretary.

A fall meeting of the Council (known as TIAC by its members) was held in New York Sept. 30 - Oct. 1 at which time by-laws were adopted and a plan of operation was formulated.

Committees of the Council are now preparing materials in the following areas:

1. What are the purposes of the social work profession, the function of any professional membership organization in advancing those purposes, the basic assumptions underlying the need for inter-relationship of social work membership organizations?
2. Who should be identified as professional social work practitioners through professional membership status?
3. What are the distinctive features in specializations? What is the relation of these features to factors which are common to the total profession? Can the values which have been developed by the specializations be preserved in any unified overall structure for the profession?
4. Operating costs, program, and organization structure of the several associations.

Committees will report to the Council early this winter in order that material formulated may be sent to the Boards of the represented organizations for distribution to memberships. Discussion by memberships, brought back to the Council through the Boards should constitute the base for further work of the Council in formulating recommendations for possible structure or structures of professional social work membership organizations in the future.

Ruth Smalley

V. STUDY OF CONTENT OF PRACTICE OF SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK

The Executive Committee began work a year ago on formulation of a plan for a study of content of practice and education in school social work.

During the winter there were several meetings of a joint AASW-NASSW committee to work on a plan for the study which might be co-sponsored by the two Associations. The AASW Board responded to our request for joint sponsorship. They indicated a deep interest in this beginning field of social work practice and appropriated \$1500 to aid in the study.

During the summer a copy of the tentative study plan was sent out to a group of educators in both education and social work, and to practitioners for comments. These letters of comment were brought to the Advisory Committee at their September meeting.

The Advisory Committee to the study which met in September, 1950 is a joint AASW-NASSW committee composed of the following:

<p>AASW: David E. Hailman Bureau of Public Assistance Social Security Administration Washington, D. C.</p>	<p>NASSW: Esther Hilton Associate Professor School of Education New York University New York</p>
--	--

(more on next page)

AASW: Alfred Kahn
Citizens' Committee on
Children
New York City

Russell H. Kurtz
Community Service Society
New York City

Theodate Soule, Director
Social Service Division
New York Hospital

NASSW: Irma E. Mohr
Chief School Social Worker
Bureau of Child Guidance
Board of Education
New York City

Florence Poole, Assoc. Prof.
School of Soc. Welfare Administr.
University of Illinois
Urbana

Dr. Marechal-Neil Young
Supervisor, Div. of Pupil Personnel
and Counseling
Board of Education
Philadelphia

Miss Soule was elected Chairman.

This committee reviewed and analyzed the tentative plans for study and believed that although practice and training for school social work are closely interrelated, that it would be wise to confine this study to one portion. Little exists in an orderly systemization of facts concerning practice of school social work and it was the decision of the Committee that need for such material, plus the fact that logically it precedes study of training, gave priority to a study of content of practice. Therefore, the Study of Content of Practice as outlined below represents the revision of the Advisory Committee.

The Committee believed that it would be wise to study a small sample intensively rather than a larger sample superficially. Careful consideration was given to essentials of sample selection. (The Committee is fortunate to have as members several persons who have broad experience in research). The Committee attempted to insure coverage of all essentials in selection of the sample which is as follows: New York City, Philadelphia, Indianapolis, Champaign, Minneapolis, New Orleans, Denver, Houston, San Diego, Tacoma, and county programs in Michigan and Georgia.

Permission has been given by each of the above and the first steps are now under way. November was the month chosen for staff to keep the monthly report and that is in progress. The beginning materials will thus be in the office for use before consultation visits begin.

The Advisory Committee will meet in January to discuss progress, to work on content of consultation visits, to discuss form of reports, etc.

In addition to the Committee members, Mr. Edward Schwartz, Chief of Statistics, U.S. Children's Bureau and Miss Alice Taylor, Asst. Director of Study of Education in Social Work (Hollis Report) have given consultation. Other people, from various fields will be used as the Study progresses.

Here is a brief general statement outlining the Study of Content of Practice of School Social Work:

PROBLEM

Considerable evidence reveals a need in the fields of education and of social work for a clear statement on the content of school social work practice and education for school social work. The quantity and type of inquiries which come to the office of the National Association of School Social Workers from both fields, the materials regarding programs, the variations in personnel qualifications, clearly indicate the need for examination and study. Such a study should help to provide findings

- to advance knowledge of school social work in the social work field
- to clarify for school administrators the contribution of the service to aid the school in attaining its objectives
- to train institutions in understanding the place of the service in relation to the teacher
- to aid in recruitment of personnel

A. Nature and Scope of Study

Analysis of Practice

1. Analysis of practice both current and emerging, through careful review of present activities and trends in school social work, based on criteria such as
 - (a) job content and administration
 - case work service - its purpose as defined by individual departments and in literature
 - type of referral, by whom
 - eligibility determination
 - interprofessional relationships
 - load carried - relative amount of time in various parts of job
 - coverage
 - job description of service
 - records - type
 - time schedule
 - use of and relation to other community agencies
 - service as an influence in the total school program
 - (b) legislative and administrative base for service
 - physical provisions and facilities
 - qualifications of personnel, certification requirements
 - policies concerning in-service training & educational leave
 - qualified supervision
 - general personnel practices
 - (c) place in organizational structure in the school system
 - leadership
 - administrative relationships with principals, teachers, to other special services, special education, etc.
 - to see coordination and integration

B. Method of Procedure

The following methods of investigation will be used:

1. Review of literature, formulated statements of education, policy statements of agencies (schools).
2. Examination of current practice in schools of sample. (through monthly report form, etc.)
3. Consultation visit: conference with individuals and groups, including deans and directors of schools of social work, and social work teachers; with practitioners both in public schools and in other community social agencies at various levels of responsibility and experience; with public school personnel such as administrators and teachers, other special service personnel, curriculum supervisors, etc., and with others concerned with school social work such as lay or other interested community groups as indicated. Use would be made of group discussion and interchange of ideas.
4. In application of above methods of study, sampling should insure coverage of:
 - (a) geographical regions of the country
 - (b) characteristic situations and patterns in practice

- (c) programs over 5 years old, also less than 5 years; or
- (d) programs established with professionally qualified social work personnel, those established with teachers or others
- (e) size of program
- (f) urban, rural, and state
- (g) a full range of opinions on subjects under study.