



Association for the Advancement of Social Work with Groups, Inc.
An International Professional Organization

WELCOME TO THE XXXIV Annual International Symposium

Passion for Group Work: An International Conversation



We are honored to welcome you to the Long Island International Symposium of The Association for the Advancement of Social Work with Groups. We are excited to have the opportunity to express our passion for group work through conversation with all of you who are attending this innovative exchange of ideas. Gathered together at



this annual event are group workers from national and international arenas.

Two years ago this symposium was a thought in our minds. Over time, and in many conversations, plans were made and collaboration occurred. The Planning Committee met to determine what task would be accomplished by which subgroups. This committee was a beautiful example of group work at its best, consisting of many members who met in person, on line, via phone, and through email. Each member brought to the table diverse skills including some they didn't know they possessed until challenged. We hope that your opportunities for learning, connecting to others, and awakening your passion equals the growth and enrichment that occurred for us as we planned this symposium.

The XXXIV AASWG symposium is unique in that it joins the *International Association for the Advancement of Social Work with Groups* with the *Clinical Supervision Conference*. Both conference planning committees undertook special care in integrating the other's content into their program in order to cross-pollinate and bring a new interest. You are encouraged to attend both events. The Long Island symposium is also special in that it is the first of our symposia to be hosted on a campus!

Thank you to all members of the AASWG, with a special thanks to all the agencies with a group work focus that hosted our many planning meetings. We are grateful to all our sponsors and donors. Thanks to you all for allowing our network of group workers to grow and the conversation to become even more lively.

Co-Chairs
Steve Kraft and Jean Bacon

Our thoughts are with the family of recently deceased Benjamin Stempler, who was a long time leader in group work, a former member of our Board and a former chair of our Atlanta chapter. His spirit and contributions will be missed. His memory will be cherished.