

Social Welfare History Group

**Meeting Minutes, October 17, 2015**

CSWE APM, Denver, Colorado, Crown Plaza Hotel/Sheraton

**Present:** Stephen Monroe (“Zak”) Tomczak, Southern Connecticut State University

Laura Curran, Rutgers University

Angie Perone, University of Michigan

Matthew Ringenberg, Valparaiso University

Barbara Simon, Columbia University

Jessica Toft, School of Social Work, University of St. Thomas & St. Catherine University

Brad Yoder, Manchester University

**Minutes**

Stephen “Zak” Tomczak is managing the Social Welfare History Group (SWHG) webpage. The webpage has now moved to Southern Connecticut State University. There have been many updates. He reported on these and asked the group for input.

Website Content: Most of the present links have not been updated, although obsolete information has mostly been deleted. However, the “Resource Link” is current and the group agreed that any new historical publications would be a good addition. The group is interested in receiving PDFs, article abstracts, PPTs from conferences, or citations. The intent is to try to create it as a database. The group also suggested that we see about getting a link from the CSWE website to the SWHG website as a way to get more traffic.

**Action Item:** Zak to see if we can get a link from CSWE to the SWHG website.

Other ideas included posting any opportunities for funding for historical research. The Social Welfare History Archive (SWHA) has some funding available to help researchers travel to Minneapolis to engage in archival research. The group agreed this was a good idea.

**Action Item:** Jessica will inquire with the SWHA to get more information about research support and pass on to Zak for inclusion on the website.

The group also discussed beginning to collection information about available social welfare history collections.

**Action item:** Members should send Zak information on social welfare history collections.

Members discussed the need to have information about historical methods. Zak suggested the textbook by Elizabeth Danto and an article by Paul Stuart in Grinnell Barbara Simon recommended the text *Donnelly, Mark, & Norton, Claire. (2012). Doing history*. NY: Routledge. [USD \$29.95 Paperback. 978-0-415-56577-6]. Angie Perone volunteered to collect this information for the website.

**Action Item:** Angie will begin to collect bibliographies for texts and information on the varied historical methods sometime in December.

The group then discussed the need to be able to network more readily and be a visible presence. It was suggested that we have contact information available for all of the people on the current emailing list.

**Action Item:** Zak will email out to persons on the email list to see if their contact information can be put on the SWHG website.

The group discussed that having people submit papers in the social welfare history track is really important in order to keep the track alive. We also discussed the importance of getting a broader racial-ethnic representation in SWHG.

**Action Item:** Barbara Simon will be in touch with African American and Latino groups to invite them to join the SWHG and invite them to submit papers in the history track.

The group discussed the pros and cons of having a newsletter. There were some questions about the need for a newsletter in today's platforms of interactive websites. The group commented that perhaps the website should be our main way of delivering information and that focusing on keeping the webpage fresh might be a more effective focus. The group did agree that a newsletter was helpful in delivering information, but suggested that perhaps that purpose could be filled by having quarterly emails with brief overviews and links to new material on the website, instead. Something like "Newsletter Update" or "SWHG Update."

**Action Item:** Zak and Suzanne to discuss this possibility and see if this might be a possible alternative.

Zak showed the group the Annual Bibliography which had not been updated in many years. It was an annotated Bibliography of all of the year's works related to social welfare by social work colleagues. The document was fairly long and detailed and the group surmised that it was probably gathered by a research assistant of a past member. As this projects seems to be too labor intensive for one member, we agreed, instead, to send along historical articles that could then be listed in a simple bibliography, perhaps presented by headings.

**Action Item:** Members will send to Zak recent articles we find related to social welfare history. This bibliography will be put on the SWHG website.

Zak then discussed electing a chair and vice chair of the group. Suzanne McDevitt and Zak are currently the most active members and discussed their willingness to be president and vice-president, respectively. Zak mentioned that he would then be willing to take up the president position down the road. The group discussed whether there were any rules about time limits, etc., but there are none. The group then unanimously elected Suzanne as the president and Zak as the vice-president.

The group adjourned.

Submitted by Jessica Toft, 10-18-15