
Newsletter



NEW YORK STATE SOCIETY
OF CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK
PSYCHOTHERAPISTS, INC.

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A Message from the President

ABBIE BLAIR, C.S.W.

First, I want to extend a cordial welcome and best wishes to Jacqueline L. Friend, the newly hired Editor of our Newsletter. Jacquie, a clinical social worker herself and with twelve years experience as editor of a professional newsletter, will start by producing three Newsletters to finish out this year. After that we hope to be able to have four regularly issued Newsletters per year. I will let her speak for herself as to plans for the Newsletter.

With the hiring of Jacquie our paid staff is increased to four. On January 1, 1979, Mitzi Mirkin became our Executive Secretary for 15 hours a week, increased to 30 hours in April 1979. Mitzi handles all of the clerical work around membership, including renewals. She deposits checks, takes letters, helps with brochures, get Minutes to Board members, answers inquiries by phone and will soon be involved in the large task of putting out our new Membership Directory.

Shortly after we hired Mitzi we also hired Seth Solomon as our accountant — an invaluable addition. He keeps our financial records straight, files our tax returns, and works with our Budget Committee.

In February, 1979, we hired Barry Mallin as our Albany advocate! In three short months Barry has been a whirlwind of activity. Details of his work appear

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Report from Your Executive Board

January

We discussed the tentative yearly budget; noted that we would have to pay more for the Clinical Social Work Journal, subscriptions which we give free as a benefit of membership; asked all committee heads to project their expenses for next year; decided all future budgets will be submitted by September of each year. Asked all chapter presidents to discuss proposed budget with their executive boards and be ready to vote next month.

Interviewed Barry Mallin, attorney as possible Albany lobbyist and advocate and voted to hire him for a three month period. We need a lobbyist to work on passage of legislation to include the mandatory clause in our current third party vendorship law, to work for the protection of the private practitioner.

Numerous incidents prove that agency-related individuals are being give preference by the N.Y. State Board for Social Work in granting approval for third party reimbursement. Also our Society should have input into those appointed to this Board. We also need someone to monitor the Albany scene with vigilance so that legislation harmful to the public and to us doesn't get enacted.

Confirmed Bert Kaplan of Nassau as First Vice President to succeed Sam Sterk of Staten Island who has resigned. Dr. Kaplan, who is head of the Department of Behavioral Sciences at Adelphi University will also function as chairman of the program and education committee.

Dr. Kaplan has developed a series of workshops for our May 19 General Membership meeting on the topic, "Developing Competence in Clinical Social Work."

February

We voted to accept the 1979 budget. It was decided that the budget committee will be a standing committee of the Executive Board. Bob Addison, Treasurer, suggested we initiate a fund raising project at an early date to raise money to hire our lobbyist for additional hours. Several ideas were suggested but tabled.

Kathleen Friend, a member of the Board as President of the Metropolitan Chapter, announced she was withdrawing as Member-at-Large to allow enlargement of the Board. She also withdrew as chairman of our new Ethics Committee.

Marsha Wineburgh, chairman, submitted a written report of the PSRO committee.

Gemma Colangelo, chairman of the Membership Committee, reported there are 745 members, an increase of 250 members since October, 1977. There was much discussion of our need to help our members in the northern and western parts of the state develop chapters. Five people have been interviewed for the post of Newsletter editor. A choice is expected to be made prior to our next meeting.

There was much discussion concerning the duties of the Executive Secretary which have expanded greatly since Mitzi Mirkin was hired, January 1, 1978. It was decided the Executive Secretary is responsible to the President in all respects and it was asked that a job description be submitted by the Executive Secretary to the Board for its discussion and approval.

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