

Minutes for Meeting of September 29, 2009  
Board of the Psychoanalytic Society of the Postdoctoral Program in  
Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis

This was the first meeting of the newly elected Board

In attendance:

Officers: Helen Silverman- Interim President; Treasurer  
Maureen O'Reilly-Landry- Recording Secretary  
Members at Large: Roanne Barnett  
Janice Bennett  
David Beyda  
Harriette Kaley  
Ella Lasky  
Michael Stern  
Robert Prince  
Rhonda Sternberg  
Eileen Sussman

Absent: Officers: BJ Cling- Vice President  
Sharon Brennan- Corresponding Secretary  
Member at Large: Judy Warren

I.

**Call to Order**

Helen Silverman, who has agreed to be Interim President until the position is filled, brought the meeting to order. Members introduced themselves.

II.

Helen began the meeting by providing an overview of the Society, its current activities and its history. This helped the new members of the Board to become familiar with the Society and how it functions.

The following topics were covered:

**A. Brief overview of the Society**

Helen described that the Society was started in the 1970's as a non-profit 503C, privately incorporated organization. It is not formally affiliated with NYU or the Postdoc Program, although its membership is comprised solely of NYU Postdoc graduates and faculty. The reasons for this separation are legal ones, but at a pragmatic level, it means that we are not legally entitled to use NYU in conjunction with our name, nor are we entitled to University privileges, such as use of the library or free PEP access. We are named the Psychoanalytic Society of the Postdoc Program in Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis and we often include an asterisk\* that says all members are graduates or faculty of NYU Postdoc. On the other hand, it also means that our Treasuries are separate and we can control our own monies. Strong connections are maintained,

however, between the Society and Postdoc, and the Society has a representative on the Postdoc Senate.

**B. Continuing Education:**

In the past, the Society had a very active Continuing Education program which was quite successful in drawing students and this often led to referrals for the person teaching the course.

**C. Conferences:**

There have also been many conferences, 9 Biennial Conferences held at NYU, and a Biennial International Conference. These conferences were also very successful and have on occasion led to the publication of a book of the papers. Initially, the International Conference was started by the Society, but then came to include other Institutes, such as White, Adelphi and Toronto. The most recent local conference was held in January, 2009 on the topic of Working Psychoanalytically with Older Adults..

**D. Brunches:**

Early in the Society's history, when the membership was still quite small, there were informal weekend brunches which sometimes included an academic component and an annual meeting .

**E. Cocktail Parties:**

For the past 5 years, the Society has sponsored cocktail parties which have been very well attended.

**F. Memorial Lecture:**

The Society also sponsors a Memorial lecture. It is supposed to be held every two years, but in recent years, this has been erratic. Last year, Joan Yager, during her tenure as President of the Society, worked out with Lew Aron and the Senate to co-sponsor the Memorial lecture, which is currently being planned for the Spring.

**G. Moderate fee referral service.**

The Society has a moderate cost referral service for Society members who choose to pay an additional fee to be included. In addition, members who graduated five or more years ago can choose to be listed in directory as willing to do moderate fee analysis for candidates.

**H. Scholar's Grant:** Several years ago, Pat Vitacco when she was on the Board, initiated a Scholar's Grant to be awarded to selected Society members to help to fund professional projects that further the cause of psychoanalysis. Pat will remain as Chair of the Scholar's Grant Committee although she is no longer a Board member. Maureen, who is on the Scholar's Grant Committee and is also on the Board, will be able to report on the activities of the Committee at the Board meetings. Joan Yager and Zarin Mody, both former Board members, will also be on this Committee.

III.



## **Committee Reports:**

### **A. International Conference:** Michael reported

Plans are well underway for the next biennial International Conference

Time: August 6-8, 2010

Place: University of Edinburgh, Scotland

Topic: "Failure: Psychoanalytic Explorations".

The cosponsoring organizations are:

Adelphi Society for Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy

Toronto Society for Contemporary Psychoanalysis

William Alanson White Psychoanalytic Society

Scottish Institute of Human Relations

The Committee is working on housing and an effort is being made to keep costs as low as possible, as has been done in the past, but the currency exchange rate might hinder this. Call for papers went out in June on listserve. Date for submitting paper proposals is December 1. There is now a new website for the Conference.

Rhonda offered to work on committee.

### **B. Referral service** David reported

Discussion of how to advertise--now spending time and money. Primary issue is that we need to try to get more people to call. Currently, we get about 1 call per day, but since many do not pan out, that does not add up to much in the end.

Comparison made of the ease of getting a referral from the listserve. Concerns were expressed about use of listserve to support insurance companies.

### **C. Internet Committee** Helen reported

Website needs to be updated and improved. Ella will help with this.

### **D. Memorial committee** Eileen reported

This committee addresses the issue of how to acknowledge the death of a member of the community--often done through a monetary donation made in someone's name.

### **E. Senate Representative** David reported

David has been the Society's representative to the Postdoc Senate. He feels ready to step down. Eileen is interested in taking on the job, but will need to check her schedule and see if she can make the changes necessary to attend the Senate meetings.

### **F. Memorial Lecture** Maureen reported

It had been decided last year that the Society would co-sponsor the lecture with Postdoc. Maureen has been working with Spyros to this end and it is being planned to take place Spring 2010. There has been a lot of confusion between this and the Bernie

Kalinkowitz lecture, apparently due to the fact that people did not know the history of each of these lectures, which have very different histories. It was agreed to go forth as planned to have a lecture in the Spring called the Bernie Kalinkowitz Memorial Lecture and reassess whether these should continue to be combined or not.

After discussing various possibilities, Maureen and Spyros decided to invite Malcolm Slavin to give the lecture. Spyros knew his work and heard him speak over the summer at APA in Toronto and appeared quite captivated by his performance and felt he had gotten a very positive response for those in attendance. Spyros felt Malcolm would hold great appeal for the Postdoc community. The Board expressed some reservations about this choice, so Maureen will see whether it is too far into the process to reconsider. If so, we will continue on with the plan. If not, Maureen will present some other possibilities, including any suggestions that the Board members send to her over the next few days.

#### **G. Treasury report** Helen reported

We have money in the treasury to fund projects and Helen encouraged us to think about worthwhile uses for the money.

A major financial problem is that Carole, the administrative assistant, billed \$35,000 for the last year. This is far more than is reasonable or affordable, since it is only a part-time job and there are other similar organizations that have administrators who cost much less. Also, Carole does not always do things the way she is asked to do them and exercises too much control over the Society's possessions and activities. She has long been noted to be very difficult and uncooperative. Concerns were raised that she has in her possession information that belongs to us and she may refuse to give it back to us. The consensus seemed to be that we could get by without it if we had to.

**Motion:** To contact a lawyer about how to go about relieving Carol of her responsibilities.

The motion was passed unanimously.

David offered to contact Bruce Hillowe to begin working on this right away. It will also be necessary to find someone to fill the job. Helen said that she had someone in mind whose work she knows from Section 1 and will contact him.

#### **IV.**

Meetings will continue to be on Tuesday evenings at 8:15 at Helen's and take place about every 6 weeks. Helen will come up with a schedule for the coming academic year and send it to all Board members.

**V.** Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen O'Reilly-Landry, PhD  
Recording Secretary