IAWRT-USA
ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT (2012)

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Introduction: IAWRT-USA is the newest of the chapters of IAWRT. The Chapter officially completed two years in November 2012, since its approval in Cameroon two years ago. This annual report outlines IAWRT-USA’s work in 2012 with respect to: main activities of the chapter, membership, finances, elections, incorporation, fundraising, trainings, and proposals. This report has seven sections and is compiled by the Chapter Head with inputs and reports from the officers and suggestions from the core team members.

(i) IAWRT-USA Chapter activities (2012)
• The IAWRT-USA chapter organized several activities during the first quarter of 2012. The activities started with the annual fifty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) meetings at the United Nations in New York, during which our members represented IAWRT. The chapter co-organized the IAWRT-CSW 56 media side event at the Salvation Army. This year the panel discussed Demystifying Media at the Grassroots, “Rural Women Using Media for Change”.

• Our members helped confirm panelists for the side event and coordinated logistics. We also participated in an evening welcoming the new president of IAWRT, and also in the International Women’s Day Celebration March.

• In addition to the CSW activities, IAWRT UN Representative, Catherine D White, organized two communications workshops with the DPI-NGO section at the UN. 1. April 12, 2012: NGOs Navigating the United Nations and 2. December 13, 2012: Communicating across Generations-Defining the Challenge of New Language, New Media, New Reach. Ms. White also chaired a program in coordination with the Council of Organizations of UNA entitled "Women's Unfinished Business at the UN." As the Vice Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, she attends most weekly briefings and chairs the above briefings at the UN. Her role in these briefings is to coordinate with the Department of Public Information in the planning and mounting of these briefings and the afternoon "hands on" social media demonstrations.

• At the beginning of May 2012, we had an officers’ meeting. The main topic was the Regional Conference in Tanzania. Discussion was around the topics that we could raise with members from other countries.
• Ivy Abraskin, the IAWRT-USA Secretary was the representative for the chapter at the regional meeting in Tanzania (2012). At the conference, Ivy reported to the present members what we have done so far this year. After the conference, Ivy reported back to the US members with some help from Patricka Dallas who was also at the conference. We discussed the topic from the regional conference: Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse.

• Ivy Abraskin is also the chapter focal point for the IAWRT Gender Mainstreaming research project led by Olya Booyar. She attended the research workshop in Tanzania and briefed the members in New York about the project.

• Arshiya initiated and coordinated the participation of the chapter members at the international level. She requested Ivy Abraskin, our secretary, to represent her at the IAWRT regional meeting in Tanzania. The resulting impact is the first step in mentoring members, enhancing their organizational knowledge and helping them to best understand the workings of the parent organization. Long term capacity building for a volunteer based NGO like IAWRT-USA is at the heart of this idea.

• Patricka Dallas, our UN Representative (Main), in her capacity as an active member of IAWRT-USA, has contributed hugely to the development of the Chapter in 2012. Her leadership, guidance, and contributions to various issues, during the core chapter meetings and remotely (via email), have been outstanding. The chapter has benefitted from her timely active participation in the absence of the President.

(ii) IAWRT-USA Membership
• As of January, 2013, IAWRT-USA has twenty-six members. We also have ten inactive members. We have ten dues paying members. Membership list attached. For any clarifications, please write to, iawrtusa.secretary@gmail.com.

• The President has requested IAWRT honorary membership in recognition of the crucial and timely contribution of (i) founding member, Julia K, who continues to volunteer time for the chapter and, (ii) Long Island University, New York professors who played a critical role. Based on the informal positive response from the IAWRT President last year, an official request will be sent after the discussion with the team.

• IAWRT-USA meetings were held at several locations in New York, including at the home of Catherine D White, Starbucks, and NYPL. Several members organized these meetings on matters deemed important by the chapter core team. In 2012, our member from Canada and former IAWRT President, Frieda Werden,
attended an evening with the team in New York and shared valuable ideas and insights for further development of the Chapter in North America.

(iii) Elections
- In 2012, IAWRT-USA chapter elections were due but we were not able to go ahead with the process. The IAWRT-USA Vice President has resigned from the post and the President may not stand for re-election. We plan to address the elections situation in the coming weeks.

(iv) Finance
Treasurer’s Report prepared by Diane Bailey on 12 January 2013
Period covered: 3 November 2011 - 12 January 2013
$3964.78 Total monies received, including dues from 7 members
1419.00 Total monies spent (Volunteer Lawyers of the Arts (VLA), Arshiya overpayment, DPI/NGO Executive Committee, New York State)
$2545.46 Balance

Actual balance in IAWRT account is $2545.78.

- IAWRT-USA Funds are held at the United Nations Federal Credit Union (UNFCU) in the name of our treasurer. For bank details, payment of dues, and any clarification please use the email, iawrtusa.treasurer@gmail.com.

(v) Incorporation
- The officers worked with the Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (VLA) to submit our chapter incorporation documents in New York. The three directors held meetings with the lawyers and submitted the incorporation application.
- Diane Bailey is our focal point for the incorporation process. She has worked hard in submitting applications and getting the necessary legal work done.
- We are in the process of starting work with our new lawyers at VLA and plan to re-submit our application as we had to face rejection in the category in which we wanted to be incorporated, ie. Educational, Type B.

(vi) Fundraising
- We were unable to engage in any fundraising. We have not tried to engage in active fundraising yet. We were not able to apply for grants or donor gifts in as much as we are not incorporated and do not have our 501 C (3) classification. In the US, gifts cannot be listed as tax deductible without these classifications.

(vii) Trainings and proposal development
- We were not able to organize any media trainings. Arshiya submitted the IAWRT-USA Internship Project proposal to IAWRT International for funding.