I want to take this opportunity to reach out to you and provide a briefing on our activities in 2015 since I was elected to be President of the IAWRT-USA Chapter. During the year, in which we were recognized by the US Treasury as a non-profit organization and able to start receiving tax-exempt donations, we have been exploring what programming ideas would best serve communities in the Americas. As we continue to explore these ideas we will incorporate the mission goals of IAWRT.

- To provide opportunities, share strategies and contribute towards the development of women in broadcasting by exchanging professional and technical knowledge and experiences.
- To offer professional skills in training with a focus on gender perspective in programs, development issues and management.

The IAWRT Board has agreed to review their position in the USA before embarking on any project proposed. The board wants to be sure this organization is relevant and that people are willing to make the commitment to keep the organization going. A proposal of the vision is in progress.

Thank you to Nancy Cohen and Rebecca Myles for their assistance in editing this document.

I encourage the active involvement of all members of our chapter. Chapter board meetings are held every two months and are open to all members via skype. Notice will be emailed. Please feel free to contact me, or any member of the board with your questions, suggestions, concepts and ideas or just to share your work. Professionals. Sister to Sister; supporting each other, one to one and all together.

Thank you.

Sheila Katzman
President/Chapter Head
IAWRT USA, Inc.
Table of Contents

From the President ....................................................................................................................................................... 1
IAWRT-USA Board Members .................................................................................................................................... 3
Events ............................................................................................................................................................................. 5
  Biennial Conference, New Delhi, 11/2016
  Theme: “Censorship: Contents and Discontents” ........................................................................................... 5
  Social Radio Workshop ......................................................................................................................................... 5
  Gender Mainstreaming Project Report .............................................................................................................. 6
  IAWRT Planning Committee ................................................................................................................................ 6
  IAWRT Lifetime Achievement Award ................................................................................................................ 7
  CSW59 in New York ............................................................................................................................................ 7
CSW-IAWRT Parallel Event in Pictures ................................................................................................................... 8
  Consultative Forum ................................................................................................................................................ 9
  Beijing+20 ............................................................................................................................................................... 10
  CSW60 14th-24th March, 2016 ........................................................................................................................... 10
Treasury & Accounting ................................................................................................................................................ 11
  IRS (Internal Revenue Service) ........................................................................................................................... 11
Finances ......................................................................................................................................................................... 12
  IAWRT USA Inc, and IAWRT-FOKUS .................................................................................................................. 12
  Membership .......................................................................................................................................................... 12
  IAWRT-USA Annual Dues ................................................................................................................................. 12
  2015 Year-to-Date Financial Report .................................................................................................................. 12
Financial Report ........................................................................................................................................................... 13
IAWRT-USA Board Members

Sheila Katzman, president

IAWRT USA President and IAWRT’s Chief UN Representative. Sheila Katzman has been recruited to the CSW59 Planning committee for the 4th consecutive year. She is currently the Chair of NYC4CEDAW, leading a citywide coalition of over 75 organizations to pass a local ordinance for a Women’s Bill of Rights Law in New York based upon the principles of CEDAW. Sheila served as Chief of Public Information, Spokesperson and Chief of UN Radio for UN Peacekeeping Mission in Sierra Leone. She also worked as information officer for the Asia Pacific Unit of United Nations Radio in NY; She has been working for the UN since 1979 when she worked for the UNDP OPS in NY. She also worked in the private sector as a project officer for Warner Bros. She currently works as a sociodramatist/psychodramatist and is a reporter for WINGS. She holds a MA in Applied Theatre from the University of Manchester, UK; Postgrad studies, Columbia University and a BA from Hunter College at CUNY and a teaching diploma in theatrical arts. Numerous honors and Awards.

Rebecca Myles, vice president

Rebecca Myles is an award-winning multimedia reporter with experience in print, radio, photography and video. Currently, she is a reporter for RT America, covering general assignment reporting. She is also a correspondent for Radio France International, and often provides commentary for their morning drive show “Paris Live!” For over a decade she was a general assignment reporter for WBAI Pacifica Radio, New York, and a weekly news anchor. She also created and co-hosts a monthly radio show on WBAI for rape survivors, “the Rape Declaration Forum.” Her work has appeared on Newsweek on Air, LatinPost.com, SaharaReporters and BBC World Service. She has two decades of fund raising experience in executive and support positions for domestic and international art and education organizations. She holds a BA from Nottingham Trent University and is a first term board member.

Nancy Cohen, secretary

Nancy Cohen is a multi-media artist, working in film, theatre, journalism and art. She is a contributing writer to the Huffington Post, under the moniker of Cohen-koan and has her own blog, www.notjustaboutsex.com. Currently, she is in postproduction on a film about John Lennon’s power to inspire titled “Something About John,” www.somethingaboutjohn.com. Her first film, “My Dinner With Abbie,” produced and edited by Howard Katzman, is about political activist Abbie Hoffman and premiered at several US and international film festivals winning top prize at the Vermont Earth Peace Film Festival. While living in the UK, she co-directed a film about women and magical powers called “Which Witch?” and a second film on London’s first mayoral elections, “Malcolm McLaren – Not For Sale,” both commissioned by Channel Four UK. She works in film and theatre, writing two short musicals, “Lady Gaga, A Shelf Life” and “The Curse of the Chicken Man. Some of her artwork has been shown at Longview Gallery and MOMA in New York and she has won prizes for her essays and short stories. She takes special pride in having been the first videographer of The Veteran Feminist Dinner, honoring Bella Abzug and plans on using some of that material in a film about consciousness. She is a first term board member.
Board Members (cont.)

Leila Doss,
board member

Second term Board Member and veteran member of IAWRT since the 1960s. Leila is a former United Nations Executive who joined the Radio Division in 1947 and worked in various information centers until she was appointed Assistant Secretary-General for Personnel Services. She retired in 1982. During her UN career, she was Director of the UN Division of Economic and Social Information, and headed the information campaign for the International Year of the Child. Before joining the UN, she worked in Egyptian State Broadcasting and as professor of English Literature and Creative Writing in the American University in Cairo, Egypt. After leaving the UN she remained active as a lecturer in International Affairs and headed “The World at the UN,” a field study program at Fordham University and at Long Island University in NY. She was born in Egypt and was educated at the American University in Cairo.

Pragya Ghimire,
board member

Recent graduate of New School for Social Research in International Affairs: Multimedia, Culture and Communications. She is in her 2nd term on the board.

Carolyn Byerly holds an M.A. and Ph.D. in Communications from the University of Washington, Seattle and a B.S. in Education from the University of Colorado, Boulder. She joined the faculty of Howard University in 2004 after previous posts at the University of Maryland, Ithaca College and Radford University. She is author of The International Handbook of Women and Journalism (2013), Global Report on the Status of Women in News Media (2011), the co-author of Women and Media: A Critical Introduction (2006), and the coeditor of Women and Media: International Perspectives (2004). Her articles have appeared in numerous journals, including Critical Studies in Mass Communication, Howard Journal of Communication, Feminist Media Studies and edited volumes. She has received awards for her activist scholarship and teaching. Carolyn is a first term board member.
Events

Biennial Conference, New Delhi, 11/2016
Theme: “Censorship: Contents and Discontents”

The 34th Biennial conference was held in New Delhi India September 2015. USA/North American members present at the Biennial include: Frieda Werden and Elizabeth Miller of Canada, Arshiya Ahsan and Sheila Katzman of the United States.

The conference comprised a number of panel discussions around the basic theme “Censorship: Contents and Discontents.” A full program of innovative discussions dominated the conference. Sessions included training on Safety and Security, Funding, and many more interesting panels and workshops. You can read all about it in the conference report on the IAWRT website: www.iawrt.org. Topics like, Frontline and Online Conflict: Gender perspective in Conflict Reporting, and Mansplanning, Misogyny and the Media addressed the unspoken ways in which women’s perspectives are minimized too often in newsrooms and in the media in general. It explored the marginalization of gender-based stories and how misogyny continues to play out in content and workplace infrastructure.

Elections were held for the International Board. Sheila Katzman declined the nomination to serve for a third term on the International Board.

Social Radio Workshop

IAWRT USA president facilitated a socioradio/sociodrama workshop where 12 participants worked on exploring real stories. Participants learnt how to develop their story with the community, by the community and for the community – a participant-led framework. This was well received by the participants. 12 stories were shared, two were identified for story development, characterization and learning to be true to the people telling their own stories. Stories to be performed for the community and then scripted for radio. One story highlighted a little girl in India who everyone sees as a thief when the truth is that she was taking money from her mother’s purse to enable a poor child passage on a boat each day to get to school. The other story looked at Bhutan land that pioneered happiness. The people are concerned about a monster that could threaten the happiness index. That monster is the introduction of the Internet and the social media and how it appears to be posing a threat to that happiness as the children are acclimatizing to this new technology at an alarming rate.
IAWRT-USA is proud of their Chapter’s lead participation in the Gender Mainstreaming Project report, titled Gender Equality & Social Justice in Public Media – an 8-country assessment, that was officially launched in India in printed booklet form with a very eye-catching and attractive cover. Prof. Diana Nastasia, a member of IAWRT/USA, played a leadership role and coordination of this very successful project. She was able to join the conference for the launch via live streaming. We are also very proud of our other members who took on this challenge for the chapter: Arshiya Ahsan, Former President and co-founder of the USA Chapter; Pragya Ghimire and Dorothy Saint Jean. We couldn’t have done this without the assistance of the students of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, who made the USA input and research possible.

IAWRT Planning Committee
The IAWRT CSW59 planning committee included Leila Doss, Diane Bailey, Rebecca Myles, Nancy Cohen and was chaired by Sheila Katzman. The event brought in a large audience through hard work and dedication of the USA members. The event posted advertisement in City Limits, the Daily News listing, WBAI/Pacifica Radio and press releases to the New York Times. For the first time, IAWRT was able to hold its Parallel event at the UN Church Center. This was in part due to IAWRT-USA representative serving on the UN/NGO CSW Planning Committee and being Chair of Cities for CEDAW, NYC. Ivy Abraskin took time off from work to assist with the Parallel event and is always ever present and taking charge of the event. Congresswoman, Jackie Weatherspoon, of New Hampshire also graced the occasion.
IAWRT Lifetime Achievement Award

The regal Frieda Werden was awarded the IAWRT Lifetime Achievement Award at the 34th Biennial Conference in New Delhi, India in September 2016. IAWRT board member, Sheila Katzman, presented the Award.

Frieda is a long-standing member of IAWRT who attended her first conference in Delhi in 1999. It’s no coincidence that 16 years later, in the very same city, she is recognized for her contribution to the organization. Frieda served the organization in the capacity of President from 2005-2007. Frieda is co-founder and Executive Producer of the Women’s International Newsgathering Service, WINGS.

CSW59 in New York

The IAWRT Parallel Event, introducing the Gender Mainstreaming Project, opened to a packed room. Diana Nastasia represented the USA Chapter and we are very proud that we were able to take on such a leadership role. Greta Gober of Poland, who shared the leadership with Nastasia, also presented. Nastasia threw out a challenge to the audience and asked them to close their eyes and think about what they expect from public media. “…Reflect on what you think it is and how it should be. There have been a lot of ideas and theories and concepts … about public media as this place for everybody. This is ours – we own it – it is for our collective good. … We would like it to be inclusive, we would like it to have lots of voices and lots of issues represented there, we would like it to be innovative – we would like it to be in a way that there is always new topics, new formats.”

The CSW59 IAWRT planning committee wishes to express gratitude to Frieda Werden for her role as discussant on the Parallel event putting the GMPR into the context and framework of Section J of the Beijing Platform for Action (see 2015 Newsletter for access — on website www.iawrt.org). In doing so, she pointed out “…There are two strategic objectives in Section J. One is to increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision-making in and through media and new technologies…. Governments are supposed to support women’s education and training, support research — Norway did it — support women’s full and equal participation in the media, including management, programming….– Wow! We [the USA] don’t have much of that supported by the government. They say support. They don’t really say fund.” She also said that non-governmental organizations are supposed to encourage the establishment of media watch groups – Canada did. They’re
supposed to train women to make greater use of information technology for communication in the media, including at the international level – Canada is doing it! We’re supposed to create networks among and develop information programs for non-governmental organizations, women’s organizations, and professional media organizations to recognize the specific needs of women in the media…this is something else that we can do; and we’re supposed to encourage the media industry and everybody to develop appropriate language. Story telling and radio drama, songs and poetry are some of what she listed in her talk.

Appreciation also goes out to Eleanor Alper, renowned artist/sculptor and dear friend of Frieda’s, who hosted an after-party for IAWRT at her luxury 32nd floor Penthouse in ritzy Dumbo in Downtown Brooklyn. It was a splendid evening.

CSW-IAWRT Parallel Event in Pictures
Consultative Forum

The Consultative Forum is the first day of the CSW and is a very important event and entry into the CSW. Hundreds of women and men gather to discuss and set the stage for the ensuing weeks. In 2015, IAWRT Main representative was chosen as one of three high-ranking officials to lead the opening of the Forum, hence the CSW at the Apollo Theatre in Harlem, New York.

UN Women, Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka in her opening remarks, said if the world is to continue at the rate it has been going regarding gender equality, “…we will not realize the Platform for Action goals of Beijing plus 20 for another 50 years.” It is urgent that we address economic issues in enabling women worldwide to reach their potential. “While we’ve made strides since 1950, it is also our job to be sure no women is left behind in any country.”

Sheila read excerpts from the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategy. She shared the stage together with the Minister of Women’s Affairs of Iran and President/CEO of Women’s Learning Partnership, Mahnaz Afkhami; the Ambassador of the Mission of Denmark to the UN, His Excellency Ambassador Ib Petersen; and the phenomenal producer/artist and author of ‘The Big Lie’ Tanya Selvartnam. Their presentation of the various strategies set the tone for CSW 59.
During the CSW, the IAWRT main representative was invited to address the CSW Morning Briefing at the United Nations about CEDAW. The audience of over 1300 consisted of NGOs and government representatives. She shared the podium with Lopa Banageree, the chief of Civil Society Section of UN Women, and the First Nation representative. The briefing was followed by questions from the audience. During the CSW, a morning briefing is done each day to highlight particular topics under discussion at the UN.

Beijing+20

During this reporting period, IAWRT UN chief representative was invited by UN Women to serve on the Beijing +20 12-member Planning Committee. She was instrumental in the Beijing +20 event being staged at the famous and historical Apollo Theater in an effort to bring the UN to the people. On the UNNGO/CSW Planning committee, she contributed to the producing of the Handbook.

CSW60 14th-24th March, 2016

CSW is fast approaching. Thousands of women from all over the world will converge at the United Nations in New York City, hurrying and scurrying as they try to catch one parallel event after another. Parallel Events are those events organized by NGOs and Civil Society Organizations. Side Events are hosted inside the UN by governments of member states.

The Themes:

Priority Theme: Women’s Empowerment and Its Link to Sustainable Development.

Review Theme: The Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women and Girls (Agreed Conclusions From the Fifty-Seventh Committee Session) www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw60-2016

IAWRT USA is organizing a Parallel Event which will be held at the UN Church Center.

The IAWRT Theme:


IAWRT USA is assisting with the planning of the organization’s Parallel event and may be represented on the panel.
Treasury & Accounting

During the reporting year, our treasurer, Diane Bailey, died after a long battle with cancer. Thanks to her efforts our financial papers were in good order and we have been able to easily register two signatures with our bank for all withdrawal requests approved by the board. The bank requested copies of the last two minutes, government ids and the death certificate of Diane that was made available by Diane’s sisters.

It was during the board’s third meeting held at the home of board member, Leila Doss; the unanimous agreement was reached regarding IAWRT accounts. The Vice President, Rebecca Myles, and President, Sheila Katzman were put in charge of the treasury until a replacement treasurer could be appointed. Present at that meeting were: Leila Doss, Nancy Cohen, Rebecca Myles and Sheila Katzman and Pragya Ghimire.

Sheila went to the Bank and transferred the signature on the IAWRT-USA account from ‘Diane Bailey’ to her name and Rebecca’s. Rebecca was to go into any Chase Bank and leave her signature. All correspondences from the Chase Bank are sent to Sheila.

At the next board meeting, Carolyn Byerly proposed Diana Nastasia of St. Louis, Missouri, as Treasurer until the next election. The board agreed and Sheila contacted Diana who has agreed to take on the role. That process has not yet been completed.

IRS (Internal Revenue Service)

The application to get 501(c)3 tax exemption had been delayed due to the extraneous circumstances surrounding Diane’s illness. She stressed that she wanted to finish what she started and tried but couldn’t. In May, IAWRT USA President fill out the 501(c)3 application at Diane’s residence, and filed the application with the IRS for non-profit status inserting Rebecca Myles, Vice President and Sheila Katzman, President.

In August 2015, IAWRT USA President telephoned the IRS to enquiry about the status of the tax exemption application submitted on 5th May 2015. The IRS informed that the application was approved and IAWRT-USA Charity status was granted on 15th May 2015, just 10 days after the application was filed. The certificate had been mailed to Ms. Bailey. The status was retroactive to February 2014. We were also informed that filing of taxes for the year 2014 was passed due. In order to file, we first need to retrieve the original letter from Diane’s family. Failing that, IAWRT would have had to pay another filing fee to request an original copy. In late December, we received the document along with other banking documents from the son of Diane Bailey in the post.

IAWRT USA, Inc. filed its first taxes in December 2015; the US chapter has filed its first taxes with the IRS as a bona-fide charity in the USA. We avoided or were forgiven the penalties due to the extraneous circumstances explained to the IRS representative on the telephone. Tax Year 2015 was also filed.
Finances

IAWRT USA Inc., and IAWRT-FOKUS

In 2015, IAWRT responded to the call of the parent organization and completed a 4-year budget for future projects. Of the 12 chapters that made up IAWRT, the USA chapter was the only chapter that was rejected for funding from the FOKUS source. The main reason: FOKUS funds are for intervention in the Global South and the USA does not fall within this purview. The US is an industrial country.

Membership

As at the end of this reporting period, December 2014, IAWRT-USA has twenty-eight members. We welcome one new member Ruth Copland of Santa Cruz, California, a radio professional. For membership application form and any other chapter related information, please write to Nancy Cohen at iawrtusa.secretary@gmail.com.

IAWRT-USA Annual Dues

Members $75
Associate Members $50
Students $25

For more information, please write to Diana Nastasia at dinastasia@yahoo.co.uk

2015 Year-to-Date Financial Report

Balance Brought Forward from November 29, 2014 through December 31, 2014

- Chase -Business Account – Savings $3,050.99
- Ending Balance - $3,248.83
- Dues collected in 2015 $975.00
- Expenditure $777.16
- Outstanding Debt $0
# Financial Report

**IAWRT/USA**

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**Ending Balance**

- **Income**: $777.16
- **Expenses**: $975.00
- **Balance**: $3,248.83