

New York State Association of Licensed Midwives (NYSALM) Annual Report

Dear Colleagues,

The 2016 year was very exciting for NYSALM. We passed a bill creating Midwifery-Led Birth Centers which we hope will increase the number of birth centers in New York as well as improve access to care. Fewer than 10% of bills that are introduced in state legislature pass, so this is an amazing accomplishment for NYSALM and NY families.

We have three new executive board members, Sascha Conterelli, Vice-President, Pat Burkhardt, Treasurer and Mimi Niles, Secretary. To that end, we are providing you with a report summarizing some of the highlights of 2016.

The structure of NYSALM is as follows: an executive committee made up of the president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary, region representatives plus alternates (NYC-2, Long Island, Hudson Valley, Midstate, Northeastern, Western) and 11 committees. The board and committees work tirelessly to improve midwifery practice and care throughout the state. All board and committees members are volunteer and all NYSALM members are welcome to join committees and run for seats on the board. Please read the summary of each committee provided below.

By-Laws Committee

In 2016, the Bylaws Committee proposed an amendment to allow for electronic voting on changes to existing bylaws. This amendment was passed by the members present at the annual meeting.

Communications Committee

The main project for 2016 was producing a new website and logo which was launched in early September. Merchandise was produced featuring the new logo for the annual meeting, including vinyl tape measures, canvas tote bags, and pens.

Aside from these major projects, we also continued to maintain NYSALM's social media (Facebook and Twitter) and launched an Instagram account. We will be working on optimizing these platforms. We also maintained NYSALM's email and kept the

membership informed about happenings at board meetings via the quick-e news.

Diversity and Inclusion Committee

The Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Committee was established in response to the national work conducted by the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) concerning diversity and inclusion. The NYSALM D&I Committee is the second affiliate chapter established in the nation within ACNM.

The mission of the committee is to ensure diversity in leadership and membership within NYSALM; outreach to diverse communities to teach them about midwifery; and outreach to patients to ensure representation in healthcare providership. In cooperation with the Program Committee, the NYSALM Annual Meeting in October 2016 was themed in honor of diversity and inclusion. Three speakers, including Rachel Ritter, spoke about LGBTQIA issues and two speakers, including the Midwives of Color Committee (MOCC) chair, Pat Loftman addressed racial microaggressions. Additionally, the D&I Committee participated in the Mentoring in Medicine Health & Science Expo in December 2016. The Mentoring in Medicine Health & Science Expo is an annual event hosted in Harlem to encourage students of diverse backgrounds into the health profession. D&I Committee members participated in the health fair and panel discussion. We spoke to many students, parents, and educators about midwifery.

Finance Committee

BUDGET 2016:

TOTAL REVENUE- \$56,343.38

TOTAL EXPENSES- \$54,893.67

PROPOSED BUDGET 2017:

TOTAL ANTICIPATED REVENUE- \$68,995.00

TOTAL ANTICIPATED EXPENSES- \$58,381.00

IMPACT Committee

1. Hospital outreach/bylaws changes

The committee has been working closely with several facilities/hospitals across the state to update/amend their bylaws to reflect verbiage inclusive of midwifery (CNM, CM) practice.

2. Employers advertising for “nurse-midwives”

As we received notification from membership regarding recruitment postings with exclusive language, the committee has attempted to contact employers to provide education and influence change of language used for advertisement.

We are proud to have influenced change with ACNM’s electronic job listserv: www.midwifejobs.com. Salvador Chairez @ ACNM and Darrow Fontera @ Boxwood Career Solutions, subcontractor who manages www.midwifejobs.com New language re: CMs went live 1/12/17 –this language is posted at top of the screen for employers see when they post a job.

3. Hospitals not reporting midwifery deliveries:

Dr. Mary Huynh, Director of the Office of Vital Statistics mhuynh@health.nyc.gov emailed: midwifery birth certificates for Bronx Leb & Brooklyn Hospital will not be corrected retroactively. We will look out for 2015 stats which should be published this year to see if they were correct going forward.

4. SAFE/SANE:

As per Dr. Kacica at DOH, CMs are unable to be certified due to lack of licensure to examine/care for men. NYSALM president will inquire with our legal representatives about the feasibility of opening up the SAFE act/running an amendment to the bill that would add midwives to the list of providers if they complete appropriate training.

5. Malpractice issues

There were no responses to the inquiry posted on the listserv regarding the possible need for a malpractice committee. It appears that there are not enough issues at this time to warrant a separate committee.

Insurance Committee

The board of directors decided to create this committee address inequities in midwifery

reimbursement, identify the barriers to equal reimbursement with physicians, and plan a coordinated effort to address these issues with insurers. In addition, we know that some insurance plans pay some midwives but not others and often pay midwives less than physicians. We decided to focus on the Empire Plan and Fidelis, whose reimbursement has been an issue for some members. We would also like to target a 3rd downstate insurer as well.

Legislative Committee

We had a successful Lobby Day on April 12, 2016 that ultimately resulted in the passage of the Midwifery-Led Birth Center Bill. Next step with this is working with NYSDOH to write the regulations appropriate for this change in the law allowing midwives to be the clinical director without the requirement for a medical director that is a physician.

Membership Committee

There are various issues with tracking and recalling members which has to do with ACNM software. We continue to search for ways to alleviate these issues at the local level. We do, however, have 90 new members since May 2016!

Nominating Committee

There were some new Executive Board members appointed.

We had our first successful election with electronic ballots utilizing the free platform available via Survey Monkey. The election was for region representatives. There was a limitation on the number of ballots that can be collected. Over 120 persons voted, however, only 100 ballot results could be viewed. Since all candidates were uncontested, the limited view of ballots did not affect the outcome of the election.

New Regional Representatives are:

NYC Regional Rep: Trinisha Williams **NYC Alternate:** OPEN

Middle-State Rep: Julie Carlson **Alternate:** Linda Lovig

Northeast Alternate: Michelle Doyle

Western Alternate: Caitlin LeGros

(These positions are all three-year terms.)

Program Committee

The program committee worked with the legislative committee on lobby day arrangements/refreshments and with our lobbyists from Greenberg Traurig for the meeting in NY City. Our large project was the Annual Meeting & Retreat in October.

Our Annual meeting attendance included 25 students and 8-15 LMs, depending on the day. As we were gathering Friday evening Ellen Harris-Braun CPM died. This profoundly impacted those of us who knew her well and those who maybe didn't know her per se but were aware of her work on behalf of midwifery research through MANA. We had a candle burning for her throughout the weekend, to tie us to the 48 hour memorial sacred fire burning in the woods behind her house just a few miles away.

The annual meeting's theme was Diversity and Inclusion. All presentations were interactive and attendees were engaged in each topic. New NYSALM merchandise was introduced and sold. The raffle took in \$600!

Rachel Ritter made a survey monkey for the membership to help inform programming for the future.

Student Committee

The NYSALM board of directors has decided to form a new student committee to address student needs across the state. We look forward to increased student membership and involvement in the committee and activities in the upcoming year.

Quality Committee

The Quality Committee focused this year on the Home Birth Integration Initiative, (HIINY).

1. Outreach to NY Regional Perinatal Centers (RPCs) to invite participation with developing internal guidelines for receiving transfers from planned home births (PHBs).
2. Meeting with Department of Health. Seven members of the Department met with Karen and Kate on Dec 6th.
3. Survey of PHB midwives re census for 2015, and identify hospitals that receive transfers. A survey was sent to email list for midwives attending PHB in NY, approx. 70 LMs.

4. Identification and characterization of midwifery services for planned home births provided to religious minorities of Amish and Mennonite in upstate areas.
5. Peer Review standardization
6. Conference presentations promoting the HIINY Project activities as models for others
7. Finalizing the *NYSALM Best Practice Guidelines: Planned Home Birth in New York*, last step of the *IOM Guidelines for Developing Trustworthy Guidelines*

WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE REPORT. FOR MORE DETAILED COMMITTEE REPORTS, PLEASE VISIT US ON THE WEB AT <https://www.nysalm.org>. PLEASE CONTINUE TO LET US KNOW HOW WE CAN BETTER SERVE YOU!