

Report for the 2016 Program Committee
Susanrachel Condon and Rachel Ritter

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

Attendance was about 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.

Many participants signed up for the entire weekend and didn't stay. This was problematic in terms of flow with meals, beds and the sense that we were all working together. Some people needed family time, some went to the sacred fire, some went to births, some registered and didn't show up or contact us. We were short one massage therapist who backed out at the 11th hour, as did the replacement yoga teacher! But resilient we are! Susanrachel filled in for the missing LMT and all the midwives who signed up for massages had them. There were even 2 add on massages. The yoga devotees found a yoga video on YouTube and had a virtual teacher. This was awesome. The knitting mentor had to go to a birth; but knitters kept on knitting.

Our speakers were wonderful. All presentations were interactive and attendees were engaged in each topic. New committee member Jennifer Fegan-Szalay did a great job with the CEUs for her first time out and offered to continue doing this important but sometimes tedious job.

The sexy new NYSALM merch Rachel Ritter brought was introduced and sold. The raffle took in \$600! Because Susanrachel donated the \$160 for massages she did and we saved \$100 for the yoga teacher, we definitely didn't lose money. Powell House usually charges \$275/person per weekend for outside groups but gave us the PoHo conference rate of \$230/person because of Susanrachel's long-standing affiliation with them. They also credited us with \$115 because Susanrachel and student volunteers "butler'd" - working before and after all meals and coordinating the meal crews, laundry, clean up etc.

River & Mountain Midwives gifted a registration for our student volunteer Emma Scott. She coordinated the massage program, designed and printed the programs and copied them at SUNY New Paltz so we didn't pay anything for them and she worked all weekend: at the registration desk, in the kitchen, and doing just about anything she was asked! NYSALM comp'd registration and lunches for Jennifer Fegan Szalay, who commuted from home. Chana Schaffer, a student from U. Penn, coordinated the raffle and of course attended the conference for her professional issues module.

It was a successful weekend. A lot of ground was covered in the realm of diversity and inclusion. The students were nurtured. The food was good. The trees were still beautiful. The weather was warm. No known tick bites. We didn't lose money.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Susanrachel Condon & Rachel Ritter, co-chairs

