

Call for 2026 ASGW Award and Scholarship Nominations

The Association for Specialists in Group Work (ASGW) is seeking nominations for awards and student scholarships! The award and scholarship recipients will be recognized at the awards ceremony at the **ASGW Conference, February 5-7, 2026, at Hyatt Centric Chicago Magnificent Mile, Chicago, IL.**

ASGW Award Nominations

These awards are designed to recognize outstanding individuals for their significant group work contributions.

Please consider nominating individuals for the following awards:

- **Group Work Practice Award:** Recognition of an outstanding practitioner in group work in any area covered by the ASGW Professional Standards.
- **Eminent Career Award:** Recognition of career-long national and/or international contributions to group work by an ASGW member.
- **Professional Advancement Award:** Recognition of an individual's efforts to advance group work through research, new technologies, legislation, public relations or practice
- **M. Carolyn Thomas Outstanding Branch Award:** Recognition of an ASGW state branch organization's effort to promote group work in their state.

See below for descriptions and nomination instructions for these awards. Nomination materials should be combined into a single PDF. Please send the award nomination packet to ASGW President-Elect and Awards Committee Chair, Dr. Yanhong Liu, at yliu363@syr.edu. Please include the **award name** in the email subject line.

All nominations must be received by **December 1, 2025**. Recipients *must* be (or become) members of ASGW. Award winners will receive notification by December 19, 2025, to facilitate travel arrangements to attend the 2026 ASGW Conference.

Award Descriptions & Nomination Instructions

Group Work Practice Award

The Association for Specialists in Group Work (ASGW) is pleased to invite nominations for the Group Work Practice Award, which recognizes an outstanding practitioner who demonstrates excellence in group work practice. Nominees may be recognized for contributions in any area aligned with the *ASGW Professional Standards for the Practice of Group Work*.

A complete nomination packet should include the following:

- A nomination letter outlining the nominee's contributions

- One additional letter of support
 - The nominee's abbreviated CV
 - Any supplemental materials supporting the nomination (optional)
- The full nomination packet should not exceed 20 pages in total.

Nomination materials should address the following:

1. Scope of practice of nominee to include:
 - a. Type(s) of group work
 - b. Client population(s) served
 - c. Practice setting(s)
2. Innovations in group work practice by the nominee
3. How nominee has disseminated group work skills through workshops, conference presentations, supervision, and/or training.
4. Evidence of nominee's significant contribution to group work practice

Eminent Career Award

The Association for Specialists in Group Work (ASGW) invites nominations for the Eminent Career Award, which honors a member who has made significant and enduring contributions to the field of group work over the course of their career. This prestigious award recognizes individuals whose work has had a national and/or international impact on group work through research, practice, education, and/or advocacy. Nominees should demonstrate a sustained record of excellence that has shaped the field in meaningful ways.

A complete nomination packet should include:

- A nomination letter detailing the nominee's contributions
- One additional letter of support
- The nominee's abbreviated CV
- Supplemental materials supporting the nomination (optional)

The full nomination packet should not exceed 20 pages in total.

Nomination materials should address the following:

1. The nominee's outstanding activities and contributions to group work
2. The setting(s) and context(s) in which these contributions were made
3. The sustained impact of the nominee's work on the field of group work

Professional Advancement Award

The Association for Specialists in Group Work (ASGW) is now accepting nominations for the Professional Advancement Award. This award honors an individual whose outstanding contributions have significantly advanced the field of group work in one or more of the following areas:

- Research
- Development of a new technique or theory
- Public relations

- Legislative or policy work
- Group work practice

A complete nomination packet should include:

- A nomination letter outlining the nominee's contributions
- One additional letter of support
- The nominee's abbreviated CV
- Supplemental materials in support of the nomination (optional)

The full nomination packet should not exceed 20 pages.

Nomination materials should address the following:

1. The category or categories of the nominee's contributions to group work
2. The specific nature and impact of the nominee's work within those categories

We welcome nominations of individuals who have made innovative, impactful, and lasting contributions that have advanced practice, research, training, and/or advocacy of group work.

M. Carolyn Thomas Outstanding Branch Award

The Association for Specialists in Group Work (ASGW) is pleased to invite nominations for the M. Carolyn Thomas Outstanding Branch Award. This award recognizes an exemplary ASGW state branch that has demonstrated significant accomplishments in advancing group work over the past year. Branches may be recognized for a range of impactful activities, including but not limited to:

- Offering workshops or trainings in group work
- Promoting group work-related publications
- Enhancing membership engagement and services
- Launching special initiatives related to group work

A complete nomination packet should include:

- A nomination letter describing the branch's accomplishments
- Supporting materials documenting the branch's initiatives and impact within the scope of group work

The full nomination packet must not exceed 20 pages.

Self-nominations are encouraged and welcome. We invite you to celebrate the achievements of your ASGW branch and help us highlight excellence in the promotion and practice of group work.

ASGW Student Scholarship Nominations

The Association for Specialists in Group Work (ASGW) is seeking applications for three (3) student scholarships! See below for descriptions and eligibility for each of the scholarships. Application materials should be combined to **one single pdf document**. Please send applications to ASGW President-Elect and Awards Committee Chair, Dr. Yanhong Liu, at yliu363@syr.edu. Please include the scholarship name in the email subject line.

Applications must be received by **December 1, 2025**. Recipients must be (or become) members of ASGW. Scholarship recipients will be notified by December 19, 2025, to facilitate travel arrangements to attend the 2026 ASGW Conference.

PEG CARROLL Scholarship

The ASGW Awards Committee is pleased to invite applications for the **Peg Carroll Scholarship**, which awards **\$2,000** to support a student with a demonstrated interest in group work. This scholarship honors the legacy of **Marguerite “Peg” Carroll**, a former ASGW President and a trailblazer in the field of group work.

The purpose of the scholarship is to foster the study and practice of group work and to deepen understanding of group dynamics. Any student with an interest in group work is eligible to apply.

Applicants are requested to respond to the following questions (limit total response to **4 single-spaced pages**):

1. There are many types of group experiences such as: therapeutic and/or counseling, decision making, task orientation, psychoanalysis, quality circles, classroom meetings, etc. What area interests you most and why?
2. Where would you obtain training in your area of interest? Be specific in respect to trainers, institutions, workshop sponsors, etc. In addition, describe your intended degree program, if it applies.
3. Where, and with which population, would you hope to be able to use your expertise?
4. How do you plan to assess if you or your groups are making progress? Have you had any experience with these tools or techniques? Explain fully.
5. List the types of groups in which you have participated. Describe their duration and the positive and negative aspects of each experience, and your role (participant, leader, intern, etc.).
6. Describe your participation in professional organizations related to group work.

In addition, applicants must collect and submit **two letters of recommendation**, along with the written response to above prompts. Letters may come from supervisors, mentors, faculty, or other individuals familiar with your potential as a group leader.

The following topics may be relevant in the letters of recommendation.

- a) Evidence of applicant's ethical awareness and decision-making.
- b) Group leadership and facilitation skills.
- c) Professional commitment, including involvement in professional organizations such as ASGW and ACA.

REX STOCKTON SCHOLARSHIP

The ASGW Awards Committee invites applications for the **Rex Stockton Scholarship**. This scholarship is awarded to support an international student to attend the ASGW Conference. This scholarship honors **Dr. Rex Stockton**, an ASGW Fellow and trailblazer in the field of group work. Throughout his career, Dr. Stockton mentored many international students and worked extensively to promote group work globally, particularly in Africa. His commitment to HIV/AIDS counseling in Botswana and his support of international collaboration continue to inspire the mission of this award.

The scholarship will be awarded to someone who:

1. Is not a U.S. citizen,
2. Is currently attending graduate school in a group-work related profession anywhere in the world, and
3. Demonstrates an interest in the application of group work in an international setting.

The winner of the award will receive \$1,000 to support the cost of attending the ASGW conference; the funds can be used for expenses related to conference travel and room and board. The winner will also receive complimentary conference registration.

Applicants must submit a **written statement (maximum 750 words)** that includes:

1. Educational Background

- Identify the university and degree program in which you are currently enrolled.
- Describe educational achievements and involvement in group work.

2. Interest and Experience in Group Work

- Describe experience or interest in group work, especially in international contexts.
- Explain what you hope to gain from attending the 2026 ASGW Conference.

In addition, applicants must collect and submit **one letter of recommendation**, along with their written statement. The letter should be from an individual familiar with the applicant's group work experience and potential.

BARBARA GAZDA SCHOLARSHIP

The Association for Specialists in Group Work (ASGW) is pleased to offer **two \$200 scholarships** through the **Barbara Gazda Scholarship** to support and encourage **students and new professionals** in attending the upcoming **ASGW Bi-Annual Conference**, taking place **February 5–7, 2026**, at the **Hyatt Centric Chicago Magnificent Mile, Chicago, IL**.

Eligibility:

- Current ASGW members
- Students currently enrolled in a counseling or related degree program; OR · Recent graduates (within the past 12 months) with active engagement in group work

Applicants must submit a **written statement (300–500 words)** that includes the following:

- Confirmation of **ASGW membership**
- Name of the **university** and **degree program** in which the applicant is currently enrolled or from which they have recently graduated
- A brief description of the applicant's **interest and experience in group work**, and how attending the ASGW Conference will contribute to their **professional development**