Call for ASGW Award and Scholarship Nominations

The Association for Specialists in Group Work (ASGW) invites nominations for its awards and applications for its student scholarships. Recipients are recognized at the ASGW Conference during conference years. In non-conference years, recipients are recognized at the ASGW Members' Meeting and Awards Ceremony, held in conjunction with the American Counseling Association (ACA) Conference. Deadlines, conference details, and submission instructions are posted on the ASGW website each year. All materials must be submitted electronically in a single PDF, with the nomination letter or written statement as the first page. Name the PDF using the nominee's or applicant's last name, followed by the award or scholarship title.

All letters are signed and on the writer's letterhead, or include the writer's full name, title, affiliation, and contact information when letterhead is unavailable.

When Awards and Scholarships Are Offered

- **Every year:** all awards and the Peg Carroll Scholarship
- **ASGW Conference years only:** the Rex Stockton and Barbara Gazda Scholarships, which support conference travel

Who May Nominate or Apply

- Self-nominations are accepted for all awards. Individuals who nominate themselves include one more letter of support than the award requires: two for the Eminent Career and Professional Advancement Awards, and three for the Group Work Practice Award. Branches may nominate themselves for the M. Carolyn Thomas State Branch Award with no additional letters.
- Each individual may be nominated for only one award per year, and a nominator may nominate more than one person.
- Students may apply for more than one scholarship per year and may receive only one.
- Past recipients may not receive the same award or scholarship again.
- All individual nominees and applicants must be active ASGW members. The Awards Committee confirms membership through ASGW records and will contact anyone whose membership cannot be verified, such as new or recently renewed members.
- Current Awards Committee members may not be nominated, apply, or write letters of support, and they recuse themselves from any nomination involving a close colleague, student, or supervisee.

What Reviewers Look For

- Specific, verifiable examples of the nominee's work, such as named groups, programs, publications, or initiatives with approximate dates, settings, and outcomes
- Signed letters that include the writer's contact information, how the writer knows the nominee, and what the writer has observed directly

How Submissions Are Scored

Awards Committee members score each nomination or application independently using the criteria listed below for that award or scholarship. For awards, reviewers rate demonstrated accomplishments. For scholarships, reviewers rate experience and potential. Each criterion receives a score from 0 to 3:

0 – Not Addressed: The submission does not address the criterion.

1 – Limited Evidence: The criterion is addressed in general terms, with few or no specific examples of accomplishment or potential.

2 – Clear Evidence: Specific examples show that the criterion is clearly met, through solid accomplishment or strong potential.

3 – Exceptional Evidence: Specific, well-documented examples show accomplishment or potential that is exceptional in scope, quality, or impact.

Criteria carry equal weight, and each submission's score is the average of the committee members' totals. The committee ranks submissions by this average and discusses close rankings before selecting recipients. If a tie remains, the higher score on the first criterion listed for that award or scholarship decides it. The Awards Committee may choose not to give an award or scholarship in a given year. Letter criteria reflect how directly the writers' observations support the nomination. Eligibility, page and word limits, required letters, and AI disclosure statements are checked before scoring. Incomplete submissions are not reviewed.

Award or Scholarship	**Scored Criteria**
Eminent Career Award	Significance of contributions to group work through research, practice, education, or advocacy Sustained record of excellence across the nominee's career National or international impact, shown through two or three specific examples Documented evidence in the CV and supplemental materials, supported by letters that describe directly

Award or Scholarship	Scored Criteria
	observed work
Professional Advancement Award	Significance of contributions within the named category or categories Innovation of the technique, theory, product, or initiative Evidence that others have adopted or used the work Documented evidence in the CV and supplemental materials, supported by letters that describe directly observed work
Group Work Practice Award	Scope of practice, including types of groups, populations served, and settings Innovation in group work practice Dissemination of group work skills through training, supervision, or presentations Quality of the described group, including its design and the assessment of member progress Documented evidence in the CV and supplemental materials, supported by letters that describe directly observed work
M. Carolyn Thomas State Branch Award	Range and quality of branch activities in group work over the past year Member participation and engagement, supported by participation numbers Impact of branch initiatives on group work in the state Documentation of activities and outcomes
Peg Carroll Scholarship	Clarity of the applicant's group work interest and intended population (Questions 1 and 3) Specific and feasible training plan (Question 2) Plan for assessing progress (Question 4) Group experience and reflection on that experience (Question 5) Involvement in professional organizations (Question 6) Letters' evidence of the applicant's ethical awareness, group leadership and facilitation skills, and professional commitment

Award or Scholarship	Scored Criteria
Rex Stockton Scholarship	Educational background and achievements in group work Interest and experience in group work in international contexts Expected benefit from attending the ASGW Conference Strength of the letter of recommendation
Barbara Gazda Scholarship	Interest and experience in group work Contribution of conference attendance to professional development Engagement in ASGW or other professional activities related to group work

Use of AI Tools

- Nominators, letter writers, and applicants may use generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools for editing, formatting, or translation. The examples, judgments, and responses in each document should come from the author's own knowledge, experience, and qualifications as they relate to the criteria for each award or scholarship.
- Each letter and each applicant's written statement or set of responses ends with one sentence stating whether and how AI tools were used in its preparation. Disclosed AI use does not affect scoring.
- Submissions missing any required disclosure statement are considered incomplete and are not reviewed.

Scholarship Payment

- Recipients work with the ASGW Treasurer to set up payment through Ramp, and scholarships are paid by direct deposit, with no receipts required. Peg Carroll recipients begin this process once they are notified of the award and submit proof of enrollment as described in that section. Rex Stockton and Barbara Gazda recipients confirm their ASGW Conference registration and are paid after the conference.
- If a Rex Stockton or Barbara Gazda recipient cannot attend the ASGW Conference, the Awards Committee may offer the scholarship to the next-ranked applicant. A Rex Stockton recipient whose visa is denied may defer the scholarship to the next ASGW Conference.

Award Categories

Eminent Career Award

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 award recognizes individuals whose work has had a national or international impact on group work through research, practice, education, 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 must not exceed 16 pages in total, and the nomination letter must not exceed three pages.

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, illustrated with two or three specific examples (e.g., a training program, publication, or policy change) and evidence of their reach

Professional Advancement Award

ASGW invites 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
- Teaching and training
- 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 must not exceed 16 pages, and the nomination letter must not exceed three pages.

Nomination materials should address the following:

1. The category or categories of the nominee's contributions to group work and what is new or original about them
2. The specific nature and impact of the nominee's work within those categories, including at least one concrete product or outcome and evidence that others have adopted or used it

Group Work Practice Award

ASGW invites 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
- Two additional letters of support
- The nominee's abbreviated CV
- Any supplemental materials supporting the nomination (optional)

The full nomination packet must not exceed 16 pages in total, and the nomination letter must not exceed three pages.

Nomination materials should address the following:

1. The nominee's scope of practice, including
    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 the nominee has disseminated group work skills through workshops, conference presentations, supervision, or training

4. Evidence of the nominee's significant contribution to group work practice, including a de-identified description of one group the nominee designed or led, its purpose and structure, and how the nominee assessed member progress

M. Carolyn Thomas State Branch Award

ASGW invites nominations for the M. Carolyn Thomas State Branch Award, which honors the legacy of Dr. Mary Carolyn Thomas, a counselor educator and group worker who championed state-level chapters, leadership, and advocacy. This award recognizes a branch's efforts over the past year to support and promote group work practice, education, development, and advocacy within a state or region. Branches may be recognized for a range of impactful activities, including but not limited to:

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

A complete nomination packet should include:

- A nomination form listing the branch's name, state or region, contact person, and leadership team, with confirmation that branch leaders hold ASGW membership and a brief overview of branch activities
- A cover letter describing the branch's achievements, impact, and alignment with the award criteria
- A summary chart of key group work projects, programs, or initiatives from the previous year, with objectives, dates, participation numbers, and outcomes
- Evidence of impact, such as program evaluations, outcome data, success stories, testimonials, or survey results
- Evidence of compliance with Article X, Section 1 of the ASGW Bylaws

The full nomination packet must not exceed 16 pages.

Branches may nominate themselves.

ASGW Scholarships

Peg Carroll Scholarship

The ASGW Awards Committee invites 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 graduate student in counseling who is an active ASGW member and has an interest in group work is eligible to apply. Funds may be used for group work training, including workshops, coursework, certification, supervision, and registration and travel for conferences focused on group work, and should be used within 12 months of the award. Recipients submit proof of enrollment or registration for the training or conference within 6 months of the award.

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

1. There are many types of group experiences such as task and work groups, psychoeducational groups, counseling groups, and psychotherapy groups. What area interests you most and why?
2. Where would you obtain training in your area of interest? Name specific trainers, institutions, or workshop sponsors.
3. Where, and with which population, would you hope to be able to use your expertise?
4. How do you plan to assess whether 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 their written responses. Letters may come from supervisors, mentors, faculty, or other individuals familiar with the applicant's potential as a group leader.

Letters of recommendation are scored on how well they address the following topics:

1. Evidence of the applicant's ethical awareness and decision-making
2. Group leadership and facilitation skills

3. 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 supports an international student or practitioner in attending 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 scholarship.

The scholarship will be awarded to someone who:

1. Is neither a U.S. citizen nor a U.S. permanent resident and is an active ASGW member (international students studying in the United States are eligible)
2. Is currently attending graduate school in a profession related to group work anywhere in the world (or meets the exception below)
3. Demonstrates an interest in the application of group work in an international setting

Individuals who are not graduate students may also apply if they are engaged in significant group work in a country where graduate training options are limited or where they are denied access to training because of political, religious, or social identity reasons. These applicants can describe their eligibility in the written statement.

The recipient 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 recipient will also receive complimentary ASGW Conference registration.

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

1. Name of the university and degree program in which the applicant is currently enrolled or, for applicants who are not enrolled, a description of their educational background and current group work
2. A description of the applicant's educational achievements and involvement in group work
3. A description of the applicant's interest and experience in group work, especially in international contexts
4. What the applicant hopes to gain from attending the 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

ASGW offers two $250 Barbara Gazda Scholarships to support students and recent graduates in attending the ASGW Conference.

Applicants must be current ASGW members who are one of the following:

1. Students currently enrolled in a counseling or related degree program
2. 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:

1. Confirmation of ASGW membership
2. Name of the university and degree program in which the applicant is currently enrolled or from which they have recently graduated
3. 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
4. A description of the applicant's engagement in ASGW or other professional activities related to group work, such as student organizations, presentations, volunteer roles, or committee service

Appendix: Reviewer Score Sheet

Awards Committee members complete one score sheet for each nomination or application they review. Each criterion matches the table in “How Submissions Are Scored” and receives a score from 0 to 3 using the scale in that section. Nominators and applicants may use the sheet to see how reviewers will rate their materials.

Reviewer Information

Reviewer name	
Nominee or applicant	
Award or scholarship	
Date of review	
Eligibility, ASGW membership, page or word limits, signed letters, and AI disclosure statements confirmed (Yes/No)	
Reviewer is free of any conflict under the recusal rule (Yes/No)	

Eminent Career Award

Criterion	Score	Reviewer Notes
Significance of contributions to group work through research, practice, education, or advocacy		
Sustained record of excellence across the nominee's career		
National or international impact, shown through two or three specific examples		
Documented evidence in the CV and supplemental materials, supported by letters that describe directly observed work		
Total (out of 12)		
Overall comments		

Professional Advancement Award

Criterion	Score	Reviewer Notes
Significance of contributions within the named category or categories		
Innovation of the technique, theory, product, or initiative		
Evidence that others have adopted or used the work		
Documented evidence in the CV and supplemental materials, supported by letters that describe directly observed work		
Total (out of 12)		
Overall comments		

Group Work Practice Award

Criterion	Score	Reviewer Notes
Scope of practice, including types of groups, populations served, and settings		
Innovation in group work practice		
Dissemination of group work skills through training, supervision, or presentations		
Quality of the described group, including its design and the assessment of member progress		
Documented evidence in the CV and supplemental materials, supported by letters that describe directly observed work		
Total (out of 15)		
Overall comments		

M. Carolyn Thomas State Branch Award

Criterion	Score	Reviewer Notes
Range and quality of branch activities in group work over the past year		
Member participation and engagement, supported by participation numbers		
Impact of branch initiatives on group work in the state		
Documentation of activities and outcomes		
Total (out of 12)		
Overall comments		

Peg Carroll Scholarship

Criterion	Score	Reviewer Notes
Clarity of the applicant's group work interest and intended population (Questions 1 and 3)		
Specific and feasible training plan (Question 2)		
Plan for assessing progress (Question 4)		
Group experience and reflection on that experience (Question 5)		
Involvement in professional organizations (Question 6)		
Letters' evidence of the applicant's ethical awareness, group leadership and facilitation skills, and professional commitment		
Total (out of 18)		
Overall comments		

Rex Stockton Scholarship

Criterion	Score	Reviewer Notes
Educational background and achievements in group work		
Interest and experience in group work in international contexts		
Expected benefit from attending the ASGW Conference		
Strength of the letter of recommendation		
Total (out of 12)		
Overall comments		

Barbara Gazda Scholarship

Criterion	Score	Reviewer Notes
Interest and experience in group work		
Contribution of conference attendance to professional development		
Engagement in ASGW or other professional activities related to group work		
Total (out of 9)		
Overall comments		