Year to Date Report for 2017

October 2017

USA Chapter Board Members

President          Sheila Katzman
Vice President    Rebecca Myles
Treasurer          Diana Nastasia
Secretary          Nancy Cohen

Members at Large:
                  Dorothy St. Jean
                  Pragya Ghimire

Co-opted members:
                  Ivy Fassler
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Acronyms

AEJMC ................................................................................................................................. Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication
CEDAW ............................................................................................................................... Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CSW ................................................................................................................................. Commission on the Status of Women
GAMAG ............................................................................................................................. The Global Alliance for Media and Gender
NGO CSW ....................................................................................................................... NGO Committee on the Status of Women
SDGs ................................................................................................................................. Sustainable Development Goals
UNDPI ................................................................................................................................. United Nations Department of Public Information
UNICEF .............................................................................................................................. United Nations Children Fund
Message from the President

I am honored and humbled to again assume the role of President of IAWRT-USA for the second 2-year term. I am committed to amplifying the mandate of the organization and to work with each and every member to make their membership a rewarding one.

The journey from 2016 to 2017 gives me hope; I began the year with enthusiasm but also with some apprehension because of the challenges faced by the news media in the Trump era. The rampant propagation of groundless "Fake news" accusations creates uncertainty, not only for journalists but also for national and overseas populations. The impact is felt far and wide. It contaminates communication in a way that blurs the lines between truth and untruth – or between factual news and Fake News. It is most important that we become more vigilant than ever in the media professions that we hold so dear. We must continue to bring the facts to our audiences through our medium of choice and we must support each other in whatever way we can during these challenging times. Journalists are being labeled as ‘terrorists’ in some countries for reporting the truth in the charged political climate. The health of the trade is being tested in countries like Cameroon.

I am very happy to be a member of IAWRT, an organization that remains committed to empowering media women around the world. You can contact any of our colleagues in any country for your stories. It doesn’t get better than that.

Friends, this is your organization and it has a lot to offer. IAWRT-USA is a 501( c)3 non-profit organization. We are a conduit organization that allows you to use its informational and other resources as you seek funding for your projects. All we ask is that your project must fulfill the mandate of empowering women through whatever medium you use. IAWRT-USA requires you to give back to the organization six percent of whatever grants you receive.

I must let you know that IAWRT international, organize a regional conference every other year and a biennial, all of which takes place in the global south. Additionally, we participate in the UNNGO CSW Parallel events each year. It is important to note that IAWRT gets its funding from FOKUS of Norway and these funds are for engaging in the Global South.

As media women, we need allies. We should strengthen IAWRT working in tandem with Civil Society organizations, specialized agencies working on women and gender issues, and community-based organizations. IAWRT visibility and participation on a national level can only be realized through the effort of its members. These relationships further extend the mission of IAWRT to promote what you do.

In tandem with the committed Board members, we will work to provide strategic visions and operational leadership to all aspects of empowering women in the media. We can only be successful with your help. We are looking to collaborate with MIT to develop and produce a wide array of high quality and effective technological
tools for your educational and research journey, as well as your journalistic empowerment. I encourage you to play an active role in helping us in developing innovative educational tools and in organizing webinars for women. I am also inviting you to join us at any one of our board meetings. They take place every two months. Most importantly, I am inviting you to help us build up this organization and to make it relevant for you. Finally, we are looking for UN representatives, including two Youth representatives. Give us your feedback, like us on Facebook, post on twitter.

Sheila Katzman, President, IAWRT-USA
2017 Activities

This is the IAWRT-USA annual report for 2017. During this reporting period, IAWRT USA elected a new board. On April 18th, 2017, Ivy Fassler managed the election and posted the results for a new Board. The board members listed at top of this document were elected. We later co-opted Ivy Fassler.

IAWRT-USA has agreed to be a conduit for other organizations seeking funding for a percentage of that funding. Presently, we are receiving small amounts for NYC4CEDAW Act at no charge since we are leading the campaign. We can accept funds on their behalf. With our engagement is this Cities for CEDAW initiative, IAWRT-USA is becoming much more visible than just inside the walls of the UN. And because of CEDAW many parts of government are becoming aware of IWART.

Finances

In May 2017, IAWRT-USA switched banks. The Chase Manhattan account was closed and a new account was established with the Dime Savings Bank. This was done in order to enable our treasurer who lives and works in St. Louis, Missouri, to be able to act fully as treasurer. It would not be feasible for her to travel to New York to for every transaction. The Dime Bank has forwarded the documents to Diana for her to sign and notarize before sending back to the bank. Chase required all signatories on the account to be physically present in order to make those signatures. All commercial banks require physical presence to be the signatory on any account. The drawback with a local bank is that they are only in New York City.

IAWRT-USA has successfully applied for the New York State Sales Tax Exemption, which will allow IAWRT-USA to make purchases without paying sales tax. The application was processed during the NYC4CEDAW Act Rally for Women’s Rights and it helped to defray the costs of manufacturing tee shirts paid for by the New York State Nurses Association Union. We are in the process of applying for full charity status, which will allow us to access funds internationally.

IAWRT-USA and NYC4CEDAW Act

IAWRT-USA is at the forefront of change to ensure the rights of women and girls in the world’s greatest city, New York. The IAWRT-USA President leads the Cities for CEDAW Initiative in New York City working to get New York City to adopt local ordinances based on the principles of CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women). That is a credit to IAWRT. To date over 300 organizations have joined the coalition. In addition, we were invited to testify before the City Council Committee on Women Issues in May 2017. 20 organizations testified in support of the bill. We followed that up with a rally in July. Seven cities, including two counties have already adopted local ordinance implementing CEDAW: In California San Francisco led the way followed by Berkeley and Los Angeles; Honolulu. Hawaii; Miami Dade County,
NYC4CEDAW Day of Action Rally for Women’s Rights

IAWRT-USA is at the forefront of the NYC4CEDAW Act initiative. We chaired the Steering Committee that organized a massive rally for women’s rights in New York City that got some media coverage in The Nation Magazine and on the radio. Two hundred and thirty organizations and their allies turned out in support. City officials who spoke at the rally included the Deputy Borough President of Brooklyn, Diana Reyna, who conferred a Citation to Sheila on behalf of the NYC4CEDAW Act Coalition; Public Advocate, Letitia James; Council members and NY State Congressional representative Carol Maloney among them.

We recycled an old IAWRT banner that was prominently displayed as we walk from Cadman Plaza in Brooklyn across the Brooklyn Bridge to the steps of City Hall in Manhattan where we held a press conference. This phenomenal event is a credit to IAWRT specifically because the USA Chapter is the chair of this massive initiative.

United Nations Activities

The United Nation’s CSW annual session led by UN Women is a critical event on the world stage. Each year women from all walks of life come from around the world to the UN in New York, to discuss common themes of importance to their communities and those that impact the lives of women and girls globally. Two sets of events take place during this two-week period: 1) Parallel events for civil society organizations and I/NGO’s, and 2) Side Events for governments. IAWRT has special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council.
(ECOSOC), which gives us access to the ECOSOC and its subsidiaries (ECOSOC). We are one of over 4,500 organizations with this special status.

Over the last six years, IAWRT has been intimately and actively engaged at the United Nations, through NGOCSW and UN DPI/NGO and the UNESCO GAMAG. And members of the USA chapter are engaged at every level. IAWRT United Nations main representative, Sheila Katzman, continues to be engaged on the planning committee of the UN/NGO-CSW in the planning of the Parallel events. Specifically, she has worked on the CSW Handbook which lists all Parallel events and serves as a guide to those attending the conference. The IAWRT representative has also served on the committee that organizes the annual Artisan Crafts Bazaar that usually attracted an audience of over 2000 who not only saw the work of the women from Afghanistan and other places, but also purchased the exotic arts and jewelry. Proceeds from the sale goes to help the women artists who produced these fine articles on display.

We have been on the panel of experts for the NGO-CSW morning briefings on CEDAW that take place in Conference room 4 at the UN. It attracted an audience of over 1000 persons. Bandana Rana of Nepal, chaired one of these panels.

Some will remember that IAWRT was included in the UN Secretary-General Global Working Group in 2013 that shaped the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). Now that the SDGs has been adopted by the UN, we still need to ensure that we remain engaged and should implore our colleagues to be ever mindful of the 2030 Agenda for the SDGs (Click Here). We can, however, applaud ourselves for the work we have been doing as an organization.

Goals 5 – Gender Equality, 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation, 10 – Reduced inequalities, 13 – Climate Action and 16 – Peace Justice and Strong Institutions. All are fundamental to the work of IAWRT and have been reflected in our documentaries: Climate Change, Reproductive Health, Human Trafficking, and that which addresses the issues of harmful practice to girls like the FGM work done in the Cameroon.

During this reporting period, IAWRT USA helped with the coordination of 61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women by serving on the UN NGO CSW Planning Committee. We also worked with IAWRT International in coordinating the Parallel event (pix below), titled Velvet Revolution. The event included the screening of IAWRT
long-form documentary of the same title at the event, Velvet Revolution, followed by a panel discussion and an interactive discussion with audience members.

One needs some reprieve after a hectic week or two, running from one site to another to catch a Parallel event of interest. Or, after running from one conference room to the other inside the UN for a Side event of interest. To wine down with much ease, we held an after-CSW reception for the second consecutive year hosted by incomparable Eleanor Alper. Eleanor, a renowned world-class sculptor whose work has graced some the world’s best museums and the United Nations, welcomed us for the second time to her luxury apartment in fabulous Dumbo, downtown Brooklyn. Eleanor is a close friend of Frieda Werden and a friend of Sheila. Here are some pictures to give you an idea of the wonderful opportunity to unwind after a hectic two-weeks.
On 2nd November 2017, clips from the IAWRT documentary, Velvet Revolution was shown at the Event, International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists: Strengthening Implementation and the Case of Women Journalists” at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Executive Director, Nupur Basu and IAWRT-USA Sheila Katzman were at the event. Nupur was specifically invited to represent IAWRT and the film.

The panel of experts was there to discuss the murder and/or torture of journalists. This growing practice has now been recognized by the United Nations as of 2013 as a big concern. Over 900 journalists have been killed during the last decade, according to a UNESCO report. In their interactive dialogue, the group of expert panelists discussed the threat to journalists globally, particularly for journalists who live in conflict zones or under dictatorship. What was brilliant about this dialogue that makes it stand out beyond talking heads, was that they shared ideas and tools as a starting point to prevent and that can be used to protect journalists. I was particularly impressed with the work presented by Dr. Michelle Ferrier, a member of the Scripps Communication Faculty at Ohio University. She has developed an online platform called Troll Busters as a tool for fighting cyber bullying.

Getting redress is tedious for journalists who have been tainted by state actors and the same tools designed to protect us are used to attack us. Troll Busters is hopeful and has been widely recognized around the world. This platform, Dr. Ferrier said, is outside the public sphere. Journalists must be protected is the widely publicized call.

Trends on the Internet are in the form of online block and mute against women to shut them down. It puts journalist in echo chambers and does significant professional harm. Judy Taing, ARTICLE 19 Senior Officer on Gender and Sexuality said that Journalist should not have to use the same doors as everyone else and so they are
asking for different pathways. Ferrier said that Facebook and twitter are working with them already to realize this goal. If this doesn’t happen soon, the visual wildfire destroying journalist’s reputation will only get worse.

Panelists include Ambassador Maria Theofili, Greece Ambassador to the UN; Frank La Rue, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, presenting UNESCO’s ‘World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development: 2017/18 Global Report’; Nupur Basu, Independent journalist and documentary filmmaker, presenting ‘Velvet Revolution’ film; Sonali Samarasinghe Wickrematunge, award winning investigative journalist and editor Judy Taing, ARTICLE 19 Senior Officer on Gender and Sexuality, presenting project ‘#SpeakingUp: Freedom of Expression to Counter Technology-related Violence Against Women’; Michelle Ferrier, Associate Professor of Journalism, Ohio University, founder of TrollBusters; and Christophe Deloire, Director-General of Reporters Without Borders. Penelope Manis, Senior Director of Programming, CNN International moderated the event.
Velvet Revolution Screening in New York City

It was truly a pleasure for us to host a screening of the IAWRT feature-length documentary, Velvet Revolution, at the prestigious Anthology Film Archives in New York. The film won Best Film in the feature-length segment at the Global Film Festival in Kashmir. IAWRT-USA was pleased with the event, which included a panel discussion with notable women including, Debra Zimmerman, Executive Director of Women Make Movies; Sedge Akarcesmi, chief editor, Today’s Zaman, the banned Turkish newspaper; Olivia Tumanjong, Journalist of Cameroon Radio and Television and Sara Rafsky, Researcher for Committee to Protect Journalists. USA Chapter Vice President, Rebecca Myles, moderated and Chapter Secretary Nancy Cohen arranged for the event space and for
Ms. Zimmerman’s participation. A thank you wine and cheese reception was held after the event to make the evening a splendid one.

IAWRT board made a unanimous decision to act as financial conduit for organizations trying to access donor funds in exchange for a set percentage of funds received. Funds must fall within our mandate for non-profit work around human rights issues and particularly on women and gender. The first organization to take advantage of this opportunity was the NYC4CEDAW Act, chaired by IAWRT-USA president. We are not charging a fee as the amounts received thus far is too small an amount and IAWRT USA is the Chair of the NYC4CEDAW Act Initiative, which has received two citations from the Borough of Brooklyn, by Borough President, Eric L. Adams and presented by Deputy Borough President, Diana Reyna.

Former Secretary of IAWRT-USA, Ivy Fassler, one of the founders of the USA chapter, has relocated to Colorado and taken up a new job with National Cinemedia. Ivy’s employer is generously making a annual donations of $800.00 to the charity of Ivy’s choice, IAWRT-USA. We appreciate Ivy’s confidence in her chapter to award it with such an honor, which opens the door to enabling us to seek other grants. When she told our meeting that she had identified IAWRT-USA as a recipient of this annual matching fund we were very excited. This is our first donor fund and we want to thank Ivy on behalf of IAWRT-USA. While the money was donated in July 2016 it was not received by IAWRT-USA until January due to confusion as a result of the death of our treasurer, Diane Bailey.

This vision of IAWRT International has been its engagements in the Global South. The sole funder, FOKUS (Forum for Women in Development), has a goal to support women in the global south; an IAWRT chapter in
North America is not eligible to receive this funding. For the US chapter to achieve IAWRT-USA vision 2020 (which was presented three years ago to the parent organization), it must look at the vision statement with a US/North American lens and modify that vision to make IAWRT an organization that we can be passionate about. That passion must include media women in all the Americas, particularly those who are struggling to use their talents and expertise, but lack the strategies or resources. Government-controlled media has for decades told people what to think and this has greatly impacted the lives of ordinary women and girls.

We also discussed the lack of resources and mentorship opportunities for journalism students in the USA and how we might engage with them. Funding for research for this is needed and we have already begun to seek donors to fund our projects.

Through the NYC4CEDAW Act Initiative, we have been liaising with MIT Solve (Massachusetts Institute of technology). Solve’s mission is to “cultivate a community to discover, evaluate, and advance technological solution to global problems.” We are exploring how IAWRT and Solve can find common grounds to collaborate. This initiative is of benefit to IAWRT and we are hopeful that funding doors will be open once we begin knocking.

MIT President L. Rafael Reif announced Solve in 2014, when the series first convened last fall. “At MIT, we want to do good for the world ... With Solve, we want to accelerate positive change.” This too is enshrined in the mandate of IAWRT. MIT Solve has expressed interest in our proposed South-South initiative to host a women’s media camp in the Caribbean next October.

A high-level closed CSW meeting was held at the United Nations Association of America, a Ted Turner initiative of the UN on March 11th, to discuss the Cities for CEDAW Initiative and the SDG’s. Over 30 representatives from
cities across the US attended this daylong meeting. IAWRT UN representative and chair of NYC for CEDAW reported on the status of the NYC initiative. We also participated in four panel discussions during the CSW.
Summary of 2017 Finances

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2017 Revenue

2017 Expenses
Who’s Who on the New Board

Sheila Katzman, President – 2nd Term
IAWRT’s Chief UN Representative, Sheila Dallas-Katzman, has been recruited to the CSW59 Planning committee for the second time. She has been the Chair of Cities for CEDAW, leading a coalition of over 300 human rights and civil rights organizations. Her role is to champion local ordinances for a Bill of Rights Law ensuring the rights of women and girls in New York City and neighboring cities based on the CEDAW Convention. A major law firm has joined the group to draft the bill pro bono, first draft of principles has been completed. The Bill will include a gender analysis component to help the city in identifying gender inequities. Already she has been meeting with key women in New York City on the matter, including the First Lady of New York, the Mayor, and the Chair of the Committee on Women’s Issues. She has developed a strategy for public outreach. She has been actively promoting IAWRT in the process. She also serves on the Mayor’s Leadership team in New York City.

Rebecca Myles, Vice President – 2nd Term
Rebecca Myles is a multimedia, multi-platform, award-winning reporter in general assignment news stories. She produces daily stories for RT America and as a New York correspondent for Radio France International and often comments on events in America. Rebecca hosts her own show at WBAI, Pacifica Radio. She trains news interns and volunteers. She’s also a trained fundraiser having raised funds for Cambridge University, Royal Court Theatre, Horace Mann School, Art in General and WBAI Pacifica Radio. Member, Newswomen’s Club NY. Involved with Dance Parade New York. Volunteers at New York’s oldest food cooperative. Follow her on Twitter @RebMyles.

Diana Nastasia, Treasurer – 1st Term
Diana Iulia Nastasia is an international lecturer and scholar, currently a Faculty Fellow and Project Management Associate at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. In her home country of Romania, she has taught communication and media studies at the Romanian-American University, University of Bucharest, and the National University for Political Studies and Public Administration. In the United States, where she arrived as a Fulbright Visiting Researcher and subsequently pursued a Ph.D. in Communication and Public Discourse at the University of North Dakota and another graduate program in Educational Leadership at Southern Illinois University, she has taught communication and media studies at several universities and colleges in North Dakota, Missouri, and Illinois. Dr. Nastasia’s research focuses on voices and portrayals of marginalized populations including women, children, and immigrants, and for her research projects she has been awarded grants by the International Association of Women in Radio and Television, the International Women’s Media Foundation, the European Institute for Gender Equality, Internationales Zentralinstitut für das Jugend- und Bildungsfernsehen based in Munich, Germany, and the Social Science Research Council. She has published chapters in edited volumes at Routledge, Palgrave, Peter Lang, Nova, and Fordham University Press as well as articles in U.S. and European journals, and she has made over 150 research presentations at national and international levels. She currently has a co-authored book on the media coverage of the 2011 Japan disasters...
well as several other publications forthcoming or in press. Dr. Nastasia has also been involved in numerous university and community service activities aimed at democratizing knowledge and improving the functions of media in society, served on the International Communication Association Board of Directors and on the editorial boards of several journals.

Nancy Cohen, Secretary – 2nd Term

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 post-production on a film about John Lennon’s power to inspire entitled Something About John, Here. Her first film, My Dinner With Abbie, produced and directed 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. Blogger at Huffington Post. She directed a film about film about women and magical powers called Which Witch? and a second film on London’s first mayoral elections, Malcolm McLaren – Not For Sale. for Channel 4 UK. She goes back and forth between 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 awards 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.

Board Members-at-Large

Dorothy Saint Jean

Dorothy Saint Jean is currently a Post-Producer at FCB Health in New York City that provides clients with multichannel capabilities, including payer strategy and marketing, professional education, video production, strategic planning and media services.
Pragya Ghimire

Pragya Ghimire is a journalist.

Co-opted Board Member

Ivy Fassler

Ivy Fassler is at National Cinemedia, America’s largest cinema advertising network. She is a founding member of IAWRT-USA.

UN Youth Representative

Linnea Edorosson

Linnea Edorosson works in Business Development at Cesari Media.
NGO CSW62 Forum

NGO CSW62 Forum will take place March 11-23, 2018 in and around the United Nations. This year the focus is on:

**THEMES:**

*Priority theme:*
Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls;

*Review theme:*
Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women (agreed conclusions of the forty-seventh session).

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

NGO CSW62 Forum Registration opens 1 November, 2017- 7 March, 2018

*Consultation Day* 11 March, 2018 at the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC)

*Reception* 13 March, 2018 from 6.00pm to 8.00pm at the New York University Kimmel Center.

**Parallel Events**

Registration: 15 November- 15 December, 2017

Notification: 15 January, 2018

Final acceptance: 22 January, 2018

**Cities for CEDAW Initiative**

*A CEDAW Compliant city:*

- A city that monitors its policies and programs impacting women and girls.
- A city that ensures girls and women have the same rights as boys and men in economic and social lives.
- A city that ends domestic abuse and violence against women.
- A city that suppresses all forms of traffic in women and the exploitation of prostitution of women.
- A city that eliminates economic and sex discrimination against women in employment.
- A city that eliminates gender disparities in healthcare.

For more information: nyc4cedaw.org
Section J of Beijing Platform for Action
On Women and Media

Strategic objective J.1. - Beijing Platform for action
Increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision-making in and through the media and new technologies of communication

Actions to be taken

239. By Governments:

a. Support women's education, training and employment to promote and ensure women's equal access to all areas and levels of the media;

b. Support research into all aspects of women and the media so as to define areas needing attention and action and review existing media policies with a view to integrating a gender perspective;

c. Promote women's full and equal participation in the media, including management, programming, education, training and research;

d. Aim at gender balance in the appointment of women and men to all advisory, management, regulatory or monitoring bodies, including those connected to the private and State or public media;