

**Vermont Association for Psychoanalytic Studies**  
**Division 39 Report - April 2017**  
**Submitted by Charles Rossi**

**1. Structure**

A. Current Officers

President: Gerri Oppedisano, PhD

Past President: Jeannie Pieniadz, PhD

President Elect: None presently

Division 39 Representative: Charles Rossi, M.A.

Treasurer / Newsletter Editor: Brian Ashley, M.A.

Secretary: Aleta Vail, Ph.D.

Does VAPS participate in Division 39 CE Program?

Not to my knowledge. I would be interested to hear more about this.

B. Membership

Division 39 members: 26

Psychologists: 32

Social Workers: 6

Graduate Students: 4

Psychiatrists: 7

LCSW: 12

C. Diversity

VAPS does not track this information.

**II. Governance Function**

VAPS has established a well-articulated set of by-laws that informs the procedures for operating the organization. The Executive Committee meets four times a year. These meetings are organized around presentations given by each committee chair and minutes are taken. They utilize a consensus model with regards to decision making with the additional understanding that the current President may make final decisions. Additionally there is an Annual Business Meeting that is open to the entire membership. The Annual Business Meeting has both a business and an educational component.

**III. Programming 2016**

In November of 2016 VAPS had the unfortunate circumstance of having to cancel a full day event just days before it was to take place. VAPS had made arrangements for Marilia Aisentein, a french analyst from Paris, to speak on November 5th in

Vermont. Unfortunately Dr. Aisenstein's husband passed away just days before she was to speak, which led to the cancelation of her travels and the event. While completely understandable this left VAPS with the loss of programming and a financial loss.

VAPS' annual Business Meeting was held February 14th of 2016. The Business Meeting is a combination of administrative reports from the President and Committee Chairs along with an educational / cultural presentation. This past Business meeting featured a film called "Sweet Dreams". "Sweet Dreams" is film about a collective of women from Rwanda after the catastrophic genocide that occurred in that country. The collective of women includes women from the two primary ethnic groups that were involved in the genocide. The collective started out as a drumming group made up of women which in itself was a significant break from tradition. The movie documents the collective as they attempt to start up a new business. This story is intertwined with the history of the genocide and how it personally impacted the lives of the women in the group. It was both beautifully told story and a powerful movie.

## **B. (Education/Training (Courses, etc.)**

Aside from the conferences VAPS organizes and presents, VAPS is not involved in any educational or training programs. There are two analytic programs in Vermont and numerous analytically oriented study groups, these all exist outside the auspices of VAPS.

## **C. Other Professional Events**

None

## **D. Public Programs**

The Applied Psychoanalysis Committee has hosted several film screenings in 2016. These screenings are done in conjunction with the film department at Middlebury College. These events involve viewing a film and followed with a dinner and discussion of the film. These events provide a means for VAPS to be involved with a valuable institution for higher education in the Vermont community.

## **IV. Key Initiatives or innovations this year**

This past year VAPS disseminated a survey to it's members. The survey was designed to explore members' needs regarding the organization itself and what types of programming members would like to see in the future .

VAPS is currently involved in a couple of initiatives. First, we are in the process of creating a presentation that can serve as an introduction to the psychoanalytic

model for graduate and undergraduate programs in psychology. The purpose of this initiative is to bring information about VAPS and psychoanalytic studies in general to students and faculty alike. A second initiative VAPS is currently working on is developing a mentoring program to assist post-graduates and early career professionals.

## **V. Current Challenges**

One of our biggest challenges right now is keeping the organization alive by bringing in more committee and board members. The more experienced people have put in their volunteer time and have moved on to other things. Meanwhile some of the younger people are not quite ready to step into leadership roles. So facilitating a fund of leaders or a "deep bench", as they say in the sports world, is a current challenge.

A second challenge is keeping our eyes open to new psychoanalytic ideas and the actual content of what we are trying to keep alive, while we are busy protecting it.

## **VI. What I want to learn from other chapters.**

VAPS has recently redesigned its website along with the technological capacities of the website. I am interested in finding out from other local chapters how they have set up a list serve. The goal is for VAPS members to have communication on an on-going basis with one another.