



ISRVA – Second Annual Report – December, 2018

The purpose of the International Social Role Valorization Association

- ▶ **“To promote SRV development, education, assessment, and leadership to assist people and organizations to implement SRV concepts so that vulnerable people may have access to the good things of life.”**

This is our second annual report to our members, and it comes at the end of a successful second year of operations, as well as with our participation at the 7th International SRV conference that was held in June 2018 in Winnipeg, Manitoba (MB), Canada.

Brief History

After the International SRV conference held in Canberra in September 2011, there was some concern that SRV might not survive Dr. Wolfensberger’s recent passing (Feb 2011). A few of us (Elizabeth Neuville, Guy Caruso and Raymond Lemay) on our way back home from Canberra imagined that a permanent international structure should be established to provide long term institutional support – something like an international association. We then prepared a position paper elaborating on the idea and presented it to the North American SRV Council (NASRVC), and after a lengthy discussion set up a committee to further develop the idea. From the outset, it was clear that though members of the NASRVC were actively involved in the development of this project, any new entity stemming from our work would be separate from the North American Council.

The original committee included Jo Massarelli, Beth French (who has since passed away), Betsy Neuville, Joe Osburn, Guy Caruso, PhD, and Raymond Lemay. John Armstrong, a senior leader in Australia, was also quite helpful in the early going and participated in early discussions and quite graciously transferred to the association the socialrolevalorization.com website that he had developed and managed for years.

The committee met a number of times, including multiple day meetings in Worcester MA and Kingston ON, reached out with a survey and interviews to SRV groups and aficionados around the world, and reworked and transformed the original position paper into statement of purpose and description of activities – the latest version of which is available on the socialrolevalorization.com website.

After much discussion and some procrastination, we decided to move forward and start the ISRVA with a membership drive.

A number of organizations have been instrumental in moving this project forward. They include:

- Valor Institute, Plantagenet, Ontario, Canada
- Shriver Clinical Services, Wakefield, Massachusetts, United States
- Family Lives, Massachusetts USA
- Keystone Institute, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, United States
- Community Ventures in Living, Lafayette, Indiana, United States

ISRVA website: www.socialrolevalorization.com

ISRVA accomplishments this past year (2018)

ISRVA Leadership Council: The Leadership Council that includes Jo Massarelli, Betsy Neuville, Joe Osburn, Guy Caruso and Raymond Lemay met throughout the year by teleconference and on three occasions in person. The Leadership Council members do not receive compensation from ISRVA.

ISRVA Memberships: ISRVA had another successful membership year with 103 individuals and organizations joining for another membership year. All in all ISRVA has representation from 8 Countries over 4 continents. Membership generated about \$25,000 (US) and allowed us to make improvements to our websites, and subsidize a number of activities as listed below.

ISRVA websites:

www.socialrolevalorization.com: ISRVA has been managing the socialrolevalorization.com website for the past few years, and we have decided it is time to refresh the site with a new design. We are in the process of getting submissions from 3 web-design companies and plan to launch the new design early in the New Year. In the meantime, many articles and other SRV-related documents on the website remain freely available. Last year we added a global training calendar that many training groups are using to post notices of their training activities. We have also added lists of trainers and training groups that include contact information. As of this writing, the website has been visited over 165,000 times since last year and a total of 405,000 times over the past 4 years. The website contains links to the SRV Journal, published by the Social Role Valorization implementation Project (SRVIP), and includes a portal to the Valor Press Bookstore where many SRV-related works are available for purchase.

www.wolfwolfensberger.com: Early in 2017 and with considerable help from Susan Thomas of the Syracuse University Training Institute, the all new legacy website in honor of Dr. Wolf Wolfensberger was launched. The site contains biographical information, eulogies and articles on Dr. Wolfensberger's considerable accomplishments, videos, and access to some of his writings. Changes to the website are not planned for in the foreseeable future, but we will be adding materials and have been working towards having a personal and professional timeline of his life, achievements, and contributions.

FACEBOOK presence: Members of the ISRVA are quite active on SRV Facebook pages, though we do see the importance of increasing such activity. Early in the New Year, ISRVA will be launching a new

Facebook page specifically for announcing and reporting on SRV related training events. This should further enhance the “training culture” that is at the heart of SRV dissemination.

ISRVA YouTube channel: The ISRVA is in the process of setting up a curated SRV YouTube channel for the purpose of bringing together videos that can be used to teach and illustrate SRV. This work is close to being completed, and we plan to launch the channel early in the New Year. Many members have contributed to developing the list, so thank you for this.

Ongoing collaboration with the Wolfensberger Archives. We continue to support and assist the Wolfensberger Archives team at the University of Nebraska Medical Center’s McGoogan Library to make Dr. Wolfensberger’s writings available on the digital commons. As the Archives secure copyright permissions, they are posting out-of-print publications on the digital commons. Of note, Heather Brown, the McGoogan Library lead for the archives, attended the 7th international SRV conference that was held in Winnipeg MB.

- **Visiting Scholar program:** The visiting scholar project was initiated by Joan Wolfensberger and co-funded by the Wolfensberger family and ISRVA. This past year the visiting scholar project allowed University of Illinois PhD student Drew Egli to spend a week at the archives after which he wrote a report on research possibilities related to the archives. He has also submitted a paper for the next AAIDD annual conference and a blog on the experience that will appear soon.
- **Support to the curation of the archives:** ISRVA also subsidized a visit to the Archives by Susan Thomas who spent a week going through Dr. Wolfensberger’s unpublished manuscripts, and helped develop a list of audio recordings of Dr Wolfensberger’s teaching for future digitization.

Grant application: ISRVA developed and submitted a grant request from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation on the application of SRV to the social problem of isolation. Although not funded, the opportunity allowed us to develop high quality materials and a solid program conception for future grant applications.

7th International Social Role Valorization Conference that was held in Winnipeg from June 6 to 8, 2018, Winnipeg Manitoba: The conference, planned and hosted by the University of Manitoba, was a great event, with excellent content, and good participation. 125 participants from 6 countries took part in a lively and engaging conference, and Winnipeg was a beautiful city that provided great weather and bountiful amenities. The ISRVA was pleased to be present in force , and hosted a cocktail party for all participants on the first evening of the conference and the ISRVA leadership council was present at an association table to answer questions and take membership registrations. additionally, the leadership council presented a breakout session on ISRVA.

8th International Social Role Valorization Conference: The next conference will likely be held in Ireland in 2021. An organizing committee is currently being established and ISRVA will be there, and will provide ongoing support.

Wolfensberger Festschrift in 2022: The ISRVA is collaborating with the McGoogan Library Wolfensberger archives are in the planning stage of a Festschrift to celebrate Wolf Wolfensberger’s many

intellectual contributions, and his life. The year 2022 will be the 11th year since his death, and we are planning on gathering Dr. Wolfensberger's students, assistants, colleagues, and friends for a two-day event in early June, in Omaha at the University of Nebraska. A variety of speakers will present their views on Wolfensberger's contributions on Normalization, SRV, Program Evaluation, Advocacy including Citizen Advocacy, and many other subjects that are identified with Wolfensberger's life work. As mentioned, this event is still in the early stages of planning stages, and more about this will come over the next year.

2019 ISRVA Membership Support & Renewal

This is our brief report on our second year of activity. The long term goal is institutional support for SRV dissemination and implementation. We believe that SRV can make a difference and that it is an idea that is particularly relevant for the current era. ISRVA needs your support to continue its work. Currently a small cadre of volunteers manages the few products and services that we have on offer. Eventually we will need to staff these functions – for instance to make the websites more dynamic and to organize yet more international activities. ISRVA is an organization that should grow and become increasingly active to support local dissemination, teaching and implementation initiatives. ISRVA cannot replace local initiatives but it can be instrumental in providing supports.

Please renew your membership. And if you are not a member, please join our effort.

<http://www.socialrolevalorization.com/en/become-a-member>

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Massarelli, Betsy Neuville, Joe Osburn, Guy Caruso and Raymond Lemay