



ISRVA – First Annual Report December, 2017

The purpose of the International Social Role Valorization Association (ISRVA).

- ▶ **“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 first annual report to our members, and it comes at the end of a successful first year of operations and our historic first activity bringing together members from a number of countries to discuss future development of ISRVA.

Brief History

After the Canberra International SRV conference in September 2011, there was some concern that SRV might not survive Dr. Wolfensberger’s recent passing (Feb 2011). A few of us (Elizabeth “Betsy” Neville, 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 Neville, Joe Osburn, Guy Caruso and Raymond Lemay. John Armstrong was also quite helpful in the early going and participated in early discussions and quite graciously transferred to the association the www.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. The current volunteer leadership council of ISRVA is made up of Betsy Neuville, Jo Massarelli, Guy Caruso, Joe Osburn and Raymond Lemay.

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

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

Early ISRVA accomplishments

The new ISRVA is a fledgling organization with modest resources, but we have been active in setting up the association, and developing some initial and basic products and services.



ISRVA website: As mentioned above, ISRVA has been managing the socialrolevalorization.com website for the past few years, and has changed it substantially. There are still freely available articles and other SRV related documents, but we have added a

world-training calendar that many trainers are using to post their training activities. We have also added lists of trainers and training groups that include contact information. The website has been visited over 240,000 times in the past 3 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.

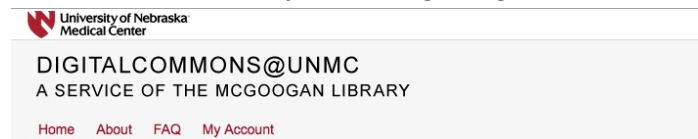
Wolfwolfensberger.com: Early in 2017 and with considerable help from Susan Thomas of the Syracuse University Training Institute, we launched the all new legacy website in honor of Dr. Wolf Wolfensberger. The site contains biographical information, eulogies and articles on Dr. Wolfensberger's considerable accomplishments, videos, and access to some of his writings.



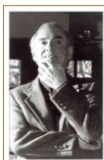
Ongoing collaboration with the Wolfensberger archives at the University of Nebraska Medical Center's McGoogan Library. We have extended our assistance to the Wolfensberger Archives team to make Dr. Wolfensberger's writings available on the digital commons. The 1972 bestselling book, **"The Principle of**

Normalization", and all of Dr Wolfensberger's **TIPs** newsletters are now available at <http://digitalcommons.unmc.edu/wolf/>. More out of print books and monographs should soon be available.

ISRVA first membership drive: Beginning in the fall of 2016, we commenced the first ever membership



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WOLFENSBERGER COLLECTION

drive for ISRVA. As of November 1st we had 117 individual members and 35 Founding, Sustaining, Organizational and Contributing Members. All in all, ISRVA has representation from 10 Countries over 4 continents. The membership drive generated 20,000\$ (US) and allowed us to make improvements to our websites, and subsidize the ISRVA Irish event in October 2017.

FACEBOOK presence – Members of the ISRVA are quite active on SRV Facebook

pages, though we do see the importance of increasing such activity.

ISRVA October 2017 inaugural event in Ireland: To organize this event we reached out to our membership and a variety of SRV groups that we knew to be active around the world. 37 participants from 8 countries showed up and got together for dinner at the Fox Rock Golf Course just outside of Dublin on October 12th. Mary Kealy, our host from Ireland, opened the event and after the main course, participants heard from Betsy Neuville, Guy Caruso and Raymond Lemay about the brief history, but especially about the goals, of the new International SRV Association. Dining together with other SRV teachers from 8 countries was a treat in itself.



The next day, on Friday the 13th, we met again but this time at the Taylor Center in County Bray where Michael Kendrick facilitated the proceedings and guided us through a series of presentations from representatives of 8

different countries. Each presenter had been called upon to provide a brief update on SRV related activities in their countries. There is much going on. The reports received included:

- Raymond Lemay on Canada
- Guy Caruso on the USA
- Julie Allan on the U.K.
- Mary Kealy and Charlotte Knight on Ireland
- Oxana Costandaki and Sergio Toma, on the Republic of Moldova
- Raymond Lemay presented a PPT on the CEDIS in France

- Jacques Serpette and Alain-Paul Perrou presented another series of French initiatives
- Jack Vermeulen on Holland;
- Nidhi Singhal and Betsy Neuville on India
- Michael Kendrick reported on Australia/New Zealand

The national reports generated comment and questions. Later in the afternoon, Thomas Neuville, Professor at Millersville University (Pennsylvania), facilitated a large group discussion on the bona fides of the association, but especially about future priorities. That an international association was required did not seem controversial, indeed participants came up with many ideas and priorities that the ISRVA needed to attend to. SRV has never seemed more relevant, but there is a need to renovate dissemination practices, and develop new training events and implementation strategies. A robust ISRVA could be put to good use to move SRV dissemination in the right direction. We will report more fully on the event separately.

7th International SRV conference



The next international SRV conference is to be held in Winnipeg Manitoba (Canada), and is being organized by Professor Zana Lutfiyya, a long

time SRV teacher, and the University of Manitoba. More information is available on socialrolevalorization.com and more directly at the conference website:

<http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/education/conferences/srv2018.html>.

The ISRVA plans to host a cocktail party at the event, and our proposal for a concurrent session has been accepted.

Implementation Group

The ISRVA supported an Implementation Mini-Conference, held in 2018, resulting in a series of development meetings led by Karin Bonesteel, Dustin Green, Betsy Neuville, Jo Massarelli, and Mark Tumeinski. This resulted in the development of an SRV “Implementation Protocol”, used as a basis for discovering tactics and strategies used by numerous organizations and individuals to implement SRV practices. This group’s work will be published on a section of the website to be used as reference materials for those interested in implementation.

2018 Membership

This is our brief report on our first year of activity. ISRVA is a fledgling organization. The long term goal is institutional support for SRV dissemination and implementation. We think 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 can't 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>

A Future Look

We look towards 2018 to continue the implementation work just begun, to offer an increasingly stronger 'public face' for SRV, to explore the development of implementation projects, and to pursue the development of Dr. Wolfensberger's archives at the McGoogan Library at University of Nebraska. We are in the beginning stages of planning for a celebration of Dr. Wolfensberger's life work in 2021. As well, members can expect the websites to be maintained, and a larger social media presence. We are supporting the final editing of Wolf's book on Model Coherency, and look to have a busy and fruitful 2018.

Respectfully Submitted for the ISRVA

Raymond Lemay
Joseph Osburn
Jo Massarelli
Betsy Neuville
Guy Caruso