

The SRV Council :
SRV Development, Training and Safeguarding Council

Statements of Definition, Identity, & Functioning

The following statements were accepted by the Council members at their June 11, 1993 meeting in Plantagenet (Ontario) Canada.

Self-Definition

The members of the SRV Development, Training and Safeguarding Council understand SRV theory to be useful and valid in terms of understanding and addressing social devaluation. While appreciating its limitations we are committed to working towards its continued evolution and improvement. Overall, the general purpose of the Council is to maintain and/or enhance the quality of SRV-related teaching and training. This work might include issues of the conceptualization of SRV; the contents of teaching; its formats; SRV-related leadership; the organizational arrangements pertaining to SRV teaching, training, and development; and how implementation relates to teaching and training.

The Council will strive to maintain an atmosphere of openness in regard to analysis and critique of issues related to its identity and purpose.

The primary locus of the group's activity is North America, but it offers membership, correspondent, or observer status to persons from elsewhere who meet the respective criteria and are willing and able to function in these roles. The Council is also prepared to share fruits of its work with selected parties outside North America, and may deal with issues laid before it by such parties.

Criteria for Membership

There are two clusters of qualification for membership.

1. A person is qualified to be an independent trainer at SRV workshops that qualify participants to attend 2-site standard PASSING workshops, and this person meets two additional criteria.

a. This person has been involved at least periodically during the preceding two years in either conducting, participating in, designing, or monitoring SRV-related events and materials.

b. The person has a record of having displayed, and continues to display, behavior consistent with a leadership style, such as: protecting the integrity of SRV, the quality of training events, and the quality and integrity of SRV dissemination materials; displaying ethical behavior in regard to use of materials and publications; etc.

2. A person not fully qualified by the first criterion may nonetheless be invited as a member (but not automatically so if the person has been to at least one leadership ladder introductory SRV workshop, plus one 2-site standard PASSING workshop, and in addition meets at least one of the following criteria.

× a. The person is near to achieving senior SRV trainer status, and there is every reason to expect that he/she will.

× b. The person has an established record of commitment to SRV, and of promoting SRV-related training events, and has been closely involved in non-trainer roles in such promotion on repeated occasions during the preceding three years.

× c. The person plays a critical role in promoting SRV in a country where senior SRV trainership is still undeveloped, or underdeveloped. However, the number of such participants from any one single country outside North America shall remain limited.

× d. The person meets criterion 1b.

A separate section of this statement deals with expectations regarding the conduct of the work of the group at, and between, meetings. However, expectations specifically linked to being a member include that members make every effort to attend at least the majority of meetings.

The Council reserves the right to exercise flexibility in regard to these criteria.

While the council itself is the ultimate decision-maker over who should be a member, qualified and active SRV or PASSING trainers should only be excluded for very serious reasons, examples being disdain for the purposes of the Council, or willful non attendance.

Correspondent Status

The council may accord correspondent status to non-members. Correspondents receive the same mailings that members receive, and are expected to treat these on the same level of confidentiality as members would. Correspondents may also submit documents to the membership, and suggest agenda items.

Correspondents are expected to endorse the purpose of the group's existence, and are selected on the basis of the following additional criteria.

1 The person might be deemed qualified for full membership, but is not able to attend meetings on a reasonably regular basis, perhaps because of residence overseas, bodily infirmity, or other major impediments.

2 The person is a former member who is no longer active, but wishes to remain informed, and to be kept in a position to communicate with the group as a whole.

3 The Council reserves the right to exercise flexibility in regard to these criteria and will periodically review the active status of correspondents.

Observer Status

For any one specific meeting of the Council, a small number of people may be permitted or invited to be present as observers for all or part of a meeting. Observers are expected to abstain from participation in the discussions unless called upon by the moderator(s). Observers may also request of the moderator(s), before a meeting or during a break, to be permitted to speak to a specific issue.

If the meeting group of regular members is large, then observers are expected to sit on the periphery of the group so that the interaction process of regular members, and their physical and aural proximity to each other, is not impeded.

Observer status will only be accorded very selectively, and ordinarily only to persons who endorse, or are in close sympathy with, the purpose of the group's existence, and who have a solid understanding of SRV. This understanding should have been acquired by successful attendance at at least one introductory SRV and PASSING workshop, and usually also successful performance as a PASSING team leader.

Observer status is accorded for only one meeting at a time. Each additional attendance, if any, as an observer has to be approved separately.

The Council may invite people to be observers at specific meetings.

A person who wishes to be an observer at a meeting should contact either the "agenda-meisters" or the moderator for a meeting with their request. (Any member can tell an enquirer who those people are). They will inform all the members of the request; if any member has an objection for any reason, the member must inform the "agenda-meisters" and/or the moderator who will discuss the objection together with that member, and decide whether to have the enquirer as an observer. The "agenda-meisters" and/or the moderator will inform the enquirer of the decision.

People who the Council agrees to have as observers are expected to abide by the rules for observers (see first paragraph in

this section).

Expectations Regarding the Conduct of Members of the Council At and Between Meetings

1 We strive for a spirit of friendship within our group, including putting up with each other's weaknesses and foibles.

2 We try to function at the lowest feasible level of formality.

3 When we discuss business, we do it all together. If a member has to leave the room, the business discussion stops until the member returns. For this reason, members try, if at all possible, not to leave the room unnecessarily, or unnecessarily often.

4 Outside of the meetings as well, members all try of developments relevant to the group's identity, purpose, and mission, and not to spring surprises on some members of the group that other members of the Council have been privy to for some time already.

5 We recognize that each member has gifts and strengths, and weaknesses. Where tasks need to be assumed or distributed within the group, we strive for concordance between a member's gifts/strengths and tasks.

6 We all try to attend the meetings if possible, and not miss any meetings without good reason. Because cohesive group functioning and continuity are so important, any member who misses two meetings in a row will be asked to make a serious commitment to attendance. If this is impossible then he/she may be invited to become a correspondent at least for the time being.

7 We try to assist each other in whatever ways we can so that as many members as possible can attend the meetings.

8 Members strive to retain consciousness of their obligation to express any dissent or reservations they may have on an issue that seems to be moving toward consensus. "Silence implies consent."

9 Members will strive to interact directly with one another regarding concerns, critiques, and issues that may arise.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Guy Caruso

Tom Doody

Darcy Miller-Elks

Robert Flynn

Beth French

Michael Kendrick

Kristjana Kristiansen

Raymond Lemay

Jo Massarelli

Joe Osburn

Jacques Pelletier

Debi Reidy

Judith Sandys

Susan Thomas

Wolf Wolfensberger

Jack Yates