

President's report 2025

Historically, the General Meeting for PREPSEC International occurred at our bi-annual conferences. Can you believe that the last one was in Budapest in 2019? We have had a few hurdles since then, due both to a small global “health” issue and the fallout from that. Budgets have tightened up in our field and, it seems, networking and training have borne the brunt of it.

BUT, today, here we are and I wish to thank you all for taking the time on a Sunday to come together. The Executive Board, with input from members, has not been sleeping.

Let me share, and honor, the initiatives of our colleagues:

The Board has met, on an average, for an hour 5 times a year, on Sundays at this same time. We are grateful to Kelli Dillingham Parcher, as both president and past president, for getting up for a 7 am meeting on a precious Sunday morning and thank you, European members, for cutting short Sunday family time. Let it be known, however, that this time was a democratic decision!

During the COVID years, we produced a series of videos on ZOOM: Guidelines for being a dynamic online trainer, how to incorporate Motivational Interviewing into your session, integrating activity into PREPARE programs, and adapting ART (AART) for specific needs.

As a follow up to this, we piloted the PREPARE Café as a forum for networking for new and seasoned members. Attendance was low so we have put the Café on the back burner.

Thanks to an amazing IT department, namely Cecylia and Kris Bieganowska, our website got a major facelift and continues to develop as the need arises.

On the website, you will see 10 Lines articles that have been posted an average of 9 times a year since 2020, and all publications remain on our website to refer to. We invite you all to contribute: please write in your mother tongue and we shall translate, get your approval, and post on the website in both languages. This has been done twice from francophone members

There are many projects and discussions going on now. Most prominent are a revision of Moral Reasoning Training, an online publication of the Swedish Staff Skills Training Manual, and how we can offer trainings in these challenging times. Others shall discuss these shortly.

At the moment we have 168 registered members coming from 16 countries

We all believe in the value of Social Emotional Learning and that ART, AART and PREPARE programs are an excellent way to train our youth and families in a better way to relate to each other and the world around them. These times are very challenging, and it is often difficult to find our place in it but we must keep on trying.

Thank you all for keeping the flame burning.

Respectfully submitted
Kimberlee Parker