

[name] An Association for Biography Work
MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENTS

Statement of participation:

Due to the diversity of vocational aims and individual circumstances of each biography worker / facilitator / coach / guide, [name], an association for biography work, deliberately refrains from promoting the adoption of fixed criteria for training and ways of working as a precondition for belonging and recognition. Instead, [name / the association for biography work] strives to establish and maintain a high degree of participation – through collegial collaboration and engagement, mentorship, shared projects, on-going study, circle work, conferences, and more – which yields professionalism, ensures recognition of each individual, creates a natural sense of belonging, and serves the impulse of biography work. (inspired by ITF; see Addenda)

Keys:

- **participation** – Belonging means actively associating. It is critical that each member work in collegiality, that is, be engaged with one's peers, through circle work, conferences, working partnerships, faculty relationships, mentoring relationships, etc. The strength of the association depends on our devotion to a culture of participation.
- **agreements** – Agreements are the foundation of association, foremost is our agreement around best practices; and then, around organizational life as well, such as what follows here. Ideally, agreements are reviewed regularly and amended as needed.

(See Considerations in Addenda.)

Ways of Participating:

- student – currently enrolled in a recognized training program or responsibly self-training
- affiliate – beginning to practice; working with a mentor (< X years of experience -??)
- practitioner – facilitator, mentor, consultant, trainer, etc. (> X years of experience -??)
- advanced practitioner – demonstrable training; able to meet special needs, populations
- honoree – connected but stepping back, taking leave, retired, etc.

Benefits:

- Affiliation itself
- As many volunteer opportunities as you like!
- Directory listing at biographywork.com
- Other -?? (Access? Discount? Etc.)

Financial Obligation:

No money will change hands upon joining. Your participation is far more important than payment. Inspired by Rudolf Steiner, we are seeking to create new forms and intend to build upon associative economic principals as we're able. Please see "Financial Responsibility" in the Overview for a bit more on where we hope to go (following threefold principles).

SAMPLE

[name] An Association for Biography Work

MEMBER AGREEMENT

You are invited to join by responding to the following.

Name (printed) _____ Date _____

How do you describe your way of participating at this point in time:

Student Affiliate Practitioner Advanced Practitioner Honoree

If you identify as an advanced practitioner, please describe your background and experience (or attach vitae or similar):

How many years have you been practicing?

In what ways do you envision yourself associating / participating / engaging at this point?

How do you see yourself working collaboratively with your fellow colleagues?

Do you feel in alignment with the best practices outlined by and for the biography work community? And do you agree to uphold them?

In what ways are you engaged in your own self-development and how will you sustain and/or deepen this commitment?

Please describe biography work in your own words, briefly (understanding that this is a nearly impossible task).

Please describe your sense of responsibility for biography work in the world.

I take responsibility for biography work in the world and represent my commitment here by joining my colleagues in Greater Association within the Biography Work Community.

Signature _____

Please submit to: eileen.jonesVT@gmail.com

Please consider sharing your responses and ideas with two or more of your colleagues.

Welcome!

Now, please feel free to:

Create a listing for the directory at biographywork.com

Send your name, credentials, moniker, etc., a photo (jpg), and a concise introduction to you and your work (approx. 100 words) to: TBD

Note: In the future we hope to be able to provide for longer descriptions, including areas of special interest, training, background, education, ways of working, etc. (perhaps 1000 words), accessed via a [read more](#) link. More to come!

Attend the annual business meeting of the association (likely October/November)

Share your resources with the association membership:

- 1) Create a posting that connects you with your colleagues, letting others know what they can look to you for: What “specialty” or “expertise” can you share? Examples: working with those who are neurodiverse, exercises especially suited to teachers, Earth evolution, the first 21 years, moon nodes, etc.
Submit to: TBD
- 2) Join or initiate a circle of collaboration – more info at autonomyinassociation.com
- 3) Join a working group (e.g. conference planning, financial responsibility)
- 4) Coordinate a biography sharing evening for members to tell their biography
- 5) Look for additional ways to participate
- 6) Etc.

ADDENDA

The INTERNATIONAL TRAINERS FORUM (ITF) describes its mission and activity in this way:

Due to the diversity of vocational aims and national circumstances of each Professional Biography Training, the ITF deliberately refrains from promoting the adoption of fixed guidelines for curricula as a precondition for recognition. Instead, the ITF strives to establish and maintain a high professional quality which serves the biography impulse through a collegial process of peer inter-vision leading to a Confirmation of Recognition of each Professional Biography Training which is individually represented by an ITF member.

CONSIDERATIONS in preparing the “Membership Agreements” document:

In the last many years, since the Initiative Circle formed in 2020, we have been in search of new forms and have placed our attention on associating – the activity of associating. We intend to continue in this way and hope you will join us – in more ways than one!

We have come to the decision that, in our time, one must choose to “self-associate” out of freedom. We have not been able to reconcile ourselves to a list of requirements or criteria for membership (imposed by whom?). Instead, we gathered what we believe are reasonable and foundational agreements or principles and created a form which we see as a bit of a declaration or threshold in choosing to self-associate with colleagues and adopt shared agreements. With this approach, we hope to support consciousness and conscientiousness in becoming part of this effort Toward Greater Association within the Biography Work Community.

In creating this document – Memberships Agreements – the IC considered the following questions, and more, some of which remain to be answered and developed. We pray that all of this be given time and space to unfold naturally with increasing participation.

- What does “professional” mean? Do we need to define or characterize this?
- Do we articulate tiers of membership?
- Do we mandate mentorship?
- Do we stipulate years of experience?
- What is the threshold, what is being asked for or committed to in joining?
- Could we create a form for each new member to tell his/her biography?
- Will we create a ritual around becoming a member?
- Shall we create a gift to give to a new member?
- When do we initiate an annual business meeting, and what is its agenda?
- How will we engage membership in regular reviews of association guidelines, agreements, etc.?