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IN MEMORIAM:
Steve Wilson, ACSW, TEP
First Executive Director of the ASGPP

By Bob Siroka, PhD, TEP

Steve passed away earlier this year at his home in New York City. The last few years were difficult for him, as he had suffered a stroke which impaired his speech and limited his mobility.

A California native, he graduated from the University of California at Santa Barbara in political science. A gifted athlete, he played soccer and varsity basketball. Upon graduation he joined the Peace Corps, serving in Somalia where he ran athletic programs. After his return to the U.S., he enrolled in a program for ex-Peace Corps volunteers at New York University. As part of the program he was introduced to psychodrama and sociometry by Bob Siroka.

He was very drawn to action methods, and decided to become a therapist, graduating with his MSW from Rutgers University School of Social Work. He was a member of the first training class at the Institute for Sociotherapy in New York, in 1968. The rigorous 4000 hour, 5-year sociotherapy program included 1500 hours of psychodrama, sociometry and group psychotherapy. He joined the Institute staff as a clinician and administrator, and volunteered many thousands of hours to the ASGPP.

Steve was appointed by the executive council to be the first Executive Director of the society. He assumed the role part-time in what appears to have been the heyday of the humanistic psychology movement, in the mid-1970s to 1980s, helping to organize and run annual meetings that often had 1500-2000 attendees. All this was done by a dedicated, idealistic guy with chicken scrawl handwriting, before the age of ubiquitous computers.

Steve Wilson gave a great deal to the ASGPP, his clients and his friends.

Thank you, Steve.