

## Statement by Frances Unsell for Affiliate Representative Candidate

I am writing as a nominee by the New York Center for Affiliate Representative to the Board of Directors of the A. K. Rice Institute. I have been a member of the New York Center for twenty years and serve on the Application Committee.

I work as an organizational and leadership consultant who is a psychoanalyst and trained in group relations and organizational systems. The majority of my clients are senior leaders of progressive organizations. I have consulted to scores of diverse national and regional boards and founded a nonprofit.

I am interested in serving on the A.K.Rice Board because the organization is in a time of flux and transition and this creates great opportunities for the Board and Affiliate organizations to find new and flexible ways to work collaboratively and for A.K. Rice to support, serve and learn from the Affiliates. Each Affiliate has a different personality and way of working. Until a year and a half ago membership and participation was generally local. Given the virtual world we live in now this is not necessarily the case. If elected, I look forward to learning about the Affiliate organizations so that I can effectively represent them as a group as well as bring their individual perspectives to the Board.

Group Relations training has influenced who I am, how I live in the world, and my work. I have been a member of three residential conferences – The Brwyn Mawr Conference of the Baltimore Washington Center and The Tavistock Institute's Leicester working and training conferences. I know of no better way to foster independent thinking and creative organizational analysis and leadership than holding true to the underlying principles of Group Relations training. The ability to work without preconceived notions learned through Group Relations training enables people to use themselves fully and honestly to tackle difficult social and organizational issues that others often shy away from.

Thank you for considering me for the Board of Directors of the A.K. Rice Institute.

If you have questions or would like to have a conversation please feel free to email me at [francesaunsell@aol.com](mailto:francesaunsell@aol.com) so we can arrange a time to talk.

Frances Unsell

June 30, 2021