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## UA36I/34 Biographical Sketch of James Wigtil

Vernon Sheeley

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**JAMES V. WIGTIL**  
**THIRTEENTH PRESIDENT**  
**1986-87**

ASGW recently did another formal phase of strategic planning and needs to build upon the results of this effort. Regardless of directions ASGW moves, a strong research base is needed to provide the necessary group work strategies for practitioners and to provide the appropriate strategies to train/educate both beginning and advanced group leaders.

My hope is that ASGW can continue to address the needs of society through group work strategies and that the organization will continue to operate as a healthy open system by continuing to involve new members and by developing the leadership skills of its membership.

James (Jim) V. Wigtil was the 13th president of ASGW, the 12th man voted to the association's highest office. A charter member of ASGW, he was 47 years old when elected in 1985. A year later he succeeded Glen Martin.

A Professor in Counseling, Department of Human Services and Research, College of Education, The Ohio State University (OSU) Wigtil joined their faculty in 1966<sup>?</sup> as Assistant Professor. He was promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor in 1972 and Professor in 1977. On sabbatical leave during 1974-75 (?), Wigtil was Visiting Lecturer in the European Program of Ball State University's Department of Counseling Psychology and Guidance Services. From 1977 until 1992, he was Counseling Program Coordinator at OSU. During 1992-93 he was named Acting Chair of the department.

His background as a consultant includes mental health agencies, schools and colleges on career development, chemical dependence, counselor education curriculum and developmental programs.

James Vernon Wigtil was born in Fargo, North Dakota, the first in his parents' family of two sons. Jim was graduated from Moorhead (MN) High School in 1956. That fall he enrolled at Moorhead State University, where the BS (Business Education, 1960) degree was awarded to him. During high school and college, he worked at various part-time jobs. Jim returned to his home state during 1960-61, where he taught business education at a high school in the Cavalier Public Schools. He enrolled at the University of North Dakota, Grandforks (UND), in 1961 and received the MA (Counseling, 1962) degree (academic year NDEA institute?). Wigtil served as a junior and senior high school counselor in the Breckenridge (MN) Public Schools during the next two years, 1962-64.

Vern:  
 If you  
 have room  
 this could  
 also be included

He was also chair of the  
 Academic Faculty of Special  
 Services from 1972-1976.

1971-72, 1987-89 and 1991-92

1979  
 1970

At Indiana University, Bloomington (IU), for doctoral study during 1964-65, the following year he was hired as Visiting Lecturer/Assistant Professor at IU. The EdD was granted to him in 1966. His dissertation was titled **The Effects of Test Interpretation upon Ninth Grade Student Self Concept and Test Score Recall**. His major professors were Paul Munger and Gerald Kranzler. In 1966 he moved to OSU (2).

Wigttil attended his first national APGA convention at Chicago in 1962, when he was enrolled in his master's program at <sup>AND</sup>. Always interested in group work since his graduate work at Grandforks, he joined ASGW the organizing year. A former ASGW Media Committee member, he chaired that committee during 1982-83. Wigttil organized the Ohio ASGW and served as the first president during 1984-85. At the 1986 national convention in Los Angeles, the ASGW Executive Board chose him to replace Ronald Ruble as representative to the AACD Governing Council (1986). When James Beck became ill in the fall of 1988, the Board chose Wigttil to replace him (1989-91) on the Governing Council, beginning at the national convention in Boston. He chaired the AACD Public Awareness and Support Committee during 1991-92. A former editor of **Counselor Education and Supervision**, the journal of the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES), he was appointed to the **JSGW** editorial board during 1990-93. Wigttil chaired the ASGW Awards Committee during 1991-92. He was appointed to serve as <sup>the</sup> ~~Executive Board meeting process and internal communication consultant, ad hoc positions during 1992-93.~~

Executive Board members who served with Jim Wigttil during his presidency were Glen Martin (past president and nominations and elections committee chair), Richard Hayes (president-elect and futures committee chair), and Becky Schumacher (secretary-treasurer).

Barbara S. Fuhrmann was the journal editor. Samuel T. Gladding and Glenda Elliott were editor and assistant editor, respectively, of the newsletter. Representatives included Glen Martin and James Beck (AACD Governing Council), Marguerite (Peg) Carroll (Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs and ASGW professional standards chair), and Beck (multicultural counseling interest network of ACES).

Other ASGW leaders who chaired committees/commissions were Warren J. Valine (adult development and aging), Diana Hulse-Killacky (awards), William A. Matthes (bylaws), Max Hines (family counseling), George T. Williams (convention arrangements and ethics committees), Donald E. Ward (convention program), Elsie Miles (government relations), Julia Yang (graduate student), Paul L. Collins (human rights and representative to AACD joint meeting), E. W. Christensen and Etheldreda Viera (international relations), Carolyn R. Rebholz (marketing), Michael K. Altekruise (media), Rosemarie Morganett (membership), Charles Kormanski (professional development), Floyd F. Robison (research), Phyllis Post-Kammer (state/regional divisions), and Vernon Lee Sheeley (historian).

Wigttil chaired ASGW Executive Board meetings at Los Angeles as incoming president on April 22, 1986, at Columbus (OH) during September 18-21, 1986 and at New Orleans during the national AACD convention, April 20-21, 1987. At Columbus, all the Board members

*of the Professional Standards Committee Chair, 1992-93.*

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James  
A

stayed at the home of President Wigtil and his wife, JoAnne, where the meetings were conducted. ASGW and the Ohio ASGW co-sponsored a "Group Counseling Conference" held on September 19. Among the presenters were Board members. Charles Kormanski, Professional Development Committee chair, was brought in to begin the process of strategic planning with the leaders. They identified what have come to be the widely accepted values of the association and began strategic (future) planning for ASGW. This led to a key transition year for the association.

Jim Wigtil wrote the "President-Elect's Column" printed in the Spring 1986 issue of the **ASGW Newsletter** and the "President's Message" for each of the three issues during his presidency.

In the fall of 1985 when he was president-elect, he represented ASGW at the AACD Midwest Region Branch Assembly meetings in Omaha, Nebraska. In the fall of 1986, he represented the association at the Midwest Region Branch Assembly in Kansas City and the North Atlantic Branch meeting in Washington, DC. In 1986, ASGW roundtable programs were offered at each of the four AACD Region conferences. ASGW membership midway through his term registered 4,256, an increase of 651 since the close of 1985.

Headquarters for ASGW at the 1987 national AACD convention in New Orleans was the Marriott Hotel. In addition to 28 ancillary programs, the association sponsored 12 content programs. At the breakfast for former ASGW presidents on April 24, 8 of 12 attended. Later that morning at the "ASGW Forum: Organizational Strategies Training Meeting," Kormanski engaged participants in a process for determining ASGW's future goals and direction.

During the Awards Luncheon which followed, John Vriend was the recipient of the Eminent Career Award. Marguerite (Peg) Carroll was presented the Professional Advancement Award. Cristy and Michael Telch received the Research Award. Pedro Portes, president of the Kentucky ASGW, accepted the State Division Award for Excellence. George Gazda, the luncheon speaker, talked about "Maximizing Human Rights and Potential through Group Work."

A new ASGW membership category was unveiled, when Gazda was named the first member to be honored with "Fellow" status. The Executive Board developed this membership status to recognize various types of major contributions to the association and field of group work.

During his administration, Wigtil discovered that the association was very sound financially and no longer sort of "running on a shoe string."

Jim Wigtil and his wife, JoAnne, who attends most of the major meetings and conventions with him, are the parents of two grown children, Jon and Jill (?).

*Julie and*

*grand presents with Jim at*