

## **October 9, 2005 Conference Call**

### **AAGT Board Meeting**

**Present:** Brian O'Neill, Ann Bowman, Tine van Wijk, Marilyn Myles, Bruce Aaron, Phil Brownell, Ansel Woldt, Marcy Stern

**Absent:** Morgan Goodlander, Jack Aylward, Sylvie Falschlunger, Alan Singer, Peter Philippon, Peter Cole, Bea Mackay, Bud Feder, Warren Weir

**Previous Notes from emailing re: how to make the board calls more efficient**

**Everyone call in within 5 minutes of the start time**

**Limit check-ins to 1 or 2 minutes each.**

**Once our call has begun (which occurs once two people have "arrived") and someone else dials in, do not interrupt whatever process is going on but instead pause every 3 or 5 minutes to review who's present.**

### *Agenda for October 9, 2005:*

**This is a special board meeting in which members from the AAGT community have been asked to participate in the call.**

*The meeting opened with a check in from all the present members.*

### *Newsletter*

**Marcy – The Newsletter is complete and ready for proof reading then publishing. She had a high volume of emails and apologized in advance if she missed anyone's input.**

**The board members all expressed their appreciation for Marcy's devotion and energy in publishing the Newsletter.**

### *Committee #1*

**Phil – sent out a list of issues and asked the members to chose what was of most interest to them.**

**#1 Issue was that of moderation for the AAGT e-list.**

**Most people feel that the email group should be moderated. (Un-moderated = no censorship, no real rules, self-regulating, no gatekeeper which might be used to deal with objectionable persons). The Gestalt-L list is un-moderated. Most people wanted a moderated AAGT list as they want something different from Gestalt-L – wanting a more focused list and one that does not compete with Gestalt-L.**

**How would we moderate? The committee views seem to be to let the community do this but of course, that would be more like an un-moderated list. So, they are still in process of how and who will be a moderator.**

**Tine- suggested that the moderator serve as a facilitator for discussions.**

**Phil – Agreed and noted that the lack of a facilitator leads to persons not using the list.**

**Tine – Only AAGT members use this list?**

**Phil – Discussion of what is the purpose of the list. Suggestions from the committee are to use the list for issues pertaining to the AAGT community and not necessarily for theory discussions.**

**Phil – noted that St Johns might be ending in a few months. Phil has been talking with them re: options. There is a group of list owners from the St John's system who have created their own non-profit organization as list servers. They are open to AAGT having 2 lists – one list for the members' discussion and one for conference planning, board, committees, etc. ...**

**In the meantime, Phil can get a list going now through St. John's called Gestalt – J.**

**Discussion from the group that led to the question, should Phil and the committee go ahead with Gestalt-J? The present board members voted affirmatively for Phil to go ahead and set this up as Gestalt – J. Ok given as well to set up the two new lists when that becomes available.**

**Phil needs to talk with persons that said they were interested in moderating the list. Phil is considering being the moderator but noted this is a difficult position. Moderator needs full support from the board.**

**Marilyn – suggested a team approach to moderating.**

**Phil – This is a viable option. Phil would need to be the owner with several co-owners as moderators. He's not sure how many he can put into place.**

**Brian – Phil can be the person that the moderators go to for collaboration and questions.**

**He complimented Phil on his role as this committee chair and his hard work. He also wanted his appreciation to be passed along to the committee members too.**

**Phil – how do we get people signed up?**

**Ansel – Suggested every AAGT member be signed up for the list. They can then unsubscribe if they chose.**

**The Board members were in agreement with this.**

**Phil – needs a list of emails – Sylvie can get this for him.**

**Phil – At this time needs a moderator and guiding principle document. List can be up and running in a month.**

**Brian – do we need to put a position on the board from this committee? Can put someone in the role now (like Phil) and vote in the annual meeting.**

### *Committee #2*

**Brian – Both Committees 2 and 3 are forming at this time. They will most likely be ongoing groups as ideas are exchanged.**

**For Committee #2, so far great ideas have been exchanged about communication. These include our established modes like the newsletter and conferences. New ideas like rituals of healing, AAGT list, an interactive Web Page (to post board notes for example), blogs, etc have also been proposed. Next step is to talk about the pro's and con's of our agenda including how to communicate around disharmony.**

### *Committee #3*

**Peter P is not here today but has been active on email with the committee.**

**Phil – raised the question on email and today on the phone: where does the power reside - membership or board? Membership seems to be the most agreed upon place but the mundane issues, day-to-day operations, etc are with the board.**

**Brian – talked about different levels of power. Explicit – more out in the open. Implicit is more like who controls the agenda and creating a culture in such a way that persons don't even question it. Sees this committee as one that will help make more explicit the implicit power issues.**

**Brian and other committee members encouraged Phil to continue on the committee.**

**Ansel – Dan Bloom and Phil raised questions re: what meanings were originally behind the by-laws. He said that some of the by laws were from APA, American Counseling Association, etc. He is still researching and will give more history as this becomes available.**

***Addition of Phil Brownell to the Board Calls:***

**Brian asked Phil if he would be on the board calls to keep the board informed regarding the electronic communication aspect for AAGT. He noted that Marcy is also present on the calls as she publishes the Newsletter. Both aspects of communication for the membership are vital to the organization.**

**Phil – stated he is willing to help as needed.**

*Vancouver Conference:*

**Brian and Ansel have been in contact with the Program Planning and Convening committees.**

**Discussion of advertising for the conference – places to advertise and costs.**

**Discussion followed of proposals for the community meetings at the Vancouver Conference.**

**Brian and Ansel have encouraged the program planning committee not to structure the community meetings. Encouraging them to brainstorm ideas at this time.**

**Also they are considering interviewing “Elders” in the gestalt community during the conference. A discussion of persons who are being identified ensued.**

**Ann voiced concern about repeating the issues that happened during the New Orleans conference when we had a Masters presentation.**

**Brian – Suggested that the program planning committee could send the board a summary of their plans. Invite Victor next time on the call and perhaps have him or Bea and Warren email the board. He will also speak with Warren and Bea for their input.**

**Tine – Suggested that Vancouver committee persons use the list that they used for Amsterdam. She found this very helpful in keeping everyone informed of the progress.**

**Tine – Asked about an article about AAGT? Publish in Europe and perhaps in the Newsletter to inspire others to attend.**

**Brian – Carl Hodges wrote an article years ago which inspired him. Perhaps Tine could read this and update it.**

**Tine – interested in doing this.**

**NEXT BOARD CALL November 6, 2005. Same times as usual.**

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

A treasurer's report was sent in an email to the executive council October 8, 2005 by Peter Cole.

## **PEER REVIEW FOR VANCOUVER**

So far we have taken in seven proposals. All have been sent out for review. The peer review committee membership is

Ann Bowman  
Phil Brownell  
Me Peter Cole (chair)  
Isabel Fredericson  
Marylin Miles  
Brian O'neill  
Daisy Reese  
Susan Roos