

January 15, 2006 Conference Call

AAGT Board Meeting

Present: Brian O'Neill, Ann Bowman, Peter Philippon, Peter Cole, Bea Mackay, Victor Daniels, Warren Weir, Ansel Woldt, Alan Singer, Phil Brownell

Absent: Bruce Aaron, Marilyn Myles, Morgan Goodlander, Jack Aylward, Sylvie Falschlunger, Bud Feder, Marcy Stern, Tine van Wijk

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

Conference Report (Bea and Warren)

Program Planning Report (Victor)

* Concerns from people about the status of their proposals for the 2006 conference

Web/email Report (Phil)

* New lists Phil has created, and how we use them. (Phil)

How to bring the issue of name change to the entire membership's attendance well in advance of Vancouver

NEXT BOARD CALL February 19, 2006. Same times as usual.

Board Meetings:

Board meetings. Some members are unable to be on the call due to schedules and family concerns. Board talked about possibility of changing the times and days. The overall consensus is to keep it the same since the majority of persons can make day and time.

Web/email Report (Phil)

See board discussion following the email information.

In an email prior to the conference call (1/13/06) Phil Brownell offered the following:

....the AAGT lists will become part of an overall complex of Gestalt listservs, with concomitant web portals. The web portals will become interlocking, with a links system on each one pointing to all the others. All of that will be hosted on one server through the non-profit called ICORS. A description of these various list distinctive can be found further down in this message (I just sent it to Gstalt-L). In addition to what will be on the server at ICORS, the AAGT will still have it's official web site ... It will also still have AAGT2, the web portal I created before I realized what would happen at ICORS. All of this will provide many options that we can develop in the future.

AAGTMembers - this is for members of the AAGT. It will be a moderated list for the purpose of informing and discussing AAGT business and related issues. For instance,

one of the first things will be a discussion of the proposed name change for the organization.

AAGTorg - this will be a restricted list in as much as it will be open to the leadership of the AAGT and used to conduct organizational planning and business. Here is where board members can discuss. Here is where conference planning can take place without having to keep track of all those email addresses in the cc section.

Gestaltconsult - this will be a place where clinicians can discuss cases and where organizational oriented Gestalt practitioners/consultants can discuss that can kind of practice.

Those three lists will go online at ICORS, alongside Gestalt-L and Gestalt-J, in a few days.

*GestaltResearch - This list is currently online at ICORS. It was just created. I have no templates yet, and no one is subscribed as of now but myself and admin staff from ICORS. This list is for research-oriented Gestalt therapists, people interested in outcomes on what they do or more formal research projects in support of Gestalt therapy. In the future it will be linked up with various efforts currently in rudimentary stages of development through other groups. The purpose is to discuss issues relevant to research, brainstorm, problem solve, and report on research projects. **Please see update following the minutes*

Gestalt-J will revert to its original purpose, which will be to serve the needs of the staff (associate editors, review-readers, and those associated with Gestalt Global Corporation) of the online journal, Gestalt!.

Phil - Gestalt L has transitioned to ICORS and this has gone very smoothly. AAGT org and AAGT members will be started this week. Phil will send an email to the members to join the list and they have to respond to be added. The gestalt members' list will be moderated. **Please see update following the minutes

Ansel – Phil can get an updated list from Sylvie for emails.

Phil would like to have information available at the conference about the new list.

Brian – suggested a flyer at the conference and placing the announcement on the conference brochure.

Bea – suggested that we put the information in the registration package.

Peter P – Suggested that there might also be a computer set up at the conference for interactive practice.

Discussion followed about making a computer available at the conference. The consensus is that it would need to be monitored, as there was a problem at a

previous conference in when a computer was stolen. Suggestion that it could be placed next to the reception desk and so it can be monitored then taken down when no one is there.

Peter P – Shared that the gestalt L transition has gone very well. He also shared that when he was on the site, he got a message about downloading a file that was not recognizable to him. A password was also asked on a non-secured page.

Phil will check on this. ** Please see update following the minutes

Discussion occurred among the members about duplicate websites. At this time we will create an interlocking system between the two sites.

More discussion among the board members about making a discussion group at the conference or a poster presentation about the new Internet services.

Victor – We could set aside some space for poster presentations to inform the members of the new site. We could also allow Institutes to advertise there.

Brian and the board heartily thanked Phil for his work on the lists.

Vancouver Conference:

Warren and Bea – Today is the closing date. Do we have enough proposals? Do we need to extend the deadline?

Board says it has already been extended. Decision was to not extend. Board also agreed to accept proposals for the next 4 or 5 days as they come in. Stop date for acceptance is January 21st.

In the last week in January the program committee will finalize proposals and send out notices to persons regarding their presentations. At this time we are not requiring presenters to be AAGT members.

Phil has recently passed on 20-30 proposals. Bea has passed on about 5.

Victor – 7 invited presentations.

Peter C – Really great presentations have come in. He will let us know via email the final number.

Phil – Noticed that proposals are coming in from all over the globe.

Victor – Voiced concern about space at the conference. OK with smaller rooms but wondering about large space.

Bea – Stated that the ballroom holds about 50-600. Smaller rooms can be expanded or contracted. Bea is not concerned about not having enough space. There are other options.

Victor and Bea – discussion about renting the ball room more than we have booked. Bea will look into that.

Bea and Warren – need to know how much money they can have to market locally and there was a discussion about this.

Board discussed other issues about marketing the conference. Online registration will be announced in the Gestalt News and Notes as well as on Gestalt L. We are also looking at advertising in the Gestalt Review.

Registration for the Conference and Harbor Cruise

There was a discussion about the harbor cruise, the estimated cost and how to let people know how to register for it when they register for the conference.

Suggestion was to have a space for persons to check a box on the registration form if they plan to attend the cruise and to indicate how many people will be attending with them.

Because the cruise was originally scheduled for Sunday afternoon following the conference, the board discussed moving this to another day within the conference framework so that more people can attend.

Victor indicated that the evenings were quite full – Wed is the opening reception, Thurs is the board and program planning celebration, Fri is the Irish interest group/night on the town. Sat is the dinner and dance.

The board decided to check into changing cruise to Friday evening prior to the Irish interest group gathering.

Bea will try to work that out. She will also look into reduced charge for kids.

Ansel - If we can change the cruise to Friday night, ...

Peter P – On the registration form also need to put how much is the membership fee for 2006.

There was a brief discussion about the possibility of a book sale. Decision was to not do this.

After changes are made to the registration form, it will be published online. Sylvie will oversee this.

How to bring the issue of name change to the entire membership's attendance well in advance of Vancouver

Peter – need to notify members about having discussions at the conference of possibly changing the organizations name. We need to do this well in advance of Vancouver.

Phil – We can start this on the AAGT members list. He will also add a note about this to the emails he sends out as well as an announcement of the conference and online registration.

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In an addendum to the minutes, Phil Brownell wrote in an email sent 1/19/06:

I'd make a correction/update to the notice about GestaltResearch: It now has the necessary templates, a growing population of subscribers, and it will have a permanent announcement/ad in the new journal, The European Journal for Research in the Humanistic & Integrative Psychotherapies.

Also, the AAGT lists have not gone online at ICORS quite yet. There is a second migration of lists from St. Johns University to the ICORS server, and after that sometime will follow the set-up of the AAGT lists and GestaltConsult. Incidentally, the web portal for GestaltConsult is looking like it will be set up as a Learning Management System - that is, an online teaching/learning environment. Thus, if someone has a book, they could create an online class around their book and interact in a closed group with their students.

Also, Peter's concern about the potential downloading of a script when he attempted to get a password has been resolved. There is no danger of contracting a virus from registering on one of the ICORS lists.