

## **AAGT Board Meeting**

**Present:** Ann Bowman, Dan Bloom, Bud Feder, Peter Philippon, Tine van Wijk, Peter Cole, Marcy Stern, and Brian O'Neill.

**Apologies:** Sarah Fallon, Ansel Woldt, Phil Brownell, Silvie Falschlunger

**Absent:** Jack Aylward, Marilyn Myles, Morgan Goodlander, and Robert DeVos.

### **PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS**

- A. Manchester Conference (Sarah) including discussion about booking on website**
- B. RCP (Tine)**
- C. Treasurer's Report (Peter C)**
- D. E-newsletter (Marcy)**
- E. Communications (Phil)**
- F. Yalta Conference (Tine)**

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Welcome – all checked in.

## **Manchester Conference**

*In an email sent prior to the conference call, Sarah Fallon wrote:*

*Conference Planning Report for February 2008:*

*Peer Review:*

*At the last board meeting Susan put forward the following proposal:*

*In view of the large number of proposals this year (30% more than we need) there will be a lot of work involved for the peer review committee. Susan suggested sending proposals to just two readers for each proposal submitted. And, should the two subsequent evaluations be greatly divergent, then she proposed sending such a proposal to a third reader.*

*The board felt the final decision on this to be a CPC one, and the CPC agreed with Susan that this would be the best way forward.*

*Susan has sent out all the proposals to be peer reviewed and has had many back. The proposals have gone out to either two or three readers apiece and evaluations are coming in at a steady rate. Susan has reported that, "The quality of the majority of proposals is inspiring high, truly outstanding. Selection by the PPC will be very challenging indeed."*

*In view of the high standard this year Susan has raised the question with the PPC chairs of us having more presentations than the 42 we had originally allowed for. Discussion on this issue will, undoubtedly, be brought to the PPC during facilitation of the selection process.*

*Susan feels that Peer Review will not take long to complete now.*

*On a personal note I would like to express my deep appreciation to Susan for continuing with a very difficult process when the nitty-gritty of conducting peer review electronically was proving challenging. The openness to, and from, all of us in this dialogue where (on different levels) so much was at stake, impacted me in a profound and lovely way. It meant a great deal to me that we could face a difference with softness and respect, and it's an experience from the planning that I will always remember.*

*Programme Planning:*

*The PPC is currently quiet as they wait for the completion of Peer review. Phil has been working with Susan on the best way to facilitate the selection process on the PPC.*

*Scholarship:*

*Bud checked in with his update from a library in Florida (thanks, Bud).*

*He reported that he has received 4/5 applications and that he will begin processing these in early March.*

*The last time he checked we had about 8,000 US dollars in the fund. He is (hopefully) speculating that we will end up with 10 or 12.*

*He also confirmed that he'll be back by Sunday and that he'll be on the call.*

*Publicity:*

*The committee is working on an advert to go in the Gestalt Review - an arrangement made with Joe, in exchange for a conference table. Tali has asked Judy Robertson to work on designing something and Judy has agreed.*

*The committee composed the first in a planned series of monthly reminders leading up to the conference in July. This month a list of video sites was sent out, inviting people to make virtual visits to tempting aspects of Manchester and the surrounding area.*

*The committee considers it most beneficial to their campaign to have the general conference website repeatedly appearing in the publicity. This way people will go through the site and will see the accumulating information for themselves.*

*The committee has invited the PPC to send them a proposed wording for the publicity that follows their having decided on the presentations.*

*From Tali: "Thank you to Sarah for being an observer, to Silvie for helping with the AAGT list. We feel under supported and wish to just say that out loud."*

*UK Finances:*

*Nothing to report.*

*Bookings:*

*On the 29th January 2008 we had 36 bookings.*

*Logistics/Venue:*

*Linda is working on an “on site to-do list” - thanks, Linda.*

*Linda is also sorting out a conference banner to display in the main hall. When we were researching prices, UK prices were much more expensive than USD prices. As the banner will be very light, Linda has offered to purchase this and bring it over in her suitcase – again, thanks Linda.*

*Linda will also take responsibility for the conference tables.*

*Speak to some of you later.*

*Sarah*

**Bud – I anticipate about \$10,000 for the scholarship fund. There are only 3 applicants so far which is down from 2 years ago at this time. Perhaps we should promote this more.**

**Brian – we have three students coming from Australia at this point (and perhaps more). This is very expensive for them. Will let them know about the funds.**

**Peter P – There are people from the Philippines, S America and the Ukraine which is also very expensive. Need to let them know.**

**Brian – Also supporting sending AAGT members to countries in need as the Board discussed (see below under RCP Report).**

**Tine – can people apply if they have received scholarship help before?**

**Bud – Yes. If there are a lot of folks applying, may want to let those who have not come before have priority but it's fine for ALL to apply. Deadline is March 1, 2008. How about Silvie sending out a general announcement about this?**

**Board – Yes.**

**Peter P – if we need more money for the scholarship fund, we can also ask people to click on the paypal page again and donate to the fund even if they have already registered.**

**Bud – Stated he has made a list of people he knew that could donate to the fund and has sent them requests for donations. This has worked well in the past for him and he suggested that other board member do the same.**

**Brian – Can send to GANZ and another list he has through Google.**

**Bud – we can extend the date for scholarship applications if needed.**

**Brian – is anyone looking at the work/study option?**

Peter P – yes there is a work/study program coordinator and people can link to this person on the website.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Peter C will send a report to the board regarding AAGT's current finances. This will be available to the members on request.

Peter P – do you (Peter C) need any support regarding not incurring any recurring tax penalties for late fees.

Peter C – no. These are from previous years (before Peter C was Treasurer). Not an issue now.

### **RCP Report and Yalta Conference**

Tine – RCP are doing OK and hoping that good things will happen at the Manchester conference for the RCP program. She will also send Brian O the minutes from the RCP and asked for his help with having the RCP person from Australia becoming involved in the program.

Tine - Yalta conference is not going to happen it seems. Would someone be interested in going there to help them as a professional – they want to test their work and have a gestalt trainer witness what they are doing. This person can give supervision to them and can also possibly hold their own workshop for a fee to help recoup some of the costs. Tine has done this three times – really need another person to go and share with them. Question – would AAGT support someone to go there – not necessarily financially but with explicit support by AAGT. These are very special people and a very special place.

Brian – this makes sense.

Peter P – would like to go but not sure if he can especially in May. Another alternative would be to use some of the scholarship funds to send AAGT members TO other countries to teach, and to supervise. AAGT could reach more folks this way than only using the funds to send them TO our conferences.

Bud – Also agrees with this. Will have scholarship funds available and could consider using part of these for this purpose.

Brian – a third alternative would be to create a list or match folks who are wanting to have an AAGT member come and visit their country with folks from AAGT who would be interested in this.

Tine – has some experience with Gestalt trainers going to countries and charging their price which is often too much for the persons she is thinking of.

Brian – yes, suggesting that we create a way to match folks that are willing to go to the poorer countries without high cost to them (the recipients). Like the service exchange program only global.

Discussion ensued. Bud suggested that we form a committee about this – Tine, Brian, Bud, and Peter are willing and Tine will head this up for now.

Dan -Northeast Regional AAGT event is in the works which will be organized by that group and the NY gestalt institute in September, 2008.

Peter – do we have an RCP for the Northeast?

**Tine – Cathy Grey from Philadelphia is the RCP for this region.**

**Peter P – Tine and Dan – please talk with Cathy about whether she would want to be involved with this 2008 Northeast Regional conference too because she will also be the conference convener for the next AAGT conference in 2010. This may be too much of a commitment for her to do both.**

**Dan – will contact her about the Northeast Regional AAGT conference and ask if she wants to be involved.**

**Brian – Would be a good idea to have a description of how the RCP (AAGT) is distinguished from GANZ and EAGT. The latter are certifying bodies and different from the RCP component of AAGT. So we can be in the same countries without being in competition.**

**Tine – Brian would you write something?**

**Brian – Yes. This way too we could make the RCP a bit more sophisticated – seems to be something in the field that is ripe for this.**

**Peter P – Yes, Susan Gregory too has been a part of this expansion with her expanded RCP role.**

### **E- Newsletter and Communications Committee (Marcy)**

**Marcy – Marcy shared her regret that she cannot go to the Manchester conference due to finances, work schedule, etc.**

**Board members expressed their regrets about this.**

**Marcy - Wondering how people are finding out about the conference since there is no newsletter? Are they getting information only from the website?**

**Peter P – The communications group could revisit this but the Newsletter usually goes to members only.**

**Tine and Marcy and Ann – The email or online newsletter is not the same as the printed version.**

**Marcy – need to get the communications group going. No one contributed to the Blog and it is a bit like competing with the website. Could we get something out that reaches folks – even a brief something that lets people know what we are doing?**

**Peter P – what about RCP minutes and discussion?**

**Marcy – don't get any writings from the RCPs**

**Tine – the minutes from RCPs are interesting for the people involved but not for others to read.**

**Dan – if the RCP members knew that the minutes were going to be published, the discussion and therefore the minutes would probably become much more interesting.**

**Dan – the communications committee presently consists of Marcy, Dan and Charlie Bowman.**

**Marcy – Phil too right?**

**Dan – he will ask him about this.**

**Dan - The purpose of the committee is so that Marcy doesn't do this alone.**

**Peter P – Tine, please include Marcy with a copy of the RCP minutes.**

**Marcy – Yes and send them to me (Marcy) not to the list. Also we could develop a simple form for RCP to fill out and submit for the Newsletter.**

**Tine – OK. Yes, I'll try this.**

**Peter P – Right now, we are being creative about this to see what works.**

**Tine – Would like to be on the Communications Committee.**

**Peter P – That would be great!**

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