

March 18, 2007 Board Meeting

AAGT Board Meeting

Present: Ann Bowman, Peter Philippon, Dan Bloom, Jenny Edwards, Sylvie Falschlunger, Robert DeVos, Peter Cole, Sarah Fallon, Ansel Woldt, Phil Brownell, Tine van Wijk, Marcy Stern.

Absent: Jack Aylward, Marilyn Myles, Morgan Goodlander, Brian O'Neill, Bud Feder.

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

A. Manchester Conference (Jenny and Sarah)

B. Finances (Peter C)

C. RCP (Tine)

D. e-Newsletter (Marcy and Phil)

E. Committee on our Process – Task Force on Decision Making (Dan)

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING TIME – April 15, 2007. Due to daylight savings time issues, the USA and Bermuda will be at the same time as this call, Europeans will be one hour later than the time of this call and Australia will be one hour earlier.

Peter C and Marcy will not be able to make the April call. They will send reports by email.

Welcome

There was a quick check in from all the members present on the call.

Ann will post February notes to the web along with the March notes. Thanks Tine for taking the notes!

Membership dues

Sylvie: Membership contributions are slow but she will do another email to remind members to send in dues. Robert will contact Sylvie and work with her on this.

Manchester Conference

In an email sent prior to the board meeting, Sarah and Jenny wrote:

1) New Members to the Committee: Dan Bloom and Ansel Woldt are now members of the Conference Planning Committee (CPC). It's good to have you two on board with us - welcome (again) and thank you both for your contributions, presence and support.

2) The Programme Planning Committee (PCP) has been established and members of that group are now in communication with each other. We are currently awaiting a decision from the group on who will chair this committee. One offer has been made and the group is discussing this.

3) The Peer Review Committee has been established. Susan Gregory has expressed an interest in chairing this group. The only responses, to date, have been supportive ones so Jenny has written to Susan, asking her to accept the role. We await her final decision!

4) The Conference Website: Phil Brownell has begun to build the website (we think it looks great - thanks Phil!). The Home page is now up there and the CPC have been locating relevant photos and links

for Phil to include there. We've sent these on to Phil and will keep sending them as we find them. (Please keep letting us know what you need from us, Phil, as you keep building the site.)

5) Electronic Advertising - Tali and Danny Porter have agreed to share this responsibility between them.

6) Finances - Sharon is taking responsibility for providing regular financial reports to Peter C.

7) Hard-copy advertising - Andrea has taken responsibility for this role.

So far, postcards have been posted to:

Peter P @ MGC - 150 (have these been distributed elsewhere, Peter?)

PETER P added: I have taken a number to Slovenia, and we are handing them out to people coming to training events at the Centre. We still have postcards left.

PGI in CA, The BGJ Day and Cleveland - 300 in total.

Esalen - 50

Edinburgh Gestalt Centre - 50

Scarborough Psychotherapy Institute - 30

Metanoia - 30

London Gestalt Centre - 50

GPTI Exec. - 30

Andrea has emailed Dan Bloom and is waiting to hear from him re advertising costs.

She has emailed The GANZ Journal and is waiting to hear from them.

She has emailed Ken Evans' Journal and, likewise, is waiting to hear from him.

She has also emailed Metanoia re advertising in their Newsletter - again, waiting to hear.

We have space reserved for an advert in the April issue of the British Gestalt Journal.

We have 500 postcards left from our last order of 1000. At what point should we arrange to have some more printed? Do we feel postcards are working as a marketing tool?

8) Hard-copy Design: We are currently working on designing a hard-copy advert in Black and White (so it will be affordable) that we can use for the various Journals.

9) Venue Update:

i - The First contract signing has been completed by Peter P. No deposit was required from us at this stage.

ii - The Second contract will come directly from The Thistle in the next few weeks and that will also be signed by Peter P.

iii - The Thistle DO NOT require confirmation of numbers until Summer 2008.

10) Scholarships: Bud has offered to head this up. Thankyou, Bud.

11) Scholarship Fund-Raiser: Bud has offered to give a two-day workshop in Manchester with all proceeds going to the scholarship fund. The committee have advertised this in various places in the UK. There has been interest expressed and some places have been booked already. We decided to charge £100 per person, with a full capacity of 16 places. We would like to thank you here, Bud, for your considerable generosity with both your time and expertise.

12) Process Groups: Jack Aylward and Bud Feder have offered to work together on this aspect of the conference.

13) *Work-study Co-ordinator: Janice Cousins has agreed to take on this role. She has liased with Claire Ashersham-Bartram, who was the Work-study Co-ordinator for Vancouver. Phil - please let us know if/when you need anything from Janice to put on the website (email address, for example).*

In another email sent by Bud Feder, the following additions were added to Sarah and Jenny's report:

---in addition to Jack and I co-chairing the Process Groups, Eva Gold is working with us on improving the protocols and she has also offered to be the liaison between the Process Group Committee and the CPC

---with regard to Scholarship Fundraising:

a) we already have \$800 from last year's fundraising because Cai Mariano, a Filipina, was unable to use the money we sent her due to a visa problem, and has returned the money. I am happy to say that she is applying for admission to CIIS in San Francisco [where Lu Grey is on the faculty] and if she gets in she will attend our meeting in Berkeley in Oct 2007. If anyone by chance has any ideas how we can help her, please let me know.

b) Peter Philippon is also offering a workshop to benefit the fund, in NYC on June 1 [so Peter in NY and I in Manchester, switching around].

c) Jenny has offered to organize another for me in the London area the week after I will be in Manchester[between the two I will be competing at Wimbledon in the Gentlemen's Senior category.]

If these events book and are fruitful I will encourage members in other places to do something similar

Robert, Jenny and Sarah discussed the best way to communicate with him regarding the program planning committee. He also wanted to make sure that Victor is a part of the committee which he is.

POST CALL - ROBERT EMAILED TO SAY HE HAS FOUND HIS EMAILS & THEY ARE GETTING THROUGH. NO FURTHER ACTION NEEDED.

Peter P – venue finalized. Don't have to finalize numbers for the venue until summer 2008 which supports AAGT publicizing the conference up until that summer.

Dan – researching discounts for airline tickets – American Express and Continental will provide some discounts. He will check with more airlines and also will let people know the details of how to get the discount.

Jenny requested that Dan liaise with Phil to put this airline info onto the website when it is confirmed.

All board members expressed gratitude for Sarah and Jenny's work on the conference and also Phil's work on the website.

Peter P – sooner we have something that can fill in the details the sooner we can get publicity out and begin a call for proposals and keynotes.

Finances

Peter C sent a financial report to the board prior to the call. This is available upon request.

Peter C - Transferred money to the Manchester committee and has had feedback from Sharon regarding where they are financially to date. His bookkeeper recently died tragically and he now has another person who is doing the books. AAGT finances are in good shape.

Committee on our Process – Task Force on Decision Making (Dan)

Dan – the committee is working on draft of new bylaws and will be sending those out soon via email.

RCP (Tine)

Tine – Anne Leibig is organizing a southeast regional conference in the US. This is a very positive step for AAGT. The conference will occur October 19-21, 2007.

Phil – they also have an ability to offer CEU's which makes the conference very inviting for potential attendees.

Peter – Yaro Starak from Australia will take over RCP there.

Tine – Lynne Stadler is going to continue to be the RCP for SW AAGT. Cathy Grey is also interested in becoming an RCP for her region.

Tine - Suggested that AAGT advertise for Manchester and Yalta in the EAGT newsletter. This costs \$250 euro/page and is due by April 10.

Peter P took a vote from the board and it was agreed that we would do this. Jenny and Sarah will provide the publicity for the Manchester conference and Tine will do the same for Yalta.

Tine volunteered to take both advertisements and follow through with the EAGT newsletter contact person.

Peter P – Opened a discussion among the board in response to some feedback he has personally received from members of other gestalt organizations. It seems that since AAGT is now more visible outside the US, some are gestalt organizations in Europe and elsewhere around the world are concerned that AAGT may be taking some of the energy away from their national gestalt organizations. He was recently asked by one organization's member – “how are you (AAGT) different ?” One thing is that we have people from all over the world dialogue with each other who would not normally be in dialogue together. Peter P discussed possibility of using skype and inviting dialogues from well known gestalt persons. We could also create pod casts on our websites (for a fee) of these dialogues. It would be a fascinating experience and would also demonstrate that AAGT is different from the other gestalt organizations in our international focus.

Phil – concerned that we are focusing on how we are different rather than what we are.

Peter P – Really saying we would be highlighting the “international association” that is core for AAGT.

Dan - we are FIGURALLY a community - inclusive and diverse.

Peter P – Proposed that a person become part of the RCP committee in an expanded role which includes networking in a wider way. Proposed we could add to the program someone who is really interested and focused on networking by initiating dialogue around certain topics or creating chat rooms on certain topics.

Peter P - If there was more international networking being emphasized then it would clearly be a different thing than the local organizations.

Tine – perhaps we could search for someone through the Members List

Dan – recommended Susan Gregory and will ask her.

Peter P – expressed appreciation for Dan to follow through with Susan.

E-Newsletter (Marcy and Phil)

Marcy - Frustrated re: problems with getting newsletter out.

Phil – has been working with the technical system to fix the problems of AAGT2 and create the blog.

Marcy – will the blog be on AAGT website or AAGT2 website?

Phil – AAGT2. Will get up Manchester site first then other information will follow. There is a tremendous learning curve and patience is in order as it is a content management system which is a bit more complicated than the normal website.

Peter P – thank you Phil for all your work on this. It is vital to our future. The web address <<http://www.aagt-manchester08.org/>

CE

Ansel – Obtained approved by California Board of nursing for 2 years. APA report has also been sent despite some complications (mailing issues, etc). Ansel has been in communication with APA received verbal feedback that it is ok. He wrote a personal check and will be reimbursed by AAGT.

Yalta Conference Tine)

Tine - All the important Russian teachers will be there (in Yalta) and she has asked them to write a letter regarding what they will be doing and who they are. She will put in the Yalta flyers how people can travel there. There will be a lot of improvisation at the conference.

Peter P – Tine please send out information on the prominent teachers that are coming.

Tine – she will do this as soon as she gets the letters from them which she requested.

Scholarship Fund

Peter C – A recipient of the scholarship fund who was not able to attend Vancouver returned the money to AAGT. This was deposited in the scholarship fund which now has about \$500 in it.

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