

March 19, 2006 Conference Call

AAGT Board Meeting

Present: Brian O'Neill, Ann Bowman, Bea Mackay, Victor Daniels, Warren Weir, Phil Brownell, Bud Feder, Marcy Stern, Tine van Wijk, Marilyn Myles, Sylvie Falschlunger, Ansel Woldt

Absent: Peter Philippon, Peter Cole, Morgan Goodlander, Jack Aylward, Alan Singer, Bruce Aaron

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Internet Update (Phil)**
- b. Conference (Warren and Bea and Victor)**
- C. Newsletter (Marcy)**
- d. Publicity (Tine and Bea)**
- E. RCPs (Marilyn)**
- F. Finances (Peter C)**
- H. Update re registrations (Silvie)**
- I. Scholarships (Bud)**

Other business

NEXT BOARD CALL April 23, 2006. Most areas are effected by a time change by this date!! Brian will email the new times.

Treasurer Report: (email from Peter C on 3/17/06)

Peter Cole sent an email regarding Treasury matters.

Vancouver Conference

Bea and Warren had a meeting with the local persons re: help with conference. They also developed a logo for the conference, which can be viewed on <http://www.geti-vancouver.org>

The board approved the logo, it's cost, use and placement on conference items and the web. Once Warren and Bea finish working on a few more changes, the logo will be emailed to Phil and Silvie to publish on the websites.

Bea and Warren – need logistics person. Could we pay this person?

Discussion by the board – most board members did not want to pay this person full time. Discussion re: having helpers – including students and members.

Suggestion - advertise for logistics person on the email list. Phil suggested that we should have a description for the job. Bea, Bud, Warren and Marilyn will help with writing the description and finding someone to take the task of logistics coordinator. It was also suggested that perhaps Bud could mentor this person when they come on board.

Victor – cheapest conference accommodation (6 person apartments) separates persons by gender.

Bea –Suites are not like this.

Warren – Will speak with the University re: changing the 6 person apartments to co-ed the apartments.

Warren and Bea need \$3000 altogether for color brochures (an extra \$1800 on top of what has been allocated previously). Want to get the brochures distributed locally, at the University and down the Pacific Coast. They are also inserting them in Counselor, Social Worker and Psychology Newsletters.

Bud, Ansel and Brian who have had experience with previous publicity budgets agreed that \$3000 was a moderate expense for publicity – more has been spent in the past. They also agreed that advertising to the Psychologists has not proven fruitful.

Phil proposed that we agree to \$1800 more at this time with option that if more is needed that Warren and Bea will let us know. Board agreed with this.

Registration for the Conference and Harbor Cruise:

(email from Silvie on 3/18/06)

As off 3/18/2006 we have 75 registrations / 48 for the harbor cruise. Ansel's workshop has 10 registrations, only 2 spots open, Brian & Jenny have 5 registrations, Peter C. 1 reg., Phil B. 1 reg., Erskine 3 reg. More than 30 presenters are not processed yet - so we will definitely be over 100 participants. In terms of money I processed more than \$20,000 - just sent the checks & cc info to Peter C on Friday.

Victor – some presenters need assistance and are waiting to see if they will get scholarship money to help before they register.

Victor – again suggested that those who are on the Program Planning Committee put their experiences down on paper so that those who are doing this next conference will have ideas about how to get started. He will coordinate this with the conference-planning group.

Tine will do some European advertising. Would like to have a one-page advertisement to distribute.

Most board members would also like to have this.

Warren – they are creating a one-page advertisement and will get that to Tine and the board soon.

Extending the Early Bird Registration Deadline

Brian – several folks need to see the brochure to be able to register. Universities also need to see this before registering. Peter P has disagreed with this and Brian spoke on his behalf as well.

There was a lot of discussion about this between the board members. Consensus was that since we are just now getting the full schedule out, we should extend the deadline. Consensus was to change the deadline on the web to April 30th as the flyers should be done and out to the public before that date. The date will be changed on the web but not advertised specifically as something new.

Marilyn proposed we do a group rate at a lower cost to help defray costs and encourage people to register. Also there was a discussion about first time persons getting a discounted rate. The board did not vote on these changes.

Process Groups

**Phil and Victor – discussed the room situation and desire for an average of 10 and no more than 12 persons assigned to a group.
Bea and Warren will meet with the University to discuss the potential number of rooms needed and will let the board know.**

Newsletter (Marcy)

Marcy will put a call for and a description of the logistics person in the next Newsletter. She will also include information that Ron Bahrey is helping coordinate persons who need roommates for the conference.

**Marcy stated that there is still time for submissions to be included in the newsletter.
*Web/email Report (Phil)***

Phil is doing the new web page.

Lots of discussion between Silvie about Phil re: how and which version of the conference schedule to post on the web pages. Ansel has made some changes to the conference brochure too – editing and reducing it by one page.

Ann noted that it is confusing with so many people working on the schedule, 2 web sites, etc She and several others noted that the email lists are also confusing re: which list to use for board members.

Phil will email after the conference call re: the lists, their members and purpose.

Discussion led by Brian was re: Victor, Phil and Sylvie coordinating the conference schedule for publication on the internet so that the final version is congruent with each site on which it is published. Victor and Silvie will primarily work together using the new logo and Ansel's version to come up with the final version for internet advertising.

Phil has registered and created web domains. ICORS seems to be behind schedule hosting the web. For approximately \$90/year for each domain, Phil can create another web hosting and email list serve, which is aagt's alone (not partnered through another entity). The board generally agreed for Phil to proceed with this. Phil will email more specifically what he plans to do.

Brian – Suggested the board give more time to the email lists, how to amalgamate the two web sites eventually, etc. This will be placed on the agenda for the next board meeting.

Sage Publications:

Ansel – asking Sage Publications to have a booth at the conference (they have 4 gestalt publications). Perhaps they can also sponsor a social hour.

RCPs

Marilyn and Tine say all is going well with the RCPs.

Scholarships

Bud – Bruce A will let Bud know how much scholarship money we had prior to transferring the accounts to Peter C. Peter C will let us know what has come in since that time. Scholarships Committee will begin reviews of applicants at the beginning of May and decisions will be made by the end of May. At this time 12 people have applied.

NEXT BOARD CALL April 23, 2006. Note time changes!!

Addendum to Board Minutes:

The following was sent in an email by Phil Brownell on 3/19/06 to clarify our current communication infrastructure.

Hello,

Over the last few months an effort has been made to revamp and re-create the communication infrastructure for the AAGT, so that we might have resources to serve the widest possible process of consensus building while also experiencing a growing practical internationality. We are in the midst of a proliferation of such resources and that can be confusing. So, I will list below what we currently have, what each resource can be useful for, and what we will likely have before we all meet face to face in Vancouver in August this year.

Email discussion lists

** AAGTMembers@listserv.icors.org (email discussion group for members of AAGT at large; send one message and it goes out to everyone on the "list.")*

** AAGTorg@listserv.icors.org (email discussion group for AAGT leaders such as board members and conference planners; send once and it goes to everyone, and each time anyone on the list sends something it goes to everyone.)*

Web site

** www.aagt.org (standard announcement type web page; gives out information, branded on the web and easy to find by search engines)*

Web portals

** www.aagt2.org (this is an interactive, content management system (CMS) - a portal - through which community can be built; it can have bulletin boards, people can vote for issues or respond to polls, you can feature rotating announcements in banners, create news items, and you can syndicate all this in a web log that can be picked up by news organizations like the AP wire). Some CMSs allow for group projects, chat rooms, streaming media and pod casting. There is more versatility and utility associated with a web portal than with a standard web site; they really are apples and oranges. The current CMS being used for aagt2.org has some limitations. I am contemplating switching to a new one, but will make that as seamless as possible, and I won't attempt that for a while, because I have other obligations.*

In the Near Future:

** We will either use aagt2.org as the portal corresponding to aagtmembers listserv, or we will create a whole new domain (AAGTMembers.org) and start an entirely new portal for that. More discussion is necessary and pending.*

** AAGTLeaders.org will become a new portal, corresponding to the aagtorg listserv. It will have a front end that is public and a back end, which is private, and password protected. I will use a CMS that provides collaborative workspace so that conference planners can put up developing copies of documents that several people can work on together at the same time, chat space, and bulletin boards. It will have a calendar. You will be able to get work done through it. And the leaders can also use it to hear from others, using the front end. One use, for instance, would be to ask an important question and get feedback from membership through a poll.*

As with anything, these resources have their limits. Not everyone wants a bunch of email traffic, so those people might prefer engaging with the AAGT through the web portals, where they can visit and leave without having anything downloaded to their computers unless they want it. Not everyone likes surfing the web and they've just now gotten email; that's enough technology for them. Then, there are some people who don't want any of it, and they will have to settle for the hard copy Newsletter. Of course none of this is better than the face to face warmth of meeting with one another at a conference.

I hope this has made some sense for you out of the proliferating communication resources in the AAGT as it is attempting to re-create its communication infrastructure. I am quite sure that some of this will "die back" as those resources that are truly useful begin to dominate and those that are not atrophy. Such is life and growth.

*Warm Regards,
Phil*

AAGTMembers is an eCommunity related to the international organization known as the Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy (www.aagt.org; www.aagt2.org).