

**April 15, 2007 Board Meeting**

**AAGT Board Meeting**

**Present: Ann Bowman, Peter Philippson, Dan Bloom, Jenny Edwards, Silvie Falschlunger, Sarah Fallon, Ansel Woldt, Phil Brownell, Tine van Wijk, Brian O'Neill.**

**Absent: Jack Aylward, Marilyn Myles, Morgan Goodlander, Bud Feder, Robert DeVos, Peter Cole, Marcy Stern.**

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS**

**A. Manchester Conference (Jenny and Sarah)**

**B. RCP (Tine)**

**C. Yalta (Tine)**

**D. e-Newsletter (Marcy and Phil)**

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

**F. Reprinting Directory (Sylvie)**

**THE NEXT BOARD MEETING TIME – May 20, 2007 at the same time as this one. Please note Europe, USA, Canada and Bermuda are now in Daylight Saving Time, while Australia is not.**

*Welcome*

*Membership dues and Directory*

*In an email sent prior to the call, Sylvie wrote: so far we have 90 people paid out of 245 members (count from 2006).*

**Silvie – can send out an email to the members who have not paid their dues. She will work with Peter C regarding an e-mail reminder to all the members who have not paid so far pointing out the advantages of AAGT & what AAGT is doing in the conference off years.**

**Silvie - notices that the membership dues are not paid as quickly in years when there is not a directory published and there is no conference. She will research the costs to update and print the directory.**

**Dan – can we make the directory in the alternate years from the conferences?**

**Phil – we could also make an online directory for the in between.**

**Dan – asked what percentage of members use the internet and would find an online directory useful.**

**Jenny - What happens when members are not paid up?**

**Silvie – nothing specifically happens.**

**Jenny – what do folks get out of being in AAGT during non-conference years?**

**Peter P - Regional groups, connecting with others and being supported by the infra structure.**

**Dan – perhaps we need more publicity about what we do in between conferences. We need to let people know how we are a resource for them and how we promote the international interests of gestalt therapy.**

**Peter P – AAGT means you are part of something that supports you connecting and associating with other gestalt therapists. The *association* is the experience and conferences are only one part of that.**

**Brian – there is also a service exchange program – 4 free hours with someone in group or for supervision. Not utilized as much now. Need someone to chair this (the SEP) and make it happen.**

**Silvie - stated that past chairpersons of the SEP had suggested that recipients write about their experience in the newsletter but they chose not to do this.**

**Peter P – people won't really say they utilized the service exchange program because they may not want to make public that they received this service.**

**Peter P - Asked Brian and Sylvie to put something together for the members list to ask for a volunteer to help chair the SEP.**

#### *Manchester Conference*

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

*CPC Report for 15/04/07:*

*1) This has been a quieter month for us on the CPC. We have had several committee members out of the picture due to workshops, bereavements and personal issues.*

*2) PPC – the membership have now agreed on Phil and Mae co-chairing it. This committee is now up and running, sharing ideas and ways forward. Members are: Dan Bloom ; Harada ; Victor Daniels: Sarah Fallon; Peter Philippon; Ansel Woldt; Sharon Warwick Eva Gold ; Susan Gregory; Sylvia Crocker ; Charlie Bowman; Robert de Vos; Jenny Edwards; Charlie Bowman.*

*3) Peer Review Committee - Susan Gregory has now agreed to chair the committee. Members are: Peter Philippon, Phil Brownell, Eva Gold, Dan Bloom, Ansel Woldt, Brian O'Neill. Peter Cole, Bud Feder.*

*4) Publicity Committee - Tali Bar-Yoseph has agreed to chair this committee. She will focus on this after Greece and has given 1st May as the date when she can start to look at it seriously. She'll be joined on that committee by two members of the CPC – Andrea Campbell and Danny Porter, who have been dealing with hard-copy and soft-copy advertising respectively. Tali will be able to see whether she needs to recruit further people when she has more of an idea of the role.*

*5) Advertising for this month – i) Tine and the CPC put together a combined advert for Yalta and Manchester to go into the EAGT Journal. As we discussed in last month's board meeting, we shared an A4 advert between both conferences enabling us to display an AAGT page. Tine sent off the advertisements and dealt with the submission. A BIG thankyou from the CPC, Tine, for both your help and initiative in doing this!*

*ii) We have also made arrangements for an Advert to go in the next edition of the British Gestalt Journal. This was the remit of somebody who needs to be absent from the CPC right now and Jenny volunteered to step in to sort this out. Jenny – I want to say thankyou to you too, for taking this on when you have been so strapped for time this month yourself.*

*iii) The conference website is growing – thanks, Phil. We also requested some changes to the homepage which he made (rather quickly too, I might add!) We felt it was important to have the logo on the homepage. You may remember that Judith Robertson designed the logo for us and did a great job of it. We felt it important to honour this kindness and have it clearly seen. Also, the A4 Conference flier which is now on the homepage was a real group effort by almost everyone on the CPC (and some of their family members too!). We also asked Phil about adding that as, likewise, it seemed to honour something important about the community aspect of our conference planning. (One member suggested we credit Judith by the logo, if that's feasible – perhaps we could discuss that when you're back from your travels, Phil).*

*6) Flights - Dan is continuing to research companies who will offer trans-Atlantic discounts – thanks for this Dan. Further to what he shared in the board meeting last month, he is expecting further information to get to him this week. Once all the quotes have come in he can assess the best deal and then we can advertise that airline as our official airline that will give AAGT discounts.*

*7) Finance – Sharon will forward this month's report to Peter C and the CPC.*

*8) Scholarship fund – There are only a few places left now for Bud's fundraising workshop in Manchester, which have filled up at a fast pace. Peter P's fundraising workshop in New York has recently been advertised on the members' list, as you have probably all read. Thanks again to you both for offering your time and expertise this way.*

*9) Communication – We have spent a significant amount of time engaged in processing, this month. This has been primarily around issues within the PPC and, hopefully, has set the foundation for some good, co-operative working together. One outcome from this is that Jenny, Phil, Mae and myself had a two hour conference call yesterday, kindly facilitated by Peter P. We have agreed to have some email communication between us once a month as a way of staying in contact through the planning. I have agreed to initiate this in the week before each board meeting. That way I can incorporate any matters arising from our discussion into the CPC board report.*

*10) Friendly news – One of the UK Gestalt Training Institutes (Sherwood) had their mandatory training dates fall the same week as that of the conference. There was a student request for them to change these which was, initially, denied. After further negotiation between students and faculty they have now agreed to change the dates. This was due to a majority of students wanting to attend Manchester. We did have AAGT officials on stand-by, waiting to go in to do some hard negotiating - think A.A.G.T. – A.I.C. – S.A.S!*

*11) Finally – I want to say a big thank you to those of you who sent positive feedback to the CPC following last month's Board report. I forwarded all your responses to the committee and the members said they found it very motivating. It really was! Your support and appreciation made a big difference to how we were feeling at the time and was, in turn, very much appreciated by us all.*

**Peter P – Asked Phil to speak a bit about the PPC.**

**Phil – PPC has 3 documents and is beginning to deal with one which has to do with suggestions re: the opening session.**

**Peter P – seems like PPC is doing interesting thinking about this process. Looking at this creatively.**

**Phil - Mae will be taking charge of the PPC over the next few weeks as Phil will be traveling.**

**Finances**

**Peter C will send a financial report to the board after the call. This will be available upon request.**

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

Dan – The bylaws on decision making are unclear. Issue of how consensus is reached is also unclear. The by-laws allow decision by majority vote when consensus does not seem possible, but do not say how that decision is reached. There is also nothing that stops the members at any annual meeting from making decisions that affect all the members. Dan feels we need something in place that slows down this process. He has ideas that he will present to the board by our next call. Dan also says there is “international” in the wording of conferences which at this time needs to be changed since AAGT is actually having conferences internationally. Dan suggested that the international meeting be renamed the biennial meeting, to distinguish it from the annual meeting.

Peter P and Dan talked about the meaning of “international”.

Phil – add to the bylaws a preamble like the covenant of community.

Dan – The covenant of community appears in Article 4 Section 3.

Ansel – The covenant is not in the preamble but later in the document. Perhaps the committee will consider moving this up in the document.

Peter P – asked about the current level of participation from the task force members.

Dan – No one is communicating with him at this time regarding the committee tasks. Seems they feel they have said what they needed to say.

Phil – perhaps the task force needs some initiating from Dan to rekindle their interest.

Brian – suggested that if Dan sends out his ideas to the task force this will get them more involved and will facilitate them having some ownership in the process (of changing the bylaws). This may also result in support as the membership is also asked to consider the changes.

*RCP (Tine)*

Tine – There will be a southeast conference in the USA. Cathy Gray has agreed to be the RCP in Philadelphia. Susan Jurkowski will be the RCP in NY area. Susan Gregory agreed to take on the role of net worker who is the RCP liaison who will be in touch with the various communities, help us assess their needs, and help them know what AAGT is doing in support of them.

*E-Newsletter (Marcy and Phil)*

Phil – Marcy would like to use an Email newsletter which costs \$15/month. Would AAGT be willing to take this on? Someone would also have to learn how to do this.

Peter P took a poll of the board members – would they be in favor of an Email newsletter at \$15/month? There were no dissenting votes from the board present.

Peter P – will Marcy learn this and the other program too?

Phil – will find out what is involved with the newsletter and speak more about this them.

*Yalta Conference (Tine)*

Peter P – invited Tine to talk about what is happening in Yalta with the conference there.

Tine – hotel wants \$2000 Euros now to reserve rooms. There would be \$1000 for conference rooms alone.

**Silvie – no one has booked for the conference yet through AAGT.**

**Peter P – would the Russians be interested if there were only 4-5 non- Russian attendees?**

**Tine – Yes. She will be in Yalta and will check out what is happening there. She has difficulty as she seems to be the initiating force in communication with the Russian folks.**

**Peter P – support for Tine who is somewhat in the middle. Also wondering if some of the issue is that there are not many English speaking folks signing up and perhaps the Russians are reluctant to sign up due to this. He also wonders if the hotel would cancel the contract if Tine said “no” to the deposit.**

**Tine – there is another hotel (the Yalta hotel) which takes credit cards, etc and would be easier for folks to book. She would like to preserve a conference room though in the original hotel (Masacria).**

**Peter P – Let them know we are not going to pay a non refundable amount of money at this time. Invited Tine to call Peter P or Peter C if needed to when she visits Yalta.**

**Peter P – also stated that in Amsterdam, people got their own accommodations.**

**Tine – not the same in Yalta but yes, Hotel Yalta is easier.**

**Ann – brought up discussion regarding AAGT’s role in financially supporting (or not) regional conferences. There are several regional and local conferences being planned and AAGT is not supporting them financially.**

**There was a discussion among the board about this issue.**

**Brian – said that AAGT has dealt with these issues on a case by case basis. In Amsterdam we also had an annual meeting at the conference and there was energy there for AAGT.**

**Phil – seems like we have committed to support the Yalta conference so we should do this.**

**Peter P – if there is an agreement from Moscow Institutes, perhaps you could ask them about their financial commitment.**

**Brian – ask the Russian folks if they could put their deposits down and AAGT could consider a loan to help support the conference.**

**Peter P – can the Russian institutes in Moscow and St Petersburg get folks to register? Who will contact these institutes?**

**Tine – she will do this in Yalta when she visits and will meet with the other representatives face to face. She has difficulty trying to keep the momentum going. Wonders if Phil can help with publicity.**

**Phil – has put it on the website.**

**Brian, Phil and Tine will see each other in Greece and will discuss this more there.**

**Peter P – Suggested Tine send an email to the Russians and ask them to step up their efforts to help with the conference. Expressed support Tine and her efforts with the conference.**

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