

April 23, 2006 Conference Call

AAGT Board Meeting

Present: Brian O'Neill, Ann Bowman, Bud Feder, Tine van Wijk, Marilyn Myles, Peter Philippon, Peter Cole, Sylvie Falschlunger, Bea Mackay, Phil Brownell

Absent:, Morgan Goodlander, Jack Aylward, Alan Singer, Bruce Aaron, Victor Daniels, Warren Weir, Ansel Woldt, Marcy Stern

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Internet Update (Phil)**
- B. Conference including Publicity (Warren and Bea and Victor)**
- C. RCPs (Marilyn)**
- D. Scholarships (Bud)**
- E. SEP Service Exchange Program**
- F. Connection with EAGT and AAGT**
- G. AAGT Name Change Proposal**

NEXT BOARD CALL May 21, 2006. Same times as usual.

Name Change Proposal

Peter P discussed his understanding that the name change which was proposed in Amsterdam could not be followed through due to legal issues that required a formal motion proposed to the association members. He wants to make sure that the proper channels are followed this time and notify the members that a motion will be proposed at the general annual meeting in Vancouver.

There was a discussion by the board about how this particular issue affects our organization due to the legal implications as compared to the usual way in which proposals are made (spontaneously arising from the community at the meetings and being voted on at that time). The issue of the name change requires notifying the general members of this proposal in advance of the annual meeting.

There will be a call for a discussion and a decision made at the Vancouver annual meeting re the issue of name change.

To notify the members in advance, Peter P proposed that we put the following announcement in the AAGT Newsletter which is due to be published soon:

Notice of formal motion to be presented at the Annual General Meeting of AAGT in Vancouver for discussion and decision:

That the AAGT changes its name to the 'International Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy'.

This motion needs to be notified in advance as it would be a major change in our Articles of Incorporation. Other suggestions have come up from the membership and will be part of the discussion, including to keep the name as it is, or to have a legal name and an unofficial 'Doing Business As' name, or to add 'An International Community' to all publicity (as it is on this list). These do not need formal notice, since they do not involve a change in the Articles.

Marilyn suggested we add that other agenda items will be posted as well.

Bud wants this to go out to every member in the newsletter and online (and to those who are not online). Wants each person to have a voice and reply to either Brian or Peter P so that Brian can read their comments during the discussion in Vancouver (esp since not everyone can be at the community meeting in Vancouver). He would also like for each of the suggestions to have a few descriptors with them.

Brian added that the growth and development of the organization is embedded in this issue. Do we want to become more legalistic or continue with our decision making as we have done already? A discussion ensued about the difference between legalistic and the consensus building processes. Can we make a creative adjustment for the in between?

Peter P also wanted us to be sure that there was not a vote per se called over the internet.

Ann B concurred preferring that the sanctity of the face to face community meeting be honored.

Phil expressed that the list serve participants were not actually voting in the past.

Brian would like a simple, clear motion to be distributed to the association members. The less complicated the motion, the more voices will be heard.

Marilyn suggested that we also add that these motions will be fully discussed at the community meeting.

Board decided that we will use Peter P's proposal, Phil will look at it as well and expand and tweak it as needed. It will be posted in the upcoming newsletter.

DUES / DIRECTORY

142 members paid their dues out of 272

Treasurer Report:

Peter Cole discussed the AAGT financial report.

Vancouver Conference

92 participants so far for the conference and 61 harbor cruise.

AAGT advertisement is in the News and Notes.

Bea and Warren have been meeting with the local people and doing well. Don't have a budget for food and need guidance about how much they can spend on this so they can make decisions.

Also need decisions re: AV issues. First issue is whoever is doing a proposal will need to let the AV committee know what they need (ex. Flip charts, etc). Second is hiring a company to do the AV work – video and audio taping.

Peter P discussed previous conferences and the manner in which we have done AV matters. At one we hired a company that recorded and produced the product during the conference. At another conference, participant placed their orders at the end of the conference and the tapes were sent out as ordered.

Bea said there are 50 presentation and then the elder interviews. Probably we could video tape the elder interviews, have them available at the conference and produce the audio tapes as ordered after the conference.

Brian said that the most expensive part of this process is editing. He suggested he could have a colleague do the editing if the tapes are good enough and sent to him.

The board decided that the presentations would be audio taped and the elder interviews and opening plenary would be video taped. Will need consents for the audio tapes esp since they could involve personal work from the participants.

Phil suggested we keep the rights to the tapes and the board agreed.

Bea will start with a professional company to do the taping and will have volunteers to negotiate this. Filming of elders could be done by the university AV department. The audio will probably need to be done by a professional company.

RE: Conference Food Budget. Bud – never had a problem covering food costs. He suggested that Bea and Warren get the food options, pick out what seems good and then move from there re: the costs.

Bea – We are providing snacks twice/day, box lunches, appetizers Wed night, daily breakfast and a dinner dance. Wants people to be happy with the food. She will get quotes together and run them by Bud and Peter C for input.

Bea – will we have any freebies for the registration package like coupons, pens, etc? She also wondered about mugs (would we sell those?) and would like to give out bags as free to all registrations. A discussion also ensued about having t shirts made. Bea would also like input re: other items.

Peter P wondered about discount cards for Vancouver and also giving something special to persons who contribute to the conference.

Brian – local chamber of conference – would they contribute to the freebie bag?

Scholarships

Silvie wrote in an email prior to the call that the Scholarship fund at this time was \$995 in recent collections.

Bud – there are so far 15 applicants from a number of different countries. We have around \$3000 in total for the scholarship funds at this time.

On May 1st Bud will send out information to committee members for review and will make decisions from the guidelines put forth from the Amsterdam meeting.

Hopefully by May 15 the applicants will know if they have been accepted and how much financial support they will be given.

SEP

Les Wyman is a Gestalt Therapist in Cleveland and developed an online consultation program. Bud says it seems fairly sophisticated. Les contacted Bud as he is on the SEP committee. Les will be presenting this in Vancouver and wondered if he could do something through the SEP committee. Bud said OK if it is free to the members.

Peter P stressed the importance of making absolutely certain that the SEP program is not a medium for for-profit businesses to advertise their wares or as a “taster” for

these companies. If this is offered by Les, it should be a free service that can stand alone (without any further obligation of money or continued service from the recipient) as this is the spirit of SEP.

Bud – OK as long as the 4 hours is free and a service to the members.

Silvie has concerns about expectations that she would put a fairly long paragraph in the directory that is more of an advertisement rather than a short descriptor.

Brian suggested that Les and his group offer this service to the organizational AAGT members.

Silvie and Bud. Les can of course put a brief announcement in the directory but not an advertisement.

Consensus from the Board is that there is no advertising in the directory (can advertise in the newsletter).

Brian and Silvie will confer more about this issue and Brian will respond to Les soon.

EAGT

Tine - Europeans will get credit if AAGT is recognized by EAGT. Perhaps if this was done, more Europeans would attend. Can we advertise in the EAGT newsletter?

Board agreed for Tine to submit an advertisement in the EAGT newsletter for the Vancouver Conference.

Peter P will contact Ken Evans to dialogue about AAGT being recognized by EAGT.

Brian has already done something like this with GANZ.

Phil – what about S America?

Peter P said that the S Americans have had many conferences for the Spanish speaking folks.

Bea – they are in contact with someone from Mexico City and will continue with this.

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