

Agenda: 16th May 2010.

Present: Dan, Sarah, Cathy, Bud, Peter C, Charlie, Brian.
Apologies: Maryanne, Ansel, Robert.

Conference Report (Cathy and Burt):

The final edits are being done on the programme and attention is being paid to the finer structural details.

We now have 240 registered for the conference. Some have registered for pre-conference only. Bud pointed out that this may affect the forming of process groups. Cathy will know more about the breakdown later. One solution might be to have an open process group for any delegates who weren't attending the full programme. Cathy will take this idea back to the committee. Jack Aylward has visited the venue with Cathy to check out physical spaces available for process groups.

Cathy resonated with the concern from UK and Irish members due to both volcanic ash and the British Airways strike.

There was some discussion around the auction. Charlie suggested it would be helpful as auctioneer to know what the big ticket items will be. He also suggested that those offering big ticket items should be contacted in order to know what the minimum amount they will accept as appropriate for their offering. Finally, he suggested that auction items we are aware of in advance could be publicised so that people could start thinking about it.

Cathy expressed her appreciation of the conference committee during the planning.

Treasurer's Report:

Peter C talked us through a spreadsheet, giving a snapshot of the Philadelphia Conference's income and expenses as of last Friday. We should also have a lot more credit card payments coming in over the next couple of weeks. The finances look to be in a positive state at this stage of the process.

Peter P is making negotiations in terms of transferring the balance from the UK account.

2011 venue:

As far as we know there has not been any discussion of this in the community. Brian wondered whether there would be interest in hosting an event in Ireland. Beyond this, it falls to all of us to see what events are already scheduled, to which AAGT might connect. Brian expressed his hope for Europe to be a consideration, in view of the comments he made in his RCP report (below).

Elections Committee (Bud):

This year we have had the fewest people coming forward to express an initial interest in positions than any other year. However, Brian Mistler has expressed an initial interest in the new position of assistant communications director and may put himself forward at the AGM. Anne Leibig has also expressed an initial interest sharing the RCP role with Brian in order to learn the ropes. She may also put herself forward in Philadelphia. Burt Lazarin has expressed initial interest in serving as treasurer.

There haven't yet been any expressions of interest in the office of president-elect.

Scholarship Committee (Bud):

Appreciation was given to Bud for the wonderful job he has done with the scholarship fund. There has been more money raised, and more recipients from a wider range of countries, than in any previous year. Bud estimated that 35 people have benefited from the fund.

RCP report (Brian):

Brian expressed his appreciation of the energy Dan brought to increasing the strength of the RCPs. Bud added that part of Dan's legacy would be the strong emergence of the regions. Brian spoke to the energy there was in Manchester for becoming RCPs.

The RCP group is going very well in terms of ongoing commitment to their communication systems. There have been good regional conferences, and a buddying system which has been positive. There is currently more of a challenge in keeping the European members connected. A number can't come to the conference this year due to the cost, added to which many have experienced a decline in income due to the global financial crisis. Also many have strong national meetings that are competing for their time and energy.

Brian is sending 50 copies of Philip Lichtenberg's new book: "Psychoanalysis, Radical and Conservative" to the conference hotel. The proceeds from its sale will go to either the scholarship fund or the RCP fund, if this new fund is approved at the AGM. This is a gift from Brian to AAGT, and the board thanked him for this generous gesture.

Other items:

Dan was congratulated on his term of office and in how he has conducted himself in the role of president. Great appreciation was expressed for his personal qualities that had facilitated a smooth and trouble-free term of office.

This was the final meeting of the current board.
A new board will be formed at the Philadelphia conference next month.

Sarah Fallon
AAGT Secretary