

June 12, 2005 Conference Call

AAGT Board Meeting

Present: Brian O'Neill, Bruce Aaron, Ann Bowman, Bud Feder, Bea Mackay, Warren Weir, Peter Philippon, Marilyn Myles, Tine van Wijk, Sylvie Falschlunger, Peter Cole

Absent: Ansel Woldt, Morgan Goodlander, Jack Aylward, , Marcy Stern, , Chuck Kanner

Previous Notes from emailing re: how to make the board calls more efficient

Everyone call in within 5 minutes of the start time

Limit check-ins to 1 or 2 minutes each.

Once our call has begun (which occurs once two people have "arrived") and someone else dials in, do not interrupt whatever process is going on but instead pause every 3 or 5 minutes to review who's present.

Next Call

July 17, 2005 the same time. For One hour and 15 minutes.

Agenda for June 12, 2005:

- 1. Sirata Hotel Bill**
- 2. Discussion of Financial management plan and business plan (i.e. how do we bring in money and what are our priorities for spending it).**
- 3. Treasurer Report**
- 4. Conference (Vancouver)**
- 5. Amsterdam**
- 6. RCP**

Agenda items from previous minutes

- 1. Finding a suitable reimbursement formula and/or policy for AAGT officers representing the organization to conferences etc.**
- 2. Organizational Conference**

Sirata Hotel

Discussion: Some of the board members reported that there were different room charges for different persons. One board member also said she experienced a lack of apparent interest from the person who registered her for her hotel stay when she mentioned that she was attending the conference and wanted to make sure her room nights were noted as AAGT room nights. These issues and others lead many board members to question if the hotel properly allocated the rooms when they figured the bill. Bud has also not received a list of persons from the hotel which indicates how they arrived at their figures.

Consensus was to form a small subgroup, have a representative contact the hotel and request the list of persons whom they show as AAGT conference attendees that they used to figure the bill. The subcommittee will then review this information and proceed from there.

Bud, Bruce, Ann and Brian will be on the sub-committee. Bud will call them and start the process.

Treasurer Report

In email correspondence prior to the conference call, Bruce Aaron reported on the bank balance.

There was also a question re: how much of our treasury balance is designated and needed for the Amsterdam conference.

Resignation of the Treasurer-elect

Due to circumstances, Chuck Kanner needs to resign as treasurer elect. Peter Cole has volunteered to have his name put forward at the next Annual meeting to be treasurer. He will resign from the Membership Chair upon his election. Bruce Aaron has volunteered to take over as Membership Chair when Peter resigns.

Suitable Reimbursement Formula

Again, Brian suggested that the board devote time to set up principles and guidelines re: financial reimbursement issues (as well as other financial issues), then open this for discussion with the organization's members. The issue of reimbursement will most likely be an ongoing issue as the organization expands globally. This issue will be addressed in future board meetings.

Change in AAGT name?

A brief discussion occurred re: the possibility for changing the name of AAGT to something that is more readily recognized as an international organization. Many persons think that AAGT stands for the *American* Association for the Advancement of Gestalt therapy. The movement within AAGT seems to be to widen the Gestalt community's perception of the global nature of AAGT.

Some names were brainstormed and included the International Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy.

More consideration is needed and will be given by the board. If we would proceed with this, the idea would be brought to the membership at large for their consideration.

Note taker needed for the Annual Meeting in Amsterdam

Linda D is unable to attend the annual meeting in Amsterdam. She had agreed to take notes for Ann. The board will appoint someone to take over this function at the meeting.

Amsterdam Conference:

There are 41 persons registered. 8 persons are also signed up for the second marathon being done by Brian.

Vancouver Conference

Main goal is to get the program chairs named.

Search for chair for Peer Review: We have not heard anything back from the person - Effie Bastas - that Elizabeth suggested. Bea will ask Elizabeth R. to speak with her.

Program Committee: We heard back from Paul Schoenberg. He declined. I email Sarah Toman and have not heard back from her. Bea will ask Ansel to speak with her.

Peter P. will formulate an email which will invite persons to volunteer for some of the conference positions. Ann, Bruce, perhaps Ansel and Marilyn will personally contact persons whom they know after Peter sends out the email. Other board members are encouraged to also think of and invite persons they know who may be interested in being involved in AAGT to become members of these committees.

Scholarship Committee: Susan Gregory wants the general meeting in Amsterdam to formulate guidelines for how persons qualify for scholarship funds and how to equitably disperse the funds. Susan and Bud Feder consider chairing this committee depending on what the outcome of this is.

Bruce and Ann who worked with Susan on the last scholarship committee acknowledged that Susan put forth a lot of work to stream line the scholarship determination process for the last conference. They both concurred that they experienced the process as logical and easy to follow. Support from was given as we look at evaluating the scholarship process for the future to also consider the structure Susan has already put into place.

The following were email discussions prior to the call which have been added to these minutes:

Amsterdam Conference:

CE Issues

In an email 6/10/05 from Ansel to the Brian and the board,

Just a brief note on Continuing Education for the Amsterdam Conference (*and this doesn't need any discussion on our Sunday conference call, but could be entered in the minutes*): People who attend all 7 workshops, their 4 process groups, and the plenary sessions can receive 20 hours of CE credit. Those attending one of the marathon groups can receive an additional 12 hours.

I will prepare the necessary materials for CE credit to be offered in Amsterdam but will need a volunteer to handle the sign-up for CE at the Registration Table, to give registrants their Registry Form, and collect the additional fee. I hope this same person will assume responsibility for distributing the Workshop Evaluation Forms during the conference and the Conference Evaluation Forms on Sunday morning; then not only collect the evaluations, but necessarily collect the completed/signed Registry Forms.

*International Gestalt Therapy Association
In an email from Brian O'Neill dated 6/8/05*

Walter and I had a long ... talk last weekend. I suggested we were now at the stage to look at concrete things required in order to move forward with any potential amalgamation. I explained there were a number of people in the board discussion who basically were aware of no great need to amalgamate from AAGT's perspective while others were certainly interested. I explained that in principle this all looked like a good idea to us all and he appreciated the vitality and community focus which were apparent in AAGT.

I suggested Walter talk with his board members and come back to us now with a list of the concrete things we need to negotiate/discuss. He saw little difficulty in adopting our By Laws. He thought it may be something like having IGTA mentioned in the name some how having an IGTA person as a representative on the Board I imagine we will hear soon and can discuss this when we do.