

## **July 24, 2008 Board Meeting**

### **AAGT Board Meeting**

**Present:** Ann Bowman, Dan Bloom, , Ansel Woldt, Bud Feder, Sarah Fallon, Peter Philippson, Phil Brownell, Peter Cole, Jack Aylward, Robert DeVos, Cathy Gray and Brian O'Neill.

**Apologies:** Silvie Falschlunger, Marcy Stern, and Morgan Goodlander.

### **PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS**

**A. Talk through the Community Meeting July 24, 2008 (Peter P)**

**B. Saying Goodbye to the present board (Peter P)**

**THE NEXT BOARD MEETING TIME** – Please check with Dan Bloom via board email list for date and time.

**Welcome** – all checked in. This meeting took place after a board dinner gathering and just before the first community meeting at the Manchester conference.

### **Talk Through Community Meeting**

**Peter P** – There was not an orientation group meeting at this conference as there has been in previous conferences. This was primarily related to the increased numbers of new persons attending this conference. The community meeting tonight should include an orientation focus for AAGT such as what are community meetings and AAGT as an activist group.

A group discussion followed this which included how to welcome new persons into their first community meeting. There was also a discussion about how to get them interested in this community being more than a conference but an ongoing active process for our members.

During the second Community Meeting the 2009 Annual meeting venue will be discussed. Many board members expressed that we should also take care to have members vote mindfully for the next venue for the 2009 Annual Meeting and to consider if they are really planning to attend the meeting. The venue choice is very important for those who ARE planning to attend and could influence whether or not they are able to go.

Ansel and Phil proposed that the next Annual Meeting be held in conjunction with the SE AAGT Conference in 2009. Peter P and Dan noted that this proposal was not on the agenda for the general membership which was sent out prior to Manchester so it may not be offered as a possibility. Ansel said he thought he did send this out in advance as another proposal but he was not certain of this.

### **Saying Goodbye to the Present Board**

Board members expressed their appreciations for each other at this time.

Ann will not be returning as Secretary and she expressed to the group her deep appreciation for her experience working with them, how welcoming and respectful they have been to her and gratitude for the opportunity to serve the community as a whole. She also expressed her view that the leadership she has worked with over the past four years headed by Bud, Brian, Peter P and Dan has been inspiring and connecting for her and for the AAGT community. The board members also expressed their appreciations for her involvement and for creating a system of recording our process that is organized and now also available on the web for the members.

Sarah Fallon will also be letting go of her position as Conference Convener. She also thanked the board for all their help and support. The board expressed their gratitude for all she has done to coordinate and convene this conference. Her attention to details and untiring energy devoted to making this conference the success that it is was heralded by the board members. Ann asked Sarah if she would consider being nominated for the Secretary for the board for her writing abilities and her strong voice which has been a contribution to the board over the past 2 years. Sarah stated she would consider this and would let a board member know if she was agreeable.

Peter C stated that he would continue to be Treasurer for the next 2 years. The board welcomed him to do this and he was given much appreciation and support for his wonderful handling of the AAGT finances. He also would like a Treasurer elect to be selected to learn the system and be mentored over the next few years. The board agreed and this will be put forth for consideration during the Annual meeting elections.

Ansel stated he will continue as the Continuing Education Officer but would also like to have a Continuing Education Officer elect to work with him over the next two years to learn the process of how to do this for AAGT. The board expressed their appreciation for Ansel and his devotion over the many past years and supported selecting someone at the Annual Meeting to be the Continuing Education Officer elect.

Cathy Gray will be joining the board as Convener for the 2010 conference in Philadelphia. She has also agreed to step forward to be nominated for President of AAGT at the Annual Meeting. She was welcomed and affirmed in both her endeavors. Several board members also suggested that she consider having a co-convener to work with her for the Philadelphia conference especially if she is elected President Elect at the Annual Meeting. Cathy said she has considered this and plans to do this (she will select someone to be co-convener hopefully before this conference has ended).

Jack and Robert will also stand for their current positions at the Annual Meeting and discussed their roles as they see them for the next 2 years. Brian is currently the RCP chair and he will continue to do this for the present time.

Dan and Peter P had an exchange about their changing roles. The Community Meetings will be the last events led by Peter P's as President of AAGT. At the end of the second meeting, he will hand Dan the AAGT gavel and Dan will assume the role as President of AAGT (and Peter P will be the Vice President for the next year until the President Elect assumes that position at the annual meeting in 2009). Appreciation was expressed by all the board members to Peter P for his devotion, direction and vision for AAGT over the past two years.

The meeting was adjourned.

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