

July 29, 2007 Board Meeting

AAGT Board Meeting

Present: Ann Bowman, Peter Philippson, Dan Bloom, Phil Brownell, Tine van Wijk, Brian O'Neill, Peter Cole, Ansel Woldt, Morgan Goodlander, Marcy Stern, Robert DeVos, Silvie Falschlunger, Sarah Fallon, Bud Feder.

Absent: Jack Aylward, Marilyn Myles.

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

A. Manchester Conference (Sarah)

B. RCP (Tine)

C. Treasurer's Report (Peter)
Possible financial support for SW and SE Conferences

D. e-Newsletter (Marcy and Phil)

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

F. Annual Meeting October 2007

G. Scholarship fund (Bud)

H. Organization Membership Component Report (Bud)

I. Brian volunteering for Membership Co-Chair

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING TIME – August 26, 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

Manchester Conference

In an email sent prior to the conference call, Sarah Fallon wrote:

Conference Planning Report for July 2007:

1) PPC report:

Phil has moved the PPC to the GSTALT-J mailing list, to help manage communications. Tali, in her role as Publicity chair, has now joined the PPC. This means the PPC now has members representing all the committees - CPC, Publicity and Peer Review. In the main, discussion has been around the conference schedule and having an "invited presenters" round. At the moment the PPC is considering how to work with the room dimensions at the Thistle. Phil liaised with the Publicity committee over the call for proposals and pre-conference workshops.

2) Publicity report:

We have an advert in the latest edition of the British Gestalt Journal – which has been delivered this week in the UK .

Ronnie Lac, from the UK , has now joined the Publicity committee as a full member. Great to have you on board with us, Ronnie.

Phil is now copied in to the Publicity mails that have an implication for programme planning. This has arisen out of our general commitment to facilitating open and effective communication between all committees.

*The call for proposals has gone out.
The call for pre-conference workshops has also gone out.*

Publicity items were included in the delegate packs at the GPTI conference – postcards, call for proposals, call for pre-conference workshops etc. Danny, from the Publicity committee, also gave a short presentation on AAGT. In rhyme, apparently. (I missed it, but heard it went down very well!)

Ronnie has agreed to compile a central database for all future contacts and publicity announcements. This is a serious task but is one that will be a fantastic resource and great help to us. Thank you for doing this, Ronnie.

Tali requests that anybody who belongs/owns a list or has an extensive private email list (and is willing) forwards it to Tali so that it can be included on the database. This will be a great resource for the community for the future so, while Ronnie has the energy for it, I'd encourage us all to respond in kind.

Also, for those of who feel it not appropriate to share your address lists with a third party, Tali asks that you be willing to forward our announcements to your contacts lists yourselves. If you are willing to do this, please send Tali an email to let her know. She will then include you on her circulation list for all future announcements, so you can cascade them from your own personal address.

The Publicity committee is also planning to compose a time-line of responsibilities and tasks and Tali would welcome any suggestions from members of the Board to incorporate along it. She would welcome suggestions before the end of the week.

Peter P was planning to do a similar publicity drive at the recent British Gestalt Society conference as was done at the GPTI one. However, Peter was turned back half way through his journey due to severe flooding in the south. Danny has, therefore, contacted a representative from BGS and they have agreed to send out all our information to their delegates list via snail mail. This is better for us, as not all delegates listed themselves on email.

3) CPC report:

Entertainment:

We have now settled on having a Ceilidh band. Danny has been looking into this. Many bands are already booked up as far as next summer- apparently July is a popular month. Danny has checked out some that are still free. He has a preference, has been to see them perform and, currently, they are still available for the night we want them. They are a Manchester band – The Maerlock. They have sent Danny a demonstration DVD.

Entertainment Budget:

The fee for the Ceilidh band is £ £850 (\$1700) for 2 sets of around 90 minutes. This price seems to be comparable to other equivalent bands - the recent GPTI conference band were a similar price Danny requests a response to this asap, as time is running out for making advance bookings.

Reconfiguring membership:

Janice has been in touch and has requested that she just concentrate her energies on what we refer to as “conference goodies”. This includes conference bags and contents etc. Obviously we are backing her all the way on this, and it is fantastic that she feels both able and willing to re-join us in the planning in this way. Clearly we will need to reconfigure as a team in response to recent events but, if we reshuffle in a considered way, we should be able to manage just fine. One idea is for Sharon to withdraw from the PPC for now and concentrate on her treasury duties - as the treasury role is necessitating increasingly more commitment. Additionally, this move would also free her up to support Janice and help with the tasks that Janice has needed to withdraw from. Phil and Mae have expressed their support of this, should Sharon agree to it, and also made clear she would be welcome to return to the PPC should the situation change. (Thanks for that, you two.)

The other thing that would greatly help us would be if Jenny was willing to engage as an active member again. I will keep trying to find out about this.

Audio-Visual Recording:

I have been in touch with the Audio Visual company that The Thistle use – Saville AV. I enquired about a quote for the following slots, based on the current schedule drafted by the PPC:

- 1) Wed 23rd -18:30 - 21:00 for the opening plenary, although there will be a space in the middle where the workshop leaders have requested no-recording (and where the form of the workshop will become experiential in nature.)*
- 2) Thurs 24th - 9:00 -11:00 for the keynotes moderated by Peter P.*
- 3) Saturday 26th - 11:30 - 13:30 for the invited presenters, with each session being recorded simultaneously.*

For these services, plus 200 Multi-Region DVDs (as a working example) that will be ready to purchase at the end of the conference they will charge us: £3685.20 Excluding VAT.

Each DVD will contain all recorded items separated into individual “programmes”. Going by a division by 200, and to recoup ALL the costs, each DVD would need to sell at £18.43, excluding VAT. It may be (meaningfully) cheaper if we order more. (Might we also be willing to subsidise the costs in view of the invited speakers presenting simultaneously?)

I have more information from the company, in the form of attachments, which I will forward to you all individually before the call. Please let me know if you do not receive them.

Peter C – when you have some time, can you please make a response as to whether we can engage this company? I have included a more detailed quote in the separate attachments. I appreciate you have your hands full at the moment, and I also think this matter can wait a while. It is certainly not as urgent as the other matters you are involved in right now!

Thistle Visit No2:

Peter P and Danny have arranged a further visit next week – unfortunately I will be out of the country at that time. They’ll be specifically checking our concerns around capacity and possible solutions such as creative seating/scene-setting.

Thank you very much to you both for being willing to do this again. I look forward to hearing how it goes.

4) Scholarship Fund:

Bud’s fund-raising workshop at Manchester was extremely successful. Without expenses, he raised £1600/\$3200.

(When I collected Bud at the end, it was very clear to me that people had experienced something significant. I understand from Bud that he also receive very positive feedback form the evaluation sheets.)

*Bud also ran a fund-raising workshop in London .
This raised – \$2500, although Bud is waiting for the exact figure from Jenny.
One of our members has pledged a \$1000 contribution.
Bud will give a more detailed report on the call.*

Thank you Bud, for putting so much of your time and energy into both these events.

5) Contract negotiations:

Linda Brownell has very kindly offered us her expertise in negotiating a better financial deal for us with The Thistle. Peter C is working with her on this. Linda, Phil and Peter C have had a phone meeting and discussed how to proceed. One issue is that of unbundling the bed and breakfast rate from the conference rooms and food rates. The hotel's initial response to Peter C on this was friendly, so let's hope the financial implications of doing so are equally friendly.....

I'm sure I speak for everybody in expressing our thanks and appreciation for this (I am certainly very grateful). Please would you pass on our thanks to Linda, Phil? And also thanks to you, for considering and supporting this as a possibility.

6) Financial issues:

Sylvie and Peter C have been considering options around currency with regard to the online registration facility.

Sylvie will need to work with our UK treasurer, Sharon, on banking issues.

Peter C is also looking into this further and will advise us more specifically once we have

Appreciations were expressed to Sarah for the report above.

Peter C – felt the band was excessive in their fees.

Sarah – Has checked out many bands and they are about the same costs. Danny continues to check on other bands which are cheaper but not as good.

Ansel – price of band compared to Cleveland's band's costs are about the same. (\$2000 or so). Perhaps this isn't as costly as it seems.

Peter P – due to the exchange rate, all bands will seem to cost more \$\$\$.

Sarah – do need to decide as soon as possible due to bands booking up through next summer.

Ann – Do we know what we have paid in the past a conferences for bands?

Sarah – has asked treasurer to email Bea to check on what we paid in Vancouver.

Peter P - probably need to stick with whether we decide to have a band or entertainment that is congruent with the country.

Ansel – is it possible that another organization will sponsor the band like what happened in Cleveland?

Peter P – great idea. Manchester Institute not big enough but perhaps other organizations could.

Ansel – has asked Sage to help support the conference.

Peter P – would also ask his publisher about this.

Sarah - Deposit in the UK treasury. Is it OK to book the band?

Peter P – send the contract to me and I will forward this to whoever is appropriate.

Ann – What is happening with the Thistle contract?

Peter C, - Phil, Linda and he spoke on the phone. Main issue is separating out the bed and breakfast charges from the dinner and conference charges. Peter C had talked with them recently and they seemed very open.

Linda – The hotel is a little slow to respond but she has relayed our considerations for the space and the number of people per room. Ex. need space for 60 – they have 30 with tables. She is going to ask them to take out the tables. Also – they will take away the bar which adds space. Also may use rooms without furniture.

RE: the bed and breakfast charges, they said yes they will break that out. No rate card available – all room rates are done via contract with the organization.

Peter P – the total was \$95,000 pounds but the original was around \$80,000.

Sarah – yes it was around \$80,000 and we don't know how they got the extra \$15000.

Brian – will they expect a certain number to book into the hotel? Florida this became problematic.

Peter C – can cancel rooms up to 30 days before the conference and we won't be responsible.

Linda – will also ask about this. What will happen to the room rate if we get a rate on 200 rooms and there are 175?

Peter P – initial negotiations was 150 people.

Bud – per 150 persons or room nights.

Peter P – room nights.

Linda – it is 150 sleeping nights not 150 people?

Peter P – 24 hour rate for 150 which include 150 rooms.

Peter P and Danny are going to look at the rooms again this coming Tuesday. Need to email them Monday night with and questions.

Linda – will email questions and things she wants them to look at Monday night.

Treasurer's Report

Peter C – *In an email sent prior to the board call, Peter C sent copies of the AAGT Balance sheet and the year to date Overall Financial Statement. These are available upon request.*

Peter C - Not yet received the funds from England.

Bud – how much did they earn from Manchester?

Sarah - \$3200 from Manchester less expenses.

Peter C – please Sarah let whomever sent check from the workshop know that Peter has not received this as of yet.

Silvi – there were more registrations for membership. 144 have paid and they have sent out another email.

Bud – only paid up members are entitled to be in the conference directory.

RE: Possible financial assistance for the SW and SE Regional Conferences

In an email sent to Peter P prior to the call, Anne Leibig wrote:

Peter - I have put some more information together to present to the AAGT board in support of the request for the seed grant. Anne

Board of AAGT - I realized that when I asked for a seed grant to help us do our regional conference I was initiating a new process. Peter said he would be taking the proposal to the Board. I wanted to give some background for the request.

In checking the AAGT by-laws (I really like them. I am a fan of by-laws) I read the purpose: The purpose of the Association shall be to support the professional and personal associating and advancing of persons interested in participating in a forum committed to the preservation and advancement of the philosophy, theory, practice, and research of Gestalt therapy and its various applications.

In furtherance of this purpose, AAGT shall encourage the development and application of principles and practices in the organization consistent with the following tenets:

- *That an organization can be created, rather than imposed, and that it will grow out of our contacting; and*
- *That a structure will emerge in response to our shared needs, interests and concerns; and*
- *That by believing in the unity of theory and practice, an organization which so creates itself, is itself an experiment, an on-going organic process of Gestalt formation and destruction, in which old forms are destroyed and new figures emerge through contact that is bright and lively, energetic, graceful and fluid; and*
- *That such an organization provides the ground for the enrichment, articulation and support of the constantly emerging figure that is Gestalt Therapy*

IN THIS SEED GRANT PROPOSAL I FEEL ENCOURAGED TO CREATE A STRUCTURE IN SOUTH EAST USA - AS STATED BY THE APPALACHIAN GESTALT TRAINING INSTITUTE:

>>> the purpose of the conference is to launch a Gestalt Learning community in the Southeast USA with the culture, persons, support and tools of AAGT. The workshops will be designed to give a view of how Gestalt Therapy can enhance everyday therapy practice. The Appalachian Gestalt Training Institute, as local host, will draw on the regional network, recruiting locally. The AAGT web site will recruit from the broader membership. Phil Brownell, Iris Fodor, Deborah Ullman and Sylvia Crocker (and maybe Marilyn Myles????) have agreed to do workshops. Ansel has said he will help with continuing education. Nicholas Emmanuel, Patsy Owens and I, as regional based will also present. I HAVE EXPERIENCED THE "CULTURE, SUPPORT, PERSONS, TOOLS OF AAGT AT THREE BIENNIAL CONFERENCES IN ST. PETE'S AND VANCOUVER" AND MY ENERGY FOR PROVIDING LEADERSHIP IN THE SOUTHEAST COMES FROM THIS AND THE WILLINGNESS OF OTHER AAGT MEMBERS TO COME TO ASHEVILLE. THIS UNIQUE FORM OF AAGT CAN BE EXTENDED. CAUGHT BUT TAKES SOME SEED MONEY. I CONTRACTED WITH TWO YOUNG PEOPLE FOR \$ 700 TO:

>>> 1) preparing a brochure/flyer (to send with e-mail and print mail),

>>> 2) establishing a Gestalt Therapy e-mail list that I can send information to for marketing -some training on my Mac Address book

>>> 3) *-designing web page to AAGT to help with marketing. (Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy).*

>>> 4) *mailing costs*

THIS \$700 IS WHAT I AM REQUESTING.

I vision AAGT being helped through more members in the SoutheEast USA - right now there is only about a dozen - and we will recruit for the Manchester conference - and - the organization will be creating out of the contacting. We do not have the final brochure yet - but I attach it in the process.

- Anne Leibig -of the Clinch River and Appalachian Mountains

Peter C – my view is the regional conferences should be self supporting.

Peter P – SW conference has asked for a good will offering due to the annual meeting being held there. They also say that some folks attending the annual meeting not the conference would probably want to come on Saturday night to the entertainment. Therefore a donation would be made.

Bud – not sure about entertainment on Saturday night. Should check on this.

Phil – it's seed money to build up the region.

Peter P – need to look at this globally.

Peter C – we are struggling doing this for Manchester. Don't think we can do this on an ongoing basis.

Tine – maybe we will get this back with conference attendees.

Peter P – reluctantly agrees with Peter C.

Phil – what if we get registration money in for Manchester – would that change the point of view.

Dan – how much are they asking?

Peter P - \$700.

Dan – so we would do this for each regional conference?

Some board members also asked if this would be returned.

Peter P - Being asked not as a loan.

Many board members said that it could be repaid but need to talk about this at the annual meeting.

Brian – talked about difficulties of giving seed money.

Tine – advertised Amsterdam over email.

Peter P – perhaps SE conference could do this as well.

Phil – they are starting from scratch.

Bud – great that they are being creative and starting. Support giving a loan.

Marcy – supportive of this.

Peter C – need a systematic way to do this. Create a grant money situation. Perhaps have a committee like the scholarship committee to review requests and have set amount for this.

Ansel – Need also some kind of feedback loop for AAGT. Reports from regional conferences are who are asking for funds. Ansel donates his time for the CEUs.

There was a discussion regarding SW conference being a part of AAGT. Lynn Stadler is an RCP person and reports the regional group processes.

Peter P – and the regional conferences don't share their financial reports with AAGT. Question remains can AAGT support them financially?

Robert – Do we support the creation of and stimulation of regional conferences. Will we support the regional initiatives?

Peter C – if we financially support, then we are also probably going to ask them to be more accountable to AAGT. We would lose something in this – they would lose their own creativity.

Peter P – RCP is supportive, website, also getting members from AAGT to attend and present. Financial support crosses a boundary that has consequences.

Tine and other board members discussed how difficult it is for start up costs.

Brian – when we step in financially, there is a need to do a business analysis.

Bud – offer \$500 as a loan to SE conference as an experiment.

Peter C – would like to support them as a loan.

Peter P – what they will be told is that they have a loan of \$500.

Ann – is the SW conference asking also for money?

Peter P – yes to support the entertainment on Friday night.

Peter C – Bud, will you check this out and let us know next meeting?

Bud – will do this.

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

Has been emailing the membership and will present at next meeting.

RCP (Tine)

Gave a brief report and also stated that Susan G was in on the last call.

E- Newsletter

When you click on newsletter, doesn't go to blog. Send bios – announcements or stories soon.

Silvi – will change this and notify

Scholarship Fund

Jenny Edwards will help co-chair. Same person who did the Laura document is also wanting to do a Fritz document.

Organizational Membership Component Report

Morgan – to enhance more organizational memberships, proposed integrating the directory and getting them out to organizations in a more professional look with binding.

Tine – beside the directory, perhaps organizations can link to their websites from the web.

Marcy – may also consider this from blog.

Morgan – supporting a brief description of each member organization on the web with a link to their websites.

Phil – probably can do this from the website, also AAGT 2 and blog.

Morgan – stated he has been participating as a board member via talking with Bud about the committee.

Peter C – would like Morgan to be on the conference calls.
Several board members agreed.

Morgan – not sure about how many calls he can be on and wondering if there was a quota.

Peter P – is it hard to be on the calls?

Morgan – I have a lot going on – not sure.

Tine – could also check on emails if he cannot make the calls.

Peter P – AAGT needs this committee and attendance is important.

Morgan – agreeable to this.

Phil – need to prescribe him to the leaders list. Morgan will email Phil as Phil currently doesn't have Morgan's email address.

Brian Volunteering to be Membership Co-Chair

No objections for Brian to co-chair with Robert.

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