

## **AAGT August 2009 Board Conference Call**

Present: Dan, Sarah, Robert, Cathy, Charlie, Adam, Peter C, Ansel, Bud.

Apologies: Brian, Maryanne.

The new conference numbers are not toll-free for people calling from outside America, and will be charged at full international rates. Adam will look to sorting this out in time for the next call. He said he will also find out what the cost of the calls was tonight for both Robert and Sarah, and will reimburse them.

Ansel reported on his recent experience with the first national gestalt therapy conference in Tokyo, Japan on July 18-20 -- regarded as an "epoch" event by the 140 participants. Fellow AAGT member, Noriyoshi Okada was the conference co-coordinator and one of the translators. Nancy Woldt was a guest of the conference and took numerous photos that will be available in our next Newsletter.

Gordon Wheeler and Ansel were the invited presenters and represented AAGT as an international community worthy of their consideration to join -- both as individual and organizational members. Ansel took 100 copies of the Philadelphia 2010 AAGT postcards, 25 AAGT Membership applications, and 15 Philadelphia Conference Program Proposal forms for distribution to those interested. They were quickly and eagerly taken, with requests for more copies of the conference proposal forms. It appears that there will be at least 3 or 4 conference program proposals coming from Japan. Noriyoshi and Ansel will both be sharing more about this phenomenal experience in the next Newsletter.

### **Communications Committee (Charlie):**

Member Directory/Listing on website: There has been support for a members only section of the website, and Charlie feels we are in a position to move forward with it. Cathy asked how many people we reach via the members list, with regard to matters of consultation, and wondered whether we would be able to consult with more people by doing a members mail-out, through Adam. Charlie agreed with this as a next step. Adam proposed making a check-form for people, on which to indicate their preferences. He says he has an up to date list of the membership.

We agreed to provide the personal information we have, ask members to sanction it for posting, and ask them if they wanted to be on the public or members only section. We would also poll them, and not start posting the information to the web until we hear from the members. This was to save time and to encourage member response.

Also see matter from Ann Leibig in RCP Report.

## **2010 Conference (Cathy and Burt)**

Cathy gave a report on conference progress. To date, we have received confirmations from the following.

### Plenary Speakers:

Frank Staemmler, Lynne Jacobs, Myriam Munez Polit, Gordon Wheeler (introducer, moderator and responder).

Philip Lichtenberg (honorée), Jean-Marie Robine, Mary Lou Schack, Erv Polster.

### Invited Workshop Presenters:

Cornelia Muth, Michael Clemmens, Bob Resnick, Jean-Marie Robine, Erv Polster.

### Panels:

Field of the Field: Dan Bloom - moderator, Brian O'Neil, Donna Orange - provisional\*, Gordon Wheeler.  
Research: Philip Brownell - moderator, Wen Chun Cho, Uwe Struempfl - provisional\*, Christine Stevens.

(\*Provisional indicates that they need some things from us in order for them to come and participate.)

Cathy said that they are currently inviting people to be part of panels on mindfulness, as well as one on organisations.

Pre-conference and peer review: We have 39 proposals, and 26 pre-conference proposals. Some peer review pending, but only a handful, which Charlie is chasing. Charlie's goal is to have pre-conference decided upon by next week. After this is decided, we can put up pre-registration for the conference. Discussed how we can best support applications from presenters for whom English is not their first language, in situations where support might be needed.

Robert agreed to contact the RCPs to ask for volunteers to peer review applications.

### **RCP report:**

Minutes already sent to board

From Anne Leibig:

"I am writing to you and Dan to follow up on something we discussed on the Regional Contact Person's conference call. The schedule and registration flier for the Se-USA conference is ready on AGTI web site and would like a link

from the AAGT web site. Ideally on the front page - just under the "Register for the 2010 Philadelphia.

Something like "Register for Fall AAGT regional conferences - (South West USA - October 9-10, South East USA -October 16-18 ([www.agti.org/asheville.html](http://www.agti.org/asheville.html)) South East Queensland/Northern New South Wales Australia November 6-8)"

Charlie would like to do this, but feels a listing may be more appropriately placed on the regional page. The board as a whole felt this would be the preferred option, as we need to keep Philadelphia figural currently. Having said that, we do have a link to the regional page on the home page. Our priorities of advertising could change at different times of the year, for example, after Philadelphia has finished - when we could prioritise the regions in our publicity. Charlie will look into how we we can currently highlight regional events on the website too, and Dan stressed that we are not just concerned about the Biennial conferences but very much want to promote regional activity.

Dan offered that he thought we need to inform the entire organization about the activities of the regions in additional ways than the link on the home page (which is good) and the newsletter. This does not jeopardize the Biennial conference but lets people in the regions have a sense that the larger organization is offering them something all the time -- and gives them a reason to continue memberships between conferences. This does not mean that we'd offer unlimited organization wide advertising for regional events, but that regions have limited announcements --- perhaps 1 per quarter. These would not be burdensome, yet would give all the membership a greater sense of activity throughout the organization than newsletter announcements or web page links.

NE Region (Dan):

The NE region will co-sponsor an event this November with the NYC gestalt therapy institutes, NYIGT, Gestalt Associates, and Gestalt Center. These institutes (all AAGT organisational members) are forming a loose coalition for these events called the Inter-Institute Connection. It is unclear how our so-sponsorship will be advertised. The topic of this event will be "relational" gestalt therapy. Our newsletter described this incorrectly. I missed the error.

AAGT/NE will hold a conference on January 23 on gestalt therapy and intersubjective psychoanalysis. Lynne Jacobs accepted the invitation from Ken Meyer, the NE Region's RCP.

Robert said that he would prefer not to receive emails from all the regions about their events, and wondered whether other members might feel the same. Charlie shared his concern that some people leave the members list due to too many emails. Dan wondered just how much more email we would be talking about, if we advertised all regional events. When we analysed this, it could be quite a large amount. Dan wondered about imposing a fair limit on advertsing emails, applicable to all regions, so we could help advertise regional events without inundating the wider, international, membership. Charlie proposed letting the communications committee look at this, and the board supported this as a way

forward. Robert requested he and Brian also be included in any consultation. Charlie agreed to consult with the Education Committee and give them a 2 week deadline for the regional advert.

#### **Treasurer's report (Peter C):**

Currently we have \$20,000 in USA account, and £5000 in paypal account, but doesn't know how much is in the Co-operative Bank account. We have \$6823 in the scholarship fund.

This is more than usual at this similar points in the past.

#### **Membership Renewal Report:**

Adam reported that this is moving along steadily. We have 132 renewals, which is quite good for this time of, a non-conference, year. We shall continue to encourage renewals through the RCPs.

#### **Development Fund (Bud):**

Bud summarised the proposal of the Development Fund. Cathy asked for clarification as to whether if there were to be any involvement by AAGT in choosing any trainers or would we be supporting those whom the site chose. That hasn't yet been decided but Bud proposed we could either advertise trainers that we have in AAGT, or the requesting organisation could ask for someone in particular. Cathy felt the proposal was too amorphous currently, for us to agree upon it. Sarah recalled that there were concerns expressed by some of the membership at this year's AGM in Madrid, and she wondered whether the committee had looked at these specifically so they could be addressed directly. Bud agreed to take this back to the group, and he hoped they would have something to propose to the AGM in Philadelphia.

#### **A.O.B (Dan):**

Can AAGT do anything to support members who are in "professional crisis"? Such as: confidential peer telephone/email/Skype chat? (Item adjourned until next meeting)

Date of next meeting: 20.09.09

Sarah Fallon  
AAGT Secretary