

September 10, 2006 Board Meeting in Vancouver

AAGT Board Meeting

Present: Brian O'Neill, Ann Bowman, Peter Philippon, Bea Mackay, Marcy Stern, Tine van Wijk, Mae Tang, Peter Cole, Jenny Edwards, Robert DeVos, Dan Bloom, Warren Weir, Sylvie Falschlunger, Ansel Woldt

Absent: Jack Aylward, Phil Brownell, Marilyn Myles, Bud Feder

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

A. Welcome New Members (Peter)

B. Conference Vancouver appreciating what we achieved and financial issues(Bea)

C. Manchester Conference

D. Finances

E. RCP

F. Committee on our Process

G. Annual Meeting 2007

H. e-Newsletter

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING TIME – October 1, 2006 at the following times

LA/Vancouver	PDT Sun 1pm
Chicago	CDT Sun 3pm
New York	EDT Sun 4pm
London/Manchester	BDT Sun 9pm
Amsterdam	Sun 10pm
Sydney	EST Mon 6am

Welcome New Members (Peter)

Peter gave welcome to Dan and Robert who are the newest board members.

This was followed by a quick check in from all the members present on the call.

Vancouver Conference

Many thanks and appreciation expressed to Warren and Bea for their work at the conference.

Bea – still sorting things out and working with UBC to clarify confusing charges – esp. catering and room booking. They are waiting for revised invoices. Have \$10,000 Can dollars in the conference account. We should get a deposit back from UBC for room bookings but UBC is not forthcoming with this.

Peter C will check on how much deposit AAGT made for this and confirm with Bea and Warren. He also suggested they check the registrant list.

Sylvie has registrant information. She suggested Bea and Warren check with each person who stayed at Gage Towers re: check in and check out dates and double check this with the numbers UBC has recorded.

Bea, Warren and Peter C were told that they were only 4% away from the 80% required bookings. They know that they were double charged for the dinner dance and they have received very conflicting invoices.

Peter C and Sylvie will assist Bea and Warren with the finance matters from the conference.

There was a discussion between Peter P, Warren and Bea about the AV costs which were reduced.

We expect that there will be no charge for the Hospitality Room at Gage Towers due to problems with the facilities at the Student Union. UBC also took 13% off the bill to compensate for this.

Peter C – suggested that all confusion re: invoices be resolved before final payment is made. He feels we should also request a statement from UBC confirming this.

DVD's – 32 folks have pre-purchased DVD's and Warren has their addresses. AAGTR will own the master copy and Warren would like to send this to someone to keep in the organization. A 2 DVD package which comes in a jewel case and has the AAGT logo on it costs around \$13.20 Can dollars. This is being sold for \$20 US which hopefully will cover the mailing and the production charges.

Sylvie – will send out an email re: DVD's being available to the membership and how to order. Board agreed. Peter P also suggested that they send this out to the Gestalt L list.

Ansel – suggested that they send a copy of the DVD (perhaps the master copy) for the archives.

Jenny – suggested they send one copy to the UK to copy and distribute (to save postage).

Warren – could also send bulk copies to the UK and one person could mail them to those who purchased them in the UK.

Ansel – perhaps we could also give a free copy to all new members.

Warren will talk with the production person and get price quotes for various bulk orders of DVD's.

Ansel – a new member who is a PhD approached him after the annual meeting and offered to help Robert on the Membership committee.

Board discussed that the membership did not want to add another board position but did agree to welcome all volunteers to help where needed.

Ansel will contact this person and speak with Robert about it.

Peter P – Tine, Bruce and Alan will also be support for Robert as he learns more about AAGT.

Robert will read the bylaws and take some time to see what he needs for his position. He will let the board know at the next conference call.

Ann – wanted a clarification on how to record the addition to the AAGT name in the minutes. She had this recorded as Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy – an International Community. She has since sent and received emails from the members at large and the board members with numerous suggestions for what is placed between “... Therapy” and “an”. She currently has it recorded in the annual minutes with nothing in between (Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy an International Community).

The board discussed this and it was agreed to have no added punctuation (like comas, colons, hyphens, etc) officially but allow for creativity.

Manchester Conference

Jenny – looking at venues which will support the conference including break out rooms for process groups as well as accommodations which are flexible enough to meet the differing financial and comfort needs.

Peter P – having it outside Manchester is problematic logistically. There would be no university accommodations so folks would possibly pay higher air fares without the compensation for cheaper accommodations being available.

Brian – suggested that we not do it at a large hotel but at a university to help with folks who don't have a lot of money.

Peter C - discussed the difficult situation at the Florida conference with not booking enough people at the hotel.

Jenny –usually hotels have 4 months grace to cancel with the hotel before the conference.

Bea – encouraged them to underestimate how many folks might book.

Mae – working on post cards and getting those to RCPs. She suggested discounts for early birds, discounts for those who attended Vancouver who get someone to attend Manchester that hasn't attended a conference also get a discount. She would also like to send cards and info to persons who attended the conference and to AAGT members (Sylvie will help with this). Work on the postcards includes adding “an International Community” to the logo.

Ansel will forward evals to Mae and Jenny. Bea and Warren will also forward feedback to them.

Brian suggested they also have an information officer who will help with publicity, etc.

Mae stated she doing this role with Veronica Lac who is skilled in publicity matters.

Jenny – inquired about having a keynote speaker identified soon which might encourage people commit to the conference.

The board discussed some possible names including having someone from Europe be the keynote speaker (Frank Staemmler was mentioned as a possibility).

Finances

Peter C sent spread sheet out to the board. He is waiting for final bills from Vancouver.

RCP

Tine – RCPs are not very active and she has sent out a message wondering what ideas they have re: being an RCP. She has had little response back. She is wondering how we can stimulate them?

Peter P – suggested that we provide specific ideas which may help them to be more involved (like put out a publicity form for Manchester).

Brian – suggested she email him and Dan (who have both been involved with RCP) to help support Tine and brainstorm some ideas.

Annual Meeting in 2007

Peter P has contacted folks from S W region re: date for their conference but he has not heard back yet.

E-Newsletter

Marcy – has been in contact with Phil and questioned the board about use of blogs. She is unfamiliar with these.

Peter P – OK to work with webmaster and Sylvie will email the membership when updates are ready.

Mae – will help Marcy with selecting and setting up a blog if needed.

Support for Marcy from the board not to increase her workload.

Peter P – will send Marcy some text to publish on the web for the E-Newsletter.

Marcy is in need of articles and pictures.

Other Business

Peter P has talked with Walter Arnold of IGTA to let him know that Peter P is now the President of AAGT.

Peter P was also contacted by persons from the country, Georgia about setting up a Gestalt training program there. They are interested in joining AAGT and the board agreed to offer membership to them for \$10 each.

Peter P and Brian also met with Les Wyman who stated he will put together something that fits for the SEP program and submit this.

Tine – Yalta there are 2 hotels which may create splitting between Russian attendees in Yalta and those staying in a more expensive hotel. There was also a brief discussion about AAGT financial support. This needs more discussion on email or the next call.

During the annual meeting, there was a need identified for a task force to look at decision making within AAGT. Dan Bloom has agreed to chair this meeting. Ann will email him the members list.

Membership

In an email sent prior to the conference call, Sylvie wrote: As of today we have 234 active, paid members, including 24 organizational members; We had 200 conference

participants, 132 of them are members; And I have a total of 481 persons in the database – all potentially interest to come to Manchester

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING October 1, 2006 - see above for correct times.

Please note that the times for the November meeting will change due to daylight savings times in the Northern hemisphere changing at the end of October.