

## **AAGT Board Meeting on 25.10.09.**

**Present:** Sarah, Charlie, Dan, Cathy, Peter C, Adam, Ansel, Maryann.

**Apologies:** Brian, Bud, Robert.

People checked in, whilst also holding in mind a question from Dan about how they felt as a board member, and their perspective on AAGT as it is functioning now. It was decided that this process could usefully be continued among the board members over the next few months.

### **Reciprocal Reimbursement with EAGT (Dan):**

EAGT have agreed for reciprocal free conference places with AAGT for our respective presidents. This was approved by the board. A question remains about whether we offer a place to the EAGT's President's representative for Philadelphia as their President cannot attend. It was proposed that we hand over this decision to the CPC.

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

Charlie will check whether conference registration will be online for November 1st.

The board congratulated Charlie on the Newsletter. The next issue will be all about the conference.

Work on the online membership directory is still ongoing.

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

Some people have already registered for the conference, despite the online facility not yet being up and running.

Cathy wondered if the website was clear enough about the \$35 fee for the Dinner Dance. Adam offered to look into this.

Cathy clarified about invited presenters needing to pay for the Dinner Dance and also any pre-conference activities they may wish to attend. She has already informed them of this situation.

Cathy described the venue the committee is hoping to use for the Dinner Dance. She is also negotiating terms with a possible band.

### **RCP reports :**

Brian sent a written report to Charlie, which is to be included in the forthcoming newsletter.

Report from SE:

Ansel and Charlie gave a brief report of what they described as a great conference of about 35-40 people.

Report from SW :

Peter C spoke about his positive experiences at the conference - again, of about 35-40 people.

NE Region:

Dan spoke of two forthcoming events. On 7th November '09, AAGT/NE was a co-sponsor along with the organizational member gestalt therapy institutes in NYC of an event, "I/You/We: what is relational about gestalt therapy." Approximately 40 people attended this event — a number deemed a success by the organizers.

On 23rd January 2010, AAGT/NE will hold its first Regional Conference, "Back Together Again for the First Time: Gestalt Therapy and Intersubjective Systems Psychoanalysis." Lynne Jacobs and Donna Orange are our invited guests. This event is an explicit acknowledgment of the affinity between gestalt therapy and ISP — and that in the NE Region, the gestalt therapy and psychoanalytic modalities cohabit the same world, yet for the most part don't talk with one another.

### **AAGT and Regionals:**

Dan expressed his support for the notion of AAGT offering "seed money bridge loans" to regions that are planning conferences.

An individual region has requested this of us and the issue needs to be considered in relation to this case. However, Dan would also like us to look at this as a general issue.

Charlie expressed a concern that any such loans might go just to American regions initially, as these are currently more organised.

Peter C would want borrowers to personally guarantee the loan.

Cathy suggested that, with such a guarantee from a borrower, we might offer \$500 as a generally accepted arrangement - without needing to consider each case individually.

Charlie suggested there was a bigger bridging issue with the treasury here, bearing in mind the multi-faceted ways that AAGT money can, and could be, used.

Dan made the point that we always give unqualified support and organizational commitment to our biennial conferences. The regional conferences need similar attention since they are held in localities where our members work and live. The regional conferences and the biennial conferences should be considered together as the way we address our membership. Our regions have been afterthoughts.

Charlie suggested that this should be raised at the Community meeting in Philadelphia.

It was agreed that the individual applicant referred to above would be given the loan by AAGT, and that they would need to repay it within 30 days. We will continue to discuss the wider issue of more general loans, and will raise the issue at the Community meeting in Philadelphia.

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

Peter sent the board an up to date account of the finances in advance of the meeting.

**Elections:**

It was decided that we need to consider the Continuing Education officer responsibilities being shared by more than one person. Ansel concurs with this as he knows from years of experience there is lots of time and work involved as he has been the CE officer since its inception. (Charlie also expressed his concern that the current system is weighted very much towards Americans.)

Cathy asked how we should encourage people to stand for election. As Vice President, Cathy is Chair of the nominations committee. However, she would like some help and, in his absence, the board suggested Bud as someone who would have the right skills for this. Cathy suggested we send an open invitation out to the membership, via emails and the Newsletter.

We also discussed how we need to look around for people who might be interested for these positions.

There was some discussion of the election process in Manchester and how this might inform the next process in Philadelphia. We agreed to put this on the agenda for the next board meeting too.

**Can AAGT do anything to support members who are in "professional crisis"?:**

This was carried over from our last agenda.

Next meeting: 8th November 2009

Sarah Fallon,  
AAGT Secretary