

November 6, 2005 Conference Call

AAGT Board Meeting

Present: Brian O'Neill, Ann Bowman, Tine van Wijk, Marilyn Myles (partial attendance), Bruce Aaron, Peter Philippon, Peter Cole, Bea Mackay (partial attendance)

Absent: Morgan Goodlander, Jack Aylward, Sylvie Falschlunger, Alan Singer, Bud Feder, Warren Weir, Marcy Stern, Ansel Woldt

Agenda for November 6, 2005:

Conference Report

Committees Report

RCP Report

Finance Report

Regular between-year regional conferences

NEXT BOARD CALL December 4, 2005. Same times as usual – Note that the time has changed from last call.

Vancouver Conference:

In an email prior to the conference call, Bea McKay submitted the following items noted in *italicized font*.

The board's responses are noted in bold font.

1) Warren and I organized a reunion of the local graduates of Gestalt Experiential Training Institute (GETI) in Vancouver. Our purpose was to reconnect and to inform them of the upcoming conference in August. It was a dark and stormy evening and hence a small turn out. Everyone who did come is interested in the conference and many signed up on one or more of the various committees. Warren and I know of many others who are interested but did not make this gathering. We are planning another one early in the new year. So that means we have started to put together our local team. They will be largely involved in helping with the logistics.

2) We need a chair for the Work/Study committee. We have a volunteer from our local committee to assist.

3) Do we have a chair for the Scholarship committee? Bud had said that if Susan Gregory would be the chair, he would assist her. I'm not clear if that has been finalized or not. I will email Bud as he said he would not be on the call.

4) Who arranges to have the program for the conference printed? Do we? I hope not?

Brian – Suggested Bea consult with Bud who did this for the last Florida conference.

Peter – Sylvie coordinated this for Amsterdam.

Brian – Ansel has also been involved in putting programs together..

Bea – No logistics chair is identified as of yet.

Brian – This is important and will need to be identified.

5) Warren and I have been working closely with Victor. Warren and I will be going out to UBC to double check the venue. To help them with placing events/workshops in the best places we will be taking photos of rooms etc to help the PPC visualize the rooms/areas.

Bea – would like to invite Victor Daniels onto the call next time. Much appreciation voiced for his hard work as Conference Planning Chair.

Board agreed to invite Victor onto the next board call.

6) If there is anything that anyone thinks that we might have forgotten or overlooked please ask or check with us. We appreciate the help.

Publicity for the Conference

Peter Cole – Inquired about whether there was an ad placed in the British Gestalt Journal.

Peter P – Placed ad in the Journal and asked them to contact Bea if there is a cost.

Peter P – British Gestalt Journal will probably not have a table in Vancouver. May charge for the ad. He will contact them tomorrow and will let Peter C and Bea know.

Tine – How about giving them ad space in the program?

All felt this was a good idea. May offer this to other groups as well.

Bea – Trying to place an ad in Gestalt News and Notes. They keep rejecting this saying it's in the wrong format. She has been having others look over it and just missed the deadline this last time. She will keep trying. Phil Brownell has also submitted an ad for the conference, which was rejected for the same problems.

Tine – Did advertise Amsterdam conference in News and Notes – Peter Cole helped with this.

Bea – any other places to advertise?

Tine – may advertise in the Dutch/ Flemish newsletter, EAGT.

Bea – Phil Brownell resigned from Publicity Committee Chair. She is on the committee. Would be good if someone else would be the chair. Her job right now takes an hour/day of work.

Brian – asked Tine to be chair of the Publicity Committee.

Tine – agreed.

All board present supported this.

There was a discussion about advertising to professional organizations like Social Workers, American Psychiatric Association, etc.

Peter P – wanted to make sure that if there is any advertising to specific professional organizations that it would not favor one country more than another.

Members of the board agreed to this.

Tine and Bea will talk more about the publicity issues.

Bea – thanked the members for their help.

Proposal to honor gestalt persons who have influenced the field

Brian – Victor suggested that we nominate persons for the overall achievement award.

Discussion

Marilyn – suggested that each participant be asked to honor persons that have been influential in their lives as Gestalt therapists.

Peter C – noted that these persons may also not be recognized in the gestalt community but may be the “behind the scenes” persons.

Peter P - Offered position of not wanting to offend persons who deserve to be honored but are not chosen.

Brian – Reminded the board members that we honored Irv and Miriam Polster in New York and Ansel Woldt in Cleveland which did not seem to be received by the community as discordant or excluding.

Board members were open to some kind of honoring process.

Bruce – Suggested that if this were opened to the community, then it would be presented as coming from the community mind.

There was discussion re: the email process – could we put this on the list?

Other issues:

Carl Hodges, Phil Lichtenburg, John Marie Rabine, Anne Mclean and Irv Polster have so far agreed to be interviewed at the conference. Other persons have been invited and hopefully will agree as well.

Peter C – We have 10 or 11 proposals so far. Quality has been mixed. 1/3 a little shaky. Closing date is January 15, 2006. Seems that many of the experienced persons have not submitted their proposals yet.

Evolution of Gestalt Conference

Evolution of Gestalt is a conference being held in Esalen in the next few weeks. Brian spoke with Bob Lee who will be there and he plans to promote AAGT and the conference in Vancouver.

Discussion among the board about getting the post cards that we have been using as advertisement printed and sent to Bob Lee or someone else to give out at the conference in Esalen.

Tine will talk with Bea and will try to arrange this.

RCP

Marilyn stated they will meet next week. Tine and Marilyn are working on the RCP committee. Katia from Russia is on the committee but cannot afford AAGT membership. They feel it's important for her to be on the committee. She could pay the \$25 fee.

Discussion re: could we offer her a reduced fee?

Peter P – Agreed to her importance on the committee and also wanted to ensure that if we offer reduced fees, we make it fair for all.

Bruce – Stated we have allowed students to join on the \$25 level for a long time.

Many board members also supported the idea of a work/study arrangement. If the person was also willing to be active on the committees, etc, this would be an acceptable arrangement for reduction in fees if there was a need.

Marilyn - Tine wanted to do a 1 to 2 hour workshop of the RCP's to jump-start the program.

Brian - Victor will need to know about this and put this on the program. Brian asked Marilyn and Tine to email Victor about this and include him on the email.

There are members of the RCP now from Russia, Amsterdam, and elsewhere. Isabelle is retiring from the committee and Brian spoke of her wonderful work and devotion to the program.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Peter Cole, Treasurer, added the following as an addendum to the minutes. This was sent in an email to the executive council November 6, 2005:

We still have a CA account and an Illinois account. I believe that Bruce is waiting for a last check to clear before he sends the balance to our CA account. In the CA account we have a balance of \$3,008. I believe the Illinois balance is approx. \$7,000. I'm sure we will have the accounts consolidated soon, and then I will give you more exact figures. In October we took in \$315 in CEU fees for SWAAGT

Bruce Aaron – We have \$6000 in Illinois account.

Committee #3

Peter P.- Commented that most of the energy and suggestions have come from people who insist they are not on the committee.

In the in-between big conference years, what would bring people to the annual meetings? Phil Brownell proposed that a regional conference be paired with the meetings.

Brian – Wants to hold up that the in between annual meetings have always been a part of the process and are in the by laws.

Peter P – Would regional conferences divert energy and funds from the larger planned conferences and general AAGT resources?

Brian – Important for some one in the region to have energy for doing a regional conference. In 2007, the annual meeting is scheduled to be paired with the Southwest Regional Conference. There is a hope that this pairing will invite persons from the southwest to participate in the meeting and in the organization in general.

Tine – has been to the Southwest Conference and felt it gave persons opportunities to connect within their region. Program is open by and large and is based on here and now process.

There was a discussion re: could this type of regional conference happen in all of the regions.

Discussion was left with most members of the board agreeing to make this process an ad hoc process – to be decided as the organization moves along in time rather than a “fixed” decision at this time. May continue this discussion at the meeting in Vancouver.

Issue re: posting agenda first before the meetings.

Peter P –What happens when things come up spontaneously?

Brian – Always “other business” comes up. Need to flag big issues.

Peter P – In Great Britain, can ONLY vote on items on agenda. “Agenda only” process gives lots of power to the board.

Brian and Peter P noted that *principles* have been at issue here.

Committee 1

Ann – what about the email list?

Brian – Last time we talked with Phil Brownell, the committee was trying to decide how to invite AAGT members to the list.

Peter P – Stated that he was informed that a final decision had been made. They decided that one email would go out inviting people to sign up. If they don’t respond, they are not going to be included. It was felt that this was better than

automatically signing persons up as spam mail often is sent that way (eg. “click here to decline”).

Phil Brownell has agreed to be a convener of the list. Need also someone to be back up if this changes.

Ann – can there be a back up moderator or a co-moderator?

Suggestion from Brian and Peter would be for Ann to do this.

Ann – This position requires that someone be willing to respond frequently to the emails and she may not be able to do this. She would be willing to send out info to the list from the board and will most certainly consider more involvement as the list is in process.

Brian and Peter P are also wondering if there will be such a need for an involved moderator as the list may not be constantly active.

There was again a suggestion to post the board minutes on the AAGT web page.

Ann – most willing to do this and needed information re: how to post the minutes.

Brian – Bud has the contact information for the web master for AAGT.

Ann – Will contact Bud to get the information about how to post the minutes. This meeting’s minutes will be posted after the board has approved them.

Peter P. – Suggested that board members check out www.123web.co.uk. This web program makes it easy for authorized persons (with passwords) to add and delete pages. He has found it works very well.

Bruce – Can we get conference application on the website for registration soon?

This would allow persons to sign up early, get a break in money and this also helps with funding for the conference. He will email Bea.

Process of Board and Committee activity

Brian – Since the flurry of emails after Amsterdam, recently the volume of email exchange has decreased. We may be in a withdrawal phase right now and will pick up over the next month.

Tine asked about IGTA.

Brian has been in touch with Walter from that organization who expressed that he was OK with whatever AAGT decides regarding IGTA members joining AAGT.

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Addendum to the Notes

In an email sent November 7, 2005, Peter Phillipson wrote:

I have checked with the British Gestalt Journal, and the ad is going in. They will discuss the options to either have a table or a reciprocal ad in the program, and will get back to us, sending an invoice if they don't take up one of the options.