



AAGT
 The Association for
 the Advancement of
 Gestalt Therapy

An International Community

Board Meeting

MINUTES January 10, 2016 4:00 PM (EST) Online Video Conference

CALL TO ORDER	Patricia called to the order the Board meeting for the AAGT at 4:23 PM (EST) on January 10, 2016 at RingCentral Meetings online video conferencing.
ATTENDEES	Patricia Tucker, Michael Sasiain, Robert (Bob) Witchel, Burt Lazarin, Dominique Chabre, Brad Larsen-Sanchez, Adam Kincel, Mark Reck, Ansel Woldt, Ryan Tolman, Gail Feinstein, Diedre Winter
APOLOGIES	Maryanne Nicholls, Marlene Blumenthal, Toni Gilligan, Dina Miller, Daniel Bak, Jim Battaglia, Janneke van Beusekom, Alex Schlotterbeck
CHAIR PERSON	Patricia Tucker
MINUTES PERSON	Ryan Tolman

AGENDA TOPICS

1. TREASURER REPORT

BURT

DISCUSSION	Treasurers report:
	The end of year narrative was contained in an email from Burt. There are one shot revenue items such as contributions from the conference account, but basically the funds are breaking even. AAGT is in good financial shape.
	This is cut and pasted from Burt’s e-mail:
	Hi all....these are our financials as of today (Jan 10, 2016).
	CURRENT STATUS
	in our general checking account: \$14,218.45
	in our money market account: \$40,723.97
	total \$54,492.42
	Included in the above total is:
	Budgeted Reserve (28% of 2015 exp) \$4,892.62
Regional Development Fund \$7,590.66	
Research Fund: \$4,311.46	
Conference Account \$14,050.63	

	<p>leaving unencumbered: \$23,647.05</p> <p>In the Scholarship Fund account: \$16,363.04</p> <p>Not including pass thru monies, we took in last year \$31,904.21 and spent \$18,785.89. But if we subtract from revenues the contribution from the conference account and the reserve carried over from 2014, revenues totaled in 2015 \$18,687.34. Ordinary revenues and expenditures are break even. We are in good financial shape because as far as I can tell we are carrying over each year since 2012 more than the budgeted reserves.</p> <p>In 2015 we took in \$13,250 individual memberships (only \$250 below what we had budgeted) and \$3,125 organizational memberships (\$625 above budget).</p> <p>Major expenditures in 2015 were \$685 on accreditation; \$1,084 on banking and transaction fees; \$1,590 on accounting; \$2,843 on MemberClicks; \$3490 on the AGM; \$1,560 on admin staff and \$3,408 other admin; and \$500 on the logo and \$1,425 on the website redesign.</p> <p>Finally, from our conference account we have provided a loan for the hotel deposit of 5,000 euros (at the time converting to dollars it was \$5,540) and reimbursement of Toni and Burt for site visits. Last week (Jan 4) we used some of those euros to secure a room for the Board retreat and for the annual meeting. I intend to also pay for the pre-conference rooms with the remaining euros. If that is not sufficient I will then dip into the conference account dollars.</p> <p>In closing the treasurer report, Burt states he plans to step down from his treasurer position in September.</p>		
DECISION	N/A		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A			

2. TAORMINA 2016 PRE-CONFERENCE PLANNING: PROPOSALS DOMINIQUE

	<p>Dominique reports peer reviews for conference proposals are going well and peer reviews should be done this week (by January 16, 2016). There have been some unfortunate technical difficulties with the conference review/user interface, but users should be able to complete duties as assigned.</p> <p>The conference peer review process has been rather frustrating to some users, who have difficulties with the system.</p>		
DISCUSSION	Where are the system difficulties? Apparently the problems lay within the		

	software system, and some in user and user hardware issues.		
	The pre-conference proposal system uses a different procedure and is reportedly going well.		
DECISION	N/A		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A			

3. TAORMINA 2016: SCHOLARSHIP FUND

ADAM AND DOMINIQUE

DISCUSSION	<p>There was an urgent call for contributions asking for a \$100 donation per member for the scholarship fund, as well as a request for donation ambassadors who connect on a local/regional level to solicit donations.</p> <p>There is enough scholarship money to cover AAGT applications, but not enough to cover non-members, those who have no AAGT association, though those applications are considered, and there is not enough for EAGT either.</p> <p>There is anticipated \$5-6K unmet need for scholarship money. Adam calls for donations by yourself and people you know to pay and replenish scholarship money. Concerns are voiced that this (Taormina) conference will not bring in money, though later this is addressed and it seems the conference will likely make some money.</p> <p>Make checks out to AAGT scholarship fund. This saves the treasurer time and gets the money into the correct account. Through the website the money may not go to the correct account? Is the online pay system working well? It is working OK, apparently.</p> <p>In the past scholarships have paid for registration – then the money will go to fund. Discounted registration approved by AAGT. Burt plans to present this at the next Convener’s meeting. Will there be reduced or waived registration for scholarship participants?</p> <p>In the past, the scholarship fund has given grants first to pay for registration and then, within our means, to cover other costs such as travel and lodging.</p> <p>If all needs cannot be met we need to allocate funds within parameters. Not a question of trust, but a question of how much money AAGT has in the scholarship fund, how much AAGT gives, what is the criteria to receive a scholarship?</p> <p>The board raises concerns about spending AAGT members’ scholarship fund</p>
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	<p>contributions for scholarships which may be allocated disproportionately towards EAGT members</p> <p>Should there be a call for EAGT membership to fundraise for scholarships since there are many EAGT members requesting scholarships? This request may be made through EAGT leadership, a request for more fundraising by EAGT to meet the scholarship needs of their members.</p> <p>People waiting applying for scholarships can register without paying when they get to the registration fees page.</p> <p>The first page does not say this. Once you enter your information, the scholarship option will be available.</p> <p>There will be one round of scholarships with limited amount of money available, and instructions for registration without paying, plan to send out an email outlining this process. Domi will email the list-serv with this information.</p> <p>The Board expresses gratitude for use of Brad's RingCentral account, which he generally offered, for various meetings related to conference business and to raising money for the scholarship fund.</p>		
DECISION	Pending		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Email the list-serv explaining those seeking scholarships to help pay for their conference registration can register, for the conference without payment at this time – but you must follow the steps through the payment page to find the option to not pay at this time, pending scholarship money.	Dominique	???	

3. TAORMINA 2016: AUCTION AND PLANNING

PATRICIA

DISCUSSION	<p>Patricia brings up that we need to start putting notices out for open board positions and for 2018 conference venue proposals.</p> <p>Will someone organize an auction? Request via listserv? This is an AAGT tradition, not concerning this international conference.</p> <p>Is there to be an auction at the Taormina conference? (I believe it has already been decided that there will be an auction.) Will both (all three) organizations benefit? If so, how will the money be allocated? Since this is traditionally an AAGT event, it seems all of the money will benefit AAGT 2018, and will be advertised as an AAGT benefit auction?</p>
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	Several board members expressed a desire for the auction to be an AAGT event as it has traditionally supported the AAGT scholarship fund.		
DECISION	Patricia will post request for auction organizer on listserv.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Patricia will post request for auction organizer on listserv.	Patricia	???	
Speak with the conveners	Burt	???	

4. TAORMINA 2016: FACEBOOK PAGE

PATRICIA

DISCUSSION	Any posting will go into the Facebook feed.		
	<p>Conference planners pictures and introductions should be sent to us directly (to Patricia , Bob Witchel or Sue O'Rourke) so that they can be posted at the top of the page. Plan to ask conference planners to put on a picture and a post representing their involvement.</p> <p>Bob will write to list-serv to let people know to visit and 'like' the Facebook page.</p> <p>Check out the Facebook page! The Facebook page is live and ready to invite others. Make connections for local tours, be active and make connections for transportation, encourage use of this Facebook page for connections.</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/taorminaconference2016/</p>		
DECISION	N/A		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Write to list-serv to let people know to visit and 'like' the Facebook page.	Bob	???	

5. NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

MICHAEL

	Administrative candidates have been interviewed and a new Administrative Assistant has been hired. Her name is Mari McGilton. Michael checked references for a prospective candidate, a 1 st year PhD student. Mari will start training next week, and she "has good skills to bring to the table."		
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DISCUSSION	<p>Welcome Mari!</p> <p>Burt expresses appreciation for Michael who is contributing some/all of his billable hours to the scholarship fund. Yay Michael!</p> <p>General thanks are expressed by many. Michael expresses thanks to Burt for patience!</p>		
DECISION	N/A		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A			

5. CALL FOR NEW BUSINESS, MEETING CLOSURE **PATRICIA**

DISCUSSION	<p>Discussed memberclicks. Is this a system we want to keep? Michael noted that this is a difficult system to use and time-consuming to learn. This is being reviewed by the website committee.</p> <p>Brad provides an update added to these notes 01/21/16: <i>There is not a question about keeping memberclicks - we're not keeping memberclicks. That is already decided.</i></p> <p><i>Brad is working with the web designer for the site and a membership management system. Brad will work with Mari to get it up and running.</i></p> <p>Board members mentioned costs of certifying organization for CEU's. Currently on track for Taormina CEU's.</p> <p>Regional Task Force: Report/Proposal from the Regional Task Force is getting closer to being ready to present to the Board and then on to the membership.</p> <p>Reported: Marlene's surgery went well!</p> <p>Meeting closed at 5:32pm EST.</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for January 31, 2016.</p>		
DECISION	N/A		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A			