



AAGT
 The Association for
 the Advancement of
 Gestalt Therapy

An International Community

Board Meeting

MINUTES January 31, 2016 4:00 PM (EST) Online Video Conference

CALL TO ORDER	Patricia called to the order the Board meeting for the AAGT at about 4:33 PM (EST) on January 31, 2016 at RingCentral Meetings online video conferencing.
ATTENDEES	Patricia Tucker, Michael Sasiain, Robert (Bob) Witchel, Burt Lazarin, Dominique Chabre, , Mark Reck, Ansel Woldt (who experienced technical difficulties on the call), Ryan Tolman, Gail Feinstein, Diedre Winter, Janneke van Beusekom Daniel Bak Maryanne Nicholls, Marlene Blumenthal, Toni Gilligan, Dina Miller, James Battaglia
APOLOGIES	Alex Schlotterbeck, Brad Larsen-Sanchez, Adam Kincel
CHAIR PERSON	Patricia Tucker
MINUTES PERSON	Ryan Tolman

1. NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

MARI

DISCUSSION	Mari introduces herself! Mari is a 1 st year PhD student in Portland. Mari appreciates the help and patience from Michael. Michael is enjoying the extra time as Mari takes over. Welcome Mari! This is likely Michael’s last online meeting, as Mari will now be taking over duties, such as recording this meeting. Much appreciation to Michael, and welcome aboard Mari!		
DECISION	N/A		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
N/A			

<p>DISCUSSION</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. In the beginning of the month we used 2,013 euros to secure rooms for the Board retreat and for the annual meeting. I intend to also pay for the pre-conference rooms with the remaining 2,987 euros. If that is not sufficient I will then dip into the conference account dollars.</p> <p>Burt</p> <p>End of e-mail...</p> <p>At today's board meeting, Burt reports there is about \$1000 more in the scholarship fund than represented in the e-mail (The scholarship fund balance was updated by this secretary 02/04/2016 per Burt's updated number, so the number above is accurate as of this date).</p> <p>Unfortunately, there were fewer contributions than expected from the request for donation for the scholarship fund.</p> <p>The board segued into a discussion of the scholarship fund:</p> <p>Burt suggests a letter of thanks for those members who do contribute. Can the scholarship committee send out thank you letters?</p> <p>Patricia can do this if she gets an e-mail list from those who have given financial contributions to the scholarship fund. Michael asks if it would be appropriate to have a list of those who have donated – along with a link for people who would like to donate (the link to donate already exists, but not a list of contributors).</p> <p>Can Mari follow up on this? – Patricia suggests this would be part of the website re-design.</p> <p>Deidre asks how long call for scholarship fund contributions for Taormina should last. At what date will scholarship contributions cease to be donated towards Taormina funds and go instead towards future scholarships towards other events?</p> <p>Domi reports that the scholarship fund should be able to fund at least \$200 per person for those who asked for over \$200. Larger requests may be granted upon a percentage of the request. For example, a request for a \$1000 scholarship may be granted a \$600 scholarship. The reason all requests cannot be met fully is because there is not enough funds in the scholarship fund to meet all of the demands, so each scholarship request will be met with a scholarship award, but likely not as much as was requested.</p>
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DECISION	Mail out e-mail letters of thanks to scholarship contributors. Put a list of scholarship contributors on the website.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
E-mail letters of thanks to scholarship contributors.	Patricia	ongoing	
Add a list of scholarship contributors to the website	Mari	Concurrent with the new website design	

3. TAORMINA 2016: CONFERENCE UPDATES

PATRICIA

DISCUSSION	<p>During the opening ceremonies, can we incorporate new members to promote an atmosphere of welcome and inclusion?</p> <p>Yes. There is a space on the schedule for new members to be welcomed before the opening ceremonies, so yes, special inclusion for new members has been considered.</p> <p>Jim brings up the possibility for a welcome for student members. Are students prepared for the depth of contact and potential conflict which may emerge in a gestalt conference? The board notes that about 200 people registered for the conference self-identified as students. A student orientation may help facilitate an introduction to conference culture. Perhaps someone can facilitate a mixer for students to meet together, possibly a lunch. Board members note lunch is a busy time and in the past lunch meetings not been heavily attended because members are running late from workshops or experiencing other busy-ness.</p> <p>Board members note that the amount of people attending the conference may present a challenge to creating an intimate experience for conference attendees.</p> <p>The request for submission of pre-conference presentation proposals yielded 25 proposals. Three proposals were submitted by non-members – the three non-member persons submitting pre-conference proposals were invited to become members and re-apply for next conference. The rest of the pre-conference proposals were accepted. The announcement of accepted pre-conference proposals should be made next week.</p> <p>Accepted pre-conference proposals have been sent to Dina to review for CEU consideration.</p> <p>Burt would like to know how many rooms will be needed for presenters so he can arrange for the number of rooms.</p>
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<p>DISCUSSION</p>	<p>The topic switches to local accommodations, should conference attendees not want to stay on site at the Hilton.</p> <p>Accommodations outside of the venue should be readily available – Taormina is a resort area.</p> <p>There is a link to the conference site on the Facebook page. Do we need more links on the web-page for outside accommodations, i.e. hotels, motels, etc.- do we need a list of places which are alternatives to the Hilton? Perhaps recommended places with local knowledge of the accommodations?</p> <p>Mark reports there is actually a hidden link in the web text which says “if you are not staying at the Hilton click here,” and the sentence is actually <i>clickable</i>.</p> <p>Would someone be willing to point out this link and send out an e-mail to the list serv? Burt offers to send out that e-mail.</p> <p>Membership: Future business may include a “new membership” drive.</p> <p>“Are there more conference topics,” asks Patricia.</p> <p>Report for conference presentations: The program committee for the main presentations found that some peer reviews for presentations resulted in tied scores between different presentations. The program committee should determine the final selections for main conference presentations in 7-10 days. The program committee is tasked with “who is going where, doing what and when.” These are the issues on the table for the program committee.</p> <p>Patricia asks “Is anyone working on a (printed) conference program,” including critical jobs such as getting a program printed – it’s a big job – all the plenary, meeting, programs – Patricia will work on getting the ball rolling for a printed program for the Taormina conference.</p> <p>James wonders about cell phone service, texting at the conference for the organizers – this is one detail which could streamline organization on site. Can there be a way to facilitate communication, such as planning ahead for cell service for organizers?</p> <p>Others note that conveners set the tone and decide how the communication will take place. The conveners will want to plan how they will communicate, one would think, and text, cellular service may be a part of this. Italians may rely on cell phones as land lines are more expensive, and sim cards may be available for phones with the correct bandwidth available.</p>
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DECISION	Alert the membership of the “hidden link” for alternative Taormina accommodations; get the ball rolling on a printed program for the conference.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Alert the membership of the “hidden web link” for alternative Taormina accommodations	Burt	???	
Get the ball rolling on a printed program for the conference.	Patricia	???	

5. CALL FOR NEW BUSINESS, MEETING CLOSURE

PATRICIA

DISCUSSION	<p>Patricia calls for more business</p> <p>Alex and the newsletter – Can Alex stay on the board and handle the newsletter without attending all of the board meetings. Perhaps Alex could send in an e-mail to another board member to present at the meetings, regarding the newsletter so the board can be in the loop?</p> <p>Patricia is willing to check in with Alex from time to time. A sense of community would be ideal for board members. What are Alex’s thoughts? A dialogue would be great before a decision about continued roles on the board, so Alex can communicate her wants for a potential way forward. What would work best for Alex to continue in the editor role and still feel a sense of community with the board? I believe the board would like to have Alex present to make a decision so there can be dialogue.</p> <p>Regional Task Force Update:</p> <p>Adam and Patricia are working with the other committee members on a report from the Task Force. They will then present this to the board for discussion and then it will go on to the members for discussion. The report should reach the board sometime this month.</p> <p>Conflict Process Committee Update:</p> <p>Bruce Aaron has gotten a committee going towards conflict resolution. There may be an ad hoc committee to resolve conflict as needed but this has not been formalized.</p> <p>A phone hug was given to Michael for his service, Michael you will be missed!</p> <p>Meeting closed at 5:30pm EST.</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2016.</p>
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DECISION	The board needs to include Alex in a discussion about Alex continuing to edit the newsletter and attend fewer board meetings. This decision was made so that Alex's point of view is well considered in any decision made moving forward.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
N/A		