



**AAGT**  
The Association for  
the Advancement of  
Gestalt Therapy

*An International Community*

**Board Meeting**

**MINUTES**                      February 28, 2016                      4:00 PM (EST)                      Online Video Conference

<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	Patricia called to the order the Board meeting for the AAGT at about 4:22 PM (EST) on January 31, 2016 at RingCentral Meetings online video conferencing.
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	Patricia Tucker, Mari McGilton, Robert (Bob) Witchel, , Dominique Chabre, Mark Reck, Ansel Woldt, Ryan Tolman, Gail Feinstein, Deirdre Winter, Janneke van Beusekom Daniel Bak, Marlene Blumenthal, Dina Miller, Brad Larsen-Sanchez, Adam Kinsel.
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Burt Lazarin, Toni Gilligan, Maryanne Nicholls, James Battaglia, Alex Schlotterbeck
<b>CHAIR PERSON</b>	Patricia Tucker
<b>MINUTES PERSON</b>	Ryan Tolman

**1. Website Update**

**Brad**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Website overhaul is in progress. The Board discussed the website, ways to search for members, and troubleshooting functionality of the new website. Is the search engine for members effective? Patricia asks board members to check out the new website to report back on their experience. There is also a new way to provide payment which should be cheaper and easier. Now would be a great time to send in content you wish to be on the website as the website is under development.	
<b>DECISION</b>	Board Members are encouraged to check out the AAGT website and provide feedback on website functionality.	
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Check out the website re-design and provide feedback via e-mail.	Board Members	Before the next Board Meeting

**2. Regional Task Force**

**Adam and Patricia**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>The Regional Taskforce has continued to work on regional guidelines for membership discussion at the upcoming AGM. Patricia encourages the Taskforce to continue moving the conversation forward towards resolution in service to the AAGT membership. At this point the Taskforce is finalizing its' report by adding more specific recommendations and guidelines regarding AAGT's relationship with the regions and what would be expected of regions in order to be sponsored by AAGT. Board members noted that this process has many important facets to consider, and encouraged a path forward which leaves room for freedom within guidelines, as well as respect for different points of view while able to provide a consensus so that the membership can be presented with a final report. Right now the Regional Taskforce is reportedly on the third revision - there may be a workable proposal which can move forward with minimal revision. Patricia asks board members involved with the Regional Taskforce to assist in moving things forward.</p>		
<b>DECISION</b>	<p>The board plans to continue to support the Regional Taskforce moving forward.</p>		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	
<p>Assist the Regional Taskforce in moving forward towards recommendations to present to the board.</p>	<p>Board members involved with the Regional Taskforce</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	

**3. Taormina Conference 2016**

**Gail, Adam, Domi, Dina, Bob, Patricia**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p><i>Pre Conference:</i></p> <p>Gail presents the work of the pre-conference committee – Brad is working on setting up payment and registration. There are likely many people who don't know about pre-conference so there is a letter going out. Pre-conference is not an EAGT tradition, therefore informing EAGT members will be critical. Pre-conference planning is important to attendee logistics. Opening ceremonies: The committee is working within the one and a half hour time frame working with process group needs; interested in creating a welcoming environment, keeping it simple and one that invites all into a co-creative engagement for the making of their conference. Following the opening ceremonies will be process groups, and then and then dinner. Managing an event this large may be a daunting logistical process but also engaging and exciting. The planners need to know the numbers of people registering for pre-conference so the meeting rooms can be reserved and paid for. Pre-Conference presenters will receive one night hotel stay for presenting.</p> <p><i>Scholarship Fund:</i></p> <p>Next, Domi and Adam presented the scholarship fund work for the Taormina</p>
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<p><b>DISCUSSION</b></p>	<p>conference. All 53 requests for a grant have been answered but not for their full amounts. Because conference registration is closed Domi has received many concerned e-mails from grant recipients who, for various reasons, had not registered yet. Deirdre asks, if a person is registered as a scholarship recipient what is the issue with simply paying and registering? All will be allowed to register and pay their fees instead of being put on a waiting list. So far, about two thirds of scholarship recipients have graciously accepted their offered grants. Patricia thanks Adam and Domi for their work, and Adam graciously defers credit to Domi, whose hard work is much appreciated.</p> <p><b><i>CE Accreditation:</i></b></p> <p>Dina presents on CE developments: Dina is working to see which learning objectives from accepted proposals are up to standards for CE accreditation, reviewing the Proposals for CE readiness. Tonight by midnight Dina will fill out APA report for CE approval and AAGT will have another year of APA CE accreditation. Dina asks about NBCC accreditation. Is NBCC CE accreditation necessary? There have been changes made in NBCC CE accreditation, especially for international presenters, NBCC CE accreditation is expensive. Dina asks for board feedback about dropping NBCC. What about AMEDCO? Some states accept AMEDCO and some do not for counselors/social workers. Patricia requests an e-mailed recommendation from Dina so the board can make an informed decision. Patricia thanks Dina for her work. Marlene plans to help Dina look over the learning objectives for CE readiness. Marlene expresses she is glad to help, Dina asks if others would like to help as well. Ansel adds he is available for help submitting the APA report tonight and for evaluating conference proposals for CE readiness - Ansel recommends we drop NBCC accreditation for CE's – apparently rules become more rigid without any added benefits. AAGT can offer individual state CE's for conferences in specific states. APA CE's may often count for counselors, but do NBCC counselors need a certain amount of specific NBCC approved CE's?</p> <p><b><i>Facebook Page:</i></b></p> <p>Bob will put the pre-conference website link on Facebook. There have been a lot of visitors to the Facebook page. Bob will post the link this evening.</p> <p><b><i>Printed Program:</i></b></p> <p>Patricia states we currently have no editor for the Conference program. The CPC is looking for an editor and may need to hire a graphic designer – in the past there has been a printed program committee - it's a big job. In the past the conveners have supplied the content, and then there needs to be a professional graphic designer and a professional printer to put out a first class</p>
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	product. Can the program be put online, rather than 1000 paper copies, or perhaps a memory stick which may reduce the environmental impact of so many printed programs? Concerns are voiced about online access on site in Italy. Is there an alternative to paper? For now, the first priority is to determine how the program will be created. Patricia asks Mari if she has skills in this area? Mari says she is willing to give it a try – Patricia notes Mari would be part of a team, working with a designer, printer, and perhaps other members/board members?	
<b>DECISION</b>	Mari plans to help with the printed program, Bob plans to post the pre-conference website link on Facebook, Dina plans to submit the APA CE Accreditation Application tonight with Ansel’s assistance.	
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Help out with the printed program	Mari	Ongoing
Post the pre-conference website link on Facebook.	Bob	02/28/16
Submit the APA CE Accreditation Application	Dina & Ansel	02/28/16

**3. Other Business**

**Patricia, Daniel, Mari, Ryan**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>After a call for interest in the Newsletter, Daniel is working on a Gender and Social Diversity Group. A member in Switzerland is also interested in an interest group and Daniel is offering assistance to the member from Switzerland.</p> <p>Ryan expresses that it’s nice to be able to help out the board, some frustration with technology, as most of the meetings happen whilst Ryan is traveling, but the technology aspect is certainly workable, and Mari has offered to provide a recording of the meetings.</p> <p>Mari expresses her new position is going well, Mari feels supported by board, Brad and Michael. Mari is open to helping out with additional tasks, she has some time availability right now and offers help. Patricia extends appreciation.</p> <p>Next meeting is scheduled for Easter Sunday. Patricia asks if this schedule conflicts with board member schedules - scheduling will be figured out via e-mail. Patricia will send out an email. Closed at 5:31pm E.S.T</p>	
<b>DECISION</b>	Potentially reschedule the next Board Meeting for April 3	
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Send an e-mail asking for board member input for the next meeting date.	Patricia	03/06/16