



**MINUTES: Massachusetts Chapter of AATG  
Executive Board Meeting (February 10, 2007)  
10 AM – 12 noon at Concord Academy**

**Present: Ulrike Brisson, Cherie Baggs, Inge Buerger, Colleen Mocerri, Monika Whipple, Joan Murray, Susan Adams.**

Minutes from the November meeting were accepted as written.

**AATG TESTING PROGRAM:** 22 schools took part in the testing program; 15 schools had students eligible to compete for the prize trip. 160 students (non-native) and 35 (native) in Massachusetts scored above 90<sup>th</sup> percentile. Students must get applications for the prize trip in by February 23, 2007. After discussion we left the deadline at February 23 though Joan will be as flexible as possible. Monika and Jörg will help with the interviews for the prize trip. Inge promises to send Cherie and Joan the email address of the new teacher (Irina O'Brien) at Pentucket. Cherie will purchase some prizes at AATG Cherry Hill. Inge and Colleen will also purchase prizes when in Germany in March/April. Interviews will be on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at Regis College (snow emergency is March 10<sup>th</sup>). The Awards Ceremony is May 8. The wrapping party/executive board meeting will be on Saturday, May 5 at Regis. Each person should bring a pair of scissors along to the meeting.

Thanks and kudos to Cherie and Inge for the newsletter. Of the 136 current members in the chapter, only 18 had no email address and received the newsletter by regular mail.

Nominees for President-Elect and Vice-President will be Sean Miner and Colleen Mocerri. Susan and Kristin will also be on the ballot for secretary and treasurer respectively. Since we did not have a ballot in the newsletter, we will put a ballot on the website and announce the election on the list serve. Cherie will send a sample ballot to Ulrike. Ulrike will edit the ballot and send it on to Donna to post. Deadline for voting will be March 15. Voting may be done by email or regular mail.

Colleen expressed her admiration and gratitude for Donna's speed in updating and adding to the website.

Bill has sent letters for Donna to get corporate support for the theater festival. Could we ask for a follow-up on his work? Could his letter be reviewed by some members of the Executive Board? We are interested in the results of his work

**ACTFL/AATG CONFERENCE:** Ulrike reported that ACTFL was a bit different this year. In the past every chapter had a chance to report. This year they chose three chapters that had done innovative things. Three major topics: money, members and activities. There are only \$17,000 available for chapter grants. All chapters are encouraged to raise money locally. Only \$190,000 were given this year by the German government—a decrease of \$60,000. Overall there has been a decrease in membership. Membership fees have changed—now a \$75 flat fee although the fee for students and first-year teachers remains the same. Chapters were encouraged to offer new teachers one-year free membership. The Chapter Constitution must be reviewed by 2009. Ulrike will contact Donna and ask if they had done any revisions and for advice on what needs to be done. From now on we will announce on the list serve that the Executive Board Meetings will be open to anyone who would like to attend. We will also invite all members to check out our website. At ACTFL Ulrike also heard about a National Exam from the Kultusministerium—a standardized exam equivalent to Deutsches Sprachdiplom. Costs \$5.00. AATG Texas has an on-line discussion forum for teachers—new this

year. Indiana did a survey and made a list of all members and where all the members were located to seek clusters so that teachers could work together.

**MISCELLANEOUS:** Monika went to a panel discussion in NH where Dr. Vorwerk was on a multi-national panel. She was interested in a new history book with a neutral, international focus. Cherie reports that Barbara Hankin is retiring from the Consulate. Joan will contact Barbara Hankin regarding book prizes for the Awards Ceremoony.

**NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS:** Cherie will get the forms off the website, but they are not available until March. Cherie will stay in contact with Donna to collect materials for her nomination. We decided to nominate Joan Campbell for the Certificate of Merit. Ulrike agreed to oversee that nomination.

**DVD CONTEST:** Deadline is April 1. Colleen has heard nothing from anyone. Judges are Bill O'Brien, Peter Weise, and Marnie Ketchum. Ulrike will send out a reminder about the DVD contest on the list serve.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Cherie needs to submit \$56.41 for printing and mailing of the newsletter. Cherie also wants to follow up on the DEFA contribution. Did we receive it?

**CHRISTOPHER GWIN WORKSHOP:** Date submitted was March 29, 2009. More from Sean later.

**GOETHE INSTITUTE BOSTON'S WERBETOURNEE:** Colleen shared student reactions to the program presented at Gloucester High School. The kids particularly liked talking with Hanna and Sebastian. The video was also well received as were the buttons. It was unfortunate that more North Shore schools did not respond although Gloucester guidance counselors did respond and attend the luncheon. Only one person from another school attended. The Gloucester Superintendent also attended the luncheon.

Jörg spoke with Ulrike on the phone and mentioned a woman who is affiliated with theater in Germany who might come to Northeast for workshops in September 2007. Nothing definite yet.

**MAFLA 2007:** Cherie distributed Mohamed Esa's proposal for the October 2007 MAFLA conference. He will give a three-hour Islam workshop in English for all language teachers. The Executive Board agreed to invite Mohamed to give a three-hour workshop on Friday morning of the conference. Titel: *Viele "Vehikel" führen nach Rom: Sprichwörter und Redensarten im Deutschunterricht*. He will also be invited to give a 75-minute session entitled: *A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words: Graffiti and Photomontages in the Foreign Language Classroom*. The Executive Board asked Cherie to make it clear that the price of handouts would not be covered. Only the \$30 workshop fee would be subsidized by the MA AATG chapter.

**Next Executive Board Meeting: May 5, 2007 at Regis College (10 AM—12 noon).**