



**MINUTES: Massachusetts Chapter of AATG
Executive Board Meeting (January 26, 2008)
1:30-3:30 pm at Kristin Gillett's home**

Present: Susan Adams, Cherie Baggs, Ulrike Brisson, Inge Buerger, Kristin Gillett, Sean Miner, Colleen Mocerri, Joan Murray, Alese Ruggaber

The minutes from the last board meeting on September 8, 2007 were accepted as written.

Sean told us that A and E, Awareness and Enrollment, is his motto for his tenure. He urged us to talk about our successes and to look at what makes the difference in successful programs.

Cherie and Inge reported that many schools wrote about their programs for the Newsletter. Sean suggested for next year that we delay the newsletter deadline to the end of January for a February publication. Inge and Cherie agreed to change the deadline and to continue to edit the newsletter next year. (Deadline: January 30, 2009)

Chris Gwin is coming March 15 from 9 to 1 p.m. to present a workshop at Westford Academy. We need to find him accommodations. The workshop will actually last three hours with time to meet and greet beforehand and time to talk with him afterward. Sean urged everyone to encourage people, especially new teachers, to attend. Kristin reported that we have a beautiful space for the workshop at Westford Academy just off Rt. 495. The workshop fee will be \$20. MA AATG expenses will be transportation and lodging. The current number of registrants is one, but it is still very early. Sean will make up a participation form that attendees can submit for PDPs.

Colleen reported on the DVD contest: She has had one question from a possible participant. Details are in the newsletter. Changes this year include raising the entrance fee to \$30 and expanding the contest to all of New England. The submission deadline is April 1. Colleen is contacting possible judges: Peter Weiße from BU and Egila Lex.

The Awards Ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, May 6 at the Boylston Schulverein. Dr. Vorwerk is coming. As this is his last year, he will make a farewell speech. 23 MA schools signed up to take the exam; the number of participating students is up this year. Monika Whipple has agreed to be on the selection committee. March 12 is the deadline for the selection. February vacation week makes the time very tight. Joan is planning to hold interviews at Regis College on March 1 (snow date March 8th). She can be somewhat flexible in regard to transcripts, but the student essay and the teacher recommendations must be in on time. Joan has already asked regarding prizes and Dr. Vorwerk has promised that there will be plentiful prizes. We will hold our annual Prize Wrapping Party on May 3 at 10 a.m. at Regis College. Cherie, Alese, Inge, and Susan have volunteered to help. Cherie will bring back the \$100 of prizes from the Materials Center. Joan will also coordinate the special prizes. We discussed publicity. Teachers are urged to submit articles to local papers. This is a great photo-op with Dr. Vorwerk. Joan will speak to BSV folks and ask them to do some publicity. Feb. 24, 2008 is the deadline to apply for a grant to support the 2009 awards ceremony. Joan will apply for the grant. We decided to show the winning DVD as the entertainment at the awards ceremony. It will advertise the contest and provide short but interesting entertainment.

Sean reported receiving several questions from teachers about the chapter's paying for membership for student teachers. We decided we did not have the funds to pay for those memberships.

Sean received a list from Cherry Hill of people who had not rejoined for several years. We decided not to call those people after reports of past negative experience with those calls. That reminded us of our AATG dues. We all agreed to pay dues for AATG by the end of the month. The national flat rate is now \$75, and dues are now on a calendar year basis.

Treasurer's report: Kristin reported that our beginning balance was \$2277.94 on September 1, 2007. Expenses since then have included Mohamed Esa's workshop for MaFLA and Colleen's MaFLA luncheon. We have received the DVD contest grant and our current balance is \$2030.19. MA state dues and the workshop in March will bring in money. Upcoming expenses include MaFLA in the fall. 20 participants at the Chris Gwin workshop should provide sufficient funds for expenses. Colleen reported that she still needs to submit the receipt for Jörg's clock. Kristin reported that we only received \$75 in MA dues in 2007. Kristin keeps a database of who has paid by calendar year.

Summer workshops: Bar Harbor is happening in 2008, we believe. We will ask Donna to put it on the website. Sean mentioned an inexpensive workshop on TPRS in Sweetbriar, VA. When he receives the information, he will disseminate it quickly.

Donna has done a great job of revamping the website. Sean urged us to use the local listserve more frequently. He urged us to share what is going on and what is working for German in your community/ school.

New business: Sean asked about any programs in trouble. Newburyport has cancelled all middle school language programs and has eliminated French at the high school leaving just Spanish and German there.

Grant applications are due Feb. 24, 2008 for MaAATG events in calendar year 2009. We will ask for grants for the awards ceremony (Joan M.); Colleen is asking Ali Pantesco to do a workshop on classroom choreography--Sept. /Oct. 2009 for middle and high school teachers. Ali takes songs and choreographs them, i.e. the workshop is about music and TPRS.

Cherie suggested that one of the schools with state of the art equipment might showcase their technological innovations. She mentioned that MaFLA is interested in technology and may use the Southbridge Convention Center, a state of the art facility, for a pre-conference workshop. It was suggested that Melrose Schools (Sean Miner) or Lincoln Sudbury Schools (Joan Campbell) might be used as a location. There must be others among our membership who do innovative things with technology also. Technology is also a big theme for the Northeast Conference. Sean will work with Cherie on this, looking toward a possible date in fall 2008

We need nominations for the regional representative from among our pre-collegiate teachers. Cherie has four names. Let Cherie know if you yourself are interested or if you have a suggestion.

GLOW--Cherie has received a list of schools about which Cecilia needs information. Those present gave feedback, and Cherie will get back to Cecilia with information. The Executive Board urges all individual German teachers to register their programs and perhaps themselves as tutors if they are interested in that kind of work.

Cherie distributed handouts from Donna regarding GLOW, Alle Lernen Deutsch Summer Workshop, Sustaining the Momentum, and the minutes of the Chapter Presidents Assembly from Nashville in November.

Trainernetzwerk: Ulrike reported that Wolfram Herrmann is trying to get pop groups to come to a school for a week. In his vision the group works with kids and helps them make their own songs. He hopes to generate lots of publicity. The workshop for last weekend was cancelled. Wolfram is hoping still to do something in late February or early March. It is a great idea, but we don't have clear dates yet. We suggested the one-day, many-school version we did years ago, or a combination--one school for a longer stay and a concert for many schools.

MaFLA 2008, 2009, 2010: the 2008 conference is taking shape. The chair is Nicole Sherf from Salem State. We are again looking for German sessions. 2009, when Cherie is conference chair, Helene Zimmer-Loew will be the keynote speaker. Cherie needs our help in identifying good sessions and important issues. The theme for 2009 will have to do with global education. If you know of someone who would be a good presenter, let Cherie know.

Nominations for the Duden Award for Teachers given to a teacher at the Awards Ceremony are needed: Please send suggestions to Joan.

We ended by worrying about how to counteract a school's plans to cancel a middle school German program because the teacher is retiring. There is much discussion about this kind of thing on the national listserve.

January 26, 2008

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