



**MINUTES: Massachusetts Chapter of AATG  
Executive Board Meeting (May 5, 2007)  
10 AM – 12 noon at Regis College**

**Present:** Ulrike Brisson, Cherie Baggs, Inge Buerger, Colleen Mocerri, Joan Murray, Sean Miner, Jörg Frey, Donna Van Handle, Susan Adams.

Minutes from the February 10, 2007 meeting were accepted with the correction of the date for Christopher Gwin which is 2008 not 2009.

**Awards Ceremony:** Nine students were interviewed for the prize trips. Both finalists were selected by AATG: Marian Swain from Lincoln-Sudbury and John Sears from St. John's Prep. Our senior nominee was not selected by the national organization. Andrew Coflan of North Andover High School who won the trip last year will speak at the ceremony on Tuesday, May 8. We have 90 students attending this year. Dr. Vorwerk is also attending. The ceremony begins at 7 p.m. Everyone can begin eating when they arrive. Cherie will help with the awarding of the prizes. Joan will send Donna the information about winners for the website. Because there are so many attending, it seemed better not to have a play.

Jörg's farewell party is set for Saturday, September 22 late afternoon at the Goethe Institut. All are invited.

**Ballot and constitution:** Ten ballots were received. That is seven more than last year, evidence that on-line balloting works better. Sean Miner is president, Colleen Mocerri vice-president, Susan Adams secretary, and Kristin Gillett treasurer. Ulrike suggested that two people review the constitution, suggest necessary changes, and distribute the constitution with changes to the board for comment. Donna and Ulrike will work on that over the summer.

**MaFLA October 25-27, 2007:** Deadline for proposals is May 30. We need six sessions. Kathleen Gallogly has been in touch with Doug Guy about a follow-up to the AP workshop in Waltham in December 2006. Another idea is a German panel discussion (like the Latin one at MaFLA) including Sarah McGaughey and German graduate students from UMass. Perhaps Karen Ruecker who received a scholarship from Goethe might do a session. She was recognized at the Northeast Conference. Joan Campbell's name was also raised. Trainernetzwerk people are also a possibility. Jörg will look into that. Ulrike said she would submit a proposal. The Werbeveranstaltung at Springfield HS was especially successful; this topic/model and might be something we could use for a MaFLA session. "Becoming German" (Joanne Moar) would be great, too; see more information below. This year the exhibit hall will be open on Thursday and Friday. Cherie asked for more ideas for sessions. Ulrike suggested podcasts and technology. Sean will consider doing a workshop. Cherie will also contact Mike Joyce about doing another session. Please email Cherie other ideas. Donna reports that ACTFL is in Orlando in 2008.

**DVD contest:** There were four entrants all of whom will win something so we have made a start. It was suggested that we put up the winner on the website. Winners will be announced by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Colleen must follow up on the chapter grant proposal. Susan suggested that we show the winning DVD at next year's Awards Ceremony. Showing it would be free entertainment and give publicity for the contest.

**Deutsches Theaterfest:** A check for \$450 was received from Bill O'Brien's work to support the Theaterfest. Middlebury won at the college level. At the middle school level the German International School won. Newburyport HS won first place at the HS level, Hotchkiss won 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Hartsbrook HS third. Hartsbrook Elementary won the elementary division. Donna announced that there will be some changes next year in the judging criteria

Cherie asked whether we could have a talk with Bill O'Brien to thank him for his work and keep him involved. We hope that he will continue to be at least a presence and a resource for us. He is currently a judge for the DVD contest.

**Deutsche Woche in Bar Harbor:** Dates are on the website. Jörg has written to other AATG chapters to let them know about it. Peter Nutting has three applicants so far. It is still too early to say, but Peter usually receives more later. This year's topic is ecology and technology; presenters are Jo Sanders and Gisela Hoecherl-Alden from U Maine Orono. Donna suggests that an on-line registration would be good. There should also be a link on the AATG website.

**Plans for next academic year:** Christopher Gwin is coming March 29, 2008, probably to Melrose HS and Melrose Middle School. Sean might invite Uwe Kind again perhaps in March. We decided to have a meeting in the fall for all chapter members, perhaps connected with the board meeting, and including free stuff for teachers, brainstorming sessions, and tables for events like the DVD contest and the Theaterfest. Sean and Colleen will organize the event. Sean suggests more of a discussion format. September 29<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m. – noon is the suggested date and time. Susan will reserve the Ransome Room at Concord Academy. Refreshments can be simple. Sean and Colleen will let us know their needs. Perhaps we could write hand-written invitations to the new teachers to this September meeting. Donna has a template for notes she uses for the Theaterfest. Donna will do that if someone sends her a list of new teachers. Cherie and Ulrike have lists.

Jörg reported that Goethe hopes to sponsor another pop concert tour for spring 2008. Group and date are still unclear. Sean hoped that the date could be known soon to avoid conflicts.

Jörg has been in contact with Joanne Moar. He brought a description of her project. She will be in New England from October 24-November 4, 2007. Joanne Moar can do a session at MaFLA, either a 75-minute session or a double one. Other venues suggested for JM might be Exeter or UMass. Trainernetzwerk or a workshop in another state might be appropriate for her second weekend.

Out-of-state events—should we publicize them on our website? Donna feels we should restrict our website to events in New England. The Listserv is available for other things. Individuals can send an email themselves.

**Meeting with Dr. Vorwerk on March 31, 2007:** The purpose of the meeting was to discuss with Dr. Vorwerk the status of German in New England. Sean has been to two but did not go this time. Minutes from that meeting included the fact that an intern had put together a power point presentation about German in New England which is now on the consulate website. Donna brought copies. The information is very incomplete, e.g. exactly two schools are listed as having German, The German International School and the Waldorf School in Lexington. We discussed when and how we should respond? Individuals should send their responses to Cherie by the end of June. She and Donna will put together the total response.

Inge asked whether we need to have an organized response to rumors that programs are being cancelled. We also mentioned the need to revive the licensure program at UMass. There are licensure programs for German at Tufts and Mt. Holyoke.

The Chapter will send a card to Jamie Bishop's wife Stefanie Hofer of Virginia Tech. Cherie made a motion which was approved that the chapter send \$50 to the scholarship fund in honor of Jamie Bishop at Virginia Tech. Ulrike will contact Kristin about that. (See information re Virginia Tech at end of minutes.)

**Finances:** We have \$1719.15 as of April 30. This is a solid balance. We accepted the treasurer's report.

**Inviting Gayle Tufts:** Ulrike saw Gayle Tufts, a comedian at the Goethe Institut. She is funny, but her Denglish humor does not work for everyone. She is too political for some. She is an American cultural observer who has been in Berlin for 15 years. Ulrike thought GT might come to do something for us when she is here anyway.

**Reviving the Maintaining the Momentum Project begun by former chapter President Max Ahtau in March 2004:** Cherie presented a list of original partnerships. The most successful was Tufts with Wellesley, Lincoln-Sudbury High Schools. Donna reported that there is a second level of this project called Sustaining the Momentum at the national level. The first part was to make better connections between high school and college. The next level is keeping people in college programs. We need to focus on best practices and showcase them. E.g. Wellesley HS and Lincoln-Sudbury go every semester to Tufts. Other partnerships have not thrived. Inge will check who is at Masconomet HS. Discussion of our momentum projects will be continued.

**Next Executive Board meeting: September 8, 2007 10 a.m. at Concord Academy**

\*Jocelyne Couture-Nowak and Jamie Bishop shared the conviction that learning a foreign language and culture is not just a joy, but is fundamental to our civilization--if we are to be civilized. To honor the memory of our colleagues and students, the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures has established two memorial scholarships for French and German majors at Virginia Tech.

Donations may be made payable to the Virginia Tech Foundation, for the Jocelyne Couture-Nowak Scholarship (French) or the Jamie Bishop Scholarship (German). If you give online, please be sure to indicate which scholarship you would like to support.

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