



**MINUTES: Massachusetts Chapter of AATG
Executive Board Meeting (November 11, 2006)
10 AM – 12 noon at Concord Academy**

Present: Ulrike Brisson, Cherie Baggs, Colleen Mocerri, Ellen Crocker, Kristin Gillett, Sean Miner, Monika Whipple, Jörg Frey, Joan Murray, and Susan Adams.

The minutes for the Executive Board Meeting on September 9, 2006 were approved with the following changes: Fix the spelling of Uwe Mohr's last name. The date for the Awards Ceremony will now be May 8, 2007. The Theaterfest will be Thursday, April 26, 2007.

Ulrike asked about what she should report at ACTFL in Nashville. The list includes: the Manfred Schewe workshops; the poster submissions for this year's poster contest, Discover Languages; MaFLA conference; the DVD contest; the Goethe Institut programs (including the annual GAPP Seminar); the ISE, Duden, and 12th Annual Massachusetts German Educator of the year awards; Trainernetzwerk New England (workshops for teachers and workshops given by teachers); starter-kit project; and the website.

Ulrike reported that several teachers who received starter-kits from MA AATG responded favorably. We brainstormed a bit to find more names of new teachers in the state. There are currently 95 members with 23 lapsed members. In January 2006 there were 122 members. We decided not to write emails to members who have not rejoined since that is also done by the national organization.

35 German teachers attended MaFLA. It went very well. Finances: Since 2004 we have been refunding costs for participants of the German workshop. This year Mohamed Esa's additional costs were \$15 for each handout plus CD. That raised our MaFLA 2006 costs to \$901. Cherie paid for the handouts/CDs with a personal check. There was an extra $22 \times \$15 = \330 for materials. Two members of the Executive Board returned the \$30 since their institutions paid for the workshop. MaFLA paid many of Esa's other expenses. We discussed what our future policy should be. In the future the AATG MA Chapter will reimburse \$30 to German teachers who participate in the three-hour German workshop. This expense excludes materials. In addition the chapter will pay for the luncheon for the MA German Educator of the Year award winner and one guest.

At the MaFLA conference UMASS DEFA at the last minute shared a table with the Goethe Institut. DEFA has requested an invoice in order to pay the AATG MA Chapter for allowing them to be present in the exhibit hall.

Jörg announced that Frau Matten at the German Consulate Boston has been replaced by Frau Hart.

Tuesday, May 8, 2007 is the awards ceremony at 7 pm. Calling up schools as groups saved time last year during the ceremony. For 2007 we will receive \$255 as a chapter project grant. Parents and teachers paid \$6 for the reception. It is reasonable for the light supper offered. We receive many donations for books. Joan hopes that we can do the same "wrapping party" after the Executive Board meeting in May as we did last year. Jörg will help with the interviews for the trip winner. Joan will contact Gregor Thuswaldner about participating in the interview process. Inge Buerger was suggested as an alternate. Joan will check with her.

Other chapter events:

A Schüler-workshop with a rap group sponsored by the Goethe Institut is still in the organizational phase. GI is hoping for a venue at Tufts or MIT, preferably at Tufts. Spring break is a problem since the event is scheduled for March 19. Jörg reported it will be appropriate for all ages; students will learn to write rap. It was suggested that information about the workshop be sent to Donna for chapter website.

The exhibit "Werbung in Deutschland" is currently scheduled to come to the Goethe Institut in February 2007. It was here seven years ago and has been updated since. Jörg reported that the date is not ideal; they are hoping to change it to fall 2007.

Nominations for Certificate of Merit deadline is May 1 or 15, 2007. Various names were suggested. Executive Board members were asked to consider potential nominees for the Certificate of Merit. All candidates will be considered at the February 10, 2007 meeting. The Executive Board unanimously agreed to nominate Donna Van Handle for Outstanding German Educator (national level). Cherie will oversee the nomination paperwork for Donna.

In response to rumors, Jörg reported that the GI Boston will not be closed. In fact the GI worldwide will get more money than expected, and the threat of closing is gone now. Alexandra Bennett will receive the Rosemary Kemper award, an award presented annually by the Goethe Society and the AGSNE on Sunday, December 3, 2006 on the occasion of a Goethe Society event. This should go on the chapter website.

Chapter grant proposals were submitted for the awards ceremony in 2008 and for a workshop about enrollment and community involvement given by Christopher Gwin Professional Development Consultant, from Haddonfield, NJ. Sean requested \$400 for the Gwin workshop with a tentative date of March 29, 2008.

The GI is planning a pilot Werbeveranstaltung beginning at a school with a strong program, Gloucester HS, Colleen's school. The program will include a video and a meal along with discussion. Counselors from other schools will also be invited. This is an experiment which, it is hoped, will lead to a program which can be repeated at many schools.

Newsletter deadline: January 5, 2007 deadline. We discussed whether the newsletter needed to include a ballot. We decided that we could use the list/serve if necessary. Ulrike's term ends in the summer, and Sean takes over as president. We need a vice-president/ president-elect. Names were presented and discussed.

Finances: nothing changed from September meeting. \$2746.56 balance. However, Kristin wrote ca \$900 in checks at the meeting. Cherie asked whether anything has come of Bill's idea regarding discrete ads on our website in exchange for donations. Ulrike said she would check on the status of that idea.

Poster contest: There were many submissions. The jury included Colleen, Ulrike, and Jörg. We submitted posters designed by a Wellesley HS student, a Holden MS student, and a class from Saturday School for the three grade levels. The question was raised whether the posters could be put in the photo gallery on the website. They become the property of AATG MA Chapter. Decision on a national award will come at ACTFL.

Schewe Workshops: We had 20 participants in Boston, 14 in Melrose, and ca.14 at WPI. Some new people attended from Harvard, Middlebury, and Holy Cross. Ellen will write re GI workshop for the newsletter. Jörg thanked Sean, Ulrike, and Susanne Even for their help with the organization.

DVD contest: Colleen reminded us that we need to emphasize that the contest is for DVDs not videos. We still need another judge. So far Bill O'Brien and Peter Weise from BU have volunteered. Our website should emphasize that it is a DVD contest and that the material on the DVD may not be the same as the Theaterfest. The chapter grant is not allowed to be used for hard or software. We suggested that it go for travel expenses for the judges and prizes. Entry fees could go toward hardware or software.

GAPP workshop was well attended. Sean and Colleen presented. The discussion of problem solving was especially helpful for new teachers. It was filled with practical tips. We now have 25 GAPP programs in MA. Sean will write a report about the workshop for the newsletter.

Sean's vision: Sean will ask German colleagues to be aggressive in their communities so that more kids enter German in the crucial 7th and 9th grades. We have to find new ways to interest kids, to give kids a reason to take German over our competitors. Some colleagues are too comfortable and don't see what needs to be done. Community outreach is missing. On the other hand, we are seeing some new faces at events for German teachers. Sean and Ulrike will co-write an "Message from our President" article about our mission which will be the lead article in the winter newsletter and part of our transition from Ulrike's to Sean's leadership.

Next Meeting: Feb. 10, 2007. Susan will reserve the same room at Concord Academy.