



MINUTES

AATG of Massachusetts Executive Board Meeting November 5, 2005 10-12 Noon @ Concord Academy

Members Present: Ulrike Brisson, Inge Buerger, Susan Adams, Alese Ruggaber, William O'Brien, Sean Miner, Joan Murray, Susanne Even, Ellen Crocker, Monika Whipple

1. Approval of Minutes

2. ACTFL 2005 Baltimore

- Who is going? Ulrike Brisson will represent MA AATG in Baltimore
- Some of the costs for MA AATG President will be covered for ACTFL 2005
- Travel expenses will be subject to a yearly review and not guaranteed
- Yearly review of expenses for AATG President's travel
- Will check with Kristen Gillett for exact amounts paid.

3. MaFLA 2005

- Members agreed that German offerings at MaFLA were meager
- Attendance by AATG members as a whole was also disappointing
- Solutions to both above named problems were discussed.
- Five German teachers attended free Jo Sanders workshop
- Is this due to the price of MaFLA? Is there low interest by members?
- Having all German sessions on only Friday or Saturday was one idea.
- German teacher from Westfield High Kathleen Gallogly is now on MaFLA board – this should help
- Sean Miner suggested that Jo Sanders come for a workshop for MA German teachers to repeat MaFLA program tailored for MS and HS teachers.

4. Year of Languages Fair at Regis College September, 24th, 2005

- Overall success was agreed upon by members who attended.
- Members suggested a repeat of such a gathering early in school year 2006/07
- Low attendance is a concern again. It would benefit newer teachers
- Discussed giving PDPs for such events but also see need greater outreach in MA.
- Ideas to entice colleagues such as PDPs, Material, Prizes, etc are needed.

5. College and University connection

- Ellen Crocker suggested that college and university German departments be Informed of National AATG Exam winners. Idea was warmly greeted
- This would allow professors to identify possible German students and contact them ahead of time via mail or phone for possible tracks in German at respective colleges around Boston.
- This would be an extension of "Continuing the Momentum" already in place.

5. Year of Languages

- YOL Poster winners to be posted on AATG MA website.
- Question of returning or keeping posters for future use?
- Will need student permission to keep posters
- What are schools and teachers doing for YOL?

6. Karin Gündisch Workshop

- Susanne Even of WPI reported that 8 persons attended.
- She was quite pleased with the workshop and felt it worthwhile for German
- Again attendance was low but may have been due to MaFLA being a week before

7. GAPP Seminar November 4th at Goethe Institute, Boston

- Sean Miner attended along with 12 other German teachers from New England

- Currently 24 GAPP programs are in existence in MA.
- Colleen Mocer, Joan Campbell, and Deb Orth gave presentations from each respective school.
- Prospective GAPP teachers were matched with experienced GAPP teachers and information, material, and ideas were discussed to get more schools involved in GAPP.

8 Finances

- Currently there is \$2835.42 in MA AATG treasury at last count
- Ideas to get members to pay MA dues were discussed. This remains a problem!
- \$150.00 owed to MaFLA: for five teachers who attended Jo Sanders workshop + \$30.00 owed to Cherie for 2 lunches for MA German Educator of the Year Susan Thorne Gagnon and her husband.
- More ideas are needed to raise funds for chapter. How can we raise money?
- Sean Miner reported that Uwe Kind concerts raised \$1600.00 and \$400.00 over the past two years. It was agreed that this is not only ideal for raising money but also for promoting German across Massachusetts
- William O'Brien introduced the Boston Tea Campaign to raise money. Members and others may purchase 1 lb of tea for \$21.00 from William O'Brien directly and \$5.00 would go to AATG. More information will be forthcoming on listserv.
- William O'Brien announced that there are bus stipends of \$200.00 per school for students of German to attend the von Steuben Parade in New York City next year.
- Would be a great German Club outing at 25% off!
- This could be done with two or more schools going on one or two busses.

8. Up coming events

- Stammtisch every 1st Thursday or Saturday of the month for German teachers!
- Kristen Gillett and Sean Miner will be running them but attendance has been low
- Ideas to increase attendance were discussed.
- Discussion of 2 PDPs per Stammtisch was weighed. Free drinks were found not to be a good idea
- Uwe Kind possible concert at the end of March in Newburyport? Timing to increase enrollment as well as funds for chapter. Sean Miner will work to get Uwe back in March this year
- Awards Ceremony at the Boyolston Schul-Verein on Tuesday, May 9th.
- Joan Murray reported that last year's event was a success and we should continue with same location.
- Manfred Schewe "Drama in Teaching of German" September 16th in GI Boston. Susanne Even of WPI has obtained a grant for a series of workshops in September, 2006. One workshop will be for teachers of all levels, one would be for MS and HS teachers at Melrose High and another for TAs and Instructors at WPI. A series of workshops open to teachers of all levels was also discussed.
- Career Day - Idea that German companies would run a career fair for students.
- This would be an opportunity for students to see German in the real world
- William O'Brien has obtained space at UMass Medical Center in Worcester at no charge. He also offered to be on the committee to plan this with Sean Miner and Ellen Crocker.
- The logistics and date are the current problem. Most everyone agreed that a career day was a good idea but had varying opinions on when. Most agreed that the 2005/2005 school year was not likely!
- What do companies have to do? Which students will go and what will they experience? This is not a job-fair and what can we expect from German companies in the area?
- This will be discussed and finalized in the coming months.

January 14th is the next meeting with location to be announced!

Respectfully submitted,

November 13th, 2005

Sean P. Miner
Chapter Vice-President