



**MINUTES: Massachusetts Chapter of AATG  
Executive Board Meeting (September 8, 2007)  
10 am – 12 noon at Concord Academy**

**Present:** Susan Adams, Ulrike Brisson, Cherie Baggs, Colleen Mocerri, Sean Miner, Alese Ruggaber

Minutes from the May 5, 2007 Executive Board Meeting accepted as written.

Ulrike asked that we use her WPI email address: [ubrisson@wpi.edu](mailto:ubrisson@wpi.edu)

Sean asked for our help this year. Our theme for the year is recruitment, retention, and PR. Sean is trying to get Uwe Kind in Melrose in March. His concerts are geared to grades 6-9. He asked the question: What are we going to do for PR in Massachusetts? Colleen answered that she felt the DVD contest represented an excellent way to advertise and promote a German program.

Colleen has asked the national office if we can broaden the DVD contest to all of New England. Cherry Hill sees no reason not to widen it. Colleen recruited another judge for the DVD contest at Bar Harbor, Egila Lex. We need to get judges from other states if we do extend the DVD contest to all of New England. Colleen reported that the DVD contest helps with recruitment. Schools can put their DVDs on local television, for example. It was suggested that Donna could perhaps put a bit of one of the winning DVDs on the website. There were elementary, middle, high school, and college divisions, but this year the only entrees were for the middle school and high school divisions. The 2007 DVD Contest winners were: *Der Tod von König Ludwig*—Wellesley High School (teacher: Nicole Wicht) and *Wer hat die Kekse vom Keksetopf gestohlen?*—Blandchard Middle School, Westford (teacher Lizette Greaves). Sean wanted to increase the entrance fee to \$35, and we decided to increase it to \$30. Colleen showed us the awards plaques she is sending out. Sean suggested that the award plaques next time also have the English title of DVD Contest or something similar so that non-German speakers understand the award. We hope to show the winning DVDs at MAFLA perhaps at the Goethe Institut/AATG table. We only have until end of September to submit the forms to receive the chapter grant which we were awarded for the contest. Colleen will submit the forms soon.

**Report on Summer workshops:**

Colleen said Bar Harbor was great. Jo Sanders was wonderful, inspirational. There were people from all levels including four from Massachusetts: Alex Bennett, Colleen Mocerri, Kristin Gillett, and Egila Lex (12 participants plus Jo and Peter Nutting), and there was something for everyone. Some of the materials are up on the Internet. Try the following:

[http:// www.umit.maine.edu/class/teachlinks/dw07/Gallery/images/DSCN0166.jpg](http://www.umit.maine.edu/class/teachlinks/dw07/Gallery/images/DSCN0166.jpg) . They hope that next year's speaker will be Karin Gündisch. Cherie will contact Egila to write a report for the newsletter about Bar Harbor and also invite Egila to work with us. It was suggested that perhaps some participants from Bar Harbor could put together a workshop demonstrating ideas learned at the workshop.

Sean mentioned his hope of getting more GAPP programs in MA. He hopes to ensure that the GAPP seminar at the Goethe Institut continues to be offered and said he would call Uwe Mohr about this.

**Jörg Frey's Abschiedsfeier:** Colleen showed us a catalogue with possible presents. We decided that a clock was the best idea. The Feier is on September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4 pm at the Goethe Institut. Donna will write a poem. Cherie will send Colleen the text of a tribute to Jörg; we hope the content will provide a possible text for engraving on the clock. Total cost is approx. \$90.

**MaFLA:** Cherie brought preliminary programs and membership forms for MaFLA so that we can spread the word. There is a 3-hour workshop for German teachers “Viele ‘Vehikel’ führen nach Rom: Sprichwörter und Redensarten im Deutschunterricht” led by Mohamed Esa on Friday morning. The first 15 German teachers who sign up for the Friday workshop will receive a rebate for the \$30 fee from the MA AATG Chapter. Other workshops include: “A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words: Graffiti and Photo-Collages in the FL Classroom” given by Mohamed Esa, AP German from the Practical Side: You Can Do This” given by Doug Guy, “The Art of Becoming German: A Database of Childhood Memories given by Joanne Moar, “I’m not sure what to do’: Classroom Instructions in the FL Context” given by Ulrike Brisson and Joan Campbell, and “Exposing Languages to Others Beyond the Classroom through Celebrations” given by Alex Bennett and Laura Ernst from Trainernetzwerk. Kathleen Gallogly is also offering a swapshop for German teachers. Cherie will post ISE award criteria on the chapter listserve. Michael Joyce won this award of \$500 last year. The application is easy; the deadline is Sept. 30. The 13<sup>th</sup> annual Massachusetts German Educator of the Year Award will be given to Colleen Mocerri at the Awards Luncheon on Saturday at MaFLA. Sean will put out a reminder about MaFLA to the listserve. We need to let Donna know what should be on the website.

**ACTFL:** Cherie and Joan Campbell will be attending. Who would represent our chapter at the Presidents’ Assembly on Thursday, Nov. 15 2-7 pm? If the president represents the chapter (as Ulrike has done the past three years), the chapter would give him some financial support. Sean reported that he probably cannot attend. The Presidents’ Assembly gives one the broader picture of what other chapters are undertaking. Cherie is willing to be our representative. Joan could also be asked. Colleen will also look into the possibility of attending and give a decision within two weeks. Colleen wants our representative, whoever it is, to talk with other New England folks about broadening the DVD contest to all of New England.

**Treasury:** Kristin sent a report indicating that our current balance is \$2277.94. There are approximately \$450 needed for MaFLA plus the cost of lunch for Colleen and her guest. Kristin should send out a reminder for dues for the local chapter.

**Ideas for fundraising:** Uwe Kind brings in a lot to the chapter. Sean plans to collect scrap gold (old jewelry etc.) which sells for \$700 an ounce. He felt that might be easier than selling candy bars. Schools may have limits on candy, if not now, then soon. Another suggestion was chocolate Advent calendars which can bring in several hundred dollars every year. Trader Joe’s has them. One can buy them there in bulk if one speaks to the manager.

Sean hopes to organize an Uwe Kind concert as a fundraiser in March. He is especially effective for grades 6-9. We should urge teachers at those grade levels to teach their kids his songs. The last time Uwe Kind came to MA he also presented a workshop for teachers.

Chris Gwin is scheduled to come in the spring to present a workshop. Sean applied for, but we did not get the grant. The date has not yet been finalized. Sean will contact Chris and propose dates. We agreed that we should charge a small fee for the food we would serve at such a workshop.

Ulrike presented the constitution with small changes. The term president-elect was eliminated and replaced with vice president. Definitions of membership in the national AATG and membership in the chapter were clarified. We added that elections are done electronically. Under unexpired terms we changed “editor” to “editors.” Cherry Hill requires us to revise the Constitution regularly in order to reflect reality. The adoption of the revised constitution was moved and passed. Sean will forward the amended Constitution to Cherry Hill.

Cherie and Donna will meet this month to work on suggestions for additions/corrections to the power point presentation regarding German in New England on the consulate website. They will discuss the fact that the website includes a very incomplete, and therefore inaccurate picture of the German

programs in New England. We all thought it would be better if the information were removed than left in such an incomplete state. On the other hand, if done properly, this power point could be downloaded from the website and used as a tool for recruitment and promotion of German.

There will be an AP German workshop on Friday, November 16, 2007 at the College Board office in Waltham. We should put this workshop on the website. Registration is on the College Board website.

After discussion we decided not to have a chapter meeting on September 29. Sean suggested that the necessary turnout would not be there. Ulrike thought we should have the meeting in order to establish a tradition. Colleen thought it competed with MaFLA and Jörg's retirement party. Sean suggested having executive board meetings combined with a meeting of the entire chapter. Sean wants to ask on the listserve for names of new teachers so that we can perhaps send them new teacher kits. Cherie praised the new teachers' workshop at MaFLA. Cherie will promote that workshop on the listserve. It is also really inexpensive.

**Chapter grants for 2009:** After the meeting Susan emailed Cherry Hill asking about the chapter project grants and received the following answer : "...the deadline for 2009 chapter projects -- February 29, 2008. Slight change of conditions -- this will be for projects in the CALENDAR year 2009, rather than the academic year Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, which was used previously. For that reason, we're requesting that chapters which would normally plan something between October-December 2008 please reschedule the event to take place during the 2009 calendar year. We don't have the new chapter project forms on the website yet, but that will be coming soon!" In the past we have usually submitted three chapter grant proposals.

**Ideas for future meetings:** Susanne Even and Bettina Matthias were suggested. Colleen suggested we consider having a workshop in a beautiful location in order to increase numbers.

Jörg's successor at the Goethe Institut is Wolfram Herrmann.

The Boylston Schulverein has an Oktoberfest. Check their website for date and time.

**Future meeting:** See each other at MaFLA and eat lunch together on Friday at MaFLA. It was suggested that each person bring his/her own lunch so that we can meet in one of the workshop rooms.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan S. Adams  
Secretary