



**MINUTES: Massachusetts Chapter of AATG
Executive Board Meeting (September 6, 2008)
9:30-11:30 am at Concord Academy**

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

1) The minutes from the last meeting, January 26, 2008, were accepted as written.

2) Sean reported that Cherry Hill had sent membership statistics since 1996. MA membership is down about 25 % from 203 to 155 members. The membership across the whole country is down 40 %. At least we are above the national average. Our membership numbers have ranged from 154-160 lately. It seems that newer teachers are not signing up, and retirees are not renewing their memberships. We need to get more people to sign up at the student level. Tufts and Mt. Holyoke are the only places offering licensure. Sean reported that there is also an alternative certification program, "Class Measures," costing about \$2000. **Sean will write for the Newsletter about this alternative method of certification.**

3) Sean reported on Deutsch-Tour and distributed a press release about it from Wolfram Herrmann of the GI Boston. This program ideally involves an entire high school in producing music and learning about the music industry. Other departments, like the art, music, and computer departments are also involved. It has worked wonders in problem schools in Germany. The challenge is to fit it to American high schools, which are less likely to stop everything in order to work with a German rock band. This September the program will take place in Lincoln Sudbury and Beverly High Schools. Sebastian Krumbiegel of the pop-band "Die Prinzen" will also perform a song with the students. Teachers Joan Campbell and Doug Guy have done a great deal of work, as did Colleen Mocerri last spring. Depending on how this trial balloon flies, the program will find more high schools next year, and the German music industry will be interested because of the possibility of opening new markets. The dress rehearsal (September 19) and the performance (September 20) will be at Lincoln Sudbury High School at 7:30 pm. Attendees will receive a CD as they leave; there will also be media coverage.

3) MaFLA 2008 has the complete conference program on the website (www.mafla.org). Cherie reported that we hope to have 15-20 for the Jugendliteratur workshop offered by Beverly Harris-Schenz. The chapter will pay \$450 for the rebates to the first 15 registrants. The chapter will also give \$100 to help pay for Hummel and Hamm, cabaret singers from Strasbourg, France who will provide the evening entertainment singing songs in French and German as well as other languages and give a session in French and German for conference attendees. Alex Bennett has been selected as the 14th Annual German Educator of the Year and will be honored at the MaFLA Business Luncheon on Saturday, November 1. The chapter will fund lunch for Alex and her spouse. Cherie will pay up front and be reimbursed. Lunch costs \$17 per person so our total financial exposure is \$584. In the past the Goethe Institut has provided a gift for the honoree. **Cherie will contact the GI about the book.**

4) ACTFL 2008: Sean is planning to attend ACTFL in Orlando and will represent our chapter at the Chapter Presidents' Assembly on Thursday, November 20, 2008. Donna and Cherie are also attending the ACTFL conference. Sean would like to be able to give a report on Deutsch-Tour. The chapter has helped the president in the past with some expenses. In 2010 ACTFL is in Boston.

5) Treasurer's Report: We deferred discussion of a treasurer's report until our next meeting.

6) New Business: **Sean will work on getting the names of new teachers which he will forward to Ulrike so that she can send out welcome packets to them. Ulrike will ask Kristin for reimbursement for her expenses. Cherie will bring the welcome packets back from Cherry Hill. About seven are needed.**

DVD contest results are on the website. Some felt the that timing of the awards for the DVD contest would be better if it were farther from the testing awards reception or perhaps before enrollments are decided.

Chapter project grants:

We submitted a chapter project grant proposal for having Ali Pantesco of NH to do a workshop on using music in the classroom in February 2009. **Sean will ask Colleen where we are on that project.**

Cherie noted that February 2009 is the deadline for submitting project grants for 2010.

Chapter report to Cherry Hill: By the end of December **Susan will send a report of our 2008 activities to Cherry Hill.**

We suggested that teachers be urged to apply for Goethe Institut summer seminars. There are opportunities, and they are wonderful.

Sean is working on getting Uwe Kind back in March or April 2009. Timing is important; this event is especially effective if it comes shortly before enrollment. Sean has an excellent place to host it. Sean pointed out that one can download Uwe Kind's new materials from Kind's website for a fee.

We discussed what how we can promote German in middle schools across MA. Sean reported that all funds are going to improve test scores in math etc. rather than to begin new foreign language programs. It was noted that German is taught at the middle school level in following schools: Wellesley, Melrose, Westfield, Pentucket, Beverly, Peabody, and Rutland. We need to check to see if there are others.

Sean is hoping to work with Doug Julien from Pentucket to give a workshop sometime in spring 2009 that demonstrates teaching in a modern classroom with maximum technology. The date is to be decided.

We all need to review the website regularly and be sure to register our programs at www.learngerman.us

Cherie pointed out that we need to set dates for our spring events. **Sean will work on that for Ali Pantesco and Uwe Kind.** We tentatively set May 5, 2009 for the Awards Ceremony. **Cherie will talk with Joan Murray about that event.**

Many thanks to Inge Buerger and Cherie who will produce the annual Newsletter. Deadline: January 31 for submissions. They seek reports of activities at schools and descriptions of summer seminars attended. etc. Examples mentioned were: Konstanz students at WPI and Swiss exchange at Natick. **Susan will write about Bar Harbor. Sean will write about the Chris Gwyn workshop.**

Sean mentioned that Rheinland-Pfalz is looking for smaller exchanges, not necessarily GAPP. Sean worried about the increasing cost of going to Germany. Fuel charges etc. make it harder.

The Goethe Institut will have its annual GAPP Seminar in the fall. Sean wants it to be more a how-to than a rehash of problems i.e. more of a round table discussion.

We discussed how to get members to use the listserve more frequently and whether we wanted more opportunities for socializing. We mentioned the Year of Languages Fair that worked well earlier. We are always trying to get more people from all levels involved.

Cherie suggested we survey our constituents regarding what they want from the chapter. Sean said we could use Survey Monkey (www.surveymonkey.com). We would ask for input from members and give a deadline. **Send Sean questions by Oct. 15.** An example of a good question is: We would like to have more post-secondary members involved in our activities. What workshops could our chapter offer to instructors at the post-secondary level? Literature, music, technology, art? We might also ask about possibilities for more teacher training programs.

Cherie reported that the students of two German teachers (Matt Ruppert and Colleen Mocerri) won awards in the 2008 MaFLA poster contest.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan S. Adams
Concord Academy
susan_adams@concordacademy.org