



Annual Board Report

2016

Membership Committee Report

AAGT Annual Membership Report

September, 2016

1. Membership Statistics

- a. Full-time professionals: 116
- b. Part-time: 56
- c. Student: 40 (up from 28)
- d. Retiree: 15
- e. Organizational: 20
- f. Unnamed: 44
- g. Organizational 20 (same)
- h. Total: 291 (up from 222)
- i. Active: 201
- j. Countries represented 27 (up from 20)
 Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Ireland,
 Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Poland,
 Russia, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain,
 Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States

2. Activities over the past year:

- a. Letters announcing an offer to all students to join AAGT at no cost for the first year were emailed to directors of Gestalt therapy training centers around the world; the letters included a short video welcome from Patricia, AAGT president. AAGT members translated the invitation into other languages – these are all posted on the website.
- b. Patricia's video recording introduced AAGT, and outlined the benefits of joining AAGT. This is now also on the website.
- c. Newcomers event planned for the opening day at the Taormina conference. Its purpose is to introduce newcomers to AAGT, AAGT members, some history, benefits, and local color. There will be a raffle of a dinner for 2 at a local restaurant for the newcomers attending.

3. Recommendations moving forward:

- a. Continue to encourage students to join AAGT – Invite students in person at local training institutes; invite Board members to do so as well.
- b. Incorporate Organizational membership into the Membership area. In doing so, review and update what an Organizational member is, and the benefits of being an Organizational member.
- c. Collaborate with the Interest Group team in recruiting new members.
- d. Ensure the membership listings on the website are up-to-date. There remain some issues due to the switch to a new web system.

- e. Consider membership and promotional material in professional publications. Poll membership to gather a list of publications they use and how to access those marketing departments.
- f. Continue to send 2 dues reminder letters in the spring, before the May deadline.
- g. Continue to send welcome letters to new members. Include the gift of the recording of the first annual meeting.

Membership Co-Chairs

Maryanne Nicholls and Jim Battaglia

Organizational Member Representatives' Report

REPORT OF ORGANIZATION MEMBERS' REPRESENTATIVES September, 2016

ACTIVITIES

In an attempt to facilitate a process whereby a common figure of interest might emerge, representatives were gathered for a box lunch meeting during the Asilomar conference in 2014. There was lively discussion but no clear figure emerged. A few North American training institutes were mildly interested in finding connection for their students. In response to the request of the members, the Board Representatives created a listserv for the organizations' representatives. The Board Representatives made a few attempts to initiate a conversation, with minimal response. The listserv has been largely underutilized.

CURRENT BENEFITS FOR MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Listing in the AAGT Directory

Advertising in the quarterly newsletter

Individual membership for organization's representative

Quarterly option for advertising blubs to listserv through AAGT administrator

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES

The Gestalt Therapy Institute of Philadelphia (**Catherine Gray**)

Gestalt Institute of Cleveland (**Shareefah Sabur**)

Société Française de Gestalt (SFG) (**Vincent Beja**)

Center for Somatic Studies (**Ruella Frank**)

Gestalt Therapy Training Center Northwest (**Eva Gold**)

UKAGP (**Ruth Nightingale**)

Gestalt Center for Psychotherapy & Training (**Kathryn Grooms**)

New York Institute for Gestalt Therapy (**Perry Klepner**)

Manchester Gestalt Centre (**Peter Phillipson**)

Gestalt Institute of Toronto (**Carolyn Edwards**)

Appalachian Gestalt Therapy Institute (**Nicholas Emmanuel**)

Gestalt Institute of San Francisco (**Morgan Goodlander**) (Expired)

Gestalt NYC (**No rep**) (Expired)

Integrative Gestalt Therapy Cert (**No rep name**) (Expired)

Sierra Institute for Contemporary Gestalt Therapy (**Peter Cole**) (expired)

CURRENT STATUS AND RECOMMENDATION

While there currently appears to be no expressed need or wish for organizations to dialogue on a listserv, we acknowledge that there may emerge a shared figure for some or several organizations if there were ongoing contact and scheduled time to meet on a regular basis at a conference.

Due to the reality that Organizations continue to pay membership dues, and many do not take advantage of the individual membership perk for their representative, there appears to be value in holding an organizational membership. However, at this time, as there has been such sparse activity and expressed interest, we question the validity of having a Board Representative position solely for Organization Members. We recommended to the Board the following proposal to be considered by the membership at the upcoming AGM:

(1) that the Organization Membership Board position(s) be subsumed in the General Membership Board Positions. This would mean that the current roles played by the OM board members would be taken on by the GM board members. These tasks are to:

- 1. Represent the interests of Gestalt institutes, trainers, consulting firms and other affiliated organizations to the Board of directors.*
- 2. Serve as a liaison between the Association and affiliated Gestalt organizations.*
- 3. Foster interest between Gestalt organizations for submitting workshop proposals for our conferences.*
- 4. Coordinate communications and activities among the Organizational Members, such as surveys and research projects.*

Organization Members would continue to pay an annual membership set by the Board.

The Board voiced some hesitation in removing Board positions. There were concerns: Do these board positions represent a balanced representation of the membership, or perhaps would another “member at large” Board position(s), or the creation of another board position for another job be more appropriate?

Nonetheless, the proposal was accepted and is being presented to the Membership for discussion and vote at the upcoming AGM.

QUESTIONING OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP AWARD FOR OM'S REP

Concurrent with our concern about the viability of a unique Representative(s) for Organization Members to the Board, an objection to the current benefit of an individual membership for the organization's representative was raised by a member. While the Board members discussed the discontinuation of the award of an individual membership for the representative of a Member Organization, there was little support for the discontinuation. The reasoning is primarily that some member organizations are very small and that we believe there is anticipated risk of losing the member organization. Organization member dues are slightly higher than those of an Individual Membership, and therefore some income would be lost. In addition, the possibility of a future emergent connection between organizations would disappear.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

The board wondered if there exists criteria for an organization to be a member. For example, does an organization have to be a certain size, or have a certain membership or training status to qualify for an Organization Membership? These questions merit further discussion.

Respectfully submitted by

Janneke Van Buesekom
Marlene Moss Blumenthal

Scholarship Fund Committee Report

AAGT SCHOLARSHIP FUND COMMITTEE REPORT 2016

The AAGT Scholarship Fund had at the beginning of December 2015 (Dec 11) \$15,513.04. On July 20th, 2016, it had \$18,695.44.

The increase is due to:

Direct contributions which include:

- People on our website as they pay membership dues or as they register for the conference.
- People contributing by checks to the Fund, paid to the treasurer.
- People donating their plenary honorariums.
- People doing fund raising activities and sending in the proceeds.
- People responding to our special appeals for donation such as the one the committee made at the occasion of the 2015 winter holidays and Bud Feder's at the beginning of 2016.
- Training institutes.

Conference contributions from:

The PacificNorthWest conference.

Due to the urgency in raising additional funds to respond to the many requests for scholarships to attend the Taormina 2016 conference. the SF committee created a new approach to raising funds: The Scholarship Fund ambassadors. This role involved talking to ones friends and colleagues about our cause, collecting some money from them personally and then turning the funds collected over to our fund.

The AAGT Scholarship Fund and the 2016 Taormina AAGT/EAGT Biannual Conference:

The AAGT SF committee provided consultation to EAGT on how to set up an EAGT scholarship fund. The organizations agreed to have an integrated scholarship application system.

This one-time joint AAGT/EAGT scholarship fund was created in order to offer grants to diverse practitioners and students from all over the world enabling them to attend the conference.

The AAGT SF conference committee co-chairs, Adam Kincel, Dominique Chabre, were joined by two EAGT co-chairs, Guus Klaren and Dieter Bongers.

1. The joint SF committee granted 26,358 USD in scholarships to the Taormina conference. The EAGT will contribute 5761.80 Euros and the AAGT, 19,529.70 USD.
2. Range of grant size (smallest to largest): 114 USD to 2050 USD
3. Number of recipients: 50
4. Average grant size: 527 USD/person

5. Countries of origin of recipients: 22 countries -- UK, Finland, Poland, Mexico, USA, Slovenia, Hungary, Canada, Nepal, Greece, Belarus, Russia, Greece, Australia, Ukraine, Italy, Germany, South Africa, Austria, Belgium, Sweden, Croatia.
6. Size of grant requests relative to size of grants given: Due to limited funds the joint SF committee was only able to grant only 50 % of the amounts requested which were more than 200 USD.
7. Number of people who did not accept the grant offered and who will not be able to come:
12

The AAGT Scholarship Fund and AAGT endorse regional and research conferences:

The Scholarship Fund is available to allocate funding to all AAGT endorsed conferences. Regional and research conference organisers may request funding from the scholarship committee. In that event the Scholarship Fund Committee will allocate one member to work closely with a designated person from the conference CPC, to:

- Encourage the conference to have a fundraising strategy in place before and during the conference; e.g., conference participants are asked to contribute money to the scholarship fund when they sign up and/or they have one evening event where fund raising will take place
- One conference organiser and one SF committee member will together assess individual applications for scholarships

The amount available to each eligible conference will be decided by the SF committee based on a maximum of 20% of the funds fundraised since our last conference.

The SF committee has designed a standard scholarship application form for regional and research conferences: www.aagt.org/scholarship_fund_regional/

The AAGT Scholarship Fund fundraising plan for the following two years:

| | Actions | Who | When |
|---|---|------|--------------------|
| 1 | Biannual conference surplus Discussion with the organisers of the Sicily conference | Burt | Sep-16 |
| | Lobbing with the next CPC about SF and including SF in the surplus | TBC | Sept-16 to Sept-18 |
| 2 | Auctions during the biannual conference Recruit auction committee for the following conference | TBC | Sep-17 |
| 3 | Members when registering for conferences Work with the next CPC committee to include SF when signing up for membership. | TBC | Sept-16 to Sept-17 |
| 4 | Members when signing up or renewing membership Check with membership committee how new and renewing members are inform about the SF. | Adam | Dec-16 |
| 5 | General fund of AAGT Keep on discussing SF with the board and request funding nearer the conference if necessary. | Domi | Ongoing |
| 6 | Events by individuals and organisations Liaise with organisational members' committee to invited each organisation to organise a fundraising event in the next two years. | TBC | Sept-16 - Oct-16 |
| | Make an open call to individual members to help with fundraising and coordinate their actions. | TBC | Oct-16 |
| 7 | Donations from regional conference Liaise with Regional committees e.g. development fund committee to raise awareness of SF. | Adam | Ongoing |
| 8 | Auctions during regional conferences Liaise with Regional committees e.g. development fund committee to raise awareness of SF. | Adam | Ongoing |
| 9 | Donations after a plea to AAGT members Send two emails per year to all membership reminding about the SF and asking for donations. | TBC | Ongoing |
| | Post a piece asking for donations in each of our newsletters | TBC | Ongoing |

The AAGT Scholarship Fund Committee: Adam Kincel, Dominique Chabre, Bud Feder, Catherine Gray, Ariel Valenzuela.

Research Committee Report

Report of the Research Liaison/Chair of the Research Committee

Presented by *Mark Reck*

Over the past year, AAGT's research-related efforts have focused primarily upon continued involvement with and coordination of conferences.

In addition to a number of other ways AAGT has been vital in planning the joint AAGT-EAGT 2016 Conference in Taormina, AAGT has been represented within the research-oriented aspects of the conference:

- Supporting the submission and inclusion of more formal research presentations at the conference
- Establishing a poster presentation offering and associated award for younger researchers in gestalt therapy
- Consulting on and assisting with a research project studying the effects of the planning process on and overall experience of planning committee members

The AAGT has continued its relationship with the international gestalt therapy research conferences in being more directly involved in the coordination of the 2017 research conference in Paris:

- For the first time in the (brief) history of the research conferences, having the AAGT Research Liaison as one of the conference conveners
- Having more intentional inclusion of AAGT members in the planning committee of the 2017 Paris Conference
- Providing financial support to the 2017 Paris Conference from the Research Fund

As always, AAGT is open to hearing from members about how best to further support the membership around research-related efforts, as well as to welcome members who would like to be more directly involved in these works, especially as members of the AAGT Research Committee. For those who wish to reach out around these points, please contact the Research Liaison/Chair of the Research Committee, Mark Reck (mark.reck.psyd@gmail.com).

Archivist Report

AAGT Archivist 2016 Biennial Report

Ansel L. Woldt, Ed.D., Archivist

I attempt to remain abreast of AAGT's past and continuously emerging history. Perhaps the most valued part of this is maintaining and updating AAGT's Constitution and By-Laws, which has been a responsibility of the archivist since our founding. Being that I am interested in Gestalt history in general, I work at maintaining an updated list of major publications on Gestalt therapy internationally by frequently accessing Gestalt-based Websites and keeping my eyes peeled when scanning publishers' catalogues, and so forth. These documents are stored as archival information on our computer with backup files.

As AAGT Archivist with a relatively long history of collecting Gestalt therapy books and research materials, fellow gestaltists often refer colleagues to me for documentary information, such as: "Could you please assist me with something Fritz Perls once said or wrote about egotism?" "Do you know where I can find Laura Perls' statement about good therapists do only as much as necessary but as little as possible?" A recent request, "My colleagues at the Gestalt Institute of Finland have been asked by the government to present research materials that shows the gestalt approach to be an effective psychotherapy. I'm told that you have a research collection and are friends with the major researchers of Gestalt therapy, would you please send me all possible research references?"

Occasionally someone interested in the preservation of Gestalt therapy books, dissertations, theses and other documents either sends them to me or asks for the address for depositing them in the Gestalt Therapy Archives and Research Collection in the Kent State University Library, Kent, Ohio. On occasion I've physically gone to the University Library and checked books out or found the proper citation for people working on their doctoral dissertations.

Interest Group Report

Interest Group Report for AGM – September, 2016

Submitted by Daniel Bak and Bob Witchel, Interest Group Co-chairs

What we have accomplished –

- We continue to use the AAGT “Covenant of Community” and the AAGT “Constitution and Bylaws” as ground for Interest Groups (IGs); we continue to share a guide for roles and responsibilities of a specific Interest Group Chair/ Co-chair.
- Continue to maintain a Facebook page for AAGT IGs (146 likes, so far) <https://www.facebook.com/InterestGroupsAAGT>
- We continue to utilize the AAGT Newsletter, and the listserv to encourage members to develop IGs
- Leadership has been offered by Andy Lapidés and Deirdre Winter to develop a **Trauma Interest Group** has just occurred; more will be coming soon.
- Supported Laura Carite in her creation of a **Gestalt Group Therapy IG**; has been meeting monthly as a “virtual peer supervision group.”
- **A Gender & Sexual Diversity Interest Group** (GSD IG) was developed by Daniel Bak and Alex Levine and is now co-chaired by Daniel Bak and Billy Desmond; group meets the last Sunday of each month.
- Have arranged to make Ring Central Video Conference tool is available for IG meetings.
- Supported Natalia Braun in her attempts to create the **Coaching, Mentoring & OD Interest Group**. Group creation is in process.

Plans for Continuing Our Work on IGs –

- Continue to utilize Facebook page, Newsletter, and email list to engage and stimulate members to develop an IG.
- Identify specific members who have a specialized interest to encourage and support them to develop an IG. For example, those who present workshops at Regional and Bi-annual international conferences or former IGs (co)-chairs would be contacted. Perhaps, we could also contact someone who is doing research, written a book, etc.
- Continue to process with the Board ways to generate ideas to promote IGs.

Regional Development Committee Report

AAGT Regional Development Fund Committee Report 06/2015-09/2016

The Regional Development Fund Committee has been more or less inactive during the period since the 2015 AGM.

This has been due partly to the fact that we have received no applications for grants or loans during this period.

The main reason for this, however, has been the ongoing discussion on the status of regions in the Regional Task Force, in which some of us have been involved as members of the Regional Task Force.

With uncertainty about the status and role of regions – and thus also of developing regions – within AAGT we have not initiated any activities to advertise or further our work during this time.

No grants or loans have been made during this period. However, in recent weeks we have been in brief e-mail contact with an organisation intending to submit an application for financial support and hope to discuss this with their representative at the conference in Taormina.

The Regional Development Fund currently has a balance of \$8,715.72. Part of this money comes from organizational funds deposited in the Regional Development Fund to match expenditures on board member activities. The remainder is donated by members.

We gratefully thank all our donors for their generosity.

Deirdre Winter, Dipl. Psych.,

Gestalt therapist AAGT Regional Development Fund Liaison Officer Berlin,

September 11, 2016