

Board Recommendations in Relation to AAGT Regions, based on the RTF committee report to the Board

INTENTION OF THE BOARD

We publish these recommendations in response to questions about the relationship/existence of AAGT regions with our dedication to collaboration, co-creation dialogue, and emergent processes. We read, digested, and thoroughly discussed the detailed report of the Regional Task Force and we have seriously considered the RTF's recommendations prior to reaching consensus in developing our recommendations.

BACKGROUND

At the Board Retreat prior to the AAGT conference at Asilomar in 2014, questions arose about AAGT regions. A Task Force was formed to address the following questions and to shed light on these questions so that the Board could make enlightened recommendations to the Membership for consideration.

The questions were:

What is the definition of a region?

What are the advantages of a relationship between AAGT and a region? Is there enough interest to continue regional entities? Shall we continue...?

What guidelines would support this relationship? Are there responsibilities toward each other that can be articulated?

APPRECIATION

We appreciate the time, thoughtfulness and energy commitment that you, Charlie Bowman, Adam Kincel, Brad Larsen-Sanchez, Burt Lazarin, Maryanne Nicholls, Robert Resnick, Patricia Tucker and Deirdre Winter, made to try to resolve some of the issues pertaining to our association's regional structure, recognizing that it was a difficult and painful experience for some of you (if not all).

DEFINITION OF A REGION

We support the RTF's definition:

- A region is an area or division, especially part of a country or the world having definable characteristics but not always fixed boundaries.
- A region can be determined in part by the presence of a number of AAGT members in a particular area, of a gestalt organization or group in that area, and of the availability of an AAGT member to represent that area.

CONTINUING REGIONS AS ENTITIES IN RELATION WITH AAGT

The Board supports and encourages the relationship between AAGT and emergent/emerging regions. We believe that this relationship and the process of our developing relationships are consistent with the purpose of AAGT.

The purpose of the Association shall be to support the professional and personal associating and advancing of persons interested in participating in a forum committed to the preservation and advancement of the philosophy, theory, practice, and research of Gestalt therapy and its various applications... (from our Constitution and By Laws)

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A REGION AND AAGT

We recommend the development of an RCP Committee to

- Endorse the association of a region with AAGT based on the aforementioned definition.
- Identify a new region to the community by announcing the relationship to the Board and to the Membership
- **Act in collaboration with regions** who have applied for AAGT sponsorship or co-sponsorship for events;
- Determine criteria for these sponsored or co-sponsored events **that support the event to accurately reflect the Covenant of Community By-Laws, history, values, and precedents of AAGT**
- Clarify the roles of the Regional Development Liaison and the Regional Contact Person.
- **Primarily function as a support to the regions, not as gatekeeper, while maintaining clarity about AAGT's option to withdraw support should the content of the event be in violation of the Covenant of Community By-Laws, history, values, and precedents of AAGT.**
- **If sponsorship is agreed upon, the region co-sponsoring the event may apply for consideration for the granting of Continuing Education.**

We further recommend that the following criteria for sponsorship or co-sponsorship be considered by the RCP Committee:

- Commitment that the event will be in full accordance with the Covenant of Community By-Laws, history, values, and precedents of AAGT.
- Submission in advance to this committee the plan for the event including theme, overall plan with number of workshops, invited presenters, workshop titles, reviewed or not, so that there can be a dialogue between the region reps and the RCP Committee about the consistency of such in the context of the preservation and advancement of the philosophy, theory, practice, and research of Gestalt therapy and its various applications.
- Approval by the RCP Committee for sponsorship or co-sponsorship of an event must occur prior to application by the Region for AAGT support in the form of scholarship funds, financial support, CE support and publicity.

- Submission in advance to the CE Officer the plan as described above if continuing education credits are desired for the event.

In addition, we include some of the suggestions of the RTF in our recommendation for the creation of an RCP Committee. We recommend that the RCP Committee include but not necessarily be chaired by the Regional Contact Person (Board member), as well as two to three additional members of the Board and three to four General Members (who are or are not Regional Representatives, including past RCP representatives)

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

We acknowledge that the RTF addressed additional items. We wish to acknowledge and comment on the following:

- The RTF did not come to consensus on the issue of restriction relative to presenters at a regional conference. The Board believes that it is not in the spirit of the emerging energy of any region for a set of rules or another entity to dictate the theme, overall plan with number of workshops, invited presenters, or workshop titles. Our intention is for the newly formed RCP Committee and each region seeking sponsorship or co-sponsorship to stay in dialogue throughout the process of developing an event and to engage in a manner that supports the region and AAGT in meeting our shared purpose.
- The RTF has recommended the involvement of an Archivist for various endeavors. The interpretation of inclusion/exclusion can be viewed from many perspectives. We assume that this is a universal and infinite discussion. As such, and without apparent history of past discussions held by the archivist, we are disinclined to add this task to the archivists responsibility
- As a volunteer organization we are reticent to ask for the creation of yet another file to contain notations from ever-changing liaisons about the personnel involved in co-sponsored events. If a more clearly defined request is made, after the development of the initially posed questions and recommendations are addressed, the Board is open to considering that request.