

AAGT 2016 Annual General Meeting (AGM) Minutes
Sunday, September 25, 2016; 8:00-9:00 AM and 2:30-6:00 PM
Hilton Hotel, Giardini Naxos, Sicily

Present *(Names are alphabetized by first name. Some were present only in AM, others for a part of the PM, many for all of the meeting.):*

Adam Kincel, Alessio Rizzo, Allan Singer, Ann Bowman Anna Bacik, Anna Beckmanh, Ansel Woldt, Billy Desmond, Bob Resnick, Bob Witchel, Boris Nikiforov, Bruce Aaron, Burt Lazarin, Carl Hodges, Carmen Joanne Ablack, Carol Siederer, Carol Swanson, Cathy Gray, Charlie Bowman, Claire Asherson Bartram, Daniel Bak, Danny Boyle, Deborah Ullman, Deirdre Winter, Denise Campono, Dina Miller, Dominique Chabre, Elinor Greenberg, Eva Gold, Faye Page, Gail Feinstein, Gloria Melnick, Iris Fodor, Jack Neggerman, James Battaglia, James Flack, Jane Readen, Jane Riordan, Janneke van Beusekom, Joe Melnick, John Kaplan, Jon Blend, Judy Graham, Julia Wright, Justin Laird, Jutta Pieper, Kirste Carlson, Leyla Metin, Liz Beauchamp, Marie Quiery, Mark Reck, Marlene Blumenthal, Maryanne Nicholls, Melinda Best, Michael Foy, Mike Cotayo, Milena Alincova, Nancy Woldt, Nives Vrecic Lorbek, Patricia Tucker, Perry Klepner, Peter Philippson, Rita Resnick, Rosie Burrows, Ruella Frank, Ruth Nightingale, Sachiko Kishi, Shareefah Sabur, Steve Zahm, Sue O'Rourke, Sylvia Crocker, Tali Bar-Yoseph Levine, Tessa Kleeman, Toni Gilligan, Vicky Eugenio

Agenda:

1. President's Overview of the Year
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Proposals regarding Officer Elections and Appointments:
 - A. Organizational Members Representative(s) – Proposed by the Board Representatives of Organizational Members: That the Organization Membership Board position(s) be subsumed in the General Membership Board positions and that the Organizational Members board position(s) be eliminated.
 - B. Communications Officer -- The Communications Officer position was established in 1993. The function of this position was primarily to establish methods of communicating effectively to and among AAGT members (via listservs, newsletter distribution, and email announcements) and the public at large (via website). Now that these procedures are established, the doing of these procedures can easily be completed by the administrative assistant. The current Communications Officer proposes that the role of communications office be retired as of the AGM.
 - C. Modification to the Association By-Laws, submitted by Brad Larsen-Sanchez -- Section 4. Conveyances and Publications. The Association may publish and distribute such materials, newsletters, journals, tapes, films, or other

matter that may be of interest to the membership as may be authorized by the Executive Council and/or Board of Directors. The official method for the conveyance of information relative to the functioning of the Association shall be email distributed to the entire membership (currently via MailChimp). Messages can then be forwarded to the membership listserv, but it should be noted that sending announcements to the membership listserv alone does not constitute communication to the entire membership. These communications shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors and sent by the AAGT administrative assistant. The AAGT Newsletter is to be published on a quarterly basis and edited by the Newsletter Editor and pre-reviewed by the Board of Directors. Endorsements appearing in any publication of the Association shall be approved by the Executive Council. The Administration and direct management of AAGT publication activity shall be under the auspices and direction of the President and/or his/her designee from the Board, and/or member(s) of the Association with expertise in editing and publication.

- D. Board Offices UP FOR ELECTION OR APPOINTMENT at AAGT's 2016 AGM: President: 4-year term on Board: 1 year as President-Elect, 2 years as President and 1 year as Past President; Elected at AGM. Secretary: 2-year term; Elected at AGM (Current Secretary is Acting-Secretary who took over when Secretary resigned). Treasurer: 2-year term; Elected at AGM. Newsletter Editor: 3-year term; Appointed by the Board at AGM. Regional Contact Persons' Representative: 1-year term, Elected annually by and amongst fellow RCP's. Regional Development Liaison: 2 year term; Appointed by Board at AGM. Research Liaison Officer: 2 year term; Appointed by Board at AGM. Organizational Members' Representatives: 2-year term and 1-year term (There is a proposal to be acted on at the AGM to eliminate this office from the Board). Associate Continuing Education Officer: Year-to-year appointment at discretion of the Continuing Education Officer. At-Large Board Members: Year-to-year Board Appointments.
4. 2018 Conference Venue Selection -- Review of proposals and selection of venue.
 5. 2017 AGM Site Selection – Several possibilities are emerging.
 6. Organizational Members/Organizational Members' Representatives: Proposal submitted by Perry Klepner: That the current waiver of AAGT annual membership fees for organizational representatives be eliminated and to continue support for member organizations in AAGT. The representatives would then pay annual dues as all members do. This is a volunteer action and should not have a monetary benefit in accordance with the volunteerism integral to AAGT's values. With this done, if the Board prefers, some adjustment can be made to eliminate or reduce membership dues for organizations, so my proposal is income neutral to AAGT.
 7. Regional Task Force Report -- This task force, formed at the Puebla conference in 2012, undertook to better define AAGT's relationship to its Regions, and the Regions relationships to AAGT. The task force met over the past 2 years and has

submitted a report to the Board. The board is currently reviewing that report and will submit summary and recommendations thereof.

8. Conflict Process Task Force Report , Submitted by Task Force chair Bruce Aaron -- This task force, formed at the 2015 AGM meeting in New Jersey took on the task of creating a process whereby AAGT might better address conflicts among members that appeared in need of assistance towards resolution or acceptance of differences. The task force's report and recommendations will be presented.
9. Review of the Peer Review Process – Changes to our current Blind Peer Review process for conference presentations will be reviewed and possible changes considered.
10. Internationality -- A continuing discussion of the meaning of our being "an international community", its ramifications and emerging needs.
11. Acknowledgements and Thanks to Board members Burt leaving the Board as Treasurer, Marlene Blumenthal and Janneke van Buesekom are leaving the Board as Organization Member Representatives, Alex Schlotterbeck as Newsletter Editor, and Adam Kincel as RCP Representative and Scholarship Co-chairperson.
12. Welcoming Toni Gilligan as our new President
13. Patricia Tucker stepping down as President.

Morning Meeting

President's Report - In the service of managing a lengthy agenda and with the desire to hear from the members present, the President decided to forgo giving an oral report. All Board reports are available online at www.AAGT.org.

Treasurer's Report - the annual 2015 report with comparison with previous years will soon be posted online.

Proposals for Changes to the By-Laws:

- A. Proposal regarding Organization Membership Representative(s) (Agenda Item 1.a.)

The Board recommends that this change be voted down. It is suggested that the newly elected OM Representative(s) focus more on reaching training institutes.

For: 0 Against: Unanimous. This proposal was defeated.

- B. Proposal regarding the Communications Officer. (Agenda item 1.b.)

Discussion: It was strongly stated by members that the Communications Officer facilitates the dissemination of information to the membership that goes well beyond what is expected by AAGT’s administrator on the listserv. One example of the greater work done by the Communications Officer would be conference publicity.

For: 0 Against: Unanimous. This proposal was defeated.

C. Communications to Members: Formatting to be approved by Board. (Agenda item 1.c.)

Discussion ensued in which some members objected to the idea of the Board having the ability to decide on what can and cannot be sent to the full membership. Other members felt that they did want some oversight so that members did not send out a lot of emails that are not of concern to the full membership. We were reminded that the constitution already allows for board oversight of emails sent to all members as stated in the current by-laws ("The Association may publish and distribute such materials, newsletters, journals, tapes, films, or other matter that may be of interest to the membership as may be authorized by the Executive Council and/or Board of Directors"). We also noted that what is at issue here is the determination that these emails to the full-membership go through our administrator in order to have consistent formatting and "branding" and that we are not adding any new oversight. We were reminded that any member can send blast (about workshops or trainings) to all members 3 times per year by contacting AAGT’s administrator.

For: unanimous via consensus

Nominations for Board positions due to terms expiring, member not standing again, or member stepping down:

Comment: Prior to proceeding with nominations and appointments, Peter Philippon remarked that without any desire to be exclusive, organizations tend towards appointing the people they are closer to when nominating, and build in a conservatism and lack of diversity. There need to be formal checks on these processes; otherwise newer or divergent people get sidelined in an unaware way.

Position	Nominee	Nominated by	Seconded	Accept/Decline	Term Expired/Resignation
President	Adam Kincel	Peter Philippon	Ruella Frank	Declined	Toni Gilligan becoming Pres.
	Tali Bar-Yoseph Levine	Cathy Gray	Mark Reck	Accepted	
	Joe Melnick	Charlie Bowman	Many	Declined	
Treasurer	Brad Larsen-Sanchez	Marlene Blumenthal	Janneke van Buesekom	Accepted	Burt Lazarin, term expired; not standing
Secretary	Ryan Tolman	Burt Lazarin	Maryanne Nicholls	Accepted	Monique Rodriguez resigned

Interest Group Co-Chairperson	Billy Desmond	Daniel Bak	Ruella Frank	Accepted	Bob Witchel resigning to be communications officer
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Organization Members Repr.	Carol Swanson	Janneke van Beusekom	Peter Philippson	Accepted	Marlene Blumenthal, Term expired; not standing Janneke van Beusekom, resigning
	Jon Blend	Gail Feinstein	Charlie Bowman	Not present	

Appointments to the Board

Position	Appointee	By	Succeeding
Communications Director	Bob Witchel	Board	Brad Larsen-Sanchez
Regional Development Liaison	Deirdre Winter	Board	Reappointed
Associate Continuing Education Officer	Marlene Blumenthal	Dina Miller	Ansel Woldt
Research Liaison	Mark Reck	Board	Reappointed
Member-at-Large	Gail Feinstein	Board	Reappointed
Member-at-Large	Burt Lazarin	Board	New

Comment: Nancy Woldt reminded us that all office holders are volunteers and suggested that by talking with new members we can get then interested in governance.

2018 AAGT Conference Venue

Our president announced that the following proposals have been submitted:

Asheville, North Carolina, USA Completed proposal with committee and accommodations articulated.

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada Incomplete and underdeveloped proposal.

2017 AGM

Being considered:

London, UK (Prior to or following the UKAGP/BGJ conference)

Cleveland, Ohio, USA (Conference or Workshops to be developed)

1-year position Nominated – Jon Blend (declined)

Call for additional nominations. **Nives Vrecic** was nominated by James Battaglia who resigned from his position as Membership Co-Chairperson and self-nominated for Organizational Members (OM) Rep.

The vote was first taken for the 2-year position formerly held by Marlene Blumenthal (term expired):

Result;	For	Carol Swanson 6	
		Nives Vrecic 24	Elected
		James Battaglia 14	

The following vote was to complete the 1-year remaining for the position from which Janneke van Buesekom had resigned:

Result:	For_	Carol Swanson 15	
		James Battaglia 32	Elected

Membership Co-Chairperson (to serve for the remaining term vacated by James Battaglia)

Call for nominations. **Jon Blend** was nominated by Marianne Nicholls and seconded by Claire Asherson Bartram. There were no further nominations. Vote was called for..

Result:	For	Jon Blend	50	Elected
	Against		0	
	Abstain		0	

Additional Board Appointments:

- Communications Director** **Bob Witchel** (Appointed; Brad Larsen-Sanchez stepping down becoming Treasurer)
- Regional Development Liaison** **Deirdre Winter** (Reappointed)
- Research Liaison** **Mark Reck** (Reappointed)
- Associate Continuing Education Officer** **Marlene Blumenthal** (Appointed; Ansel Woldt stepping down, term expired)
- Newsletter Editor** **Justin Laird** (Appointed; Alex Schlotterbeck stepping down, term expired)
- Members at Large** **Gail Feinstein** (Reappointed)
- Burt Lazarin** (Newly appointed)

Appreciation: Appreciations were voiced for Alex Schlotterbeck’s contributions in providing our Newsletter.

2018 CONFERENCE VENUE

Our President requested there be a reading of the AAGT Constitution: Article IV, Section 5. Biennial International Conferences

A Conference Location Proposal Request Form will be available through the AAGT Web site and Newsletter. Gestalt institutes, persons or groups interested in hosting a conference will submit a proposal request to the AAGT Board for consideration, preferably at least two (2) months prior to the AGM two (2) years preceding the proposed conference. AAGT is committed to engaging in dialogue with differences and no country or region will be excluded from consideration. Upon receipt and discussion of proposals, the Board will prepare a recommendation to the AGM for review, discussion and decision by members present. The Board will encourage and facilitate an online conversation around the biennial Conference site selection, the Host Organizing Team and On-site Conference Coordinators. If at the end of the Annual General Meeting the membership is unable to reach consensus in determining the venue and coordinators for the next biennial Conference, the Board will make this determination. In the event there are no Conference proposals, the Board will of necessity recruit an ad hoc Conference organizing committee to determine the best possible Conference venue and coordinators.

The Board is recommending that we accept the Asheville, North Carolina proposal. In addition, we would like that the theme of the conference acknowledges the wider political and social environment in which we are meeting; and that we make some kind of statement, public and loud, about our opposition to the discriminatory legislation (if still on the books two years from now) and of our support for those in North Carolina working for change.

Discussion: Concerns were expressed about the disavowal of anti-discrimination legislation as well as other restrictions on minorities. It was also suggested that many in the North Carolina and especially in Asheville share and support our beliefs. We were asked not to demonize specific party members in the state but to move toward difference and support social change. One member who comes from a homophobic country would feel badly to have country isolated. The idea of going to Asheville and supporting dialogue would make a clear statement. Also, it feels hypocritical to shun Asheville when we have held conferences in other places where blatant discrimination is prevalent and social values differ from our organization's values.

It was suggested that if we go to Asheville we need to reassure our attendees, especially those who are not US citizens that no one will be arrested. There was reticent to engage with politicians. The process is important—not cutting off people. The wish to have fun and see friends, without feeling pressure to picket was expressed. It was suggested that we first decide if we are going to Asheville, then decide how to design our action. And, it is important to support those who feel fearful and afraid to come.

Some spoke of being caught about going to a place without civil rights. Also, psychotherapy is always connected to politics. What is understood about normalcy? Is identity a part of a continuum? We can give ourselves as far as we want and come back to support. There was a strong desire expressed to go to Asheville to support what is going on there. And, movement from right wing politicians is beginning to occur.

The group from Asheville that filed the proposal is a hard-working and well organized group that has held many successful regional conferences.

A Sense of the Body was called for. There was a heavy majority in favor of Asheville; 2 were opposed; 6-8 consciously abstained.

At the end of the discussion for the 2018 venue, Maryanne Nicholls moved that the Board decide on a venue by the end of October, and Burt Lazarin seconded the motion. It was agreed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was a lengthy agenda. We were not able to address all, and will continue to work virtually.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Our President Elect, Toni Gilligan, thanked Adam Kincel who is leaving the Board after holding the position as Regional Coordinator but will remain on the Scholarship Fund Committee.

Our Membership Co-chairperson, Maryanne Nicholls, acknowledged Janneke van Beusekom who has added structure, clarity and precision while on the Board and while taking on the role of treasurer for several conferences.

Joe Melnick acknowledged how the Board ran this meeting—slowly, with voices being heard. It felt like a corrective meeting.

Elinor Greenberg felt sufficiently supported to have and express her own view.

Perry Klepner was upset that we were unable to discuss representative of organization members' dues due to time constraints but appreciated the hard work members were doing over much more important pressing issues of concern.

Liz Beauchamp thanked the Board. As a Board member of another organization she was appreciative.

President, Patricia Tucker spoke of the incredible collaborating, cooperating of the Board.

Outgoing Board Member, Adam Kincel acknowledged the process of the Regional Task Force.

Outgoing Membership Co-Chairperson, Incoming Organization Member Representative, James Battaglia, voiced appreciation for Dina Miller and Dominique Chabre who work for Continuing Education and Scholarship, respectively. They both accomplish detail oriented work behind the scenes.

Scholarship Fund Co-Chairperson, Dominique Chabre, voiced thanks for the gift of being accepted. It was a difficult year.

TRANSITION:

President Patricia Tucker turned over the gavel to President Elect, Toni Gilligan.

Toni expressed her feelings and her views of the position as one of service. She encourages us to understand about advocacy ideas and meeting people who aren't AAGT but who share our ideas.

Our President, Toni, expressed her appreciation of Patricia for her attending to detail, patience, steadfastness and sense of humor. She further appreciated how Patricia has done this job in the face of unexpected life events.

Meeting adjourned at 6pm.