

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

February 7, 2017

Final

Present: Sharon Garofanello, Iva Doser, Peggy Lull, Debra Allwell, Randy Peacock, Marina Sweeney, Sue Isgrigg, George Morgan, Barbara Pellicano, Rosalba Pisaturo, Alicia Ward

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by President, Sharon Garofanello.

Order of business: The order of business was reviewed and accepted without change.

Minutes of previous meeting: The Board Members approved the minutes of our January 2017 meetings without changes.

Treasurer's report: Dean Ekberg

As soon as I have confirmation that all AO candidates have been accepted, and the G. Simon award decisions have been made, I will send invoices to all AOs with appropriate credits for Merit-Based and Need-Based awards.

Fundraising report:

The fundraising letter was written and sent and Dean can follow up on the reaction to it.

Host Families: Elaine Morel, Debra Allwell, Karen Grover

We received 2 IS applications from Italy and one from Spain. We are waiting for the file review and printed copies from the Chairs. No activity to report on host families for January 2017.

3 copies – for our records, potential host families and school and the electronic file if we have it. Elaine and Debbie should not be making the copies.

Americans Overseas: Peggy Lull

A total of four AO applicants have been interviewed over the past week: a student from SOTA has applied for a year in Caltanissetta, a student from Canandaigua Academy has applied for a year in Rennes, a student from Virginia (see below for more information) has applied for a summer in Rennes, and a student from SOTA has applied for a summer in Iquitos.

(The student from Virginia is the daughter of a former ATAD AO, and she has extended family living in the Rochester area. She is not asking for any financial aid.)

Our AO Interview Day was conducted on January 28 at the Legacy in Henrietta. Many thanks to Sharon for securing such a welcoming location, and to Sharon, Alicia, Deb, Rosalba, and Elaine for interviewing AOs. Three of the four applicants were interviewed on Interview Day; the student from Virginia was interviewed via Skype on a different date.

All applicants were received positively by the interviewers. The Executive Committee has considered financial aid requests, some of which will be finalized after the Gary Simon Awards have been decided.

At this time, I am continuing to work with program chairs of the specific cities that AOs have requested, and I am beginning to notify applicants of their acceptance.

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State Department: Sue Isgrigg

So far there is no indication that this administration is planning to change the J-1 visa process that we use. We are going ahead with placing students as in the past. No students were placed for the second semester.

CSIET:

Nothing to report.

Policies and Procedures Committee:

No report.

Website development: George Morgan

The website is up to date. There have been inquiries on the website for ATAD program.

Social Media:

Outreach: Tonya Thompson

March 18 from 11-1:30 is Women Helping girls program.

Activities: Barbara Pellicano

Sunday March 12, 2017 will be our International Dinner (5-7) at Rustic Village Apartments-Community Center, 999 E. Henrietta Road.

April 4th is the Pittsford Senior luncheon where the students share their experience in US.

Programs:

Novgorod: Marina Sweany/Debra Allwell

Debra – Everything is going well for Milana. She is doing well in school and enjoys her time at home. She had a cold the first week of February that knocked her out but is fully recovered!

Milana also took a vacation with her Aunt out to Los Angeles before her exam week at school and she had a wonderful time!

Marina

Dasha participated in a winter concert as a member of choral, in jazz fundraiser and choral concerts with famous drummer Andre Forero. She had her jewelry piece from jewelry class on an exhibition. She also had her ceramics work on an exhibition. She is on the Honor List in her High School. In her English Public Speaking class she gave a 12 min presentation “I believe...” She is taking some career and finance classes, she enjoys film production class and photography. She is in a jewelry and jazz Acapella Club. She is also taking outdoor experience class where she does kayaking.

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Krakow: Randy Peacock

I met with Mateusz on Saturday, January 28th at the Allen's home in Geneseo.

Mateusz is deeply involved in his school and extra-curricular activities. He looks very happy and comfortable and was chatting with me in a very engaging manner

He was swimming for the school swim team but did not reach an adequate level to proceed to the Sectional competition. He has not swum competitively in the past so this was something new that he tried. It has now reached an end.

Mateusz has continued with the school drama club and has a part in their production which will be in mid-March. The story is a prequel to the Peter Pan story. He is also continuing his participation in the Odyssey of the Mind completion. His team is working on a robot that will participate in a short play with human actors.

I received a copy of his first quarter grades and he has passed all of his classes with mid-90s grades and higher. In a couple of subjects (Spanish, chemistry, and Jazz Ensemble) he received a grade of 100. His average for the first quarter was 96.19. He is awaiting his second quarter grades.

Mateusz was shocked to realize that his visit here is already half over.

I have spoken with Deb and Jim Allen outside the presence of Mateusz and they are both incredibly complimentary of his manners and efforts.

Over thanksgiving Mateusz traveled with the Allens to visit family in South Carolina. He explained to me that he greatly enjoyed the road trip and was amused to see the differing landscapes along their route.

I mentioned to Mateusz that there was the possibility of traveling to New York City with ATAD. He explained that he had heard about this but had not received any information on the date of the trip or the cost involved.

We also talked about chores in the household. He said that he helped in some small ways but that there wasn't really any set of tasks that he or his host siblings were responsible for. Given the difficulty of finding a window of time to visit him I am not surprised that the kids don't have much time for helping around the house. They seem to be busy almost every hour of the day.

Bamako: Alicia Ward

Nothing to report.

Caltanissetta: Rosalba Pisaturo

Elena is doing very well and is involved in helping with the production of the Brighton High School play "Les Miserables" next week.

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From Friday, Jan. 27th to Sunday, Jan. 29th she travelled to New York City with her host sister without a travel form previously signed by me. I received the form after the girls had left on a Megabus for New York City.

When I shared my disappointment with the host mom, I was told that she thought that the form is only a formality and that the natural mom from Italy had given her verbal permission to travel. The girls were not accompanied by an adult. Two months ago I brought to the Board my concern about minor exchange students traveling without an adult. After much discussion, there was a consensus that the travel form will have to be changed if are allowing minors to travel without an adult. Until then, the students from my country will not travel alone and any verbal permissions of natural parents will not be accepted.

One AO, Alyssa Steger, is being considered for the school year 2017-18 in Caltanissetta. She did very well at the interview and is being considered for acceptance when all her file is complete.

Rennes: Elaine Morel

Damien continues to do fine at the Uman's house. The time commitment for Robotics is increasing, which is a good thing because it gets him out of the house more and gets him to meet other students. Otherwise, no real changes are happening at school or at home. He performs well in tests and exams.

Majorca: Joanne Funk

No report.

Wurzburg: Bob Wason

Nothing to report.

Iquitos: Barb Pellicano

Nothing to report.

Arequipa: Tom Greiner

No report.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM on February 7, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Iva Doser