

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

January 6, 2015

FINAL

Present: Debbra Allwell, Dean Ekberg, Sharon Garofanello, Sue Isgrigg, Leslie Knox, Peggy Lull, Elaine Morel, George Morgan, Barb Pellicano, Rosalba Pisaturo, Marina Sweany, Alicia Ward.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by President, Peggy Lull.

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

Minutes of previous meeting: The Board Members approved minutes of the November 2014 meetings with no changes.

Treasurer's report: Dean Ekberg

You will find attached copies of standard Budget vs. Actual and Balance Sheet reports.

To date no applications for financial aid have been received, and no application fees from potential AO students have been received.

It would appear that we are going into our second consecutive year with no AO students enrolling in our program. I would like to propose at the January 6 meeting that a sub-committee be formed to discuss the future of the corporation.

Over the years, our role has changed from an *exchange* student program, to something of a *summer travel program for American students, and long term hosting service for International Students*. It has been several years since we actually had an American student living with a family and attending school for more than a short summer stay. While these short-term relationships are certainly important, they in no way compare to an actual year or even semester fully engaging in the family life and culture of another country. During the next year, we need a serious conversation about either winding down ATAD or recognize that our initial concept of the "American Overseas" has passed. Our mission has shifted to one of organizing host families for International Students. Previously, host families were somewhat easier to find because of the notion of "exchange". In recent years, most of our host families are only seeing one side of the equation.

In response to Dean's comments, Peggy told the Board that a small group of ATAD Board members met at the President's house (Debbra, George & new board member Martha Rochford) in November to discuss a long term strategy to market our program, specifically to AOs. It is a great starting point for this initiative. Dean offered to help this group if it would be helpful.

Host Families: Karen Grover & Debbra Allwell

Delivered ATAD's "thank you" basket and met briefly with the Kealey family. Placed Jose from Arequipa, Peru with the Tribotte family; he will be a student at Fairport High School. Karen scheduled the pre-entry orientation on Wednesday, January 7.

Americans Overseas: Peggy Lull

No report.

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State Department: Sue Isgrigg

One Peruvian student was registered with the State Department and the papers were sent to the student for second semester. Every two years, we file papers for redesignation of ATAD with the State Department. Redesignation is due in March 2015 so we needed to file three months ahead of this which we did in December. The fee increased to \$3892. Last time we filed for redesignation we did not get an answer for sixteen months. This is to our advantage because the two year renewal period starts from that date. In other words, we don't expect to hear back for awhile.

CSIET: Pedro Gomez-Pupo

Sue wants an electronic copy of the CSIET Auditor's report to pass to the State Department. In our annual report, Sue states that we are all volunteers working with a small number of students. Washington sent out an email with a positive response.

Peggy reported that she spoke with our CSIET auditor, Jim Buffum, about changes in CSIET oversight and the possibility of moving the audit to spring and opportunities for reviewing a sample of our students instead of all of them. Jim is agreeable to the new time frame.- Peggy and Jim will reconnect at the beginning of April to finalize specific plans for this year's audit.

Policies and Procedures Committee: Peggy Lull

No report.

Website development: George Morgan

George says that the brochures on ATAD are not printed. Our next deadline is the international dinner scheduled for March 15th, where we could broadcast our need for students. One week before the dinner is the National Teachers Conference where we can give our publications. There are very few changes that are not too expensive. Rosalba suggests that we use mass mailing to reach one guidance counselor of each school. George replies that it can be done, for example, he suggests that we can send 3 messages at regular intervals.

Social Media: Michael Lauria

No report.

Outreach: Alicia Ward

The AO application and Gary Simon Memorial Scholarship application notices were sent out to various venues such as churches, non-profit agencies, and community agencies. Since the applications are not showing up on the website, applications were also sent as an attachment via email. A link to both applications needs to be added to the website.

There is anticipation of at least one Gary Simon applicant.

Activities: Sharon Garofanello

These are the activities planned until June 2015:

1. Working on NYC trip for either April or May. One student to date has expressed an interest.
2. The Winter Wonderland Weekend at Sue's cottage during the February Break. I will send an email.

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3. The International Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, March 15, 2015 at Rustic Village Community.

Programs:

Arequipa: Tom Greiner

Jose Ignacio Lopez from Arequipa, Peru has been placed with the Tribotte family and will attend Fairport High School. José Ignacio is arriving on January 28. The Host family and he (and his family) have been in touch. Dean will have insurance in place before arrival.

Iquitos, Peru: Barb Pellicano and Tonya Thompson

Effective in January, Tonya will relinquish the responsibilities of Iquitos Chair back to Barb.

Tonya Thompson's December Report - Carolina participated in the set construction for "The Sound of Music" play at school. She is also a member of the Math Olympics team at school. She had a typical holiday season with her host family. She was excited to receive many gifts. The tradition to receive gifts from Santa was different for her. During the holiday break, she did homework, watched movies, and had lots of quiet time with her host family. She watched fireworks downtown for New Year's Eve and thought it was really cool and cold.

When I spoke with host mom Kim about Carolina, it sounds like Carolina spends a lot of time alone and does not do a lot. However, when I spoke with Carolina personally, she was perfectly content and happy with her experience. Her favorite experience so far is rock climbing with her host dad. She looks forward to going to NYC with the other exchange students.

Novgorod: Marina Sweany

Sasha had a good vacation visiting places with her friends and ate a lot. She is in a club for better environment. She enjoys doing projects for her classes. According to her host mom, the holidays were great. They did a lot of family things. Sasha has more friends now and is more involved in after-school activities.

There are 2 applicants for next year. I hope the families that said they were interested in hosting last year would still want exchange students.

Rennes: Millie Poventud

No report.

Krakow: Leah Stormo

No report.

Majorca: Sharon Garofanello

Sadly, Neus went home the week before Thanksgiving on Monday, November 17, 2014.

Maria was told that her natural parents were divorcing after we last met. The Morgan's notified me. She is doing well considering the news but was more concerned for her brother back home. She spent the week before Christmas in Disneyland with her host family and siblings and is doing well. She had an enjoyable Christmas and is interested in going to NYC.

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Caltanissetta: Rosalba Pisaturo

We might have a student from the Pagano family who we have hosted 2 or their children a few years back. To be determined.

Bamako: Tonya Thompson

Alicia Ward has been elected as the Bamako Sister City Chair. As Tonya is a counselor in the City School District, Alicia and Tonya have discussed switching their ATAD responsibilities. The switch would allow both Alicia and Tonya to take advantage of their respective roles outside of ATAD to enhance our organization.

Wurzburg: Bob Wason

Liz Hartmann continues to do wonderfully. She and her host family came back the day before Christmas from a week in NYC. Her English is likely to be the best of any of the students I've had by the end of her time here, since she has such an excellent ear for the language. You can tell she's European to hear her talk, but it's almost impossible to tell she's German.

New Business

Peggy has mentioned that family issues have made it difficult to give full attention to ATAD. It is with great pleasure that Sharon has agreed to share the President's duties until the end of the year and has also agreed to take on the role of President for the next term. This will ensure a smooth transition into the role. It is also a great time to seek out new people to take on new roles and responsibilities at ATAD. Martha Rochford has agreed to take a marketing role within ATAD, with a particular focus on AOs.

Alicia asked the Board if they would still consider someone applying for financial aid to the Gary Simon Scholarship. Dean specified that this is not need-based but rather a merit award. The Scholarship is also a grant. We have 2 GS scholarships and 3 \$250 merit awards available to grant each year. A motion to consider the extension of all applications received by January 31 for merit-based award for the GS award is put forward by Alicia and approved by the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM on January 6, 2015

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Morel, Secretary