

# **ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting**

**May 2, 2017**

## **FINAL**

**Present:** Sharon Garofanello, Iva Doser, Peggy Lull, Sue Isgrigg, Barbara Pellicano, Dean Ekberg, Elaine Morel, Alicia Ward, Les Knox, Rosalba Pisaturo

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 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 April 2017 meetings without changes.

### **Treasurer's report: Dean Ekberg**

I have heard from Mr. Majors, who assures me that his account will soon be current and that his son does intend to participate. All other AO accounts are current.

### **Host Families: Elaine Morel, Debra Allwell, Karen Grover**

We still have 4 applications: 2 from Caltanissetta, Italy (Yvonne and Lorenzo) and 2 from Mallorca, Spain (Sebastian and Maria) with no viable host families. We continue to market ATAD in the community and seek host families.

### **Americans Overseas: Peggy Lull**

Our AO orientation is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, May 7 at 3:00 pm. Jordan is not going on the program but Peggy will keep in touch and hopefully he will reapply next year.

### **State Department: Sue Isgrigg**

Paperwork for our redesignation was submitted to the State Department. We received a confirmation by e-mail that they received it. Past experience shows that we will not hear for several months if this is complete. Also, all members who need to take the Gyrus online training are up to date.

### **CSIET:**

Nothing to report.

### **Policies and Procedures Committee:**

No report.

### **Website development: George Morgan**

There haven't been any recent changes on the website.

### **Social Media:**

Sharon posted on the website info about the host families or potential board members. She got one response from a Webster resident.

### **Outreach: Tonya Thompson**

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The ATAD scholarship winner will be recognized at the RSCD June 15<sup>th</sup> board meeting at 6 pm. I will need a member of the board to help present the award. I also recommend we do a spotlight on the website on our Gary Simon scholarship winner and runner-up.

Regarding Jordon Majors the runner up, his dad is not able to afford the trip right now. They raised \$621 on "Go Fund me". I am encouraging him to apply again next year.

### **Activities: Barbara Pellicano**

Our Re-entry Orientation & Farewell Picnic will be on Sunday, June 4, 2017.

Orientation 11am and picnic 12pm.

### **Programs:**

#### **Novgorod: Marina Sweany/Debra Allwell**

**Debra** –Everything still going well. School is good and Milana stayed in Rochester for the April break.

#### **Marina**

Dasha is doing well looking for a date for the prom. She is doing well in school. Participated in a spring concert with her singing group. I have two girls applying for next year.

#### **Krakow: Randy Peacock**

No report.

#### **Bamako: Alicia Ward**

Nothing to report.

#### **Caltanissetta: Rosalba Pisaturo**

The visit to Caltanissetta was a great success. The Rochester Delegation was warmly welcomed and entertained by committee members of AGERICA and by Mayor Giovanni Ruvolo during the celebrations of the Holy Week. At City Hall Mayor Ruvolo dedicated a newly established permanent Rochester-Caltanissetta room where memorabilia of the history of the last 50 years is being displayed. An Art Exhibit was dedicated to the two Sister Cities under the direction of Maestro Leonardo Cumbo who coordinated the display of art works by Italian artists and by Rochester artists, Giovanni San Filippo and Gaetano Scollo. During the week we visited Arigento, Taormina and several other historically important towns in Sicily. Easter Sunday in Taormina was a real treat!!

During the visit we were also invited by local factories to observe the making of local products such as Caffè Ginevra; nougat and almond candies, Torronificio Nisseno and Torroni Geraci; the industry of the famous Amorelli Pipes, the Averna Liquor. These are all excellent products which they would like us to introduce in some Rochester groceries through local merchants.

I met with Rosetta Costa and the committee of Culturscambi to review the status of our student exchange program. The program is still very strong, although we are facing some difficulties in

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finding host families. There is also a strong interest in initiating a teachers' exchange and a student exchange program at the College level. I gave the committee the application of Alyssa Steger, who will be hosted by Lorenzo's family if Lorenzo is placed in Rochester. I met these two students who applied for next year and their parents. Yvonne and Lorenzo are both excited about the experience Lorenzo wrote a new letter to the potential host family and it has to be replaced in his file. I also asked him to send me a copy of his last report card at the end of the school year. I also met Elena's parents who are new members of Culturscambi and they are anxiously waiting for Elena to return home on June 27th.

### **Rennes: Elaine Morel**

Damien mentioned how quickly these past months have gone by now that he has only 2 months left before the school year is finished. He continues to do well at home and at school. Every year, Karen organizes a meet and greet our exchange students luncheon at the Pittsford Senior Centre. On April 4, Damien gave a wonderful presentation to the Seniors on his experiences in a US High School and the bond he has with his hosting family. He was also glad to see the other ATAD students again as we had to cancel our international dinner due to the winter storm. Hopefully, they succeeded in getting together again. During the April break, Damien met his parents in New York City who were there to celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Elaine brought him back home at the end of the week. He looked relaxed, happy and appreciative of his big city experience.

### **Majorca: Joanne Funk**

No report.

### **Wurzburg: Bob Wason**

Nothing to report on fund-raising and there is no report for Würzburg either.

### **Iquitos: Barb Pellicano**

Nothing to report.

### **Arequipa: Tom Greiner**

No report.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM on May 2, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Iva Doser