

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

September 8, 2015

FINAL

Present: Debbra Allwell, Dean Ekberg, Sharon Garofanello, Tom Greiner, Sue Isgrigg, Leslie Knox, Peggy Lull, Elaine Morel, George Morgan, Barb Pellicano, Rosalba Pisaturo, Tonya Thompson, Alicia Ward, Bob Wason, Iva Doser

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

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

Welcome New Board Member(s) & Guests: Sharon Garofanello

Iva Doser - Secretary

Hanna Berry – RIT grad, guest with marketing ideas

Minutes of previous meeting: The Board Members approved minutes of the June 2015 meetings without changes.

Treasurer's report: Dean Ekberg

Attached are standard Budget vs. Actual and Balance Sheet reports.

Our accountants at EFProtenberg, LLC are almost finished with our annual review and preparation of Financial Statements, IRS 990, and NYS CHAR 500 filings. I will forward copies of the Financial Statements to each board member when I receive that report.

Not paid from Ariadna – sent Alfonso invoice

Scan invoices to Dean for reimbursement not wait until the next time when see him. PayPal is an option - provide e-mail address

Host Families: Karen Grover, Debbra Allwell & Elaine Morel

I have sent the revised/corrected Host Family Directory to everyone on the ATAD Board (August 30). I did not get anymore corrections, so hopefully it is the final one.

As it stands now, the following students that we did not place this year are applying again for next year: Mateusz Krzysztof Olszamowski from Krakow and Renato Miguel Mori Rios from Iquitos. If I am missing someone, please let Elaine or me know. I have a copy of each of those files, but would need an updated medical exam at some point and a new Student School Enrollment Form. I think that is it, but will yield to any other suggestions anyone wants to make.

I feel that each one of us on the ATAD Board needs to take responsibility for the schools we are assigned to on Debbie's list. What I mean by "take responsibility" is make an appointment to introduce yourself and bring flyers and a poster to them, as well as check on any changes in the teaching staff (I guess the latter could be done on the internet.) Then Elaine and I can give that person's contact information when e-mailing short blurbs to the teachers (revised or not on Debbie's list.)

Americans Overseas:

No report.

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State Department: Sue Isgrigg

We received our re-designation from the State Department in July. This means we are approved to keep doing business until July of 2017.

Three students were activated on the SEVIS website. Our fourth student has an American passport so he does not need this. Three required reports were submitted on time, our Annual Report for 2014-2015, our Change of Placement Report for 2014-2015, and our first semester Placement Report for fall 2015.

Annual State department training – reminder will be sent out 2 weeks before.

CSIET: Pedro Gomez-Pupo

Pedro is unable to attend the first meeting due to his own school's Board meeting being held that same night (Tuesday, Sept 8)-the first one of the academic year.

Policies and Procedures Committee: Peggy Lull

No report.

Website development: George Morgan

Changing links for reference to couple new events. Host family orientation on September 20th will go on the website, College fairs will be advertised using signage and brochure. Minutes from meeting will be updated.

Social Media:

No report.

Outreach: Tonya Thompson

Zhanna Thompson is the 2015 Gary Simon Memorial Scholarship recipient. She was presented with the award at the June 18th meeting of the RCSD Board of Education. She had a successful exchange in Iquitos and enjoyed experience.

The Rochester Educational Opportunity Center (REOC) has offered (free of charge) a table for program recruitment at the REOC College Fair 2015 on Tuesday, September 29th from 6-8 pm at Rochester Riverside Convention Center, arrival at 5:30pm, contact person – Cheryl Gonzalez to target high school students from city schools.

Gary Simon Scholarship deadline is December 31, 2015. Tonya must get posters and trifolds to city schools starting this month.

Activities: Barbara Pellicano

On September 4, Barbara sent an invitation to the students and their host families regarding the exchange student meet and greet sleepover and Post Arrival Orientation.

September 19th meet at Sue Isgrigg's house – exchange students and host siblings welcome to bond. Sue and her husband will drive everyone to their condo on Canandaigua Lake.

September 20th - orientation for host parents with ATAD President Sharon Garofanello at her home at 2:30 pm. Looking for volunteers to help out Sharon.

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Programs:

Bamako: Alicia Ward

No report.

Wurzburg: Bob Wason

Although we are most unhappy that we were unable to find a host family for Bodo Wohlfromm, it's excellent news nevertheless that Jonah Hug arrived with no problem. I've visited him in his home with Randy Peacock and family, and he seems to be doing excellently with Randy's son Alex. They were clearly enjoying the days before the start of school—and one another—when I visited. I look forward to a terrific year for Jonah.

Arequipa: Tom Greiner

We have a new student application from Arequipa. His name is Oldrin Stefano Vázquez Ramírez. His file has been scanned in and will be sent to Debb and Karen tomorrow.

Iquitos, Peru: Barb Pellicano

We could not find a host family for Renato. He will try again next year. Zhanna Thompson went to Iquitos this past summer and had a successful exchange.

Novgorod: Marina Sweany

Vika Kovaleva and Taisiia Gorelikova - Both girls are enjoying their time in Rochester. They already went shopping, danced Salsa at the festival, went to Seabreeze and took a boat ride on Lake Ontario. They went with me to RIT to meet students who are studying Russian and had a tour of the RIT campus. They were very impressed.

Vika is going to take a lot of dance classes in School of the Arts. Taisia is excited about being in the chorus and Spanish. She will have a meeting with the counselor about clubs that she can join. Both girls like their host families.

Rennes: Millie Poventud

No report. Millie is unable to attend the first meeting due to her own school's Board meeting being held that same night (Tuesday, Sept 8)-the first one of the academic year.

Krakow: Andy Dutcher

No report.

Majorca: Joanne Funk and Sharon Garofanello (former Program Chair)

Irene Pallin – Alonso was not placed with a host family for this year 2015-2016. She was placed with another exchange program in the US.

Caltanissetta: Rosalba Pisaturo

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Francesco Pagano, a student unable to find a host from ATAD, found another alternative to stay in the USA.

Old Business:

Vacant Board positions:

Host families – Karen Grover is planning to move and resign from the board at the end of June 2016.

Elaine was elected by the Board in June 2015 and although she was excited to take on the opportunity, she is unable to continue due to other responsibilities.

Sharon said that ATAD's objective for this year is to make ourselves known in schools. Host family position is to be liaison with schools, especially between now and December in order to make it work. Suggestions are welcome to select number of schools to meet and greet with, select host families as well as American exchange students.

Peggy said that we received excellent feedback when we gave 15 min. presentation to the Webster school.

Sue suggested we find quickly a new person to train with Karen ASAP and share former experience before she retires from the board. Sue may have found two families that may host next year.

Sharon reminded everyone that ATAD's cost is beneficial; it is a local organization that gets some competition from non-local organizations.

American overseas – Peggy filled in after Christine but not many Americans go abroad. Position opened.

Social media & publicity (maintain emails, regular mailing list & send emails and news items)

Policy & procedures – Position is open.

Krakow – Andy Dutcher is filling in as a liaison until a full-time program chair can be found. Tom Greiner said that we may have a person interested in the position.

Independent visits: Peggy and Debbie volunteered. Millie said that due to other unforeseen responsibilities she is not able to conduct the independent visits to the students this year.

New Business:

- Appointment of New Board Member, Joanne Funk - takes over for Majorca, Spain (bio attached)
- College Fairs:
September 23 Mall event at the Marketplace Plaza - Sue & Peggy to attend

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September 24 Mall event at the Greece Ridge - Sue & Rosalba to attend

- Italy visit – Sharon spent time in Italy and met Rosetta and Laura – a former exchange student from 25 years ago. Italy would like US students to come over and participate in all the programs. Our American students seem to have a different agenda from our Italian counterparts and is difficult for them to see the value in going to study abroad.
- Caltnisetta-Rochester Sister city 50th anniversary GALA on October 11 and hosted by mayor Lovely Warren. ATAD is buying an ad for a quarter page for publicity – George to prepare it.
- Julia, Peggy's daughter is traveling to Peru November 7-15. She will contact Debbie or Tom for travelling tips.

Reminders:

1. Program Chairs need to schedule their 2 week visits with host families and their students. They need to have checklist signed by host family and Chari and inserted in the binder
2. The Program Chairs must send a letter of introduction to the school counselor with the names and coordinates of liaisons. Personal letter is much appreciated.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM on September 8, 2015

Respectfully submitted,
Iva Doser, Secretary

From Joanne Funk, new Program Chair for Majorca, Spain

I grew up in Caledonia, NY, studied Spanish at Nazareth College during which time I spent a year abroad in Valencia, Spain. A few years later I was able to live in Peru and teach ESOL at a private school and also teach Spanish to American Engineers. I returned to the US and taught Spanish at Wilson Magnet High School and have continued to teach on and off since then. I did take a 7 year break from teaching to raise my daughters (Jacqueline, now 10 yrs old and Audriana, now 8 years old) with the help of my husband, Mike Funk. Prior to kids I was an ATAD Local Coordinator for Arequipa and Iquitos Peru for approximately 2 years. I am currently teaching Spanish for Fairport School District and we live in Penfield, NY. I'm looking forward to working with ATAD again!

Joanne