

# ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

March 7, 2023

Final

**Present:** Les Knox, Deb Allwell, George Morgan, Guillaume Yoboue, MJ Stark, Randall Peacock, Sharon Garofanello, Peggy Lull, Tonya Thompson.

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 7:04 pm by President Sharon Garofanello. The minutes from February 2023 meetings were approved.

## **Treasurer's report:**

Financials were e-mailed to the Board on 03/05/2023. Everything is pretty standard.

## **Host Families: Sue Isggrig**

We have eight completed applications for next year. Most of the bios are up on our website. There is a huge need for homes. Sue has two students placed. How can each of the board members help? Personal discussions have been the most useful way of finding families. Sue spoke with our three current students at the International Dinner Sunday. They seemed interested in getting the monetary refund we offered but as yet there are no leads. Remember that the State Department requires us to have at least five students. They have given us a waiver the past few years because of Covid. I doubt they will continue this.

We have a number of students that we do not have host families for. The Italian students need hosts. One Mallorca student needs a host, as well as the Canary Islands twins. A total of 7 students are not placed as of now. Sharon is open to ideas to find host families.

## **CSET:**

No report.

## **State Department:**

The US Department of State sent out a survey for Secondary School Programs regarding experiences as a sponsor.

ATAD participated and completed the survey March 5, 2023. It addressed student placement and possible financial reimbursement for hosting the student. Generic questions for all programs, not just ATAD specific.

Deb asked if we are still using the Intellicore for background checks. Deb had looked into other possibilities for small non-profits who conduct background checks.

## **Activities: Randy Peacock**

The International dinner was the last Sunday in February at the Pittsford Rec Center. He counted 32 people there at one point. There was a good selection of food and desserts. Sue presented the \$100 host family stipend to the students in attendance.

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## **Americans Overseas: Peggy Lull**

Our AO applicant from Brighton HS was interviewed by Sue Isgrigg, Marina Sweany, and Alicia Ward at our recent International Dinner. The interviewers feel she is a good candidate for a summer exchange in Majorca. I have reached out to Sharon Garofanello and MJ Stark for next steps.

Guillaume suggested that Gary Simon's old school might be a target to distribute brochures and circulate posters. He will look into it.

## **Website Update: George Morgan**

The old tuition price of \$3100 was changed on the Website.

George mentioned that we received a message about hosting a Russian student. Sue had responded that we are not accepting students from Russia this year, but that the person should inquire again next year if the student will not yet be 18 years of age. There is a freshened-up slideshow on the home page of the website.

## **Sharon – Italy**

Alba is doing well. She attended the International student dinner and brought another student from France to the dinner. She hopes to get to NYC this Spring. She is looking for activities to do this Spring.

## **Marina – Spain**

No report.

## **Alicia – Bamaco**

No report.

## **Barbara Pellicano - Spain**

Lara continues to be doing well. All is well with school and with the family. This past weekend, her host family took her to Cleveland to see an NBA game. Lara said it was the best experience she has ever had!

Sharon shared two things:

- 1). She has accepted the Caltanissetta Chair position on the ISCORR Board. She was pleased to be able to fill Rosalba's position. She already knows about half of the Board. They are looking to do a Caltanissetta Art activity.
- 2). Sharon is looking to take her last international trip. She is interested in fostering relationships with whatever partner cities make sense for her to travel to.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Iva Doser