

ATAD Board - Minutes of Meeting

May 3, 2022

Present: Sharon Garofanello, Iva Doser, Guillaume Yoboue, Suzanne Isgrigg, Barbara Pellicano, Rosalba Pisaturo, Marina Sweany, George Morgan, Deb Allwell, Peggy Lull, Marina Sweany, Alicia Ward, Randall Peacock

Call to order: The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 7:04 PM by President Sharon Garofanello. Treasurer's report and the minutes from April 5, 2022 meeting have been approved.

Treasurer's report: There has not been any new activity or report.

New business: Sharon's term is up as a president, and we are looking for a replacement.

Sharon will invite Jodi Waite to join the board.

Rosalba will be retiring from the board of ATAD after 38 years!

Host Families: Sue Isgrigg

We had a successful party for our exchange students and their host siblings. We started with pizza and cupcakes at the Spiegel Center in Pittsford. Then we went to Dick's House of Sport to climb their rock wall. All four kids had fun. Thanks to George and Deb for helping.

Lara from Spain is placed with the Allen family in Geneseo. All paperwork is complete, and we will file for her visa soon. The family and Lara have been emailing already. We have verbal commitment from a family in East Irondequoit to host Carla from Italy. We are currently working on all the paperwork. Our lead for Laura from Spain did not answer us so we are currently looking for a family. Please give any ideas to Sue Isgrigg to follow.

CSET:

Nothing to report.

State Department:

As per request last board meeting I did contact the State Department in regards to how our students from Novgorod should proceed for obtaining a J-1 visa for the ATAD Program.

“U.S. Mission in Russia no longer offers non-diplomatic visa services due to the Russian government's April 23 notification prohibiting the U.S. Embassy Russia from employing foreign nationals in any capacity. Russian nationals may continue applying for non-immigrant visas at any U.S. embassy or consulate where they can obtain an appointment.” Please view the State Department's website for all U.S. embassies and consulates worldwide at usembassy.state.gov. Click on the link for the U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate location (i.e., where they plan to apply for the J-1 visa) and follow the instructions provided; the student should contact the U.S. Embassy or U.S. consulate if they have questions regarding the visa application process or to set up an appointment in advance of traveling to that country. Please note that visa issuance is at the sole discretion of the U.S. consular officials reviewing a foreign national's visa application. The processing of all visa applications is done on a case-by-case basis; therefore, the time of visa processing varies.

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Website Update: George Morgan

There were one hundred and fifty-two visitors to our website this past month. March and April minutes have been posted on the website.

Guillaume

Sarah is well. The family drove to Washington D.C. and South Carolina for Spring break the weekend of April 16. Sarah is doing well in school, getting straight A's. The Cardella family introduced Sarah to neighbors' daughter who is in 10th Grade at Brighton High School, named Delaney. Sarah's Dance classes are going well. They have an upcoming recital, scheduled for June 18. Overall, Sarah likes her school and is having a wonderful experience in America.

Rosalba – Italy

Carla Albani has been accepted at East Ridge High School and there is a family in Irondequoit interested in hosting her. As soon as we complete the host family interview, we will send the paperwork to Carla so she can process her Visa in Italy.

Barbara Pellicano - Spain

Manu is doing great. He had a wonderful time at the Pizza/Rock Climbing event. Over April break the family visited North Carolina. He had a great time visiting the beach and the aquarium. He continues to excel in all his classes. He celebrated his Birthday April 7 with a family dinner at Dinosaur BBQ.

Novgorod has been dropped from the sister-city list of Rochester.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Iva Doser