



Association Montessori Internationale
Elementary Alumni Association

AMI-EAA, a member-run professional association of AMI elementary teachers and trainers, provides a supportive community for the exchange of ideas and promotes the principles of Montessori education.

AMI-EAA Board Meeting Minutes **Saturday, October 14, 2017—Go-to-Meeting**

Attending: Amanda Cade, Allyson Creel, Regina Cyvas, Anna Discenzo, Rachel Eberhard, Melinda Nielsen, Wendy Tye, Gayle Waner

Minutes and Officers' Reports

July 2017 board meeting minutes were approved. October 2017 agenda was approved.

Officer reports:

From Anna Discenzo (Publications Coordinator)—the Winter Newsletter is on track for materials, Ask-a-Trainer section for the newsletter is something to bring up at the Refresher Course pedagogue meeting, there were great photos and responses from attendees at the Summer Conference.

From Amanda Cade (Membership Coordinator)—It was noted that there was a decrease in trainee and new graduate membership compared to October 2016.

From Wendy Tye (Outreach Coordinator)— Candice van der Wehl (AMI Membership staff) is sending a welcome letter with a membership form from EAA, so graduates have access to that information. Every elementary graduate will have a note about the gift from EAA; this will include details on membership.

Officers' reports were approved after general discussion and questions.

Organizational

US Affiliate Discussions

The goal of the AMI US affiliate discussions is to create a stronger AMI presence in the US in conjunction with the Bold Goal work. There is a strong push from AMI-Global to achieve a greater AMI presence. AMI is expanding across the globe, and the push for the US affiliates to collaborate is also due to their resources: experience, financial, structural, etc. The US is also a country with so many affiliates—four that are all influential, meaningful, and powerful. As a group working together, they can use the resources to provide structure to impact more children and teachers.





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Allyson and Wendy shared what they have been doing as EAA representatives. Following the US affiliate discussions, documents have been shared with the memberships of affiliate groups.

Schedule of past/upcoming US affiliate meetings:

March 2017 AMIUSA Board Meeting Chicago, Illinois, US

April 2017 AMI Annual General Meeting (AGM) Amsterdam

July 2017 AMI International Montessori Congress Prague

October 3, 2017 Conference call with the representatives from the affiliates

December 2017 Minneapolis, Minnesota, US

February 2018 AMI Refresher Course in Phoenix, Arizona, US

April 2018 AMI AGM Amsterdam

A facilitator, provided through a grant from the Walton Foundation, will help the organizations in this discussion. The Walton Foundation is willing to fund the travel and expenses for the facilitator. The facilitator talked with each representative to discuss the organizations.

This work has helped the AMI-EAA representatives look at the specific mission and how the organization works to meet it. EAA's board shares with the other affiliates that the AMI-EAA board is not making decisions, but that they need to take it to their membership who is involved in the discussions. EAA has been around for such a long time—almost 40 years. AMI-Global is also realizing the history of EAA. For the amount of people who are eligible for membership, EAA has a lot of members.

This work in the US could be an amazing opportunity for EAA as a stepping-off point into supporting AMI-elementary-trained teachers worldwide. AMI-Global wants people to become members of EAA and not members of country-specific elementary AMI-affiliate groups.

EAA is a solid, quality organization that promotes what AMI-Global wants to promote. They support the work that we do, but they do want our impact to be greater.

Board Transitions

The membership has already been alerted about the slate of candidate, so far there haven't been any nominations from the memberships. AMI-EAA is an internally nominating board. At the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) at the Refresher Course (RC), the two new candidates will join the board.





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2019 Board Transitions: Anna and Gayle will be transitioning off the board in February 2019. There was general discussion of people to fill the positions. AMI-EAA will work to consider diversity of board in different ways to represent our membership. Amanda will send a list of those who have recently expressed interest in being board members.

Summer Conference

2017 Recap: Payment was sent to Furman University. There was a general discussion about scholarship opportunities. Allyson will send the comments/feedback to the EAA Pedagogues.

2018: Rachel has received proposals for presenters. There was general discussion about the options from submitted proposals. There was also general discussion on trainers presenting. The conference is scheduled for July 17-July 22 (with July 17 and 22 for arrival and departure and one day for an outing). Wendy suggested some of this work be shared with AMI to share in their AMI-Affiliated Societies newsletter. This is also something to share with our membership.

Allyson reviewed the Summer Conference scholarship timeline. It will be announced on EAA-Talk and through a membership-wide email. The scholarship will also be announced through the Winter Newsletter.

There was general discussion about cancellation policies.

Refresher Course

2018 Phoenix, AZ: Rachel and Alyssa have started communicating about the RC. Christina Fernandez is the liaison. There was general discussion about the arrival, departure, and the schedule.

Refresher Course 2019: The elementary portion will focus on history and timelines. There was a general discussion about the format of the AMI Refresher Course following questions from Gretchen Hall and Alyssa Schwartz.

Financial

Budget and Accounting Review

Gayle shared the draft budget and will create a record for the Winter Newsletter. Gayle has been checking with different money market accounts to find a match for EAA's mission and organization. Gayle will create a form and share expectations for submitting receipts and send it to the board.





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\$10,000 was collected for the Hurricane Relief fund (US Affiliates). EAA donated \$500 to the fund.

Outreach/Membership

Opportunities for Increasing ABM Attendance

There was general discussion about how to get people to the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) voucher, RSVP, gift card, etc. We would still provide coffee and tea. Rachel will check with Alyssa on cost to get an idea. We're going to try giving a Starbucks gift card to each member that attends the AGM.

Discussion of Other Opportunities for Growth

It is important for EAA to work as an international organization, and not just as a United States-based organization. There was general discussion for how to support EAA members outside of the US. DAMIP (Association of German-speaking AMI teachers) will be sending out a link and packet to share AMI-EAA with their membership.

There was discussion on what we could change with our membership-fee structure: same cost, registering multiple members, with a possible cost reduction for multiple-member registrations, etc. There wouldn't be a different international fee for non-US members. This is to help EAA be a global organization. We will discuss the options for multiple memberships later.

Wendy shared how she is supporting Corner of Hope in Kenya. Wendy is trying to find a way to have a gift that provides support for all graduates like giving a crown for the decimal board. Candice van der Wehl (AMI Membership staff) is the lead for coordinating all the affiliate societies in the world. She has been impressed and supportive of the work we are doing.

AMI-Global is putting together a document of the trainings happening throughout the world to share. This will help with communicating with training centers to encourage trainees to join.

Marketing

There was discussion about opportunities to expand our impact. One of the challenges for AMI-EAA in its international outreach is language. Many organizations have translation services. EAA is trying to get the word out that there are a lot of resources in EAA.





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Our organization doesn't necessarily have something for us to easily share with trainers, training centers, teachers, consultants. Allyson is suggesting something more substantial that's available digitally to share such as a flyer, postcard, pamphlet, etc. that can promote EAA. General discussion followed.

There was also discussion about the number of trainees as members. EAA needs to be intentional with sending information to international trainings and those in the US. There was general discussion on ways to encourage centers to share with their trainees. The starting point is potentially having a digital document to share.