



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, January 20, 2018—Go-to-Meeting**

Attending: Amanda Cade (Membership Coordinator), Allyson Creel (Chair), Regina Cyvas (Incoming Outreach Coordinator), Anna Discenzo (Publications/Communications Coordinator), Rachel Eberhard (Conference Coordinator), Melinda Nielsen (Incoming Chair), Wendy Tye (Outreach Coordinator), Gayle Waner (Treasurer/Vice Chair)

Minutes and Officers' Reports

October 2017 board meeting minutes were approved. January 2018 agenda was approved.

Officer reports:

Officers' reports were approved after general discussion and questions.

Organizational

Refresher Course (RC) 2018

Speaker arrangements/update:

Rachel has been checking in with Alyssa Schwartz (AMI/USA Interim Director) regularly. Jamie Rue (RC presenter) there have a digital handout but no physical handouts. Once it's handed out to RC participants, it will be on ami-eea.org and EAA-Talk. The format is mostly lecture with some time for questions and answers.

Attendance update:

There are 255 registrants as of Thursday, January 18, 2018. Last year the attendance was 273 after walk-in registrations. Our room capacity is 375. There will most likely be more registrants between now and the Refresher Course (RC).

Responsibilities:

There was general discussion on the organization of the registration table and NAMTA. EAA has our own table separate from an information table and registration.

RC Schedule:

On-site registration starts at 8am though it may be different in the AMI/USA schedule. There was general discussion about board member arrivals and departures. All will be at





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the registration area Friday, February 16 at 7:15am. On Monday, February 19, 2018 there is a Bold Goal update presentation for those who are available. Obligations at the RC end after the Bold Goal meeting.

RC meeting agendas:

There was a discussion on agenda items for each of the following meetings.

AMI Global (Saturday, February 17)

Possible attendees: board positions that are most related to this meeting are most likely outreach coordinator and chair (Allyson, Melinda, Wendy, Regina)

Possible agenda items:

Overview of SC

Initiatives EAA is currently/considering undertaking

Difference between AMI and AMI-EAA membership and what AMI-EAA membership means

Number of members EAA has with a breakdown of the different types including the number of international members

Social media presence

Possibility of a way for Anna to get information directly without having to follow EsF, etc. so EAA can be a clearinghouse for members

Other opportunities for AMI-Global to share details with members like the AMI Treasure articles

Partnership between AMI-Global and AMI-EAA because AMI-Global has recognized EAA as an important voice in the Montessori community

Ways EAA is working to be an international organization

Conversation with Philip and Lynne about EAA's impact to support EsF projects in the US, Corner of Hope

EAA Annual Business Meeting (ABM) (Sunday, February 18)

Each officer will share a brief description of the work they have been doing. Melinda and Regina will introduce themselves and their relationship with EAA. Coffee and tea will be offered.

Pedagogical Advisors (PA) Meeting/Breakfast (Monday, February 19)

PAs attending—Phyllis Pottish Lewis (PA emeritus), Alison Awes, Greg MacDonald, and Carol Hicks

PA Corner in the newsletter





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Inquire about thoughts on an international gift to give graduates

PA rotation

Membership update with a breakdown of training centers with new grads/trainees and membership

Conversation for ways to have more new graduates/trainee memberships

Trainers Meeting (Monday, February 19)

Allyson and Wendy are attending.

Possible items to discuss:

Share how EAA can support them

Ask them to share information from events held at training centers with EAA

USA Affiliate (“AMI Collective”)

December 8-10, 2017 meeting recap

Affiliates meetings started with the facilitator December 8-10th in St. Paul, MN. There was a grant to pay for the meetings, travel, and facilitator to create a stronger, more visible AMI in the US. Allyson shared visuals from the December meeting. “AMI Collective” is just a placeholder. The December 2017 meeting was an information gathering: nuts and bolts and functions of the different affiliates.

January 2018 meeting update

After the December meeting, another meeting was scheduled for January 27th, 2018 in Houston, TX.

Membership

At the ABM, update members on the work of the affiliates. At the end of each affiliate meeting, there are very clear talking points and information that will be communicated. Allyson and Wendy will continue with the affiliates work through April 2018 (after their board terms end) to represent EAA.

Summer Conference (SC) 2018, Boulder, CO

Presenters

Carol Palmer is confirmed as a presenter for a day and a half; her school is sponsoring her flight. Melinda is also presenting at the SC on silk and cotton to complement Carol’s presentation. Melinda is presenting for ½ day (three hours).





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Schedule

The SC usually has three days of presentations and one day for an outing. There are currently two days of presentations filled. There are usually three hours of sharing. There was general discussion about the balance of presenters/topic and general/level sharing. There are others interested in presenting. Rachel is inquiring on EAA-Talk and Wendy is contacting another possible presenter. Other options for presenters: calligraphy, origami, clay without a kiln, paper work (paper folding, using a ruler, drawing straight lines, centering a title, etc.).

Registration

The SC registration form will be shared online after the RC and put in the folders of RC attendees. The alcohol and smoking policies will be shared with attendees, and Rachel will ask the SC liaison to share these in her emails. This is to help attendees be aware of and follow the policies.

Schedule 2018-2019

Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Amsterdam (April 13-15, 2018)

There will be a US affiliates meeting; it was suggested that EAA has someone to represent our organization.

Spring 2018 board meeting change of date

It was rescheduled to April 28, 2018.

July 2018 board meeting, Boulder, CO SC

The EAA board will meet Sunday, July 22nd.

RC 2019 PA rotation

Nobody cycles off at this RC, but in 2019 Greg MacDonald will cycle off as a PA.

RC 2019 board transitions

The Vice Chair/Treasurer and Publications and Communications Coordinator positions will be transitioning at the RC 2019. The board will discuss possible candidates at the RC and again at the SC.

RC 2019 Presenter

There was general discussion on the presenter for the RC 2019.



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Financial

Budget and Accounting Review

In relation to profit and loss EAA is doing well. The 2017-2018 budget was approved. Gayle shared details on the charitable trust.

Funds

There was a discussion about EAA's funds. From Gayle: consider hanging on to some funds during the Bold Goal and affiliate discussions to make sure EAA has the ability to fund a RC if need be. Expenses are increasing with increased membership.

Suggestion opportunities for how we can support members and our mission:

Outreach to other areas of the world (Corner of Hope, EsF projects in the US); sponsor an elementary teacher for training; double donation to MES fund; membership fee offset; Montessori for Social Justice with their June conference in St. Paul; from the Bold Goal research, social justice/strong sense of morality was a theme for what parents want for their children; moving money to add to investment account; as an affiliate, we should also consider AMI-Global's pillars, one of which is social justice.

General Updates

Gayle has sent Regina and Melinda paperwork for their joining the board, credit line has increased for each board member to ease travel, taxes are almost done, board expense form—be clear about the dates something takes place and clarify details on form.

Outreach/Membership

Marketing Materials/Opportunities

EAA is considering having someone outside of the organization design a digital format with other specifications to have promotional materials to send to training centers, to have available at conferences, etc. As a board, we thought it was a great idea. It is a visual world, and EAA needs a visually appealing brand to share. When people receive material from EAA, it should be unified.

We brainstormed ideas, services, and resources that EAA could use to appeal to a broader membership. As we move forward, consider open and closed events. These might be a way for EAA to provide services to those who aren't members to reach a greater audience. Training centers are starting to do workshops for non-AMI attendees. EAA can start to do this too.

