



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, April 27, 2019—Go-to-Meeting

Attending: Amanda Cade (Membership Coordinator/Secretary), Rachel Eberhard (Conference Coordinator), Yvonne Froehlich (Publications/Communications Coordinator), Rachel Kimboko (Treasurer/Vice Chair), Melinda Nielsen (Chair), Regina Sokolowski (Outreach Coordinator)

Minutes and Officers' Reports

January 2019 Minutes

January 2019 Minutes were received and approved.

Agenda

April 2019 agenda was approved.

Officer reports

Officers' reports were approved after general discussion and questions. Rachel K shared the details on the challenges with transferring the name on the account. The credit cards should be updated in the next couple of weeks. PayPal is also asking for additional verification about removing Gayle Waner (previous treasurer) and adding Rachel K. There has been some discrepancy with what people at the bank had shared and what the people in the credit department would approve. AMI/USA hasn't sent any information following the 2019 Refresher Course (RC). Continue to put down the volunteer hours toward 2019 RC (time at the RC, follow up, ahead of the RC, the amount of time volunteered by people at the RC). Check personal credit cards for RC charges.

Organizational

AGM Update

The first day was a historical tour with 40-50 of the participants visiting AMI offices, sites special to Maria Montessori, and a cocktail hour. AMI shares that it's more of a networking event than a RC type of event. There was an affiliate meeting. The affiliates are primarily country affiliates, Tunisia was dis-affiliated and three were added this year. EAA is a unique affiliate because we are not country associated. EAA did not give a presentation because AMI wants to rotate the presenters.

Suzy Giles, AMI's Strategic Communications Consultant, shared AMI's vision and challenges they are facing. Her message is communicating through telling stories. AMI is revamping their website and one can see that it's about telling stories and how people communicate





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through story telling. How do we communicate AMI's strategic plan as affiliates? There were different presentations in the afternoon. AMI is going to share all of the slides from the AGM. It's a different mentality than AMI/USA. They still want to maintain the integrity, but they do approach it differently.

Sunday was a meeting with delegates for organizing the Congress in Thailand. Kannekar Butt (President, Montessori Association of Thailand), Bill Conway (previous or current member of Montessori Australia), and some others met with Regina and Yvonne. They want EAA to have a role in the Congress and be present with a table and for membership.

Candace and Suzy were part of a meeting. Candace is going to be AMI's point person for EAA. The main part of the conversation is that privacy issues are difficult. EAA can't contact them directly but can have AMI contact members, trainees, trainers, etc. Amanda and Regina will work on updating the AMI and EAA document (AMI-EAA and AMI Joint Operational Plan). Philip O'Brien wanted to meet multiple times. There was mostly big-picture brainstorming. It wasn't about what we are trying to accomplish but what AMI is trying to accomplish. EAA's affiliate status is global. Philip suggested that EAA put together a survey for our global membership for what their vision is for how we support them. Regina is going to follow-up during the summer. There was a suggestion for EAA to attend each year.

AMI is using a program that is free for their membership. It's a platform that takes out a lot of the hard work once it's set up. AMI has worked out some of the challenges with it. Candace thought it might be something that we would like to use because it's free. It also might help with distribution. Yvonne and Amanda will connect with Candace.

The affiliate groups were interested in EAA and weren't aware of what we do. They are interested in having support and the thought is that some of them would be interested in hosting a regional conference (this could be something that goes in a survey) though no one volunteered. There wasn't a lot of time to sit down with people. The conversation about the UK SC started at the 2018 AGM. Think of friends who are teaching overseas to get some of the conversations about hosting started. Philip encouraged EAA to use the UK SC to ask the members outside of the US questions on what they are looking for in EAA membership.

Refresher Course 2020 Seattle, WA

General Discussion

Rachel E and Melinda had a Go-to-Meeting with Debby Riordan (AMI/USA Executive Director). The goal is to get the whole school to attend the RC. Make sure that all of the workshops are worthwhile and are useful for the people who take the time and spend money to attend. Workshop suggestions: dividing out the assistant workshops that cater to different levels, opportunities for networking, research.



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Speaker Update

After the RC conversation, Melinda will follow-up with a possible speaker.

Keynote discussion

The keynote has been chosen and they are working on finishing up the contract.

Summer Conference 2019

Updates and logistics

There are 18 people registered for the US SC in Michigan. There are also 18 registrations for the UK SC. There was discussion on what might have impacted the attendance so far. It could be that the ability to put down a deposit and paying the remaining later is part of it, and it isn't an option now. Rachel E might add something about contacting her directly if they need to pay some now and some later and will update the form. Rachel K can invoice them later too. The board meeting for the US SC is July 5.

Rachel E has asked Jenn to reach out and push the SC. Jenn has some ideas for evening activities and has lined up a storyteller.

Coaching (Elizabeth Slade)

NCMPS (National Center for Montessori in the Public Sector) is trying to decide what their next steps are in the coaching work. They do school-based coaching and are curious to get information on other roles. There was general discussion on some options for Elizabeth.

Summer Conference 2019 (England)

Updates

Planning is going well. Rob is continuing to work on it and has created a flyer for transportation that is thorough and helpful.

Summer Conference 2020

There are two possible on-site coordinators for the SC 2020. They have been searching for locations and venues, so far one of the options is more expensive and one is lower. There was general discussion on venues.

Update Summer Conference Handbook

Rachel E has updated the SC handbook and will share it and asks that we go through it prior to the next board meeting. The on-site coordinator should have a lot of responsibility and can take a lot of the work off of the Conference Coordinator.

Committees

In order to do a lot of the work EAA has, it might be useful to have each board member as the head of a committee to organize and help support their work. Think of areas of our roles that could be supported and we will discuss it at the July meeting. Amanda will share a list of current board members who have also volunteered for board positions.



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Bylaws: “supporting elementary teachers in the United States”

There was discussion on amending the bylaws to make sure that they are matching where we are currently. Rachel E and Melinda will connect with Wendy and Allyson on the most recent bylaw update.

Schedule 2019 – 2020

Travel and Summer Board Meeting: July 5, 2019

There was general discussion on travel arrangements for board members.

RC 2019 PA rotation – Allyn Travis replaced Greg: What is the next rotation?

Melinda will check on the rotation cycle.

RC 2020 Board transitions – none

Financial

RC financials

Nothing has been received from AMI/USA from the 2019 RC. Melinda will have a conversation with Debby after EAA receives the report. Make sure to send the volunteer hours spent preparing for and at the conference to Melinda. Make sure to try out the online form for submitting receipts. It was shared in Google Drive.

Publicity/Communications

Ideas for streaming conferences and etc.

Yvonne has been sharing on the Facebook page and a lot of people are using it. She is working to use a service to post to all three (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter).

Newsletter

Greg was going to write an article for our newsletter and isn't able. Yvonne is considering using one that Kay had written on storytelling. She is also going to write about her experiences at the 2019 AGM. Yvonne is reaching out to Candace to get information on new/auxiliary trainers. There is an essay from one of the students who are getting credits from Eastern Washington.

Memorial to Kay Baker for the Newsletter

Suggestions: brief tributes from membership with a 100-word limit; Yvonne will craft a request for membership to submit tributes and Amanda will share it with membership.

Suggestions for Publicity/Communications

Reach out to members to “Like” our Facebook page or follow us on Instagram and Twitter. Post regularly about the SC but not to a point of saturating people (a suggestion from Suzy Giles). Adding the details about our social media platforms to include in the newsletter. Regina offered to write something for the newsletter.



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Website

There was general discussion on the look of the website and what can be done. Amanda will work to get access to the website.

Outreach

Scholarship recipient and other SC Support

There was discussion around the history of the PPL Scholarship. When it was originally created, it was for one person to cover tuition. Depending on EAA's financial situation, more scholarships could be awarded. It could vary each year starting with tuition and providing more if we are able. Transportation is the responsibility of the attendee. This year, we will offer a full scholarship to one person.

Membership

Review language on AMI membership form

There was general discussion on moving forward with the language for members to verify that they are (or are not) members of AMI. Amanda will update the form for the website and the hard copy. There were small edits to make.

How to review action items from past meetings

Rachel K suggested Trello. The tasks from the minutes could be added. Rachel K will set it up and share it with us.

EAA-Talk Activity and Responsibilities

There was discussion on ways for EAA-Talk to become more active and engage more people on it and seed conversation. A survey could be helpful to guide us in our work. Asking them what is their most pressing need. John Snyder used to read and then share what he read. Share articles. This could be a great idea for committees. There was discussion on the EAA-Talk and who is responsible for what.

Grants to cover membership for public school members

Amanda will look into this and share what she finds out. Questions related to this can go in the survey: public, private, who pays for costs.

Changes to ami-eaa.org to avoid use of Dropbox by membership

There was general discussion on how different files are shared and to avoid needing to store the file in EAA's or a board member's Dropbox file.

Password

Change it more often like quarterly after meetings.



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Directory

Since we are working to have members opt-in to have their information shared in the directory not all members have had a chance to opt-in, so Amanda will work to update the membership directory periodically through the year.

General

Possible donation to Montessori for Social Justice

There was discussion on making a donation to MSJ.

Board position responsibilities

We will discuss this more this summer.