



# ASSOCIATION MONTESSORI INTERNATIONALE

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## 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** **Monday, September 13, 2021—Online Meeting**

**Attending:** Amanda Cade (Membership Coordinator/Secretary), Nicole Fedorow (Conference Coordinator), Rachel Kimboko (Treasurer/Vice Chair), Melinda Nielsen (Chair), Regina Sokolowski (Outreach Coordinator)

### **Minutes and Officer Reports**

#### **August 2021 Minutes**

August 2021 Minutes were received and approved.

#### **Agenda**

The September 13, 2021 agenda was amended and approved.

### **Organizational**

#### **Refresher Course and Montessori Experience (ME/RC) 2022**

##### **Updates**

There was discussion on additional options for the Montessori Experience/Refresher Course that EAA might offer. Rachel is checking with possible presenters. Melinda will follow-up with Samantha Levine to let her know we are still deciding.

Ana Camila is writing the description of her presentation. Nicole is taking the site visit at the end of September to look at the spaces, check the audio-visual, and thinking of ways to make it hybrid. Steffan (AMI/USA) is helping to run and organize the hybrid part of it in coordination with the A/V piece.

There is currently discussion for possibilities for the 2023 ME/RC.

#### **Promotional SWAG for 40<sup>th</sup> RC**

Rachel will follow up with folks to see what people are interested in getting.

#### **Virtual Events**

##### **Baiba video ideas**

Rachel mentioned to Lynne Lawrence (AMI ED) at the AMICUS meeting that EAA is interested in offering Baiba's video and making a donation to Abba's Orchard, which is also going toward starting a Philippine AMI society. This seems like a likely prospect if we are willing to make a donation. They are still editing the video. Rachel will follow-up with Lynne on it as well.



### **Phyllis Pottish-Lewis to discuss her book**

Debby Riordan is interested in partnering on Phyllis's book. It is still in the publishing process.

### **Committees**

#### **Development of Events Committee**

Nicole went through the Summer Conference survey to look for people who were interested in volunteering and the volunteering list. Amanda will send a list of people who have specifically shared interest in the SC on-site. Nicole will reach out to have start an events committee.

#### **ABAR, Communications, SEEDS**

Dakota Prosch is still interested in supporting the sessions. Regina has shared that she is not able to commit. Rachel suggested that we might consider opening it up to members. She also suggested that someone might have ideas for what EAA could offer to members. Rachel has the list of people who came to the ABAR committee meeting and people who were interested from the summer. Nicole shared that [ichangecollaborative.com](http://ichangecollaborative.com) might be an idea as well. Melinda shared that she has been in sessions called Uncomfortable Conversations.

The purpose of the offerings is twofold: to have training for the board and as a benefit for EAA members as well.

Questions to consider: What would be the most useful thing for members? Are they craving meeting in communities of practice like how race and gender show up in lower elementary? These could be hour-ish long events too. These might be things that Marcela Gomez Sixto or Dakota Prosch can help to support or commit to. This could also be something where the ABAR committee comes together to help to guide it.

Rachel, Melinda, and Amanda can be part of the SEEDS work if it goes forward. Rachel will also check with the people who were interested in the ABAR committee. Previously, we had talked about having some strategic outreach for others to join. This might also be an opportunity to reach out to people who have volunteered to help EAA. Rachel will look at the volunteer and the SC registration list, she will ask people if they would like to join.

#### **Professional development cross-level/role committee (practitioner, trainer, ETOT)**

This still hasn't been announced yet. It looks like there is a September 22 meeting. More to be discussed after it happens.

### **Schedule 2021-2022**

#### **Fall 2021 Board Meeting Dates**

October 11 (OR reports), November 8 (no OR reports) at 7:00 pm CST. The ABM is scheduled for November 13 at 10:00 CST.

## **RC 2021 PA Rotation**

Allyn Travis, Carol Hicks, Anne Dunne, Jamie Rue, Phyllis Pottish-Lewis; the next rotation is Anne Dunne leaving RC 2022.

## **Publicity/Communications**

### **Define responsibilities and job description**

The roles and responsibilities that we have are different from what it had been since we started in our positions. For the publications coordinator, the new term starts at the RC 2023 (or since we've had Annual Business Meetings in November, it would be November 2022).

For the publications role, it would be helpful to have someone savvy or familiar with social media, MailChimp, Canva, thinking strategically about how to communicate and the layers that requires, segmenting the MailChimp lists. This position could also be great for someone who likes to write and would enjoy building out the kernels that are given to them into a blog or into a more modern-type of communication than a newsletter. This role is really someone who is going to enjoy going into the archives and wanting to find the information and sharing it.

Regina enjoys the Instagram work and suggested that the blog/website might be the place to have responsibilities for the publications coordinator as well as supporting the roles and coordinating with the Conference Coordinator and Outreach Coordinator. It would be great for the publications coordinator to connect with other board members and coordinate the work and publicizing.

There are so many resources on the website already, and it would be great to have someone who is excited to dig into it and share what some of those pieces are. Communications have changed since the position was envisioned and described.

The publications role also managed the messaging on Facebook and shared articles and resources on Facebook. In the interim, Regina will pick up the Facebook responsibilities. Nicole will help with the Instagram comments too. Regina will connect with Anna on getting full access to the Facebook page to us.

At her events committee meeting, Nicole can reach out to see if there is interest in some of the work of the publications role.

Amanda will add WordPress experience to the volunteer survey and Canva, MailChimp (or similar list), Google Suite, and FormStack.

Regina will post the survey on Instagram and EAA-Talk after Amanda updates it and offers ideas for language.

## **Website status: where does the focus group stand?**

It might be possible to ask Morgan to help to lead the user website meeting. There was also discussion on how to move forward on the website.

Morgan created a proposal for updating the website. Amanda will reach out to Morgan to ask about the proposal. She will also check to see if he is interested in hosting people for a walk through of the website or a user design. She will also see if he is able to include a blog component.

Amanda will work to support the website as she is able in the interim.

## **Membership**

### **Membership Benefits**

There was discussion on what the benefits are to members. Some have changed, and it's important for us to continue to consider what we are offering for members.

Samantha Vejay would like to partner with us to have a material making session to make the Kingdom Animalia. This would be in January and would be a regional conference available to EAA members.

Nicole will send correspondence to members for what they're interested in offering for a calendar of events. Another craft and commiserate might be of interest with topics like bookmaking, food prep, natural dyes, etc. Elise has also shared that she is interested in doing more with EAA.

### **Public School Complimentary Memberships**

There was general discussion on complimentary memberships for public school staff. Melinda will reach out to Samantha Levine (AMI/USA) to let her know that we are offer complimentary membership to new graduates and are beginning to offer them to public school folks as well. Elementary-trained administrators are also welcome to take advantage of the complimentary membership too.

Amanda will post on EAA-Talk that the opportunity is available. Melinda suggested that we reach out to the list of public AMI schools. Amanda will also update the details on the membership document and website. Rachel suggested that this might be an opportunity for a regional partnerships for someone to call administrators at schools. After feedback from Regina about the lack of responses when she reached out personally and individually to administrators, we will start with people who are members and ask them to share them with their peers.