



# 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, October 11, 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**

#### **September 2021 Minutes**

September 2021 Minutes were received and approved.

#### **October 2021 Officer Reports**

Discussed throughout agenda.

#### **Agenda**

The October 11, 2021 agenda was amended and approved.

### **Organizational**

#### **Refresher Course 2022**

##### **Updates, Site Visit, Speaker Issues**

The hotel is a nice hotel. The spaces are beautiful and the hotel staff and rooms are well equipped to do live streaming. There is more than enough space for all that is planned and the staff are more than accommodating at setting up the rooms. There is space for social distancing. Nicole suggested that we take an opportunity to modify the bathroom signage.

There are not many food options near the event site. If people are cautious about public transit, the trolley might not be of interest. There are a couple of restaurants within walking distance. SeaWorld is directly across the street. The hotel does have a Starbucks. Room service is a bag of what you order with a limited menu. There is one restaurant in the hotel and they will open it if they have the people to fill it for breakfast. There was an option to have an open market with pre-packaged food in the lobby.

Our goal is to get 1,800 nights, which is around 600 people for three nights.

#### **Alternate Online Option**

The plan is to livestream the sessions with a 90-minute session for everyone and then 90 minutes for the folks at home to do a personal practice or mindfulness practice. This is to

allow the presenters opportunities to plan interactive events for the in-person attendees. There was discussion on the challenges with in person and online.

There was discussion on having a live-streaming event is for in-person folks and possible alternative offerings for online attendees.

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

There was an idea to have a branded observation journal and a notebook. Rachel will send out a survey to see what people want to get them priced. There are companies that have the logos and people can order the items they would like. Rachel also has an connection for embroidering with the logo.

### **Summer Conference 2021**

The SC sales includes 145 records total with 18 scholarship options and 21 that were the after sales following the event.

### **Virtual Events**

#### **Baiba video ideas**

Rachel emailed Lynne to connect and shared that we wanted to help to support the Philippine Montessori association to make it available to people because it was great.

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

This is planned to happen with someone interviewing Phyllis once her book is released. Debby Riordan of Montessori 360 is interested in helping and partnering with us.

### **Committees**

#### **Discuss Results of Membership Volunteer Survey**

Regina will share the membership volunteer survey again regularly. Amanda will send it to members who have volunteered in their membership forms and continue to send it to people who volunteer on their membership forms.

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

There are two members on the Events Committee: Emily Curry and Becca Peters. Nicole has also had someone interested in helping to be an on-site coordinator for the 2022 Summer Conference. There has already been one response for proposals, which could also be a spring event.

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

Dakota is interested in talking with us to figure out something that we could do because the number of people interested isn't enough to go forward with the SEED work. Dakota is waiting to hear from us to discuss more. Rachel will follow-up with her.

## **AMI Global**

### **AMICUS**

Rachel will send the notes.

### **What's EAA's role in the AMICUS committee?**

These are beneficial meetings to attend because they include people from Mexico and Canada to share what's happening and what they are up to. It's an opportunity for EAA to hear what AMI Mexico is doing, what NAMTA is up to, etc. It is also helpful to spot trends that are true to all organizations. This is an important opportunity for us to be visible as well.

### **Professional Development Cross-Level/Role Committee**

This meeting has not happened at this time. Melinda will send Amanda the updates that Alan Preece (AMI Director of Training Centre Evolution and Growth) has written and shared to include in our archives.

### **Chemicals/Experiments and what EAA is expected to do**

EAA has been tasked with sending out information that the experiments should be discontinued. We are the messenger for this, and we are collecting new options for experiments. This will be announced and shared at the ABM. After that, we can start sharing it on EAA-Talk, set up and share a Shared Google Drive, and reach out for ideas to use instead of the chemicals. Melinda will reach out to Carol to talk about the chemicals. Melinda will also create a writeup to send to Allyn Travis and Lynne Lawrence to share after the meeting.

## **Schedule 2021-2022**

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

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

November 13 ABM at 10:00 am

December 6 (no OR reports) at 7:00 CST

January 10 (submit OR reports) at 7:00 CST

For travel to the RC, we will check in at the December meeting. Melinda or Nicole will arrive for the pre-conference meeting. The plan is to arrive on Thursday morning flights and leave Monday late afternoon. Melinda will check on when to meet with AMI-Global.

### **Pedagogical Advisor Rotation**

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

## **ABM**

### **ABM is November 13, 2021 at 10:00 CST**

Rachel will share the Prezi with us for each of us to update to have a draft by November 8. Carol will be toward the end. If you aren't able to do it, reach out to Rachel the week prior. For Publications, it can be similar to last year with the focus for next year as updating the website. The person who takes over will be appointed until the next election in November 2022.

## **Financial**

### **Approval of the budget for upcoming year**

For membership income, we have remained steady. There have been some slight adjustments looking at recent trends. For expenses, some of the pieces have been increased and some have decreased. Rachel is continuing to save money for the International Congress. For the Annual General Meeting, this was decreased slightly. For the RC, the amount is decreased because four or five of us are traveling. For content development work, Rachel increased this to help to support content creation. We are at about the same proposed budget as last year. Last year some of our biggest costs were not there because of the virtual conferences rather than in person fees. After questions, the budget was approved.

For complimentary memberships, we need to have a way for those to be included in QuickBooks.

Rachel is checking to see if we are able to have an Ameriprise advisor to offer suggestions and ideas for our investments.

### **Action Items:**

Check with Ameriprise advisor for suggestions on investments (Rachel)

Figure out how to have complimentary members in QuickBooks as well for our records (Amanda, Rachel)

## **Publicity/Communications**

### **Discuss a possible member to fill this role**

Tabled for the next meeting.

### **Website Redesign**

Morgan is able to do a walkthrough with a group of people and would like us to send us some dates and times. Regina will check with John Dickson on his interest. For the people on the volunteer survey, we can reach out to them. Amanda and Rachel will connect later to plan a time.

## **Outreach**

Regina will reach out to Roelie Hartwig (Montessori Australia Relationships and Support Manager) and share our website access to be able to look for resources to share with Montessori Australia members.

## **Membership**

### **Membership Benefits for Complimentary Membership to Consultants and Board Members of other Organizations**

Someone reached out for complimentary membership for consultants and board members of other Montessori organizations on EAA-Talk. We are going to suggest they check out our social media feeds. Amanda will reach out to get more background.