



# 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 17, 2022—Online Meeting**

**Attending:** Amanda Cade (Membership Coordinator/Secretary), Emily Curry (Conference Coordinator), Rachel Kimboko (Treasurer/Vice Chair), Melinda Nielsen (Chair), Rebecca Peters (Publications Coordinator), Regina Sokolowski (Outreach Coordinator)

### **Minutes and Officer Reports**

#### **September 2022 Minutes**

September 2022 Minutes were received and approved.

#### **Officer Reports**

October 2022 officer reports were received. After questions and a brief update, the reports were approved.

#### **Agenda**

The October 17, 2022 agenda was amended and approved.

### **Organizational**

#### **Summer Conference (SC) 2023**

##### **SC Presenters**

There was discussion on a couple of people who are interested already in presenting for the 2023 SC.

##### **Updates**

The accommodations at Tybee Island were not particularly comfortable or accessible. Emily has been looking at other locations since we have a little bit of time. She reached out to Rachel Eberhard, former Events Coordinator, for ideas. Emily is looking for ideas on a college campus, easy to get to from the airport without renting a car. We are focusing on a US Summer Conference only with the 2023 Montessori Congress happening in Thailand.

Regina suggested connecting with someone who was excited about hosting at a location in the northeastern US. It might that they have looked into this already. Emily will reach out to them. There was discussion of the importance of a strong on-site coordinator.

### **International SC Proposal**

There is a possible pair who have contacted Emily about an Italy SC. Emily will contact them for it as a possibility for 2024 because of the 2023 Montessori Congress and being cautious about multiple international summer events.

### **Refresher Course 2023**

#### **Speaker's Contract**

The Elementary RC presenter will also provide some slides that teachers could use for parent nights. We are still looking for a title for the presentation. A challenging area of the contract was with the details of recording and distributing rights. Melinda assured the presenter that EAA would have the recording rights rather than AMI/USA having the recording and the ability to sell it.

There was discussion on who would be recording the sessions. Does EAA need to make arrangements with the hotel to get the recording or do we need to make arrangements with the person recording it?

Here is some suggested language.

*The Speaker grants to AMI/USA and EAA the right to record and edit the sessions. EAA has exclusive rights to display and distribute the sessions to registered attendees of the Event only.*

We are still waiting to hear from AMI/USA about some questions that we asked for clarification. There was discussion on possible plans AMI/USA has for the 2023 Montessori Experience.

#### **Feedback and issues from meeting with AMI/USA October 13**

After discussions on choosing a keynote speaker, AMI/USA chose the speaker without following adhering to the discussion that happened with the expectation that EAA will pay 50% of the cost of the speaker.

#### **Relationship with AMI/USA moving forward**

It was mentioned that possible feedback from AMI/USA is that EAA should do our own registration. AMI/USA also wants to streamline billing for the Montessori Experience. It's unclear whether this means that they aren't interested in processing elementary registrations and verifying EAA membership or if they just don't want to process the elementary pieces of it.

EAA and its closed session is in the way of having the event (and elementary portion) be a simpler registration process. Amanda shared the challenges with processing registrations while working during a busy time of year. There was discussion of hiring someone to support the registration process if necessary.

There was discussion on ideas for the next step if we make changes with the Refresher Course.

## **Open Session**

The idea of an open session in addition to our Elementary Refresher Course was brought up by AMI/USA and how we would feel about it. We were asked to discuss the open session at this meeting. There was discussion on ideas with an open session. There is a difference if it's a pre-recorded option that isn't live and is accessible with conference registration. It's important to make an open elementary portion so that it isn't in competition with our session. Some possible language: Based on the agreements we have made with our speaker (as a possible addition), EAA is able to endorse an asynchronous recorded open track session. Unfortunately, we don't have the capacity to support a live open track session.

## **Virtual Events**

### **Global Series**

Emily and Rachel are scheduling a meeting to discuss this more.

## **Policies and Procedures**

### **Thoughts on updating document and position descriptions**

Amanda will send out the Google Doc with the Policies and Procedures to all for updating. For updating, strikethrough the section and add updates in red. Work on your own position and make sure to write or update your role description in the board duty document. We will work to finish them by the spring. Amanda will send the docs for everyone's board duties and description for updating.

## **ABM (Annual Board Meeting)**

### **Agenda**

Tabled for the meeting in November. We will use the Prezi/presentation format again with possibly changing the order. Rachel will share the Prezi/other format for updating.

## **AMI Global**

### **AMICUS (AMI Community in the US) Update: September 2022 Meeting**

Rachel will add Alan Preece's notes to the drive and share the details from AMICUS. Emily is also interested in attending the AMICUS meetings and will reach out to Rachel for more details.

## **Thailand Congress, Sponsorship**

From July 2017 minutes: *EAA made a \$500 donation and has a space for an EAA table shared with AMI-USA in the exhibitors' area. Allyson (Chair) and Wendy (OC) are attending the Congress. EAA is expected to be listed as a sponsoring organization.*

Is it possible to reach out to folks in that part of the world to help support the Congress? Emily and Rachel will talk more about this when they meet to discuss the Global Series. Rachel has been interested in having a fun way for members to share their locations, and meeting at the Congress might be a fun way to get connected to people.

## **Financial**

### **2022 Refresher Course Finances**

Our finances were returned and we made \$23,000 without taking in EAA-specific costs of flights, speakers, etc. It was about 2/3 of what we made in previous years and with a much smaller fraction of the amount of attendees.

### **MES (Margaret Elizabeth Stephenson) Fund EAA Donation**

Rachel verified that the address on the website is correct. Rachel will send a check to avoid the PayPal fees.

## **Publicity/Communications**

### **Website**

The website update is going okay. Becca is working to be clear on when she would like to get the website and details moving.

### **Weekly Publication/Outreach Collaboration**

Becca has been sharing weekly updates on EAA-Talk to collect from social media. If they are posting materials daily, how do they keep the momentum up? Regina and Becca have been collaborating on posts and having people lined up to share. Becca has been sharing weekly bookmaking posts. A person with a following of 12k shared one of our videos and gained us even more followers. Becca has also been sharing materials from the archives regularly.

It is nice to ask people for stuff. When we need materials, it's helpful to have a direct ask rather than a general ask. Someone shared the challenges that some teachers experience when they see images from classrooms that might make them feel like they aren't doing the job that they should be doing. It could be helpful to have a reflection on what it took to get there and the seeds that it took to get there. It's also nice to have an image of what the messes in a classroom can look like. We could collect them amongst ourselves.

For November, if we were doing 1-2 posts per week, that would still keep up the momentum.

There was discussion on ideas for posts: job charts, hot messes, what would you like to learn about to bring to your classroom, etc. Making sure that it takes less time than 3 minutes or even 30 seconds.

## **Membership**

### **FileMaker Pro Database**

Amanda will work to transition to an online version of FileMaker Pro and will see if we can get a non-profit discount and if a yearly subscription offers a discount over a monthly option.

## **General**

### **Classroom Materials Initiative**

It was suggested that we might like to have something on one of our sites to house the handmade materials templates or resources. There was discussion on someone to reach out to since they might have all of the documents/forms/etc. One suggestion was to have it in the membership-only section of the website or on EAA-Talk. Melinda will reach out to them.

### **John Snyder's Books from NAMTA**

The suggestion was to order 50 books. Rachel is reaching out to NAMTA to see if we could get a bulk discount or free shipping. Regina can store them at her house.