

AATG NorCal Spring Meeting 2013
Goethe-Institut, San Francisco
January 27, 2013

Minutes

Present: Michaela Grobbel (President), Zehra Otus (Vice-President), Christiane Frederickson, (Membership Chair), Marion Gerlind (FLANC liaison), Jutta Kerlin (Secretary), Peter Zygowski (Goethe-Institut), Sabine Eisenhauer, Susanne Hoelscher, Paul Nissler (Testing Chair), Karl Pfeiffer, Pamela Scholz, Eugenia Katsara, Kerstin Helbing, Heike Merz, Eva-Maria Tisdale, Allan Webb, Jasmin Banic, Beate Schroeter, Anna Ralston, Eve Lee, Ursula Young, Timea Kiraly, Ann-Marie Koth

1.

President Michaela Grobbel called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

2.

Uschi Weaver, who will be retiring from her German teaching job at Galt High School in Galt, is still looking for a successor, preferably with a second subject.

Die Hebamme, an Austrian-German film, will be shown at the Gerlind Institute, 2128 108th Ave, Oakland, Saturday, March 2, at 7:30 p.m.

3.

Michaela reported on the financial situation of the AATG Northern California chapter. There have been no changes since the last meeting; the chapter has an account balance of \$1860.09.

4.

Marion Gerlind, FLANC liaison and member of the board, appealed to all present to submit articles to the FLANC newsletter (deadline: 8/15/13). Marion will be reporting on the first round table talk on strategies to strengthen German programs at schools. The round table took place during the FLANC fall conference at San Francisco State University on 10/27/12.

The next FLANC conference, "Languages are the Key to the Future," will be held on Saturday, 10/26/13 at Chabot College in Hayward.

Marion asked the high school teachers present to encourage their students to participate in the Alexandra C. Wallace Essay Contest. Students can win up to \$500 for their essays, which can be written in English. The topic is "What impact does knowing a second language and culture have in your future?" Teachers need to submit a letter of recommendation for their participating students by May 1, 2013.

Michaela mentioned the “Congress Bundestag Scholarship” for high school seniors. It offers them the opportunity, after graduation, to stay one year in Germany, studying, interning, and living with hosts as part of this cultural immersion program.

Members engaged in a lively discussion about possible venues for the next AATG meeting in fall. Should it be held at the Goethe-Institut, the FLANC conference in Hayward, or during GASANC's annual day-long workshops in Menlo Park in early September? Sabine Eisenhauer pointed out that GASANC's meetings have been drawing more than a hundred attendees. The challenges would be to provide a program that would also attract members who teach at colleges, and to find time for the AATG meeting between the workshops offered. Marion Gerlind advocated having the fall AATG meeting at the FLANC conference, underlining the importance of AATG keeping its ties with other language teachers. Provided that the conference could be moved to a Sunday, so that all the Saturday teachers could attend, it would offer AATG the opportunity to lead workshops not only for teachers of German, but also of other languages, she explained.

Instead of deciding about the venue during the business meeting, Michaela Grobbel suggested having members vote online via Survey Monkey, to which everyone agreed. Members will be addressed via the chapter 'Rundbrief' within the next few weeks.

5. & 6.

The next German Immersion Day will take place at the German-American International School in Menlo Park, on Sunday, March 24, 2013. Ursula Young and Sabine Eisenhauer, the main organizers of the event, urged teachers to offer workshops or indicate whether they would have time to help prepare for the day. Sabine will mail the German Immersion Day flyer to all German teachers.

The AATG Awards Ceremony will be held at Jordan Hall, Stanford University, Sunday, April 28, 2013.

Michaela asked the attendees to make nominations for AATG chapter awards and positions.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m., and followed by a tombola. Everybody was able to win a prize. The prizes (books, CDs, etc.) were donated by the Goethe-Institute or purchased from the money that the chapter raised by the "Büchertische" of Klett/Langenscheidt and Vista Higher Learning (total of \$200).

Respectfully submitted,
Jutta Kerlin