

**AATG Business Meeting – March 6, 2011**  
**Goethe-Institut San Francisco**  
**Minutes**

**Present:**

Michaela Grobbel (President), Zehra Otus (Vice-President), Crystal Ockenfuss (treasurer), Alexandra Mittler (secretary), Nikolaus Euba, Carla Peck, Kerstin Helbing, Ursula Dinter, Suzanne K. Baldwin, Marion Gerlind, Christiane Frederickson, Claudia Meyer-Kispersky, Ursula Young, Julia Koch, Pamela Scholz, Sabine Eisenhauer

**1.**

President Michaela Grobbel called the meeting to order at 1.45 pm and welcomed everybody. She introduced the board members and thanked Christiane Frederickson and Ursula Dinter (Goethe-Institut San Francisco). Christiane Frederickson initiated and organized Bridge Markland's visit to the San Francisco Bay Area. The Goethe-Institut not only provided the venue for the meeting and the following performance by Bridge Markland, but also supported the performance financially.

**2.**

Alexandra Mittler (secretary) presented the minutes for the last meeting as well as the minutes for the AATG spring meeting (February 6, 2010). The minutes of February 6, 2010 were accepted without changes. The minutes for the meeting of November 6, 2010 were accepted with one change. The sentence „A \$500 grant would enable the chapter to invite a special guest for the Award Ceremony“ was changed to „A \$500 grant would enable the chapter to support the annual German Immersion Day,“ and moved to the previous paragraph.

**3.**

Crystal Ockenfuss (treasurer) reported on the financial situation of the AATG Northern California chapter. The chapter is in good standing with an account balance of \$4,060.47. We will draw on this money to pay for Bridge Markland's fee of \$800 and for financing the annual Award Ceremony and German Immersion Day. Funds will be taken in from donations by visitors of Bridge Markland's performance and the enrollment fee of \$15 per student for the German Immersion Day.

**4.**

Alexandra Mittler gave an update on the *Filmwettbewerb*, which was newly introduced this year. Despite the close due date of March 20, 2011, no entries have been received yet. Several teachers, however, stated that their students are working on their entries. It was suggested that Christiane Frederickson will send out an e-mail reminder to teachers via the chapter's newsletter.

**5.**

Sabine Eisenhauer talked about the upcoming German Immersion Day. The German Immersion Day will take place on March 27, 2011 on the campus of GISSV in Mountain View, CA. Student activities are offered between 8.30 a.m. and 3 p.m. About 15 teachers are involved in the preparation and execution of the day and for the first time, a German exchange student involved in the Goethe-Institut's „German for Hire“ initiative, will participate. Students will be offered activities such as cooking Schnitzel and Kartoffelsalat, baking different kinds of cake,

sports like Aerobics and soccer, music and arts and crafts projects like knitting, block printing and window art.

Sabine Eisenhauer reminded participating teachers that they are responsible to bring their own materials and keep records of their charges for reimbursement.

She also asked if anybody has tools for block printing. After a short discussion, it was suggested that a classroom set of tools for block printing could and should be bought from AATG funds.

This year's German Immersion Day will also have one person dedicated to taking pictures of the different activities. At the concluding activity, a slide-show presentation of the pictures will be shown. Michaela Grobbel suggested to ask a friend of hers, who is a photographer. Available funds for the German Immersion Day would allow to pay the person a small honorarium of \$100. Sabine Eisenhauer is also still looking for a person who has credentials to administer first aid if needed.

Important dates for the German Immersion Day are:

Registration deadline: March 12; registrations should be sent to Ursula Young.

Second meeting to prepare the day: March 20 at Sabine Eisenhauer's.

German Immersion Day: March 27, 8.30 a.m. – 3 p.m. on the campus of GISSV Mountain View. Participating teachers should arrive at least 30 minutes earlier to prepare the event.

Sabine Eisenhauer also strongly reminded people that German is the only language spoken that day. Student reviews showed that some students felt that they did not speak any German that day.

## 6.

In absence of Roslyn Raney (Testing Chair), Kerstin Helbing read the Testing Chair's report on this year's AP finalists. Roslyn Raney was disappointed by the low participation this year. Only 2 students applied instead of the usual 10-14 students. Attempts to contact teachers with students whose grades in the test qualified them for the award were not answered. Claudia Kispersky commented that many of her students did not qualify because they had been in Germany before. In reply, Kerstin Helbing suggested to conduct a study to find out, how many students would have been able to apply. Sabine Eisenhauer mentioned that she has an overview over the number of students who took the AATG Exam, their levels, schools and grades. Overall, schools in the Northern Californian AATG chapter did well.

Kerstin Helbing also mentioned that Testing Chair Roslyn Raney would like to step down as chair by 2012, as does committee member Diane Musgrave. Roslyn Raney would be willing to guide the new chair in the beginning. A discussion concluded that the chapter has to find out, who would be eligible to be Testing Chair, and that the board should send out letters to departments, maybe even directly to department chairs at Colleges and Universities to find a suitable replacement. Michaela Grobbel stated that she will look into the formalities and contact people.

## 7.

Sabine Eisenhauer also informed the group about the plans for the Annual Award Ceremony. The Ceremony will take place at CERAS on the campus of Stanford University on May 1, 2011. Sabine Eisenhauer has written to Consul General Peter Rothen and is awaiting an answer. She is very excited that she was able to invite three extraordinary musicians, who all have a connection to German. The guests are Jon Nakamatsu, a former German teacher turned world-renowned pianist, Andrew Zhou, a young pianist, who received a minor in German from Stanford University, and Felix Eisenhauer, who uses his knowledge of German and music to work with German music publishers. The guests will participate in a panel discussion and also present some of their music. The cost for this year's Award Ceremony will therefore include the cost of renting a piano.

Sabine Eisenhauer is expecting 300-400 participants at the event. This year, level 2-students above the 70 percentile are also invited. Sabine asks teachers to let her know the number of participating students to help in her planning efforts. The cost for food at the event is expected to be around \$800.

It was also suggested to staff an information booth with material on studying German. Ursula Dinter from the Goethe-Institut will collect the material from various organizations and set up the booth.

In a short discussion, several suggestions were made to replace the \$50 checks for finalists with more meaningful gifts, such as a gift certificate from Amazon or a dinner invitation to the German consulate or the Goethe-Institut. No definite decision has been made yet.

In a similar vein the question arose whether one should replace the medals for students who received more than 90 percent on the AATG Exam with a different award. One reason is the cost of \$6 per medal, which would add up to roughly \$400 for the medals alone. It was suggested to replace the medals for students between the 90.5 and 95<sup>th</sup> percentile with a pin or another gift. A definite decision on the replacement was postponed.

Sabine Eisenhauer also suggested to give a flower to teachers whose students receive awards. She will send information on the schedule and timetable as well as necessary preparations for the Ceremony to teachers.

#### **8.**

Michaela Grobbel asked attendees of the meeting for suggestions to the following items:

- a) ideas for new chapter projects for 2012. The applications are due May 6;
- b) ideas for sessions at the 2011 FLANC conference and the next spring meeting; and
- c) nominations for Certificate of Merit, Friend of German and Outstanding German Educator. The deadline for nominations is May 20, 2011 and the awards will be presented at the Awards Luncheon at the annual AATG/ACTFL Annual Meeting in Denver (November 19, 2011).

Suggestions could be handed to Michaela Grobbel and Zehra Otus after the meeting or can be e-mailed.

#### **9.**

Michaela Grobbel also suggested a stipend for the chapter representative at this year's AATG meeting at ACTFL in Denver. Zehra Otus would represent the chapter and a motion was passed to grant her \$150 towards her costs to attend the conference.

#### **10.**

Michaela Grobbel mentioned that she was granted a sabbatical for Fall 2011. Since she will spend most of that time in Europe, Zehra Otus will represent the chapter in her absence, while Michaela Grobbel will be available by e-mail.

#### **11.**

The meeting was officially adjourned at 2.55 pm. Attendees went to see Bridge Markland's performance "Faust in the box", which was sponsored by AATG and the Goethe-Institut.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alexandra Mittler