

WI - AATG Annual Business Meeting
WAFLT (Wisconsin Association for Language Teachers) Annual Fall Conference in
Appleton, WI

Samstag den 07. 11. 2015

The annual business meeting of the Wisconsin chapter of AATG was called to order at 11:00 am by President Tobias Barske. The motion was made, seconded and accepted to approve the agenda of the meeting. Treasurer Melanie Lasee presented her report. The WI-AATG has a current balance of \$4,802.30. 4802.30 The motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Bobbette, seconded by John P. and affirmed by the voting membership.

President's Report:

President Tobias Barske began his report by recognizing the successes of German teachers at our current WAFLT conference. Representing German in the WAFLT awards were Siggie Piwek (WAFLT Teacher of the Year), Michael Koch (Recognition of Merit Award), Menomonee Falls High School (Donna Clementi Blue Ribbon Award), Trudy Smith (Professional Service Award), Michael Stubbe (Future Language Teacher Award), as well as 6 winners of the Excellence in Language Study Award and 9 winners of the Honors in Language Study Award. Once again German has been very well represented and all winners are very deserving.

Siggie Piwek informed the chapter of an exhibit for the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The exhibit is titled "Der Weg zur deutschen Einheit".

(<http://www.bundesstiftung-aufarbeitung.de/deutscheinheit-4787.html>) The exhibit is written in German and also has been translated into English. The traveling exhibit has been nicely framed. It will be on display in Madison from the end of November through December 12th. He is still looking for interested hosts in the end of December or 2016.

Siggie also handed out new WI-AATG information cards that he had printed this summer. We were all told to take a couple and hand them out to our colleagues. The cards are an effort to help inform new teachers of AATG and also to increase our membership.

Tobias Barske informed us about another exhibit he recently hosted at UW Stevens Point. The exhibit was a Goodbye Lenin Movie night, followed by a discussion hour from many people who experienced the fall of the Berlin Wall. Tobias said the exhibit was worth it, consisting of QR codes to many YouTube links. All of the links are in German.

The president's report ended with the election results for WI-AATG 2016. The current Vice-President Siggie Piwek will take over as President, the new Vice President is Jeanne Schueller, the Secretary will stay as Stephanie Krenz and the Treasurer will stay as Melanie Lasee. He thanked all of the other candidates who ran.

New Business:

As we are always looking to increase our membership, Tobias Barske informed any new teachers to apply for a free membership. The board has decided to award 2 new WAFLT attendees a free AATG membership for a year. We have the extra money because our

presidents who are university educators do not need WI-AATG to pay for their trip to ACTFL. Any new WAFLT attendees (teachers or student teachers) should apply by sending an email to Melanie Lasee.

Attention was also brought to the new "Free Little Library" that was created by Melanie Lasee and her children. This will be used at future business meetings to help share German books and materials. Look for it again next year at the WI-AATG table! Bring any materials you would like to share!

Tobias also informed us of a new exhibit in the works at UW Stevens Point. The oldest book in their university library system is a German bible! The project to highlight this bible is still in the beginning stages, look for an exhibit next year.

Announcements:

Charles James, Tobias Barske, and Siggie Piwek will all be attending ACTFL to represent WI-AATG.

DSSV

A reminder that DSSV is here to support teachers! The essay contest is a great opportunity to help programs and students. The DSSV has money to give out and they anticipate more prizes for students this year. The DSSV will pay fees to help students pay for test. Information can be found on the AATG Facebook page.

Goethe Summer Seminar - Mark Wagner

Mark Wagner reported on the Goethe Summer Seminar that he attended this summer, which paired German and STEM teachers to work together. He only had wonderful things to say about this program. The seminar will be held again this summer from June 19th to 28th with a cost of 150 Euros. The deadline to sign up is January 31st. Mark also made sure to acknowledge and thank the Goethe Institut representatives present for all they do for German teachers.

State Pronunciation Contest- Sabine Beirold

Sabine updated everyone on the state pronunciation contest. She brought poem copies and information sheets for everyone to take with them. Sabine has been in charge of the regional contests since 1979! Danke Sabine for everything you have done! Regional contests will be held in Stevens Point (dates unknown), Fox River Valley (February 25th), Rufus King High School (February 20th), and perhaps Madison. The state contest will be held at Marquette University on March 19th 2016. Contact Sabine Beirold for more information.

German Day - Jeanne Schueller

Jeanne Schueller gave us a quick update on German Day at UW-Madison. She will be contacting everyone after the new year to start plans for this year. Melanie Lasee informed everyone that UW Green Bay will also be holding a German Day this year on February 26th.

NI-WI-AATG Immersion Weekend-Charles James

February 13-15th, 2015 (Valentine's Day Weekend) at the New Glarus Landhaus Chalet. 28th year the event will be held. Topic is: Einfuehrung in die performative Paedagogik, "Lernen mit Drama". Presenter is Dr. Susanne Even from Indiana University. Handouts and registration will be coming via email.

Friends of AATG Endowment Fund - John Stark

John updated us on the status of the fund and fundraising efforts. John is also offering tours of Chicago for any German GAPP students free of charge in exchange for a donation to the fund. This would be a scavenger hunt about art and architecture in Chicago. He does want it to be understood that he is not a chaperone of the trip however!

National AATG Exam - Michael Koch

Please administer the national AATG exam to your students! The test is online and can be spread out across multiple days. Very often teachers give the national AATG exam along with the DSSV Essay contest. Unfortunately the agreement between Wisconsin and the National AATG is no longer being upheld. The rules have changed without our knowledge since last year.

Presentation: Wisconsin AATG Distinguished Educator Charles James:

The rest of our meeting was a bittersweet celebration of the retirement of our distinguished educator award recipient Charles James. President Tobias Barske introduced Charles, whose accomplishments and resume are the size of a book! The articles that he has written took up 4.5 pages of his resume alone! Obviously Charles has done a tremendous amount for German teaching in Wisconsin, including starting German Day 25 years ago, serving as a bridge between the university system and the public school system, serving as WI-AATG treasurer from 2007 until 2013, and of course no one can forget when he was "CJ the DJ" for the Goethe Haus Milwaukee! In his touching speech, Charles took us through his journey of becoming a German educator and most fittingly dedicated his speech to the mentors in his life. Everyone in the room was disappointed when the meeting came to an end because we all wanted to continue hearing more from him. Vielen Dank tausend mal Charles James!

We ended the meeting with a standing applause for Charles and door prizes.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephanie Krenz
WI-AATG Chapter Secretary