

1996 AGM

Minutes of the ATI Annual General Meeting, Nov 8-10, 1996

Present in person at the ATI Annual General Meeting — on November 8-10, 1996:

Chair: Tommy Thompson , Treasurer: Ann Seelye

Executive Secretary: David Gorman, and a quorum of ATI members The Chair, Tommy Thompson officially opened the meeting, 3:15pm on November 8th, 1996.

1. Moment of Silence Dedicated to Leslie Rishell

The meeting began with a moment of silence dedicated to Leslie Rishell, a Member from Massachusetts who died of cancer recently.

2. Approval of minutes of 1995 AGM

Minutes of the 1995 AGM were not available for members so it was agreed that they would be distributed before the 1997 AGM and approved then. Action: Minutes to be approved at 1997 AGM.

3. Report From the Chair, Treasurer and Committees

— See attached for text of reports from the Chair, from the Treasurer, Communications Committee, Membership Committee, Vision/Mission Committee and Professional Development Committee.

4. Membership Committee

— Membership numbers There are approx 254 members.

5. Election Results

— Number of returned ballots - 60

ATI Board: Chair, Tommy Thompson elected by acclamation

Executive Secretary, David Gorman elected by acclamation

Treasurer; Ann Seelye elected by acclamation

— Ethics Committee Committee Member, Belinda Mello elected by acclamation
Committee Member, Margrit Gysin elected by acclamation

6. Sponsoring Member Elections

— Doris Dietschy was elected with 97% of the vote in favour (58 for, 1 against, 1 abstain). Fran Robinson was elected with 93% of the vote in favour (56 for, 3 against, 1 abstain). Milena Young was elected with 82% of the vote in favour (49 for, 7 against, 4 abstain).

7. Motion from last year: Using Formal Consensus to consider Teaching Membership bylaw

— The following motion was proposed last year by Stacey Gehman and seconded by David Mills, Catherine Kettrick, etc.:

That Section III.5 of the ATI Bylaws shall be changed to read as follows in its entirety:

III.5. TEACHING MEMBERS

III.5.1. In order to be listed as a Teaching Member of ATI, a member must have the following on file with the Executive Secretary:

- a) a signed copy of the ATI Code of Ethics.
- b) for informational purposes, a description of training, other relevant credentials, and special interests in teaching.

III.5.2. In order to receive an ATI Teaching Certificate, a member must obtain letters of sponsorship from three Sponsoring Members as defined in Section 111.6.

III.5.3. All Teaching Members of ATI are committed to the professional development process outlined in section IX.6.

— Following work done during the year, a new version was proposed by Catherine Kettrick, seconded by Stacy Gehman for discussion at this year's AGM (additions in bold type):

That Section 111.5 of the ATI Bylaws shall be changed to read as follows in its entirety:

III.5. TEACHING MEMBERS

III.5.1. In order to be listed as a Teaching Member of All, a member must have the following on file with the Executive Secretary:

- a) a signed copy of the ATI Code of Ethics.
- b) for informational purposes, a description of training, and special interests in

teaching, and one of the following

- 1) a certificate from an Alexander Technique Training Program
- 2) a certificate from an Alexander Technique professional organization

3) a letter of recommendation from the applicant's primary trainer.

III.5.2. In order to receive an ATI Teaching Certificate, a member must obtain letters of sponsorship from three Sponsoring Members as defined in Section 111.6.

III.5.3. All Teaching Members of ATI are committed to the professional development process outlined in section IX.6.

Another revision was also brought forward but we decided not to pursue it in favour of concentrating on the above motion which had been published to all the members. This new version was proposed by Lynne Compton, Stacey Gehman and Catherine Kettrick:

Instead of having all the different categories of members that we now have (teaching members, grandfathered teaching members, sponsoring members, certified members, etc.) let's all be called members. Members who are also sponsors would be listed in the back of the membership directory by name, city and country so people could easily find them. People who have certificates from ATI would be listed additionally in a separate directory

The resulting level one and level two discussion of the motion clarified the issues for many members and resolved their concerns. The discussions also clearly revealed support for the sponsorship process and the ATI certification process and an acknowledgement that the current mechanisms are an interim process while the PDC's work continues.

— In the end it came down to two major issues:

1. How to make the sponsorship process more accessible to those who want to go through it (see new committee in item 8. below),

2. How to honour the training process of those teachers who went through apprenticeship programs and therefore do not have any society certificates and must go through ATI's sponsorship to become Teaching Members (see new motion in item 10. below).

— There was sufficient support for the existing bylaws to leave things as they are with the changes in items 8. and 10. below. The motion will not be discussed at next year's AGM.

— The evaluation period on Sunday morning clearly showed that all but two members were definitely in favour of ATI adopting Formal Consensus. It is noted that it was the first year exploring Consensus for both these members.

8. Ad Hoc Committee to study how to make Sponsorship process more accessible

— Chair: Karen Carmean, members: Vincent Fraser, Elijah Gummere and Catherine Kettrick, Board Liaison: Tommy Thompson. Action: Agreed

9. New Motion: That ATI decide to adopt Formal Consensus

— The following motion was proposed by David Gorman, seconded by Ruth Brownstein, then discussed and voted on:

It is moved that:

At next year's AGM, ATI change its bylaws to adopt Formal Consensus as its decision-making process thereby replacing the use of Roberts Rules of Order. It is further moved that ATI use the process of Formal Consensus (facilitated in person by C. T. Butler) in order to decide on adopting Formal Consensus.

Action: passed by vote: 50 votes for, 2 abstentions.

Action: formal motion with details of bylaw changes will be prepared by board during the year for presentation to members.

10. New Motion: Transition period for teachers going through Sponsorship

— The following motion was proposed by David Gorman, seconded by Tommy Thompson, then discussed and voted on:

It is moved that:

The Member Directory be divided into two sections, one for teachers (listed by area) and one for members who are not teachers (listed alphabetically).

It is further moved that:

Anyone who submits to the Executive Secretary by February 15th, 1997 a copy of their certificate from an Alexander Technique training course or a letter of recommendation from their primary trainer and who pays the \$90 Teaching Member fee shall be listed in the teacher directory as a teacher for the membership year January 1st, 1997 to December 31st, 1997. During this period they must complete the ATI Sponsorship process to become an ATI Teaching Member in order to remain listed as a teacher in the directory. The Directory shall state that, "The members listed below with the code (*) are Alexander Technique teachers who are now in the process of going through ATI certification. All others are Alexander Technique teachers who have either been certificated by ATI or by another Alexander Technique professional organization recognized by ATI."

Action: passed by vote: 50 votes for, 2 abstentions.

11. Motion to set aside 10% of ATI income was Tabled

12. Draft of new Code of Ethics

Jennifer Kellow presented the new draft of the Code of Ethics. Some discussion followed, but it was agreed that it should be discussed further by sending it to the clusters, publishing it in the next communiqué, then referring it back to committee for changes. It was strongly urged the ethics committee look into ways to educate the membership about the ethics of the teacher-student relationship and the implications of the new proposals.

13. Next AGM in France with second meeting in USA

14. Meeting Closed by Chair 1:30pm on November 10th, 1996

End of 1996 AGM Minutes

David Gorman, Executive Secretary of ATI