



GIFCT-US Board Meeting Minutes
April 16th, 2020
4pm Eastern, 3pm Central, 2pm Mountain, 1pm Pacific

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In Attendance:

Shruti Tekwani – Interim Executive Director - Left at 4:10pm Eastern
Lois Knapton – Chair
John Mieras – Vice Chair, At Large
Janette More – Product Director, Treasurer, & Sunbelt Region
Les Triche – West Region
Sharon Carder-Jackson – Mid American Region
Jim Mishler – Midwest Region
Martin Price – Northwest Region
Kim Olver – Member at large
Cesar Castaneda – Member at large (left at 2 pm)

Not in attendance:

Sandy Gates – Mountain States Region
Shana O’Boyle – Southeast Region

1. **Approve March 2020 minutes** (Shruti)

John moves and Les seconds to approve the March 2020 minutes. The minutes passed unanimously.

Lois moved to add two items to the agenda under new business: MO meeting updates and changes to products. John moved to add these items and Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **Treasurer’s Report:** We have been hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic because a lot of our income is from training, which isn’t happening now because of social distancing.

There was discussion about the online training. John asked when our online training will be available, as it could help with our training numbers. Jan replied it is still in the works. Kim said the GIFCT online training will still need to be presented to the WGI Board for approval. Kim verified

that at the WGI MO meeting, it was decided that if a training was already planned, it could proceed via zoom until the social distancing mandate was over. We are still missing \$2,500 payment from St Patrick's. Lois will contact them. In addition, we did sell two *Take Charge of Your Life* courses and 12 *Living Life with Choice Theory*. There are some new people in the mix. There was also an uptick in people attending the *Making Sense of It* Wednesday morning workshops. Jan says she advertised more and that may have brought more people in it. As an FYI there is no more merchant account with Citibank and shopping cart is now empty. This saves us \$1,300 annual fee that would have been due next month. We use MailChimp now and it has approximately 2,000 people in it.

3. **Faculty Retreat:** John explained that the executive team made a decision to have the faculty retreat virtually due to COVID-19 issues. It was going to be held at the end of July and attached to the Northeast conference. Discussion ensued regarding what we will charge and how we will choose presenters. It was suggested by Caesar that we could do an introductory session or some pre-conference session for the price of a membership and it might bring in new members. It was also suggested that we do a call for proposals and that we have a theme. Lois mentioned that the newsletter is coming out in two weeks and that we should put a call for proposals and the dates of the faculty retreat in the newsletter. Marty and Kim discussed the history of the faculty Retreat and suggested that we stick to the past purpose, which was to assist faculty members in teaching Choice Theory Concepts more effectively. It was suggested that we ask for a donation rather than set a specific fee in these difficult financial times people are experiencing. The dates could be July 25 and 26 or August 1 and 2. John and Shruti need to do a little more research and get the information to Denise in time for the May newsletter.
4. **COVID-19 and trainings:** Face-to-face meetings are not occurring due to do to COVID-19 Mandates. And the GIFCT online course is not ready yet. Les reminded the board that he has an online basic intensive and that it is not advertised on the GIFCT website. He does not understand what happened to the online approval process. Lois explained that we online program still needs approval but virtual meetings are now okay in the interim. The Board asked Lois to send out an email to all faculty letting them know that Virtual learning basic intensive trainings will be allowed only during this time of federal mandates of social distancing. Ceser wanted to be sure we all understand the difference between virtual training and online courses. They are very different. The WGI board is allowing virtual trainings to occur only during this time.
5. **WGI Conference:** The Croatia conference was moved to June of 2021. GIFCT was supposed to have a National conference in St Louis in 2022. Japan is contracted to have the international conference in 2022 Japan has not decided if they will move to 2023; they have some contractual obligations already set up for the 2022 conference. GIFCT needs to wait to hear what Japan is doing until we decide what we will do regarding our upcoming conferences.
6. **Strategic Plan:** Lois explained that the executive team has not made any movement in devising a strategic plan for the Board at this time. Jan reminded us that she sent out all of the past strategic planning documents on February 15th. Past Boards have done a lot of work on strategic planning. Jim suggested that this board simply set some goals and some action steps to move forward. Lois asked all board members to read all the strategic planning documents and come to the next board meeting ready to discuss and develop our board goals and action steps for moving forward.
7. **Old Business:** none
8. **New Business:**
 - a. MO Meeting update: Last asked what is an MO. Lois answered it stands for a Member Organization; It is the term that the International Conference Calls all of the countries. Kim explained that it took two years in the decision process to come to that decision. Lois explained that there was a meeting, held on April 14, 2019, with all of the MOs to discuss how are MO's are promoting Choice Theory during COVID-19. Lois was unable to attend the meeting and asked Jan to attend in her place. Jim explained our marketing strategies and the importance of our branding effort she asked if we could have a global brand if you other MO's agreed. Our marketing strategy includes a series of emails that are connected to our free downloads. This puts people into are emailing system.The marketing starts with a free download of the *Little Book of Choice Theory*. Then we have *Living Life with Choice Theory* on sale for \$27 and we have to *Take Charge of Your Life*

course on sale for \$147. We also advertise for interest in Basic Training's. *Defining Mental Health* and the *Competency-Based Classroom* are other free downloads. when you make these choices, that leads you to the Quality School group. In addition we have the *Making Sense of It* occurring every Wednesday and we have *Difficult Conversations with Diversity* also occurring. Lois asked if there were minutes taken at the meeting and Jim asked if it was recorded. Kim said no to both. Kim said she will be writing a report.

- b. **Changes to products:** Lois wanted the Board to know that we received feedback on one of our products and we asked the developer to take the feedback into consideration; they did and our production manager will now make the change to the product. Jim asked if this was a new procedure that was put into place and that we are now following it and Lois said yes.

9. Ongoing:

- a. WGI Updates (Nancy, Shruti, Janet)
 - i. WGI Conference none at this time (other than what was already said)
- b. Regional Updates (If Any)
 - i. Northeast Representative Lois believes that the Northeast will be putting out a letter to their membership and we'll be making progress on this soon
- c. Newsletter: Lois reminded everyone that we're doing a monthly newsletter and that submissions and information would be helpful

10. 2021 Conference: Already discussed please see above

11. Interim Executive Director Update: Nothing at this time due to Shruti's unavoidable absence

12. Other Concerns / Comments:

- a. Jan inquired about another faculty call and reminded us that we were going to do them quarterly. Marty asked what came of the other call. Jan and Lois explained it was mostly us listening to them and discussion about the survey results. The Board set a date of June 4th at 8 p.m. Eastern for another faculty call. This information will go into the newsletter and the Board will discuss it in more length at our May Board meeting.
- b. Kim encouraged the Board to set a date for the Annual General Meeting. We would like to connect it to our Faculty Retreat. More discussion will ensue.
- c. Lois asked what happened to the testimonials that Madigan taped. She asked if the board could consider putting some testimonials up on our website. Kim explained that the process was started but did not get completed due to philosophical disagreements And that Denise has all the recordings. Lois asked if anyone on the board would be willing to watch the testimonials and bring some suggestions back to our Board. John and Jim volunteered for this task. This will be an agenda item on our next Board agenda

13. Action Steps from prior meetings: none at this time

14. Action Steps from this meeting:

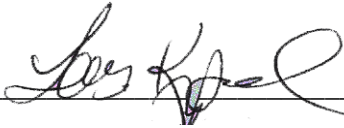
- a. Lois to send an email to all faculty explaining the WGI decision to allow virtual basic intensive training
- b. Lois to contact St Patrick's to find out where our payment of \$2,500 is
- c. John and Jim to review testimonials (get them from Denise) and bring suggestions back to the next Board meeting
- d. Board to consider what the next Faculty call should sound like
- e. John and Shruti to contact NE, and then set a date for our faculty retreat, write the Call for Proposals and get that info to Denise prior to May 1st.
- f. All Board members will review the past Strategic Planning documents that Jan sent out on Feb. 15 and again on April 16. Please be prepared to develop our Board goal and action steps to move forward.
- g. Jan and company will continue to make progress on the GIFCT online BIT

15. Next Meeting:

- a. May 21st, 2020 at 4pm Eastern/3pm Central/2pm Mountain/1pm Pacific

16. Parking Lot/Future Ideas:

Submitted by Lois Knapton, Chair
Glasser Institute for Choice Theory-U.S.



Lois Knapton, Chair
Glasser Institute for Choice Theory-US



Shruti Tekwani, Interim Executive Director
Glasser Institute for Choice Theory-US