

Up with People European Alumni Meeting 2011 - Prague

This year's European Alumni Meeting was interesting especially because of the election a new Euro-Rep. There were two candidates and after the voting Marie Tobler was elected as the Euro-Rep to succeed Sebastian Hesse.

There was a lot of discussion on the structure of EAM and it was agreed that this would be something for the new Euro-Rep to look into. Also, there were quite few questions on UwP and answers were provided by Alan Thiry, CEO of UwP (via Skype) and Jeff Zadroga, President of UWPIAA.

- Meeting was called to order by Sebastian Hesse
- Charlotte Uhler agreed to write an article for UpBeat

1) Introductions

From the organizing team Birger Husted was present

Countries represented at the EAM weekend:

- Switzerland
- Germany
- Belgium
- Netherlands
- Italy
- Lichtenstein
- Denmark
- Sweden
- Finland
- Czech Republic
- Spain
- Austria (not present at meeting, hence no vote)

= 12 countries, 11 votes

2) Up with People

Jeff Zadroga (President UWPIAA since April 1, 2011) gave an update on UWPIAA as well as on Up with People accompanied by Alan Thiry via Skype connection (see notes at the end of the minutes). Jeff's presentation included the following topics (see also appendix):

Vision 2015, 50th anniversary

- UWPIAA purpose
- Presentation UWPIAA Board of governors (chart)
- Presentation of Task Force for UWPIAA 2015

Final strategic goals

- Overall Vision & Strategy
 - Communications
 - Finance
 - Alumni Initiatives (embrace alumni actions)
 - Database
 - Development (raise money for scholarships)
 - how can you help
 - tax deductibility in Europe is to be studied

UWPIAA Updates

- University of Arizona Archives will gather the history and documents of UWP together
- Reunion update
 - there will be a live stream of opening session for those who cannot attend the reunion

UWP Updates

- MCI Brussels team arrangement has been canceled due to financial reasons
- Significant number of Europeans participating in Camp UWP
- Working on a new show, to be released in Fall 2012

3) National Alumni Clubs

Updates on operations were given by the following alumni clubs (see appendices):

- Switzerland
- Germany
- Sweden
- Finland

Suggestions from the alumni for the coming years for the EAM:

- While these reports are needed, they should be sent by mail beforehand and use more the time at the meeting for discussion.
- In the future we could consider a workshop in the EAM. Basti reminded, however, that workshops were tried at EAM Helsinki, but it was not a preferred method of sharing information.
- More time should be reserved for networking and in addition people's job titles should be listed in the attendees' list
- Further development for the EAM is needed and this is a task for the next Euro-Rep

4) Euro-Rep Bizz

As this year it was time to elect a new Euro-Rep, time was spent on explaining what Euro-Rep's position includes and what should be expected from the Euro-Rep.

- As Euro-Rep you are sitting on two chairs: American association vs. European voice
- There is room for improvement in connecting with national Boards
- Euro-Rep is expected to attend spring, reunion and fall meetings as well as club meetings/ events
- The position is more connecting with alumni and less consulting the UWPIAA Board

Financial Report was available for inspection but due to time constraints it was not presented in detail at the meeting.

5) Euro-Rep Election

Every country selects a representative, 1vote/country. See appendix for the country votes. Election was carried out as open vote.

Marie Tobler, Switzerland: 8
Nina Hanhinen, Finland: 3

The new Euro-Rep is Marie Tobler.

6) City for EAM 2012

Finnish Up with People Alumni Association promised to ask whether Estonian alumni in Tallinn would be interested in organizing the next EAM.

As a cast is visiting Stockholm in 2012, it was suggested to have the next EAM there during the cast visit.

Antwerp, Belgium, announced their interest in organizing EAM 2013 as they are working on having a cast in town at the same time.

Meeting closed at 17.29
* * * * *

Extra: Alain Thiry

The main topics Alan raised in his part was that there is a need to work harder on raising money and that the European tour was a success. Most of the time was pence on Q&A.

Q&A

Is it possible to utilize television/live stream outside of cast visits?

- Hope is to make this tool available to all alumni

No office in Europe. Your comments?

- We are working on having a permanent office in Europe and there are talks with few alumni. If we want to come to Europe once in 12 months, we need an office in Europe.

Tax deductibility in Europe?

- Sweden and some other countries are looking into such a system

Spring 2012 tour. Which cities are confirmed?

- Have to confirm this with Paul Whitaker

Closing of the MCI. This was not communicated well with alumni and many got this news only at the EAM in Prague. Why?

- I will have to look into the communication issues and there is room for improvement in the future.

A lot of work has been done by the alumni to build sponsor contacts. Do not let these contacts dry up.

- As we are limited with just one cast, we cannot visit all the places we'd love to visit again. This makes it challenging also to keep up the good contacts. This is an issue that has been recognized.

The next Camp UWP will be a success. There are already approximately 60 participants and 50% of the participants are from around the world. The goal is to increase the scope of operations and attract people from different age groups.

There is work in progress for School of Record. This means that by joining UWP one can get credits at certain schools.

In addition I would like to say that Jeff has put a great effort to get UWP and alumni to the same page. It has been hard work and he has been successful.